

# February is Tech Career Awareness Month



## Background Information:

Youth Unemployment in Canada has been an ongoing challenge that today's youth face and government initiatives to solve this problem has yet to prove effective. Youth unemployment is up to 13.5% - almost double Canada's national average of 6.8%.

It's necessary that we engage our youth in this conversation to fully define the barriers they face to then develop tangible solutions.



## Minds On

Have students watch this [news clip](#) that covers the Bank of Canada's governor, Stephen Poloz's, advice for Canadian unemployed youth that sparked controversy this past November.

### *Discuss and Debate:*

Bank of Canada's governor, Stephen Poloz's advice to unemployed Canadian youth - "If your parents are letting you live in the basement, you might as well go out and do something for free to put the experience on your CV." - What is your opinion of this advice? Do you agree or disagree with Poloz?

The clip talks about the "scarring effect" of unemployment. Do you feel that through volunteering, you could negate this effect? Why or why not?

## Key Term

**Scarring Effect** – "Scarring" is defined as the negative long-term effect that unemployment has on future labour market possibilities for individuals. (Source)

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## Part 1 - Deepening the Conversation

### [Rephrasing the Questions Around Youth Unemployment \(Link\)](#)

#### *Discussion Questions:*

1. From their youth survey, the article reports that there are three key elements missing from youth career learning opportunities; connection and access, shorter-term job shadowing placements and international work-study experiences. Examining the co-op placements and/or career learning programs currently offered in your school, do you agree or disagree with these findings?

2. If your school could provide the ideal career learning opportunity program, what would it look like? Would it be a program all on its own or would it be weaved into the classroom curriculum?

## Part 2 – Student Activism in their School

1. How can technology be used as a tool for youth activism to bring your idea(s) of the ideal career learning opportunity program to the decision makers at your school?

2. Using technology, create a pitch for your ideas on how to bring innovation to career learning opportunities at your school. Use this pitch to start the conversation with your teachers and bring positive change to your school.

### **Additional Articles for Research:**

- [Unpaid Internships on Government Agenda](#)
- [A Global View of Youth Unemployment](#)
- [Civic Leaders in Toronto Tackle Youth Unemployment](#)

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