

Speaking Notes for President Claude Brulé

RE/ACTION April 14th, 2023

Hello. Bonjour. Kwe.

My name is Claude Brulé, and I am the President and CEO of Algonquin College.

It is so wonderful to be here today for the RE/ACTION Showcase celebrating the achievements of our incredible learners and the projects they undertake, whether as part of their studies or as independently.

At Algonquin College, each academic term celebrates an exciting collaboration of learners and industry partners who come together to explore ground-breaking ideas, develop innovative solutions, and create extraordinary experiences. The RE/ACTION Showcase is a tribute to this incredible work.

In-class activities and interdisciplinary projects enrich the overall quality of our curriculum by offering students an exceptional opportunity for experiential learning. Armed with a wealth of knowledge, skills, and invaluable experience, our graduates emerge from their studies as trailblazers, poised to lead with confidence and distinction.

In the projects you saw today, each participant demonstrated remarkable problem-solving skills, innovation, and the ingenuity that employers seek in today's workplace.

I would also like to express gratitude and recognition for the unwavering commitment and efforts of our diligent faculty and staff. These individuals work relentlessly to support, guide, and mentor learners throughout their experiential learning adventures.

All across our campuses, students engage in a diverse collection of projects. From exploring emerging technology and analyzing business processes to driving social change, our students collaborate with an incredible network of industry and community partners. We are deeply grateful to our stakeholders for providing real-world learning opportunities that enrich the lives of learners.

None of this would be possible without their continued support, as well as the support of funding agencies such as the Natural Sciences Engineering Research Council, the Ontario Centre of Innovation, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, and Mitacs, to name a few.

Congratulations to everyone for bringing your creative ideas to life and imagining new and improved products and services. I am truly impressed with your work, and the progress you have all made over the past few months — you should take great pride in your accomplishments.

Before we announce the winners of today's RE/ACTION Showcase, I would like to take a moment and recognize the accomplishments of two-time Showcase winners, Smart Tenant. A few weeks ago, Co-operative Education and Work-Integrated Learning Canada (CEWIL) awarded Smart Tenant project lead, Evan Liko, with an honourable mention for the CEWIL National Student of the Year Award. The award recognizes the impact and contribution of students in work-integrated learning (WIL) placements. Congratulations to the Smart Tenant team for the national recognition of your work in applied research.

I would like to invite the Smart Tenant team on stage now in honour of their achievement.

(Smart tenant team will approach the stage)

We will now turn our attention back to the judges who have made a few very difficult decisions and are ready to announce the top three teams of this term's RE/ACTION Showcase. When I call your name, I would be delighted if each person could join me on stage.

In third place, we have.... [project team name will be provided to you]

In second place, we have.... [project team name will be provided to you].

In first place, we have.... [project team name will be provided to you].

Congratulations to all the teams that participated today! Now over to Matthew to close the event.