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Literature and Best Practices Review / Environmental Scan

Experiential Learning Advisory Committee

St. Francis Xavier University

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Angus L. Macdonald Library



Introduction

The Experiential Learning Advisory Committee (the committee) is developing a five-year strategy that aligns EL initiatives across the institution with student development goals, pedagogical strengths, and provincial mandates. This includes:

- Developing cost recovery proposals to support new sustainable, modern and scalable approaches for EL delivery.
- Growing curricular & co-curricular EL opportunities
- Advancing access to EL for underrepresented student populations.
- Supporting faculty innovation and curricular integration.

Environmental Scan

For the environmental scan related to the Experiential Learning Advisory Committee project, we are aiming to gather comprehensive, relevant, and up-to-date information from various sources. The environmental scan will focus on identifying best practices, systems, and tools used in the field of experiential learning (EL) across various institutions, including models, frameworks, technologies, and strategies that have demonstrated success.

Purpose & Methods

The purpose of this Best Practices and Literature Review is to assist the committee in their development of a five-year strategic plan to enhance and grow experiential learning opportunities at St. Francis Xavier University (StFX). This document will provide an overview of evidence-based scholarship and literature from government sources and other post-secondary institutions in Canada to allow committee members to conduct an informed reflection of current best practices in the field of experiential learning.

The focus of the literature discussed in this document is on material published within the past 5 years, to ensure a current overview of the experiential learning landscape in Canadian post-secondary institutions. While the majority of documents presented here fall into that time frame, in some cases the material pre-dates 2020 when it was especially relevant.

The research conducted for this report is based upon the guidance provided in the document “Draft Scope of Work for Librarian.” Novanet, StFX’s library catalogue, along with academic article databases (such as ERIC, ProQuest, JSTOR) were consulted. Books (including OER textbooks), scholarly articles and dissertations are all included in this report, along with links to university websites, institutional reports and government documents. Google searches were conducted to provide an overview of practices at other Canadian post-secondary institutions.

The major categories presented in this document were informed by the scoping guidelines mentioned above, as well as personal notes from the inaugural meeting of the committee on April 30, 2025.

Accompanying Zotero Bibliography

All sources are listed in the APA citation format in this report and are also available for the public to view online at this location : https://www.zotero.org/groups/6003276/stfx_experiential_learning_advisory_committee/items.

The Zotero library is organized in an identical manner to the sources in this document to allow for ease of browsing. It allows readers to skim the abstracts of the articles and to create additional bibliographies from the citation information provided. The citation information presented in this report is synced with the Zotero library and does not need further editing.

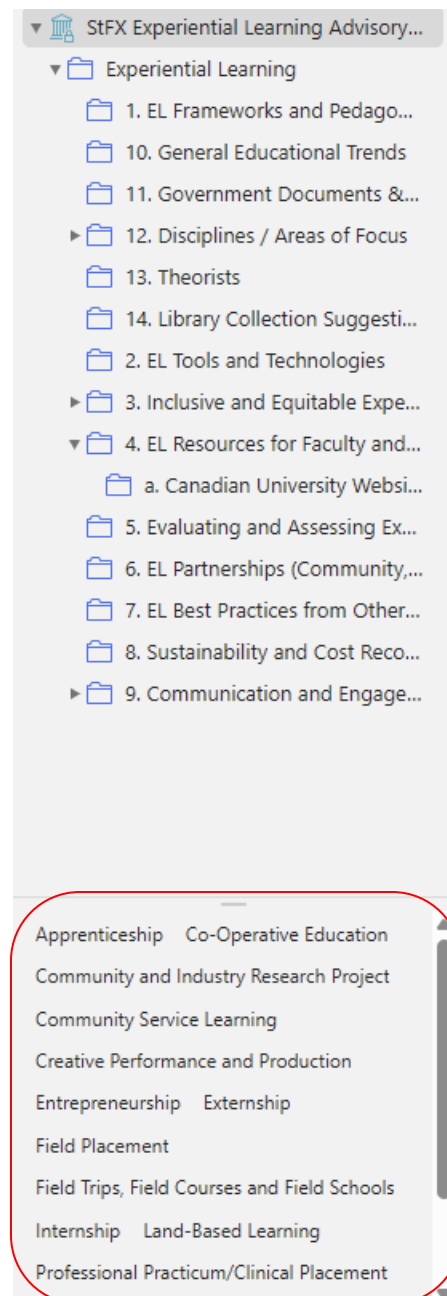
In some cases, identified scholarly articles fit into one or more of the several categories presented below, and as such are duplicated in the report. This is especially the case for discipline-specific articles.

Tags have been added to each article, reflective of the categories presented in *Schedule J - Provincial Curricular Experiential Learning Typology* of the 2025-2027 University Agreement between the Province of Nova Scotia and St. Francis Xavier University. Please note that these tags refer to curricular experiential learning programs only. Readers may click on a tag, highlighted in a red box on the screen shot on the right, to browse all articles and resources identified under these categories.

Relevant Scholarly Journals

The following journals are available via the Angus L. Macdonald Library or in an Open-Access format. It will be worthwhile for interested committee members to review the latest issues of these journals regularly.

- Assessment and Evaluation in Higher Education
- Assessment in Education: Principles, Policy and Practice



- Australasian Journal of University-Community Engagement
- Australasian Marketing Journal
- Canadian Journal for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning
- Canadian Journal of Career Development
- Canadian Journal of Higher Education
- Educational Research Review
- Educational Technology Research and Development
- Experiential Learning and Teaching in Higher Education
- Global Citizenship Education: Challenges and Successes
- Higher Education
- Higher Education Research and Development
- Higher Education, Skills and Work-based Learning
- International Journal for Service Learning in Engineering
- International Journal of Learning
- International Journal of Practice-based Learning in Health and Social Care
- International Journal of Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement
- International Journal of Technology Management
- International Journal of Work-Integrated Learning
- Journal of Adventure Education and Outdoor Learning
- Journal of Community Engagement and Scholarship
- Journal of Continuing Education and Professional Development
- Journal of Cooperative Education
- Journal of Education for Business
- Journal of Experiential Education
- Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement
- Journal of Higher Education Policy and Management

- Journal of Interprofessional Care
- Journal of Learning Design
- Journal of Online Teaching and Learning
- Journal of Professional Issues in Engineering Education and Practice
- Journal of Public Scholarship in Higher Education
- Journal of Service Learning in Higher Education
- Journal of Teachers Education
- Journal of Teaching and Learning for Graduate Employability
- Journal of University Teaching and Learning Practice
- Journal of Vocational and Education and Training
- Journal of Workplace Learning
- Michigan Journal of Community Service Learning
- Partnerships: A Journal of Service-Learning and Civic Engagement
- Professional and Practice-based Learning
- Professional Development in Education
- Progress in Community Health Partnerships
- Reflective Practice Journal
- Research and Practice in Assessment
- Review of Educational Research
- Studies in Continuing Education
- Studies in Higher Education
- Teaching in Higher Education
- The Journal of Community Engagement and Higher Education
- The Journal of Experiential Education
- Undergraduate Journal of Service Learning and Community-Based Research
- Work-based Learning e-Journal International

Identified Categories and Relevant Literature

1. Experiential Learning Frameworks and Pedagogical Models

Search Terms:

- "Experiential learning frameworks"
- "Pedagogical models for experiential learning"
- "Best practices in experiential learning integration"
- "Service-learning models"
- "Work-integrated learning (WIL) models"

Sources to Explore:

- Academic journals and databases (e.g., ERIC, JSTOR, Google Scholar)
- Institutional reports from universities with established experiential learning programs
- Government and NGO reports on educational strategies
 - *No relevant sources were available from the MPHEC*
- Case studies on the integration of experiential learning in higher education curricula
 - *Please see below (Additional Categories – Disciplines) for a more comprehensive and disciplinary-specific overview of case studies and successful pedagogical models, as experienced in various classes and at various institutions across Canada in recent years.*

Recommended Reading

A quality framework for: *Quality work-integrated learning*. (2019, May 31). [Video].
<https://taylorinstitute.ucalgary.ca/resources/a-quality-framework-for-work-integrated-learning>

Arney, N. D., & Krygsman, H. P. (2022). Work-integrated learning policy in Alberta: A post-structural analysis. *Canadian Journal of Educational Administration and Policy*, 198, 97–110. <https://doi.org/10.7202/1086429ar>

Bonica, M. J., Judge, R., Bernard, C., & Murphy, S. (2018). Open pedagogy benefits to competency development: From sage on the stage to guy in the audience. *The Journal of Health Administration Education*, 35(1), 9–27.

Briggs, G. (2018). The future of community service-learning in Canada. *Engaged Scholar Journal*, 4(1), 227–234. <https://doi.org/10.15402/esj.v4i1.319>

- Burga, R., Rodriguez-Tejedo, I., & Indrajaya, A. N. (2025). *Critical reflections on innovative flourishing businesses in the context of the UN sustainable development goals*. <https://books.lib.uoguelph.ca/criticalreflectionsoninnovativeflourishingbusinesses/>
- Burga, R., Lohrenz, J., Hoong, Y., Chaudhry, A., Indrajaya, A. N., Tejedo, I. R., Niyimbanira, F., Newton, L., Guedes, L., Carbone, G. T., & Meharunisa, S. (2025). *Student reflections on sustainability and business innovations: A global COIL (2024) perspective*. <https://books.lib.uoguelph.ca/coilf2024/>
- Chambers, T. (2009). A continuum of approaches to service-learning within Canadian post-secondary education. *Canadian Journal of Higher Education*, 39(2), 77-100.
- Dorland, A., Finch, D. J., Levallet, N., Raby, S., Ross, S., & Swiston, A. (2020). An entrepreneurial view of universal work-integrated learning. *Education & Training*, 62(4), 393–411. <https://doi.org/10.1108/ET-11-2019-0260>
- Drewery, D., & Pretti, T. J. (2021). The building blocks of relevant work learning experiences. *International Journal of Work-Integrated Learning*, 22(2), 241–251.
- Eggiman-Ketter, J., Derrough, B., Wolfe, D., & Unger, J. (2024). Enablers and barriers to implementing an interdisciplinary experiential learning program for health and rehabilitation university students in a Canadian rehabilitation centre. *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*, 105(4), e176–e176. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apmr.2024.02.612>
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- LaCroix, E. (2024). Meso-foundations of experiential education in Ontario universities: A content analysis of the province’s strategic mandate agreements. *The Canadian Journal of Higher Education*, 54(1), 14–26.
- Marshall, G. (n.d.). *Experiential Learning Framework*. eCampus Ontario. Retrieved May 28, 2025, from <https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/centennialcollegeexperientiallearningframework/>
- McRae, N., & Johnston, N. (2016). The development of a proposed global work-integrated learning framework. *Asia-Pacific Journal of Cooperative Education*, 17(4), 337-.
- Pretti, T. J., Etmanski, B., & Drewery, D. W. (2021). Development and validation of a future ready talent framework. *International Journal of Work-Integrated Learning*, 22(3), 369-.

- Service learning*. (2018). [Literature search]. CERIC. <https://ceric.ca/literature-searches/service-learning/>
- Stirling, A., Kerr, G., Banwell, J., MacPherson, E., & Heron, A. (2024). *A practical guide for work-integrated learning: Effective and inclusive practices to enhance the educational quality of structured work experiences offered through colleges and universities* (2nd Ed.). Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario. <https://heqco.ca/pub/a-practical-guide-for-work-integrated-learning/>
- Stirling, A. E. (Ed.), & Pretti, T. J. (Ed.). (2021). *The practice of co-op and work-integrated learning in the Canadian context*. Co-operative Education and Work-Integrated Learning Canada (CEWIL Canada), and The World Association for Cooperative and Work-Integrated Education (WACE). https://cewilcanada.ca/common/Uploaded%20files/EN/Resources/Educators/The_Practice_of_Co-op_and_Work-Integrated_Learning_in_the_Canadian_Context_2_.pdf
- Stowe, L., Flanagan, K., Martineau, C., Kaipainen, E., & Kenny, N. (2024). *Revisioning the UCalgary experiential learning framework*. University of Calgary. <https://teaching-learning.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/1/25-UCalgaryELFramework-DRAFT.pdf>
- Study on experiential learning and pathways to employment for Canadian youth*. (2018). Universities Canada. <https://univcan.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/study-on-experiential-learning-and-pathways-to-employment-for-canadian-youth-submission-march-2018accessible.pdf>
- Wan, S. (2021). Undergraduate research opportunities in Canadian higher education: An initial study. *International Journal of Work-Integrated Learning*, 22(3), 397-.
- West, L., & Stirling, A. (2021). Re-designing work study as work-integrated learning: Examining the impact of structured learning support in part-time on-campus employment. *International Journal of Work-Integrated Learning*, 22(3), 385-.
- What is work-integrated learning (WIL)?* (n.d.). CEWIL Canada. Retrieved May 20, 2025, from <https://cewilcanada.ca/CEWIL/CEWIL/About-Us/Work-Integrated-Learning.aspx>

2. Experiential Learning Tools and Technologies

Search Terms:

- "EL tracking systems"
- "Work-integrated learning software"
- "Digital catalog for experiential learning"

- "EL platforms and tools for faculty and student engagement"
- "Systems for tracking co-curricular activities"

Sources to Explore:

- University websites and repositories that showcase EL tools
- Vendor websites for EL technology platforms (e.g., Orbis, Xplor)
- Library and information science publications on system design and implementation
- Case studies on the use of EL tracking tools in academia

Recommended Reading

CEWIL Canada data. (n.d.). Retrieved May 20, 2025, from

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EL hub. (n.d.). Dalhousie University. Retrieved May 29, 2025, from

<https://www.dal.ca/faculty/arts/fass-ex/el-catalogue.html>

Experiential learning. (n.d.). Retrieved May 23, 2025, from <https://nbcc.ca/nbcc-advantage/experiential-learning>

Government of Canada, E. and S. D. (2017, August 26). *The innovative work-integrated learning initiative [Program descriptions]. ESDC Programs and Policy Development.*

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/work-integrated-learning.html>

Outcome campus connect. (n.d.). Retrieved May 23, 2025, from

<https://outcomecampusconnect.ca/About>

Riipen: The #1 experiential learning platform for educators, learners, and employers. (n.d.).

Retrieved May 23, 2025, from <https://www.riipen.com/>

Student co-curricular management software: Modern campus involve. (n.d.). Modern Campus. Retrieved May 23, 2025, from <https://moderncampus.com/products/student-engagement-and-learning-platform.html>

UNB experience catalogue. (n.d.). Retrieved May 23, 2025, from <https://experience.unb.ca/home/catalogue.htm>

UNB Plus bridges the gaps between the classroom and the workplace through fun, engaging learning modules. (n.d.). Retrieved May 28, 2025, from <https://blogs.unb.ca/sample-blog/2023/04/unb-plus.php>

Verkuyl, M., Violato, E., Harder, N., Southam, T., Lavoie-Tremblay, M., Goldsworthy, S., Ellis, W., Campbell, S. H., & Attack, L. (2024). Virtual simulation in healthcare education: A multi-professional, pan-Canadian evaluation. *Advances in Simulation*, 9(1), 3–3. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s41077-023-00276-x>

Virtu-WIL. (n.d.). Colleges & Institutes Canada. Retrieved May 29, 2025, from <https://www.collegesinstitutes.ca/programs/virtu-wil/>

Workshops. (2021, September 3). *Fanshawe Library Learning Commons*. <https://www.fanshawelibrary.com/workshops/>

3. Research on Inclusive and Equitable Experiential Learning

Search Terms:

- "Equity in experiential learning"
- "Barriers to experiential learning for underrepresented groups"
- "Inclusive pedagogy in experiential learning"
- "Experiential learning for marginalized student groups"
- "Diversity, equity, and inclusion in EL programs"

Sources to Explore:

- Scholarly articles on equity-focused experiential learning
- Institutional reports on diversity and inclusion in EL
- Research from organizations like the Canadian Alliance for Community Service-Learning (CACSL)

- This organization is no longer active, see:
<https://www.vec.ca/english/3/service-learning-canada.cfm>
- Reports from educational and governmental organizations focused on social justice in education

Recommended Reading

Advancing work-integrated learning: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion strategies in WIL. (n.d.). Business + Higher Education Roundtable. <https://bher.ca/resource/equity-diversity-and-inclusion-strategies-in-wil>

Bowen, T. (2020). Examining students' perspectives on gender bias in their work-integrated learning placements. *Higher Education Research and Development*, 39(3), 411–424. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07294360.2019.1677568>

Chatoor, K., & Kaufman, A. (2023). *Inclusion in work-integrated learning: Lessons from administrators, employers and students*. Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario. <https://heqco.ca/pub/inclusion-in-work-integrated-learning-lessons-from-administrators-employers-and-students/>

Chatoor, K., & Balata, L. (2023). *Student identity and work-integrated learning (WIL): Exploring student experiences of WIL by demographic*. Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario. <https://heqco.ca/pub/student-identity-and-work-integrated-learning-wil-exploring-student-experiences-of-wil-by-demographic/>

Day, S. J. (2023). Collectively dreaming toward Indigenized school psychology education and training. *Canadian Journal of School Psychology*, 38(1), 46–63. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08295735221146357>

Dean, A., Johnson, J. L., & Luhmann, S. (2019). *Feminist praxis revisited: Critical reflections on university-community engagement*. Wilfrid Laurier University Press.

EDI in WIL: A Case Study of Architecture, Engineering, and Construction Students. (n.d.). Business + Higher Education Roundtable. <https://bher.ca/resource/edi-in-wil-a-case-study-of-architecture-engineering-and-construction-students>

Feng, C.-Y., Song, W., Schein, D. D., & Clark, P. (2021). Evaluating experiential learning approaches for Asian students at North American universities. *International Education Studies*, 14(10), 14-. <https://doi.org/10.5539/ies.v14n10p14>

Gatto, L. E., Pearce, H., Antonie, L., & Plesca, M. (2021a). Work integrated learning resources for students with disabilities: Are post-secondary institutions in Canada supporting this demographic to be career ready? *Higher Education, Skills and Work-Based Learning*, 11(1), 125–143. <https://doi.org/10.1108/HESWBL-08-2019-0106>

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- Hossain-Khan, T., Drewery, D., Ademuyiwa, I., Fannon, A.-M., & Phillips-Davis, C. (2024). An investigation of barriers experienced by students from equity-deserving groups in a Canadian co-op program. *International Journal of Work-Integrated Learning*, 25(1), 51–65.
- Itano-Boase, M., Wijesingha, R., Cukier, W., Latif, R., & Hon, H. (2021). Exploring diversity and inclusion in work-integrated learning: An ecological model approach. *International Journal of Work-Integrated Learning*, 22(3), 253-.
- Klassen, P. N., & Chan, C. B. (2024). Strategies for restructuring dietetics education programs to improve nutrition equity in Indigenous populations: A narrative review. *Nutrients*, 16(23), 4136-. <https://doi.org/10.3390/nu16234136>
- Mashford-Pringle, A., & Stewart, S. L. (2019). Akiikaa (it is the land): Exploring land-based experiences with university students in Ontario. *Global Health Promotion*, 26(3_suppl), 64–72. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1757975919828722>
- Mei, J. (2021). *Disclosing mental health: The experience of post secondary students transitioning into a career/experiential learning environment* [Master's thesis, Wilfrid Laurier University]. <http://central.bac-lac.gc.ca/.redirect?app=damspub&id=726eecb9-bdc9-4a21-aa52-c409d1ab8273>
- Nielsen, J., Livernoche, R., & Ramji, K. (2022). The Indigenous work-integrated learning resource hub: A needs-based approach to addressing barriers and opportunities for Indigenous students. *International Journal of Work-Integrated Learning*, 23(2), 139-.
- O'Connell, J., & Chew, S. (2022). *Equitable pathways to experiential learning: Exploring student perspectives on barriers and solutions* [Workshop]. <https://taylorinstitute.ucalgary.ca/resources/equitable-pathways-to-experiential-learning>
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<https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429427053-6>
- Poitras Pratt, Y., Danyluk, P., Beech, S., Charlebois, S., Evans, C., Fehr, A., Nielsen, A., & Sanregret, A. (2019). Pathfinders: Realizing reconciliation through lessons learned. *Papers on Postsecondary Learning and Teaching*, 3, 95–102.
<https://doi.org/10.55016/ojs/pplt.v3Y2019.53129>
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- Transforming the post-secondary experience for Indigenous students in Canada. (2024, October 2). *Canada NewsWire*.
<https://www.proquest.com/docview/3111880491?pq-origsite=primo&accountid=13803>
- Zhang, Z. (2021). *Implications of an experiential food and environment-related course for Chinese and other international students* [Master’s thesis, University of Manitoba].
<http://central.bac-lac.gc.ca/.redirect?app=damspub&id=ca295480-1282-4425-a490-a7e9481b3ef2>

4. Experiential Learning Resources for Faculty and Staff Support

Search Terms:

- "Faculty development for experiential learning"
- "Training resources for experiential learning"
- "Faculty engagement in work-integrated learning"
- "Professional development in experiential education"

Sources to Explore:

- Resources from the Teaching and Learning Centre (TLC)
- Reports on faculty workshops and training programs in experiential learning
- Online training platforms (e.g., Coursera, EdX) that offer faculty development in EL
- Articles on faculty experiences with integrating experiential learning into curricula

Recommended Reading

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- Steen, D. S. (2023). *Workplace role play scenarios*. Deakin University. <https://doi.org/10.26187/deakin.24233626.v1>
- Young, T. (2024). *Understanding teaching supports during the rise of experiential learning* [Master’s thesis, University of Toronto]. ProQuest Dissertations & Theses. <https://www.proquest.com/docview/3125949382?pq-origsite=primo>
- [*Faculty & Staff Support for EL from Canadian University Websites*](#)
- This section provides links to the majority of Canadian Universities providing faculty and staff support in their learning and development of experiential learning opportunities.
- About Experiential Learning*. (n.d.). Retrieved May 28, 2025, from <https://www.uoguelph.ca/experiential-learning/about-us/about-experiential-learning/>
- Career and experiential learning*. (n.d.). uOttawa. Retrieved May 28, 2025, from <https://www.uottawa.ca/study/career-experiential-learning>
- CSL for Faculty*. (n.d.). Saint Mary’s University. Retrieved May 28, 2025, from <https://www.smu.ca/cel/students/communityservicelearning/cslforfaculty/>
- Experiential Education Resources*. (n.d.). Faculty of Health, York University. Retrieved May 28, 2025, from <https://www.yorku.ca/health/experiential-education-3/>

Experiential Education—Faculty. (n.d.). University of Prince Edward Island. Retrieved May 28, 2025, from <https://www.upei.ca/exed/faculty>

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5. Evaluating and Assessing Experiential Learning

Search Terms:

- "Assessment of experiential learning"
- "Evaluating experiential learning outcomes"
- "Key performance indicators for experiential learning"

- "Rubrics for assessing work-integrated learning"
- "Experiential learning outcomes in higher education"

Sources to Explore:

- Academic journals focused on assessment and evaluation in education
- Case studies and reports from universities that have successfully assessed experiential learning
- Scholarly articles on developing rubrics and evaluation metrics for experiential learning

Recommended Reading

Advancing work-integrated learning: Performance assessment strategies in WIL. (n.d.).

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Eisenstein, A., Goh, C., & Istrate, E. (2021). Supervised entrepreneurial work-integrated learning. *International Journal of Work-Integrated Learning*, 22(3), 413-.

Gregory, B. (2022). *Evaluating the effect of a pressure injury virtual simulation game on undergraduate nursing students' knowledge* [Master's thesis, Queen's University]. ProQuest Dissertations & Theses.

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- Tiessen, R. (2018). Improving student reflection in experiential learning reports in post-secondary institutions. *Journal of Education and Learning*, 7(3), 1–.
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- Whyte, C. (2022). Adventures in intergenerational service-learning: Laughter, friendship, and life advice. *Canadian Journal on Aging*, 41(2), 243–251. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0714980821000076>
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6. Experiential Learning Partnerships (Community, Employer, etc.)

Search Terms:

- "Community partnerships in experiential learning"
- "Employer partnerships for work-integrated learning"
- "Collaborations in experiential education"
- "Community-engaged learning partnerships"

Sources to Explore:

- Reports from universities with established partnerships (e.g., co-op programs, service learning)
- Government publications on employer-education partnerships
- Industry reports on the role of experiential learning in workforce development
- Case studies from institutions with strong community or employer engagement in EL

Recommended Reading

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Asafo-Adjei, E. (2020). *The experiential learning connections between university and community: Recent Ontario experience* [Master's thesis, University of Western Ontario]. ProQuest Dissertations & Theses.

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- EDI in WIL: A case study of architecture, engineering, and construction students*. (n.d.). Business + Higher Education Roundtable. <https://bher.ca/resource/edi-in-wil-a-case-study-of-architecture-engineering-and-construction-students>
- Kabakova, P. (2019). *Monitoring the short-term outcomes of project-based UXD community-engaged learning courses* [Master's thesis, University of Toronto]. ProQuest Dissertations & Theses. <https://www.proquest.com/docview/2318799762?pq-origsite=primo>
- Innovative WIL: A case study of social science, humanities, and arts in the tech sector*. (n.d.). Business + Higher Education Roundtable. Retrieved May 21, 2025, from <https://bher.ca/resource/innovative-wil-a-case-study-of-social-science-humanities-and-arts-students-in-the-tech-sector>
- Innovative WIL: A case study of student talent for small- and medium-sized enterprises*. (n.d.). Business + Higher Education Roundtable. Retrieved May 21, 2025, from <https://bher.ca/resource/innovative-wil-a-case-study-of-student-talent-for-small-and-medium-sized-enterprises>
- Innovative work-integrated learning: Smarter skills solutions for Canada's SMEs*. (n.d.). Business + Higher Education Roundtable. Retrieved May 21, 2025, from <https://bher.ca/resource/innovative-work-integrated-learning-smarter-skills-solutions-for-canadas-smes>
- Ivkovic, S. S., & McRae, N. (2021). Improving engagement of interns and employers with the United Nation's sustainable development goals. *International Journal of Work-Integrated Learning*, 22(3), 345–.

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- Sponsored degrees: Transforming talent development for Canada's tech companies*. (n.d.). Business + Higher Education Roundtable. Retrieved May 21, 2025, from <https://bher.ca/resource/sponsored-degrees-transforming-talent-development-for-canadas-tech-companies>
- Working in good ways: A framework and resources*. (n.d.). University of Manitoba. Retrieved May 23, 2025, from <http://umanitoba.ca/community-engaged-learning/working-in-good-ways>
- Work-integrated learning employer guide*. (2023). Nova Scotia Community College. <https://pressbooks.atlanticoer-relatlantique.ca/wilemployer/>
- Work-integrated learning: Service learning guide*. (2023). Nova Scotia Community College. <https://pressbooks.atlanticoer-relatlantique.ca/wilservicelearn/>

7. Experiential Learning Best Practices from Other Institutions

Search Terms:

- "Case studies of experiential learning programs"
- "Best practices in experiential learning across universities"
- "Successful models of experiential learning integration"

Sources to Explore:

- Institutional research and reports (e.g., from universities known for strong EL programs like University of Waterloo, University of Toronto)
- Benchmarking studies from organizations like CEWIL (Co-operative Education and Work-Integrated Learning Canada)
- Academic journals and books documenting successful EL programs

Recommended Reading

Calvert, V., & Montemayor, H. V. (2018). Community service-learning: Why can't Canada be more like Mexico? *Engaged Scholar Journal*, 4(1), 39–59.

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Dyjur, P., Braun, R., Saito, K., & Kaipainen, E. (2020). Capturing experiential learning in a program by curriculum mapping. *Papers on Postsecondary Learning and Teaching*, 4, 101–109. <https://doi.org/10.55016/ojs/pplt.v4Y2020.68645>

Gill, H., Ahsan, M., Khalil, Y., Feng, V., Pearce, J., Sharma, T., Radwan, M., Boucinha, A., & Kærn, M. (2022). The BioExperience research and entrepreneurship challenge: An iGEM-inspired applied research program for BIOSTEM talent and skills development. *Frontiers in Bioengineering and Biotechnology*, 10, 1046723–1046723. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fbioe.2022.1046723>

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Matthews, J. I., Zok, A. V., Quenneville, E. P. M., & Dworatzek, P. D. N. (2014). Development and implementation of FRESH – a post-secondary nutrition education program incorporating population strategies, experiential learning and intersectoral partnerships. *Canadian Journal of Public Health*, 105(4), e306–e311. <https://doi.org/10.17269/cjph.105.4481>

Mauro, E., Mania, K., Ubels, N., Holroyd, H., Towle, A., & Murray, S. (2024). Reciprocity in community-engaged learning: A case study of an undergraduate knowledge exchange project in an over-researched urban community. *Michigan Journal of Community Service Learning*, 30(1), 1-. <https://doi.org/10.3998/mjcsL.3795>

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<https://doi.org/10.55016/ojs/pplt.v4Y2020.68600>

8. Sustainability and Cost Recovery in Experiential Learning

Search Terms:

- "Cost recovery models for experiential learning"
- "Sustainable models for experiential learning delivery"
- "Funding models for experiential learning"
- "Revenue generation for experiential learning programs"

Sources to Explore:

- Reports from universities that have implemented cost recovery or sustainable funding models
- Articles on financial sustainability in higher education programs
- Government or funding agency reports on experiential learning funding

Recommended Reading

Chang, H. B., & Huang, W.-J. (2022). Stakeholder Workshops as a Pedagogical Method for Experiential Learning in Collaborative Planning Education. *Planning Practice & Research*, 37(4), 427–445. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02697459.2021.2019523>

Cowart, M. R. (2010). Growing and funding experiential learning programs: A recipe for success. *New Directions for Teaching and Learning*, 2010(124), 63–68.
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Educated investments: Supporting students for a better future. (2020). [Budget Submission]. Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance.
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Steckley, M., & Steckley, J. (2022). E-volunteering as international experiential learning: Student and community perspectives. *Canadian Journal of Development Studies*, 43(2), 237–258. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02255189.2021.1952856>

Stirling, A., Kerr, G., Banwell, J., MacPherson, E., & Heron, A. (2024). *A practical guide for work-integrated learning: Effective and inclusive practices to enhance the educational quality of structured work experiences offered through colleges and universities* (2nd Ed.). Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario. <https://heqco.ca/pub/a-practical-guide-for-work-integrated-learning/>

9. Communication and Engagement Strategies for EL Programs

Search Terms:

- "Communication strategies for experiential learning"
- "Marketing EL opportunities to students"
- "Student engagement in experiential learning"
- "Promoting experiential learning through social media"

Sources to Explore:

- Marketing and communications journals related to higher education
- University websites and outreach materials promoting EL programs
 - See the section covering Canadian university websites under “EL Resources for Faculty and Staff Support.” As many of those same websites have sections for students and the promotion of EL in general.
- Research on student engagement strategies and EL promotion

Recommended Reading

Experiential learning external resources. (n.d.). Business and Education Partnership of Waterloo Region. Retrieved May 28, 2025, from <https://www.bepwr.ca/experiential-learning/external-resources>

Experiential learning plan, 2020-2025. (n.d.). University of Calgary. Retrieved May 28, 2025, from <https://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/sites/default/files/teams/2/2020-25-UCalgary-Experiential-Learning-Plan-Digital.pdf>

Guidelines and Procedures. (n.d.). Experiential Learning Hub, University of Toronto. Retrieved May 22, 2025, from <https://experientiallearning.utoronto.ca/guidelines-and-procedures/>

LaCroix, E. (2024). Meso-foundations of experiential education in Ontario universities: A content analysis of the province's strategic mandate agreements. *The Canadian Journal of Higher Education*, 54(1), 14–26.

Loney, E., Beauquis, C., Hearn, A., MacGregor, S., Krishnan, P., Puvimanasinghe, D., DesRoches, E., Fogel, J., Liang, J. Z. X., & Tseng, C. Y.-M. (2022, February 28). *Student preparation modules for experiential learning*. eCampus Ontario DSpace; eCampusOntario Special Collections. <https://openlibrary-repo.ecampusontario.ca/jspui/handle/123456789/1598>

Peters, J., & Shewan, K. (2024). *Navigating new ground: Perspectives from Canada's WIL ecosystem*. CEWIL Canada. <https://cewilcanada.ca/common/Uploaded%20files/Public%20Resources/Reports/Navigating%20New%20Ground%20-%20Perspectives%20From%20Canada%20WIL%20Ecosystem.pdf>

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Stevens, T., Pretti, J., & McRae, T. (2020). *Preparing for the future of work through work integrated learning* [White paper]. University of Waterloo. https://uwaterloo.ca/work-learn-institute/sites/default/files/uploads/files/wil_whitepaper-preparing-for-the-fow.pdf

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Types of WIL. (n.d.). Business + Higher Education Roundtable. Retrieved May 21, 2025, from <https://bher.ca/resource/types-of-wil>

UNB Newsroom. (2023, March 1). Experiential learning programs provide students with a competitive advantage [University of New Brunswick]. *UNB News*.
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Wilson, M., & Mackie, K. (2018). *Learning by doing: Postsecondary experiential education*.
<https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/adultedpseee/>

Work-integrated learning employer guide. (2023). Nova Scotia Community College.
<https://pressbooks.atlanticoer-relatlantique.ca/wilemployer/>

Work-integrated learning faculty guide. (2023). Nova Scotia Community College.
<https://pressbooks.atlanticoer-relatlantique.ca/wilfaculty/>

Work-integrated learning: Service learning guide. (2023). Nova Scotia Community College.
<https://pressbooks.atlanticoer-relatlantique.ca/wilservicelearn/>

Work-integrated learning student guide. (2023). Nova Scotia Community College.
<https://pressbooks.atlanticoer-relatlantique.ca/wilstudent/>

Student Outcomes & Success

A great number of articles focused on the benefit of WIL or EL to student success in the labour market and beyond. Those articles are included below.

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Andrade, A., Chopra, S., Nurlybayev, B., & Golab, L. (2018). Quantifying the impact of entrepreneurship on cooperative education job creation. *International Journal of Work-Integrated Learning*, 19(1), 51-.

Arnot, M., Kim, J., French, M., Lin, S. Y., Pashley, C., & Laposa, R. R. (2025). Students perceive similar gains in collaboration, communication and professional skills in two distinct experiential learning courses. *Pharmacology Research & Perspectives*, 13(2), e70095-n/a. <https://doi.org/10.1002/prp2.70095>

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- Chatoor, K., Effah, H., Shah, H., & Kaufman, A. (2024). *Navigating the transition from school to work: The impact of career development activities and services on graduate labour market outcomes*. Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario.
<https://heqco.ca/pub/navigating-the-transition-from-school-to-work-the-impact-of-career-development-activities-and-services-on-graduate-labour-market-outcomes/>
- Drewery, D., & Pretti, J. (2023). The role of lifelong learning characteristics and learning approaches in preparing students for successful work adjustment. *International Journal of Work-Integrated Learning*, 24(3), 359–370.
- Drewery, D. W., Pretti, T. J., & Church, D. (2022). Signaling “student-oriented” job opportunities enhances job attractiveness in work-integrated learning programs. *Higher Education Research and Development*, 41(2), 346–359.
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- Dupuis, C. E. (2020). *Exploring experiential education and post-secondary student employability skills: A twenty-year review* [Master’s thesis, University of Manitoba].
<http://central.bac-lac.gc.ca/.redirect?app=damspub&id=aa1c6c7a-0b4a-47b3-b9ce-ddac4af36387>
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- Kalas, P., & Raisinghani, L. (2019). Assessing the impact of community-based experiential learning: The case of biology 1000 students. *International Journal of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education*, 31(2), 261-.
- Knapp, K., & Drewery, D. (2025). Examining first year co-operative education students’ responses to stressful events during the job search and application process. *International Journal of Work-Integrated Learning*, 25(1), 75–88.
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10. General Educational Trends Relevant to Experiential Learning

Search Terms:

- "Future trends in experiential learning"
- "Higher education trends in experiential education"
- "Post-pandemic experiential learning models"

Sources to Explore:

- Academic journals on future trends in education
- Reports from educational think tanks (e.g., EDUCAUSE, the Chronicle of Higher Education)
 - EDUCAUSE and The Chronicle of Higher Education are American organisations, I did not see the benefit of adding resources from this think tank to the purpose of this environmental scan.
- Articles on adapting EL models to digital or hybrid learning environments post-pandemic

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Additional Categories

During the research process for this project, a few additional relevant themes appeared.

1. Disciplines, Special Areas of Focus & Case Studies

Many of the articles I found showcased and examined a particular experience in experiential learning within a particular discipline or class. When that program or department was also offered at StFX, I decided to organize the research as appropriate in this section. Please note that I did not specifically search for particular disciplines/programs methodically for this section, but decided to present them here as

and when they appeared in the search results for the categories mentioned above. Certainly, a more granular focus on EL case studies in the disciplines could allow for an expansion of this section.

No annotations are provided in this section, if an article was found to be particularly relevant, it was included in one of the pre-identified sections and commented on there.

Disciplines

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9. Science (including Engineering)
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10. Social Sciences

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Special Areas of Focus

1. Co-Curricular Initiatives

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2. International Experiences

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- Faculty members and learning abroad: A proposed continuum of engagement.* (n.d.). Canadian Bureau for International Education. Retrieved May 29, 2025, from <https://cbie.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/faculty-learning-abroad-en.pdf>
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- McRae, N., Ramji, K., Lu, L., & Lesperance, M. (2016). Developing global-ready graduates: The CANEU-COOP experience. *Asia-Pacific Journal of Cooperative Education*, 17(4), 377–.
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2. Experiential Learning Theories & Theorists

The principal theorist in adult education and experiential learning is David A. Kolb, who has based his work on that of John Dewey, Kurt Lewin, Jean Piaget, William James, Carl Rogers and Paulo Friere, amongst others. Smith & Knapp (2011) provide an excellent overview of the development of theories on the topics covered in this report.

In this section, I have expanded the earlier criteria regarding source currency and the geographical restriction of Canada. I have included books and articles which are considered to be primary sources in experiential learning theory, as well as secondary articles examining their development and impact in multiple ways. I've also expanded the selection beyond a limitation of pure experiential learning theory to incorporate material regarding allyship and inclusion, in particular.

Recommended Reading

Aboagye, E., & Dlamini, S. N. (2021). *Global Citizenship Education: Challenges and Successes* (First edition.). University of Toronto Press.

<https://doi.org/10.3138/9781487533977>

Adams, M. B. (2021). *High-impact practices and first destination outcomes of liberal arts graduates* [Doctoral dissertation, Auburn University]. ProQuest Dissertations & Theses. <https://www.proquest.com/docview/3059441419?pq-origsite=primo>

Amarathunga, B. (2024). Work integrated learning and trending areas for future studies: A systematic literature review and bibliometric analysis. *Asian Education and Development Studies*, 13(2), 97–116. <https://doi.org/10.1108/AEDS-12-2023-0175>

- Beard, C. (2018). Dewey in the world of experiential education. *New Directions for Adult and Continuing Education*, 2018(158), 27–37. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ace.20276>
- Bergsteiner, H., Avery, G. C., & Neumann, R. (2010). Kolb’s experiential learning model: Critique from a modelling perspective. *Studies in Continuing Education*, 32(1), 29–46. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01580370903534355>
- Bishop, A. (2015). *Becoming an ally: Breaking the cycle of oppression in people* (Third edition.). Fernwood Publishing.
- Bradberry, L. A., & De Maio, J. (2019). Learning by doing: The long-term impact of experiential learning programs on student success. *Journal of Political Science Education*, 15(1), 94–111. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15512169.2018.1485571>
- Caffarella, R. S., & Jackson, L. (1994). *Experiential learning: A new approach*. Jossey-Bass.
- Cranton, P. (2006). *Understanding and promoting transformative learning: A guide for educators of adults* (2nd ed.). Jossey-Bass, a John Wiley & Sons imprint.
- de Leebeeck, J. (2020). Narrative identity development: A proposed focus for student development. *Antistasis*, 10(1), 58–68.
- This article was written by StFX’s Jacqueline de Leebeeck and includes the theoretical perspective of narrative identity development. If possible, she would be an excellent addition to the committee for the perspective she outlines in this article.
- Dewey, J. (1997). *Experience and education* (1st Free Press ed). Simon & Schuster.
- Fink, L. D. (2013). *Creating significant learning experiences: An integrated approach to designing college courses* (Revised and updated edition.). Jossey-Bass.
- Gaskell, J. S., & Rubenson, K. (2004). *Educational outcomes for the Canadian workplace: New frameworks for policy and research* (1st ed.). University of Toronto Press. <https://doi.org/10.3138/9781442674295>
- Goodman, G. S. (2014). *Educational psychology reader: The art and science of how people learn* (Revised edition). Peter Lang.
- Jonathan, L. Y., & Laik, M. N. (2024). Using experiential learning theory to improve teaching and learning in higher education. *European Journal of Education*, 7(2), 18–33. <https://doi.org/10.26417/ejser.v6i1.p123-132>

Kolb, A. Y., & Kolb, D. A. (2009). The learning way: Meta-cognitive aspects of experiential learning. *Simulation & Gaming*, 40(3), 297–327.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1046878108325713>

Kolb, A. Y., & Kolb, D. A. (2017). Experiential learning theory as a guide for experiential educators in higher education. *Experiential Learning & Teaching in Higher Education*, 1(1), 38-. <https://doi.org/10.46787/elthe.v1i1.3362>

Kolb, D. A. (1984). *Experiential learning: Experience as the source of learning and development*. Prentice-Hall.

- This is the most-cited foundational text for experiential learning theory.

Makiguchi, T., & Bethel, D. M. (1989). *Education for creative living: Ideas and proposals of Tsunesaburo Makiguchi*. Iowa State University Press.
https://stfx.novanet.ca/discovery/fulldisplay/alma990007960160107196/01NOVA_STFX:STFX

Matsuo, M. (2024). Supporting experiential learning for expanding successes: Extending Kolb's model. *Human Resource Development International*, 1–23.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/13678868.2024.2401301>

McPhee, S. R. (2022). Advocating for blended pedagogy as a shift to more holistic inclusive geography. *Journal of Geography in Higher Education*, 46(4), 495–506.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/03098265.2021.1957802>

Miettinen, R. (2000). The concept of experiential learning and John Dewey's theory of reflective thought and action. *International Journal of Lifelong Education*, 19(1), 54–72. <https://doi.org/10.1080/026013700293458>

Morris, T. H. (2020). Experiential learning—A systematic review and revision of Kolb's model. *Interactive Learning Environments*, 28(8), 1064–1077.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10494820.2019.1570279>

Quay, J. (2013). *Education, experience and existence: Engaging Dewey, Peirce and Heidegger*. Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203538159>

Raddon, M.-B., & Harrison, B. A. (2015). Is service-learning the kind face of the neo-liberal university? *Canadian Journal of Higher Education*, 45(2), 134–153.
<https://doi.org/10.47678/cjhe.v45i2.184393>

- This article examines the political motives behind the rise in service-learning in Canada and presents a viewpoint set apart from the other sources included in this report, in that it offers a political contextualization of the rise in experiential learning.

This article could be considered a counter-narrative to the others presented in this report.

Roberts, J. W. (2012). *Beyond learning by doing: Theoretical currents in experiential education* (1st ed.). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203848081>

Rogers, R. R. (2001). Reflection in higher education: A concept analysis. *Innovative Higher Education*, 26(1), 37-57. <https://doi.org/10.1023/A:1010986404527>

Sewchuk, D. H. (2005). Experiential learning: A theoretical framework for perioperative education. *AORN Journal*, 81(6), 1311,1318-1316,1318. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0001-2092\(06\)60396-7](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0001-2092(06)60396-7)

Smith, T. E., & Knapp, C. (2011). *Sourcebook of experiential education: Key thinkers and their contributions* (1st ed.). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203838983>

- If one were to only read one source on the theory of experiential education, I would recommend this book.

3. Government Documents

This section provides a list of relevant provincial and federal government statistical reports, strategies, and few connected scholarly research articles related to EL.

Alberta 2030: Building skills for jobs: A 10-year strategy for post-secondary education. (2021). Department of Advanced Education, Government of Alberta. <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/alberta-2030-building-skills-for-jobs-10-year-strategy-post-secondary-education>

Arney, N. D., & Krygsman, H. P. (2022). Work-integrated learning policy in Alberta: A post-structural analysis. *Canadian Journal of Educational Administration and Policy*, 198, 97–110. <https://doi.org/10.7202/1086429ar>

Government of Canada, E. and S. D. (2017, August 26). *The innovative work-integrated learning initiative* [Program descriptions]. ESDC Programs and Policy Development. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/work-integrated-learning.html>

Martin, S., & Rouleau, B. (2020). *An exploration of work, learning, and work-integrated learning in Canada using the Longitudinal and International Study of Adults*. Centre for Income and Socioeconomic Well-Being Statistics, Statistics Canada. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/89-648-x/89-648-x2020001-eng.htm>

- May, B. (Chair). (2018). *Experiential learning and pathways to employment for Canadian youth* (Report of the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities No. 12). House of Commons Canada.
<https://www.ourcommons.ca/Content/Committee/421/HUMA/Reports/RP10078738/humarp12/humarp12-e.pdf>
- Moreau, K. A., Giroux, C., Adam, H., Eady, K., Kane, R., Milley, P., Labelle, P., & Sikora, L. (2021). *Reimagining experiential learning in online courses for the digital economy*. Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/society-societe/community-communite/ifca-iac/evidence_briefs-donnees_probantes/skills_work_digital_economy-competences_travail_economie_numerique/moreau-eng.aspx
- Promoting excellence: Ontario implements performance based funding for postsecondary institutions. (2020, November 26). *News.Ontario.Ca*.
<https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/59368/promoting-excellence-ontario-implements-performance-based-funding-for-postsecondary-institutions>

Library Collection Suggestions

The following print monographs are recommended for purchase to complement the existing materials available at the Angus L. Macdonald library. These resources would assist interested faculty and staff in adopting and adapting experiential learning opportunities into their teaching practice.

- Baxter Magolda, M. B. (1999). *Creating contexts for learning and self-authorship: Constructive-developmental pedagogy* (1st ed.). Vanderbilt University Press.
- Bethel, D. M. (1973). *Makiguchi the value creator, revolutionary Japanese educator and founder of Soka Gakkai* ([1st ed.]). Weatherhill.
- Butin, D. (2010). *Service-Learning in Theory and Practice: The Future of Community Engagement in Higher Education* (1st ed.). Palgrave Macmillan US.
<https://doi.org/10.1057/9780230106154>
- Chahine, I. C., & Reddy, L. (2024). *Educators' work integrated learning experiences: Stories from the trenches* (2024th edition). Springer. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-65964-5>
- Duijzings, G., Meretoja, H., & Beti, B. N. (with Njeres Beti, B., Duijzings, G., Močnik, N., & Meretoja, H.). (2021). *Engaging with historical traumas: Experiential learning and*

- pedagogies of resilience* (1st ed.). Routledge.
<https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003046875>
- Eady, M. J., Loughland, T., & Winslade, M. (2023). *Work-integrated learning case studies in teacher education epistemic reflexivity* (1st ed. 2023.). Springer Nature Singapore.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-19-6532-6>
- Ferns, S. J., Rowe, A. D., & Zegwaard, K. E. (2021). *Advances in research, theory and practice in work-integrated learning: Enhancing employability for a sustainable future* (1st ed., Vol. 1). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003021049>
- Gerhardt, T., & Annon, P. J. (2021). *Applications of work integrated learning among gen Z and Y students* (1st ed.). IGI Global. <https://doi.org/10.4018/978-1-7998-6440-0>
- Hansen, D. T. (2007). *Ethical visions of education: Philosophies in practice*. Teachers College Press.
- Hatcher, J. A., Bringle, R. G., & Hahn, T. W. (2020). *Practical wisdom for conducting research on service learning: Pursuing quality and purpose* (First edition.). Stylus Publishing.
- Joubert, S. (2023). *Work integrated learning: Preparation of students for industry* (1st ed.). Juta & Company, Limited.
- Kolb, D. A. (2015). *Experiential learning: Experience as the source of learning and development* (Second edition.). Pearson Education, Inc.
- Martin, G. (2024). *Drumming our way home: Intergenerational learning, teaching, and Indigenous ways of knowing*. UBC Press.
- Moon, J. A. (2004). *A handbook of reflective and experiential learning: Theory and practice*. RoutledgeFalmer. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203416150>
- Nghia, T. L. H., Bui, B. C., Singh, J. K. N., & Lu, V. N. (2022). *Graduate employability across contexts: Perspectives, initiatives and outcomes* (1st ed.). Springer Nature Singapore. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-19-3959-4>
- Qualters, D. M., & Wehlburg, C. (2010). *Experiential education: Making the most of learning outside the classroom*. Jossey-Bass.
- Sharma, M., Allen, A., & Ibrahim, A. (2021). *Disruptive learning narrative framework: Analyzing race, power and privilege in post-secondary international service learning* (1st ed.). Bloomsbury Publishing Plc. <https://doi.org/10.5040/9781350253810>

Zegwaard, K. E., & Pretti, T. J. (2023). *The Routledge international handbook of work-integrated learning* (Third edition, Vol. 1). Taylor & Francis.
<https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003156420>