



2026 NATIONAL INTEGRATED SPECIAL REPORT –
DIGITAL AND NEWSPAPER

Polytechnics driving impact

How polytechnics deliver on Canada’s ambitions

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Canada faces a convergence of national priorities: strengthening defence and security capabilities, accelerating AI adoption across industry, and addressing persistent skilled trades shortages. While these challenges are often discussed separately, the solution is increasingly interconnected. Polytechnics Canada’s 13 member institutions sit at the intersection of all three. Through applied research, industry partnerships, work-integrated learning and workforce development, polytechnics are building the innovation ecosystem and training the workforce needed to deliver Canada’s economic and national security objectives. This special feature will demonstrate how Canada’s polytechnics are serving as strategic infrastructure for national resilience and competitiveness.

- Proposed topic highlights:**
- Advancing Canada’s defence and national security:** Supporting mission-critical solutions in aerospace, robotics and cyber-physical systems and educating skilled technicians.
 - Accelerating Canada’s artificial intelligence adoption:** Building AI literacy and readiness to drive productivity and competitiveness for Canada’s small- and medium-sized businesses.
 - Building Canada’s skilled trades workforce:** Delivering the industry-aligned workforce behind critical infrastructure and energy projects.

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