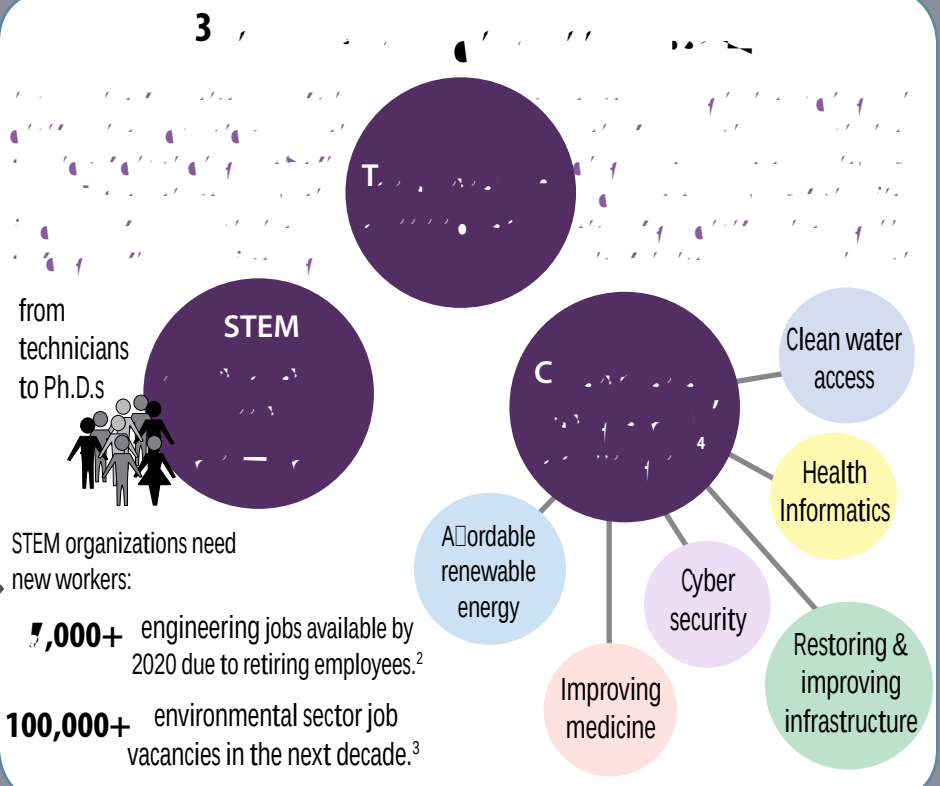
Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields often are associated with the stereotype of being "hard," "boring," or "not for me."

Contrary to these stereotypes, careers in STEM fields involve teamwork, creativity, and communication.[1] They often go beyond the laboratory to address current issues our society faces. STEM teams require a variety of people with different skills in order to be successful.

For example, engineering is a creative, engaging, rewarding profession where people solve problems, design solutions, and help local, and global communities. It also requires students to take science and math courses in high school before starting a post-secondary program.

While the young people in your life are starting to make decisions about their future, encourage them to keep STEM options open. Finding role models that help demonstrate what STEM careers involve, and going to events that allow them to try out STEM activities (camps, workshops, open houses) challenge the dominant stereotypes, and are crucial to helping youth make informed career decisions.



STEM organizations need new workers:

7,000+ engineering jobs available by 2020 due to retiring employees.[2]

100,000+ environmental sector job vacancies in the next decade.[3]

Earn 26% more on average[3]

Have better job security[3]

Earn more than non-STEM graduates, regardless of career[3]

less than 50% of Canadian high school graduates complete Gr. 11 & 12 math and science[5]

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