

Back to (career) school: Pencils, teachers and books - The Grown-up edition

I am touching base regarding a story idea. With “back-to-school” around the corner, Canadians are getting their kids prepared to return to the classroom – buying clothes and supplies and getting them ready for another year of learning. But adults should also be thinking about learning, and how to upgrade their own skills and advance their careers.

Today more than ever, lifelong learning is taking on a new urgency in the face of automation and artificial intelligence, the emergence of jobs of the future, and the continued move toward careers characterized by part-time and temporary gigs. In fact, it is expected that 50% of Canadian jobs will require a major skills shift in the next 10 years as technological advancements change the way we work, according to RBC’s recent [Humans Wanted](#) report.

Toronto-based CERIC, the only charitable organization of its kind in Canada that is focused on career development education and research – with a national network of career experts – can help make sense of current job and labour market realities. [CERIC’s Board Chair John Horn](#) is available for an interview from Vancouver and can offer insights on how Canadians can take charge of their own career development to navigate new workforce realities and what’s coming in the future.

Here are just a few things John can talk about:

- Whether a new grad, mid-career professional or mature worker, Canadians can expect multiple career transitions – they will need to **reinvent their talents and redefine “career success”**
- The importance of “**unlearning**” – letting go of old habits, systems and tools in order to adopt new ways to manage career disruption
- Doing a degree or diploma might seem overwhelming but **learning can start small**: Read a book or an article that ignites your purpose or explore a massive open online course (MOOC)
- With greater longevity, what do careers look when instead of retiring we’re **working into our 70s, 80s and even 90s?**

John also leads organizational development and learning at Vancity Credit Union. He is a futurist who is deeply interested in the world of work and who blogs at The Potentiality ([Seven Ways to Make Time for Learning; 3 Future of Work Infographics You Must Read](#)).

For your reference, some recent articles we’ve been following that speak to these trends include:

- [The Third Education Revolution](#) (Atlantic)
- [Learning to Work with Robots](#) (Foreign Policy)
- [Artificial intelligence and the future jobs you need to upskill for](#) (Financial Express)
- [We’ve had to prepare for jobs that don’t exist before](#) (Fast Company)
- CERIC’s own *Careering* magazine has recently examined both the [Changing Nature of Careers](#) and [2025: Future of Work](#)

To arrange an interview with John, you can reach me at poornima@ceric.ca or 416-929-2510 x122. John can also provide contributed articles with lessons on how to take charge of your own career development to prepare for the future of work.