

COMMUNITY REPORT 2023



TECHSPLOATION®

Message from our President

Sherry Donovan

On Behalf of Techsploration's Board of Directors and staff, I am so pleased to introduce our 2023 Community Report! This year-in-review allows us to reflect on our achievements from our 25th anniversary year and the opportunity to share them with our special community of partners, role models, teachers, alumnae, and volunteers. Thank you all so much for your contributions and help in making this program year possible!

The 2023 program year has been the busiest to date and certainly one for the record books as we reached more than 6,000 youth! In addition to our established programming, we expanded on our Techsploration Goes to School phase with a skilled trades virtual program for young women and gender-diverse youth in grades 7 and 8. This initiative was generously funded by the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

As part of Mohawk College's 'Put Your Future in Motion' initiative, funded by the Ontario Vehicle Innovation Network, 'Techsploration in Motion' saw us deliver a speed-version of our program model to Grade 10 students in Hamilton. Many thanks to Mohawk College for inviting us to participate in this exciting initiative!

Thanks to the generous support of the French Services Branch of the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Education, French-speaking students in our region now have access to five new inspiring Power in Possibilities videos beautifully produced by SALT Cinematic. Be sure to check them out on our website and YouTube channel!

This past year we also worked with our Scholarship Partners to provide more than \$40,000 in post-secondary funding to Techsploration Alumnae – a tremendous feat that ensures more women are pursuing careers in our areas of focus!

These are just a few highlights from an incredible year. We look forward to your continued engagement in 2024!



ABOUT TECHSPLOURATION

For 25 years, Techsploration has successfully delivered empowering educational content to young women and non-binary youth in Grades 9 through 12 through hands-on, mentor-led programming and, more recently, two incredibly impactful online video series. Considered a national best practice, Techsploration is actively breaking barriers to ensure more women are exploring and entering in-demand careers in science, engineering, trades, and technology (SETT) fields where women are still significantly underrepresented. In addition to exploring in-demand careers and various career pathways, young women benefit as their skills are enhanced in the areas of communication, leadership, entrepreneurship, and teamwork. Teachers indicate that our Techsplorers (program participants) achieve increased levels of self-confidence, self-esteem, and cultural awareness – *vital skills to every occupation*.

In 2024, we are set to reach:

6,000+ STUDENTS in 50+ SCHOOLS

with support from...

200+ VOLUNTEERS

to deliver

50+ EVENTS



ARDENA PAUL

*Architectural Engineer, Fathom Studio
Techsploration Alumna, 2014*

"The Techsploration program was a great opportunity to try out different things and see the different types of post-secondary education options.

Techsploration exposed me to the options of post secondary education and gave me the knowledge to choose the option that worked best for me and my learning styles."

"Everyone experiences Architecture in some capacity in their lives. It shapes our experiences with our environment and should be representative of the people within.

When I can do that for Indigenous communities, it shows them they can have and deserve spaces that serve them. Being able to design/build these spaces is incredibly rewarding."





**BUILD SKILLS,
CREATE CONFIDENCE.**

nsc.ca

nsc

OUR PROGRAM

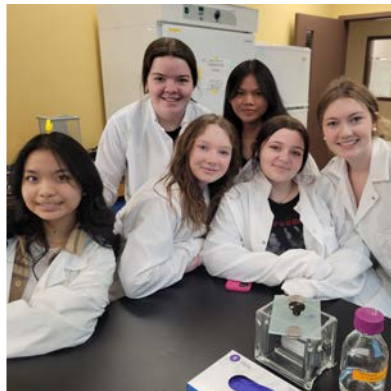
Our core programming is delivered in 4-phases throughout the school year.



Techsploration Goes to Work

December – March

After applications are submitted, a teacher selects six to eight students in grade nine to be on their school's Techsploration team. Together, they research a science, engineering, trades, or technology career assigned to their team. With the help of a female role model working in that field, the team spends a day at her workplace, learns about her work, and creates a presentation.



Techsploration Goes to School

February – April

The Techsploration team shares their experience and presentation with students at their school. Participants, staff, and invited guests are introduced to in-demand careers by participating in a round robin session with women working in these fields. Students ask the role models questions about their jobs, training, and education.



Techsplorer Events

April – May

Techsploration teams from across the province gather together to share their presentation with participants from other schools. The students get an in-depth look at multiple science, engineering, trades, and technology careers and participate in interactive presentations and workshops that aim to build confidence and leadership skills.

OUR PROGRAM

In addition to our core programming in Nova Scotia and PEI, we were thrilled to deliver two exciting variations of our program in Ontario in 2023.

Techsploration Alumnae Conference

October/November

Students in grades 10 – 12 are invited for follow-up activities such as interactive workshops and a round robin session to learn about more career options, while also developing leadership and teamwork skills. They are encouraged to help teachers select the new school team and assist with the program. In grade 12, all participants can also apply for scholarships created especially for Techsploration by our sponsors and volunteers.



Techsploration in Motion

November

As part of Mohawk College's *Put Your Future in Motion* initiative, Ontario Techsplorers participate in exciting, interactive presentations and workshops in the automotive and smart mobility sectors.



Techsploration Ontario Career Quest

May/June

Young women in Ontario in grades 9 through 12 explore careers in science, engineering, trades, and technology during this half-day conference that includes inspiring and motivating speakers, conversations with professional women and entrepreneurs in skilled trades and STEM, and dynamic hands-on workshops.



SCHOLARSHIPS

With the generous support of Techsploration partners, **over \$40,000** was awarded to Techsploration alumnae in 2023.



Abby Thompson

Chemical Engineering
University of Ottawa

Engineers Nova Scotia and
Techsploration Award



Malk Daboor

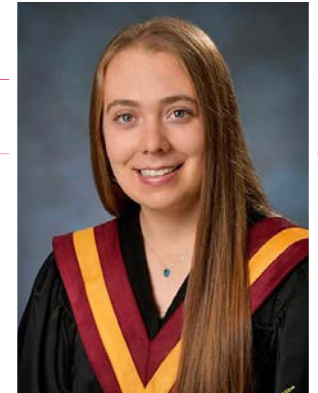
Computer Science
Dalhousie University

WeAreAllCS Women in
Technology Entrance
Scholarship

Shayna Heukshorst

Bachelor of Science
Cape Breton University

Cape Breton University and
Techsploration Science and
Engineering Award



Maggie Brown

Computer Science
Dalhousie University

WeAreAllCS Women in
Technology Entrance
Scholarship

Alice Zhao

Software Engineering
University of Waterloo

25th Anniversary
Techsploration Alumnae
Scholarship



Emma Cook

Bachelor of Science (Biology)
Acadia University

Acadia University and
Techsploration Science Award



Lily Bolivar

Bachelor of Arts – Criminology
Saint Mary's University

Saint Mary's University and
Techsploration Science and
Engineering Award



VICTORIA HENNEBERRY

*Pipefitter Apprentice, Irving Shipbuilding
Techsploration Alumna, 2012*

"As a Techsploration student in 2012, I had role models who were tradeswomen with Irving Shipbuilding who ignited the spark in me to pursue a career in the skilled trades."

"I enrolled in the Steamfitting/Pipefitting program at NSCC and graduated with honours in 2015 which led to work terms and real-world experience."

"I am so proud to be a part of the Irving Shipbuilding team and to be giving back to Techsploration by mentoring a new class of young women."

NEW IRVING SHIPBUILDING SCHOLARSHIPS

In 2023 Techsploration and Irving Shipbuilding launched **four (4) scholarships** valued at **\$3,500** each to students entering their first or second year of any trade, business, or technology program at NSCC.

"The significant impact of scholarship funds cannot be overstated. Scholarships are often the difference between someone being able to pursue post-secondary studies or having to defer education altogether."

"Techsploration is incredibly grateful to Irving Shipbuilding for their long-standing support of our program and this increased investment in our alumnae and Irving's future workforce."

Emily Boucher
Executive Director
Techsploration

Mandy DeGruchy

Natural Resources
Environmental Technology
NSCC Strait Area Campus

Techsploration and Irving
Shipbuilding Scholarship



Emma Beeler

2nd Year Metal Fabrication
NSCC Akerley Campus

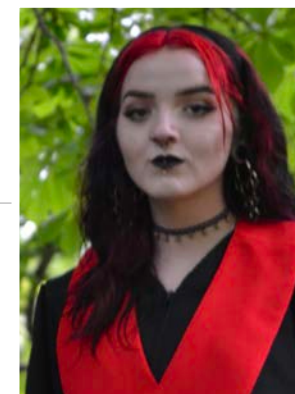
Techsploration and Irving
Shipbuilding Scholarship



Raven Ethridge

1st Year Metal Fabrication
NSCC Akerley Campus

Techsploration and Irving
Shipbuilding Scholarship



Chloé Marshall

1st Year Metal Fabrication
NSCC Akerley Campus

Techsploration and Irving
Shipbuilding Scholarship



CANADA'S  NATIONAL
SHIPBUILDER

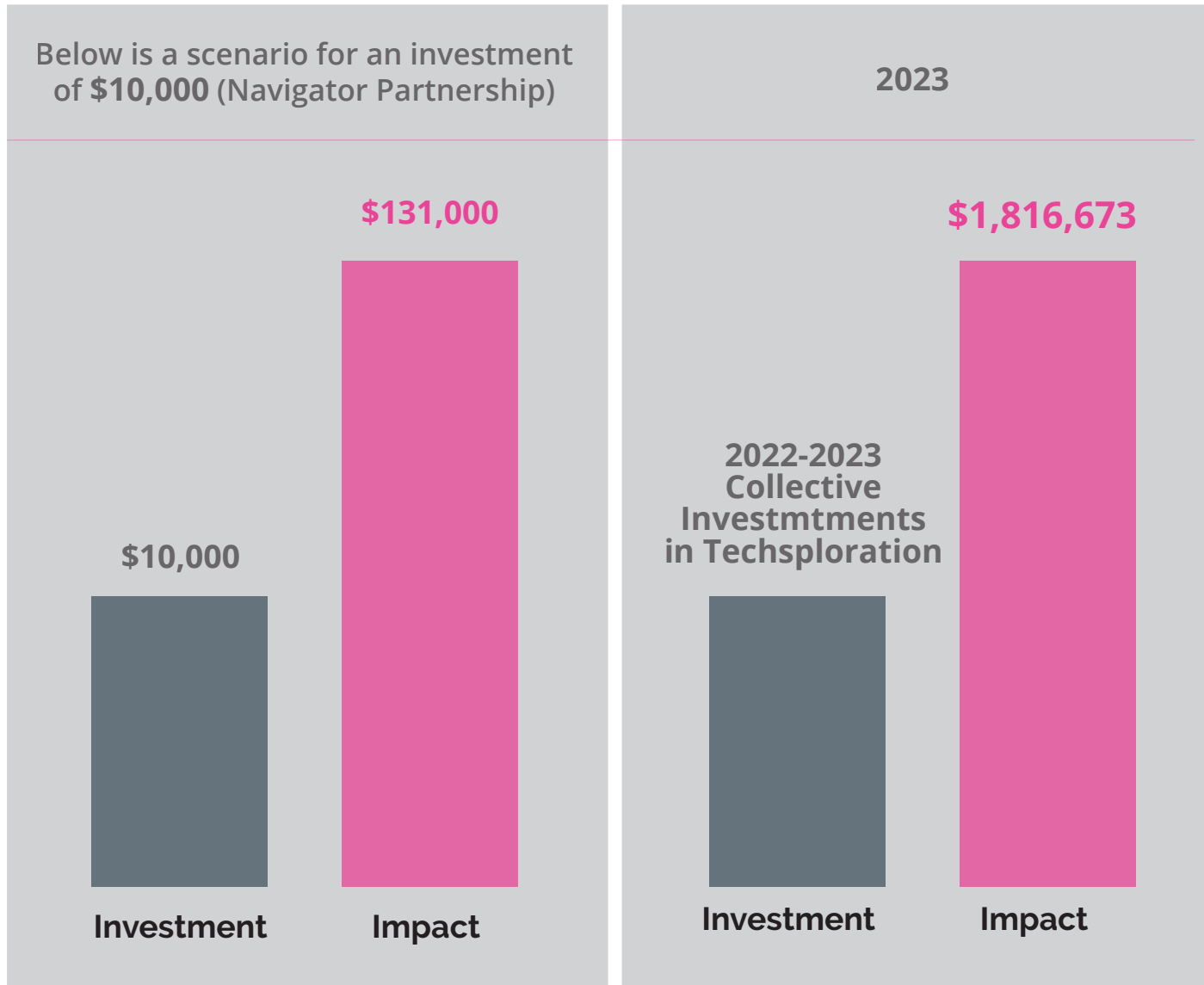
**It's a great
time to be a
shipbuilder.

Join us.**



IMPACT

Are you curious about your social return on investment (SROI) with Techsploration?



Understanding Impact

Social Return on Investment (SROI) is a way of measuring and understanding the positive impact of our programming, which is made possible by both your financial and in-kind engagement.

RIDDL is an SVI (Social Value International) accredited SaaS (software as a service) company that helps quantify, in dollar amounts, your social return on investment. It allows us and you - our partners - to clearly see how much value is returned for every dollar invested in our program, as well as project the dollar value of future impact.

For every **\$1.00** invested in Techsploration in 2022-2023, there was a **\$13.15** return!

INSPIRED. EMPOWERED.

Below are the results from alumnae who responded to our 2023 survey.

94%

Increased self-esteem.

85%

*Learned skills to use
when applying for a job.*

91%

*Feel more confident
speaking in public or with
new people.*

100%

*Improved confidence
about future career
possibilities.*

77%

*Influenced to enroll in math
and/or science courses beyond
the basic requirements.*

97%

*Improved career
research skills.*



POWER IN POSSIBILITIES LE POUVOIR DES POSSIBILITÉS



Using adaptive technology to create accessibility solutions. Cultivating healthy kelp growth on seeding lines. Developing thin solar panels. This is just some of the amazing work being done by local women in STEM, and we are absolutely thrilled to share their stories! Thanks to the generous support of the French Services Branch of the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Education, French-speaking students in our region have access to these new inspiring Power in Possibilities videos.

These new French-language videos launched in July as an educational resource over the summer months and then continue to be shared throughout the school year.



This is inspiring new content we're able to share with students in our region and another step closer to the eventual delivery of French-language programming. This series highlights careers many youth in our region may not know about otherwise, and provides French-speaking youth with increased opportunities to access our online career exploration resources.

We were delighted to partner with SALT Cinematic, who were the creative and technical lead in developing the French-language videos.





START YOUR FUTURE NOW.

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Choose apprenticeship.

Visit nsapprenticeship.ca to find out how to get started or scan the QR code.



MALK DABOOR

*Computer Science, Dalhousie University
Techsploration Alumna, 2020*

"Techsploration was a great opportunity to learn about women in STEM and the trades, and I thought that this was a great opportunity for me to explore my options and learn about what I wanted and found interesting."

"The friends that I made in Techsploration all had similar goals and ambitions, and we very quickly bonded over our love of the sciences and our aspirations for the future."

"University is naturally scary and you might feel uncomfortable there, but it is the place where you develop the most as a person, so go out of your comfort zone a little and utilise the mentors and professors that are around you in whatever ways you can."



A NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH BIRD CONSTRUCTION

Our 2023 programming year welcomed a Role Model from Bird Construction. Jannika Tobin, P.Eng spent a day onsite with a team of Techsplorers from Guysborough Academy. The students' presentation at our Division A Techsplorer Event in April, where Bird also sponsored the luncheon, won the top prize of \$250.

Villa Acadienne Long Term Care



Bird Atlantic maintains staffed offices in Bedford NS, Quispamsis NB, Fredericton NB, and Ottawa ON. Our high standard code of conduct and win-win partnerships have earned us the respect of our clients, municipal officials and subtrade partners throughout the construction community.

We deliver confidence through a client-centered process that ensures the highest quality of service, reduces risk and delivers results.

Together, we are redefining Canadian construction, and delivering our
#BestBuildYet.



Bird Construction
20 Duke Street, Suite 201
Bedford, NS B4A 2Z5

902.835.8205
www.bird.ca





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A proud partner of Techsploration
and provider of 25 pairs of new
safety boots to assist in
program delivery.



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info@meritns.com

A NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH MERIT NOVA SCOTIA

During Construction Safety Week we reached out to our Techsploration community for donations of gently used and new safety boots.

One of our newest Techsploration partners, MERIT Nova Scotia, donated 25 brand-new pairs of safety boots in partnership with Mark's Work Warehouse over the summer. Our alumnae sported these during their Skilled Trades workshops at our 2023 Alumnae Conference in November.





AT STEELE AUTO
GROUP, WE FIRMLY
BELIEVE IN THE
POWER OF FEMALE
PROFESSIONALS IN
THE AUTOMOTIVE
INDUSTRY.

steeleauto.com/careers

A NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH BUILD RIGHT NOVA SCOTIA

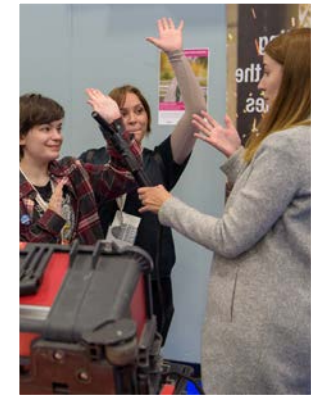
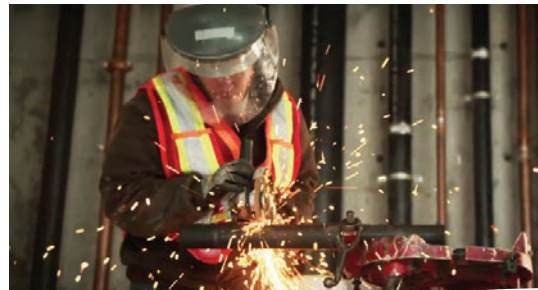
We welcomed new partner, Build Right Nova Scotia in 2023. Build Right facilitated Round Robin (speed learning) lessons at two events, where Techsplorers were able to experiment with a welding simulator - a fan favourite! During our Techsplorer Event in Truro, Build Right sponsored our Luncheon, providing lunch for over 140 people, while Executive Director Brad Smith gave an inspiring address and keynote introduction.



BUILD BETTER. LIVE BETTER.

An Initiative of Professional Unionized Tradespeople and Contractors

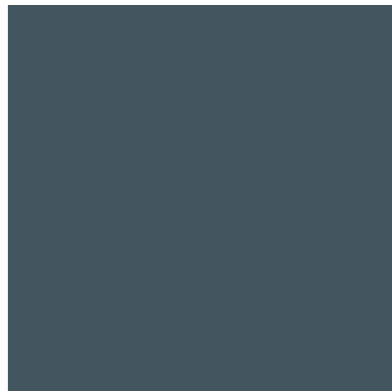
buildrightns.ca



Build Right Nova Scotia members focus on building high quality construction projects safely, on time and on budget. Our combined expertise means every step of a construction job is done right, ensuring the ultimate in integrity and safety for our buildings and the people who'll use them. Supporting the development of new entrants to the trades is key to maintaining these standards.

Your Partner in Building a Better Nova Scotia!

READY, SET...
INSPIRE!



GET INVOLVED



Provide a Female-Identifying School Team Role Model

Each school team is assigned a science, engineering, trades, or technology-related career to research with the assistance of a team role model employed in that career. They will:

- facilitate and host a 'Techsploration Goes to Work' day
- participate in a 'Techsploration Goes to School' event (virtually)
- participate in a Techsplorer Event



Provide In-kind Products or Services

Techsploration relies on support from industry and educational organizations. If you can provide an in-kind donation of services, promotional products, or participate on a Techsploration committee, please feel free to contact us. We would be thrilled to discuss this with you.



Provide Financial Support

Your financial support will ensure the ongoing success and expansion of the Techsploration program. While considering the benefits to your organization, we want to assure you that your contribution can be flexible, and payments can be made in one or more installments. Your gift can also be designated to individual event packages of your choosing.

In addition to sponsorship, you can donate to Techsploration and secure a charitable tax receipt through our partnership with the NSCC Foundation.

SPONSOR BENEFITS



Development of a Local Workforce

Your support demonstrates leadership in promoting education, training, and youth initiatives that will lead to career and job opportunities in your region. Share job opportunities with our skilled alumnae network across the country!

Addressing the Skills Shortage

The current skills shortage will require a significant recruitment effort to attract new workers to science, engineering, trades, and technology (SETT) fields. Techsploration directly addresses this challenge. Women make up over half the workforce and present an untapped resource of skilled workers in a wide variety of occupations. Involvement in Techsploration also assists organizations in attracting talented young people to post secondary educational training opportunities. For employers, this is a way to renew your workforce in future years and to start succession planning.



Workplace Diversity

Your participation demonstrates the value you hold for workplace diversity. Techsploration is a proven program that supports employment equity initiatives and programs.

Commitment to Your Community

The increased popularity of corporate citizenship has meant corporations have become a vital part of community and non-profit organizations. Techsploration offers you the opportunity to make a significant statement about your commitment to the communities in which you operate.



Recognition

Your organization will be recognized in a variety of ways at our events, on our website and printed material, and through our growing social media channels.

If you decide that Techsploration is a great fit for your organization, please contact Emily Boucher at **902.817.6428** or at emily.boucher@techsploration.ca

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Senior Director, Human Resources
Creative Flooring Solutions Inc.

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Ardena Paul

Architectural Engineering Technician
Fathom Studio

Heather Cruickshanks

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NOVA SCOTIA CONSTRUCTION SECTOR COUNCIL

Pathfinder Partners





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