

NEWS RELEASE**For Immediate Release****Job Transition Pathways in Newfoundland and Labrador enters second phase*****Research project taking deep dive into talent solutions***

CORNER BROOK, NL (June 17, 2024) - Building upon the success of Phase 1, the Job Transition Pathways in Newfoundland and Labrador Research Project, a collaborative effort between the Dais research team at Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU) formerly the Brookfield Institute for Innovation + Entrepreneurship (BII+E), and the NL Workforce Innovation Centre (NLWIC), is now entering its second phase.

This phase will focus on zeroing in on solutions to address talent needs in Newfoundland and Labrador's evolving economy, particularly in the province's growing sectors.

Phase 1 of the project, led by the Dais team, involved mapping skills and occupations across the Newfoundland and Labrador labour market. It laid the groundwork for identifying high-potential job pathways within the province's workforce.

Now, Phase 2, led by NLWIC, will take a deep dive into specific job transition pathways identified in Phase 1 as well as other occupations which key stakeholders from a number of sectors will identify in focus groups, interviews and a survey.

"This second phase marks a crucial step forward in our efforts to support Newfoundland and Labrador's economic development and growth," said Sharon McLennon, Director of NLWIC. "By collaborating with local partners and leveraging on-the-ground expertise, we aim to identify actionable solutions that will drive positive change in our province's workforce."

Phase 2 aims to test and validate these pathways, ensuring they align with the current and future needs of Newfoundland and Labrador's economy. Attention will be given to reaching people who may be experiencing unemployment, underemployment or at risk of losing their jobs in declining sectors, ensuring that the talent needs of all residents are addressed.

"We have teamed up with the Dais, a national think tank based at Toronto Metropolitan University for this project," McLennon added. "Our goal is to find innovative solutions to help workers transition from potentially declining occupations to thriving industries, exploring opportunities in the green and blue sectors, and beyond. One of the results will be a tested model that can be used on an ongoing basis by career and employment service providers, post-secondary institutions, and other labour market partners to help workers transition to jobs in growing sectors."

It's a sentiment echoed by Mark Hazelden, Senior Director of Partnerships at the Dais, "we know that the data can only take us so far - this next phase of work required a strong local partner to test and validate the data driven indicators, and we were thrilled to partner once again with NLWIC, which has a unique

connection to employers, sector associations, workers, training providers and other labour market stakeholders across the province.”

The NLWIC team is excited to address the challenge of this project. Faculty Researcher Aleksandra Stefanovic-Chafe is playing a leadership role in the research for this project and can’t wait to see what she and the rest of the team discover.

“Connecting with people and hearing their stories, lived experiences, their concerns and aspirations, that is what gives me the most pleasure in my work,” she said. “And that’s what we get to do in phase two. There is only so much we can learn through literature and exploring best practices. Phase two is very much about building relationships with workers, employers, industry experts and professional associations. The most exciting part is not really knowing where this can take us and what we can learn.”

The Job Transition Pathways Research Project represents a collaborative effort to build a more resilient and inclusive economy for the province. As Phase 2 gets underway, partners are optimistic about the project's potential to drive positive change and create new opportunities for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians.

Funding for the Job Transition Pathways research project collaboration is provided by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Immigration, Population Growth and Skills (IPGS) through the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Market Development Agreement, the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), and the Max Bell Foundation.

For more information about NLWIC, please visit www.nlwic.ca.

For more information about the Dais, please visit dais.ca.

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About NLWIC

Established in 2017 by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and administered by College of the North Atlantic, NLWIC has a provincial mandate to provide a coordinated, central point of access to engage all labour market stakeholders about challenges, opportunities and best practices in workforce

development. The Centre's goal is to promote and support the research, testing and sharing of ideas and models of innovation in workforce development that will positively impact employability, employment and entrepreneurship within the province's labour force and particularly underrepresented groups. Funding for NLWIC is provided by the Department of Immigration, Population Growth and Skills (IPGS) under the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Labour Market Development Agreement.

About The Dais

The Dais is Canada's platform for bold policies and better leaders. We are a public policy and leadership think tank at Toronto Metropolitan University, connecting people to the ideas and power we need to build a more inclusive, innovative, prosperous Canada.