

CYBERNB

Canada

CyberNB Awarded Digital Skills for Youth (DS4Y) Federal Internship Program to Benefit Underemployed University or College Graduates in the Province of New Brunswick

Wednesday, August 26th, 2020

Fredericton, NB: CyberNB, New Brunswick's hub for cybersecurity, announced today that it was selected to be the Digital Skills for Youth (DS4Y) Delivery Organization for the province. As a Delivery Organization, CyberNB will connect eligible youth with industry partners for 50 internships across New Brunswick beginning this August. Organizations that hire an intern as part of the program will receive up to \$30,000 in funding from Innovation, Science and Economic Development (ISED) Canada.

Digital Skills for Youth (DS4Y) is a federal program funded by the Government of Canada. It aims to connect underemployed or unemployed university and college graduates with small to medium-sized businesses and not-for-profit organizations that can offer meaningful work experience to help youth under 30-years-old transition to career-oriented employment. The initiative stems from the government's Youth Employment and Skills Strategy (YESS), which aims to provide more flexible employment services and enhanced support to help all young Canadians.

"There has never been a more exciting time to begin a career in cybersecurity or the wider digital economy," shared CyberNB CEO, Tyson Johnson. "We know that completing your education is only the first step and that for many New Brunswick youth, finding and securing job opportunities can be difficult. CyberNB is thrilled to be able to help connect our underemployed graduates, right here at home, with rewarding opportunities and real on-the-job experience from our industry partners."

"Digital skills and work-integrated learning are key to the future success of innovation and jobs in Canada," said The Honourable Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry. "The DS4Y program helps graduates get the best possible head start so they can thrive in the digital economy, while delivering the highly skilled workforce that Canadian businesses are looking for."

CyberNB was selected to be a Delivery Organization after demonstrating its capability to work diligently with a national and international network of partners in business, government and academia to further the cybersecurity industry in New Brunswick and across Canada. Through Digital Skills for Youth (DS4Y), CyberNB will recruit post-secondary graduates and connect them with meaningful digital internships within its proven network of small to medium-sized businesses (SMBs under 500 employees) and not-for-profit organizations. These internships should provide experiences that will prepare youth to adapt to the significant changes projected in tomorrow's workplace, including emerging areas where the jobs may not yet exist such as those related to cybersecurity, the automation of knowledge tasks, big data, and artificial intelligence, among others.

"This year has exposed entirely new barriers to finding employment," said Jenn Peck, CyberNB's Digital Workforce Strategist and DS4Y Program Lead. "Having worked alongside both employers and jobseekers, I knew what challenges they faced even before this global shift. The DS4Y program couldn't have come at a more opportune time – and I'm beyond thrilled to be leading an initiative that helps connect skilled youth to New Brunswick's businesses. The knowledge-based sector is in need of talent, and DS4Y can certainly help fill that gap!"

If you are a prospective intern or employer and are eager to learn more about DS4Y, visit <https://cybernb.ca/DS4Y>.

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About CyberNB:

CyberNB was founded in 2016 as a program of ONB, New Brunswick's provincial economic development agency, to fill a crucial gap in Canada's cybersecurity ecosystem, providing a single overarching organisation working on behalf of all stakeholders. Today, CyberNB offers an extensive national and international network of partners and collaborators in business, government and academia. A dynamic non-profit, CyberNB is a connector and multiplier for the collective advancement of Canada's booming cybersecurity sector. Most recently, it launched CIPnet, a membership program, and Canada's most extensive network of cybersecurity stakeholders for critical infrastructure protection. Learn more at www.cybernb.ca

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