



## Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **DSB1 SHSM Students Partner with Mount Jamieson Resort for Innovation Challenge**

(November 20, 2025) – More than 80 students from Timmins High & Vocational School (TH&VS) and Roland Michener Secondary School (RMSS) participated in a full-day Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) innovation challenge this week at Mount Jamieson Resort, gaining hands-on experience in real-world problem solving.

Students from seven SHSM sectors (Health & Wellness, Culinary Arts, Manufacturing, Construction, Business, Justice, Community Safety, and Emergency Services, and Information & Communications Technology) took part in the Sector-Partnered Experience (SPE) and Innovation, Creativity, and Entrepreneurship (ICE) Challenge, two signature components of the SHSM program. Together, these experiences connect students directly with industry partners to apply design thinking, collaboration, and creative innovation to authentic workplace challenges.

This year's challenge asked students to consider: How might we increase community involvement at Mount Jamieson Resort through memberships, day passes, events, activities, or new experiences?

Students toured the resort, learned about snowmaking, grooming, and year-round operations, and then worked in teams to develop creative solutions. Ideas included loyalty programs, teen theme nights, culinary events, expanded accessibility options, ski swaps, and Search & Rescue training initiatives.

Superintendent Kirsten Elvestad comments on the meaningful impact of this initiative. "Providing meaningful growth opportunities' is our mission under DSB1's new 2025–2029 Strategic Plan. ICE challenges like this give students authentic opportunities to contribute their voices, collaborate with community partners, and apply their skills in real-world contexts. We are grateful to Mount Jamieson Resort for supporting experiential learning that helps our students Achieve, Belong, and Create."

Students shared that the opportunity was highly motivating. "I was impressed by the staff's preparations for the ski season and grateful for the chance to present my ideas to the Mount Jamieson board," said Keira Aston, Grade 11 student.

"Opportunities like this, where students explore challenges, think creatively, and design innovative solutions, are exactly what the SHSM program is all about. We truly appreciate our partnership with Mount Jamieson, which allows our students to grow, collaborate, and push their thinking," added Kaitlin Rothel, SHSM Program Lead at TH&VS.

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