UNIVERSITÉ DE MONCTON
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Press release

For immediate release

Université de Moncton announces Canada's first Dassault Systèmes 3DEXPERIENCE Edu Center of Excellence for virtual twins in land-use planning

Announced at the Sommet de la Francophonie, the Centre builds on a successful pilot project in southeastern New Brunswick

Phnom Penh (Cambodge), November 15, 2026 – Université de Moncton announced the creation of a Dassault Systèmes 3DEXPERIENCE Edu Center of Excellence in Moncton, New Brunswick, dedicated to virtual twins for land-use planning. The announcement was made at the Canada Pavilion during the 20th Sommet de la Francophonie.

The Centre is the first Dassault Systèmes 3DEXPERIENCE Edu Center of Excellence in Canada and the first within this global program to focus on land-use planning. It builds on a pilot project addressing housing challenges in southeastern New Brunswick that was itself a world first. The pilot brought together the cities of Moncton and Dieppe, the Southeast Regional Service Commission, the Collège communautaire du Nouveau-Brunswick (CCNB) and two New Brunswick companies. Modelling decisions and their impacts, while allowing partners to work from a shared data framework, was key to the pilot's success.

Using the Dassault Systèmes 3DEXPERIENCE platform, five Université de Moncton interns built virtual twins of areas in Moncton and Dieppe where population growth is expected. They simulated a wide range of scenarios to assess the impact of that growth on traffic and services and propose an urban development plan. The project also studied the effects of densification on a biodiversity corridor used by several species moving from Nova Scotia.

The work responds to a real need: Greater Moncton has experienced the fastest population growth in Canada over the past five years.

"This Centre shows that an Acadian, French-language university can take its place among global leaders in digital innovation. Together with our regional partners, our students demonstrated what virtual twins can do for our communities. Announcing this partnership here, before the assembled Francophonie, says that excellence also happens in French."

Dr. Denis Prud'homme, President and Vice-Chancellor, Université de Moncton

Two complementary components

The Centre will have an academic component and an innovation support component. Dassault Systèmes' 3DEXPERIENCE platform and software applications will be integrated into courses and labs, starting with the Faculty of Engineering. The research, development and innovation support component will engage students as interns on land-use planning projects across Canada and abroad.

Dassault Systèmes established the global 3DEXPERIENCE Edu Centers of Excellence program in 2021 to prepare the workforce of the future and accelerate the digital transformation of industry. As virtual twins become the foundation for emerging practices in "Physical AI," Université de Moncton joins a global network of 40 centres recognized for their expertise, strengthening a group that includes 10 Francophone members in France and Morocco.

"The Moncton pilot showed how virtual twins, powered by shared data, can inform public decision-making. With Université de Moncton, we want to train the next generation of talent and make this Centre a reference point across the Francophonie and beyond."

Nicolas Jeannée, Vice President, 3DEXPERIENCE Edu, Dassault Systèmes

"New Brunswick has the talent and expertise to be part of exciting work like this," said **New Brunswick Premier Susan Holt.**

"This partnership brings together our university, local communities and a world-leading technology company to find new ways to plan for growth. It's a great example of the opportunities we can create when we build partnerships here at home and around the world."

About Université de Moncton

Université de Moncton is the Acadian, French-language university of New Brunswick. Founded in 1963, it welcomes students from across Canada and around the world on its three campuses in Edmundston, Moncton and Shippagan.

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