



4-H PEI Provincial Council
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For Immediate Release

New 4-H PEI BioFutures Project a Success

Charlottetown - A group of 4-H members from across PEI recently completed their participation in the brand-new **4-H BioFutures Project**, created through a collaboration between the PEI BioAlliance and 4-H PEI.

Seven of the eight senior members (ages 16-19) who took the Project presented their reflections on the experience at a wrap-up event held recently at Holland College, where learning Instructor, Dr. Michael Gibson shared an overview of Holland College's Bioscience Technology Program, which is celebrating ten years of operation this year. Each of the members was presented with a personalized lab coat and certificate as a part of the event.

Over a six-week project period, the 4-H members visited five different local bioscience companies and research labs, giving them a hands-on introduction and insight into the potential for education and careers opportunities in the industry. Members say they were surprised by the number and variety of bioscience organizations in PEI and were impressed with the range of opportunities available within the PEI bioscience sector.

Organizers are very pleased with the inaugural **4-H BioFutures Project**, agreeing that exposing young Islanders to new opportunities to apply or pursue science is important. *"Given the success of our first year, we can definitely see this program growing. Our companies are pleased to participate to help build the next generation of bioscience professionals, and 4-H PEI is an ideal partner,"* says Vivian Beer, Manager, HR Strategy, PEI BioAlliance. 4-H PEI shares in their enthusiasm. *"We couldn't think of a better Project to launch during this special year of our centennial celebrations,"* adds 4-H PEI Administrative Director Kelly Mullaly. *"This Project is the perfect example of how collaborating with our community creates engaging opportunities for 4-H members to Learn to Do By Doing as they explore their post-secondary options."*

4-H is a positive youth development program which has been operating on Prince Edward Island since 1918.

The PEI BioAlliance was created to accelerate the growth of PEI's bioscience sector by building the economy and setting the pace for the next generation, providing strategy, focus, and alignment among its partners.

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Photos – [Photo Credit: Kelly Mullaly, 4-H PEI]

Photo 1 - Kelly Mullaly (left), Administrative Director for 4-H PEI congratulates Sarah Sonier, Wheatley River 4-H Club and Jory Donovan, Summerville 4-H Club on their completion of the first ever PEI BioAlliance 4-H BioFutures Project. Sonier and Donovan were two of eight senior 4-H members who participated in the inaugural project. Joining them is BioFutures Project Committee member Steve Howatt, former 4-H member, President and General Manager of Atlantic AgriTech & Vice Chair of the PEI BioAlliance.

Photo 2 – 4-H PEI BioFutures members (L to R) Genevieve Beaulac (Fort August 4-H Club), Nicolle MacDonald (Grand River East 4-H Club), Sarah Sonier (Wheatley River 4-H Club), Nellie Wood (North River 4-H Club), Jory Donovan (Summerville 4-H Club), Julie VanLeeuwen (Pleasant Valley 4-H Club). Missing from photo: Spencer Saunders (Fort Augustus 4-H Club), Kirsten Kouwenberg (Millview-Vernon River 4-H Club).