

Project Title: YouTech NB

Project Timeline: February 17th, 2025, to March 31, 2026

Geographic Scope: All New Brunswick

Project Overview:

YouTech NB is a dynamic digital skills initiative designed to equip K-12 students and educators across New Brunswick with essential skills in coding, artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, and data analytics. Supporting **CanCode's mission**, it focuses on increasing access to digital learning, especially for underrepresented groups such as newcomers, girls, Indigenous and Black youth, students with disabilities, and those in rural areas.

Through engaging, hands-on experiences, the program will reach approximately **89,000 non-unique students** from kindergarten to Grade 12, helping them build digital skills and future-ready skills. To ensure sustainability, approximately **5,900 non-unique educators**—including teachers, librarians, and community leaders—will participate in **Train-the-Trainer (TTT)** programs, empowering them to deliver digital training independently.

More than just technical instruction, YouTech NB fosters **community connection and inclusion**, creating support networks among educators, students, and local organizations to ensure digital learning continues well beyond the life of the project.

Target Audience:

1. Students (K-12):

Approximately **89,000 non-unique students** will benefit from tiered digital skills training tailored by age group. Emphasis will be placed on equitable access and participation across New Brunswick, particularly within marginalized communities.

2. Educators and Community Trainers:

Approximately **5,900 non-unique** participants—including teachers, librarians, and community educators—will receive structured training, enabling them to lead digital skills programs within their own institutions and communities, ensuring the program's sustainability.

Project Deliverables:

- **Self-Paced Training Materials:** Development of comprehensive, self-paced digital skills and coding curricula tailored for trainers. These resources will be made available to ensure consistent and flexible learning opportunities for educators.
- **Teacher Training:** Educators will be empowered through comprehensive, bilingual (where needed) materials, workshops, and access to online platforms. The TTT initiative ensures that schools, libraries, and community centers can independently continue digital training programs.
- **Youth Training:** Direct training sessions will be conducted for students, emphasizing fundamental digital skills such as coding, AI, and data analytics. The courses will be designed to engage different grade groups with appropriate content, such as:

- K–G2: Early STEM exploration using Beebots and ScratchJr.
- G3–5: Introduction to coding fundamentals and basic web development using Scratch and HTML/CSS.
- G6–8: Practical programming in Python, AI concepts, and game development.
- G9–12: Advanced training in machine learning, AI applications, and data analytics.

Training content specifics include: Coding with ScratchJr, Python for beginners, AI applications, and Data Science (refer to attached document for detailed curriculum breakdown) (Trainings).

Expected Impact:

- **Digital Empowerment:** Approximately **89,000 non-unique students** and approximately **5,900 non-unique educators** will be equipped with future-ready digital competencies.
- **Sustainable Infrastructure:** Training resources will be hosted on MCAF's eLearning platform to ensure continued access.
- **Collaborative Ecosystem:** Strong provincial partnerships will support ongoing digital education through integration with schools, libraries, and settlement agencies.
- **Long-Term Access to Equipment:** All devices and equipment purchased through YouTech NB will remain within the community, forming part of fully equipped mobile digital labs. These labs will be made available to schools, libraries, and community centers even after the project ends, promoting continued access to digital tools and fostering a shared resource model within local networks. A total of four mobile labs will be stationed in strategic locations across New Brunswick, ensuring that communities in different regions—urban, rural, and remote—can benefit from these shared digital resources and training opportunities.
- **Community Resilience:** By building local capacity and fostering community connections, the program supports long-term independence in delivering digital education.