



Press release  
For immediate release

## ***Concomitance Estrie Project, a Regional Approach for School Success!***

Sherbrooke, March 14, 2018 – Today, at Remorques Ter-O Concept inc., in the presence of business leaders, stakeholders and students, the four Estrie school boards launched the *Concomitance Estrie* (2-4-U) project. Thanks to this initiative, youth in the area can now follow one of 23 vocational training programs offered collectively by the school boards.

### **A Number of Possible Career Paths**

This project consolidates the regional vocational training programs available within concomitance (2-4-U). Access to a broader range of programs will meet the needs of a greater number of students. In addition, the school boards are working to provide students with transportation or help with transportation between their high school and the chosen training centre.

The outcome of a regional focus to support graduation, this project also provides a solution to the pressing need for skilled labour in local businesses. “Because every young person has their place in the school system, our school boards are focusing on their strengths and offering them choices which will allow them to graduate and qualify for the job market in areas where there is often a shortage of manpower”, states M. Yves Gilbert, President of the *Commission scolaire des Hauts-Cantons*, speaking on behalf of the four Estrie school boards.

### **An Option that Leads to Success**

This project also helps to make known to both youth and their parents an atypical career path that allows them to simultaneously follow a vocational training program and their general high school education. This leads to a double graduation, that of a secondary school diploma (DES) and a vocational training one (DEP).

Concomitance is an alternative for students to succeed, who are not suited to regular studies. “Daring to take a different path has proved to be a winning solution for many students”, underlines



Mrs. Chantal Landry, *directrice du Centre de formation professionnelle de l'Asbesterie et du Centre d'excellence en formation industrielle.* "Learning a trade makes them feel good and motivates them to finish high school."

"While there is still progress to be made in this respect, the perception towards vocational training is starting to change. Our students are proud to take part in our programs", expressed Mrs. Kandy Mackey, Director General of the Eastern Townships School Board. "Our graduates are so sought-after by businesses, that people have taken note of how valuable their expertise is."

Most programs include an internship, which brings an even more concrete aspect to the course. The Centres and businesses in the area work closely together so that students receive training that meets the needs of the industry and allows them to gain employment quickly once they graduate.

All secondary cycle 2 students who have successfully completed secondary 3 French, English and Math can register for concomitance (2-4-U) training.

For more information on the *Concomitance Estrie* (2-4-U) project and to learn about the programs, visit [www.concoestrie.ca](http://www.concoestrie.ca).

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