



CFLPA Academy Mission Statement:

'To provide CFLPA members and their families with support to succeed in life today, and as they transition away from the Canadian Football field.'

Established in 2016, the CFLPA Academy is a resource provided to ALL ACTIVE CFLPA members aimed at assisting in career development outside of professional football. With more than 200 members having registered with the Academy (*historically*), **OVER 25%** of the players in the CFL are now actively preparing for their careers after football.

THIS SEASON, the Academy is expanding even more to continue offering unparalleled access to **train, learn** and **apply new skills** with our fantastic roster of **Education** partners. Moreover, the Academy has also successfully established paid **internship programs & career transition pathways** for Academy members!

What the Academy offers its Members:

- **Continuing Education**
- **Counseling & Mentorship**
- **Health & Wellness Initiatives**
- **Internships & Employment Opportunities**
- **Professional Certifications**
- **Skilled-Trades Apprenticeships**
- **Podcasts & Webinars**



Education Partnerships

Athabasca University



Athabasca University provides learning for life. Through the achievements of its students, faculty and staff, AU stands out as a provider of high quality post-secondary education. The partnership with the CFLPA allows active members to enjoy a limited number of free courses along with the opportunity for preferred rates. CFLPA members have start, continued and completed a number of both undergraduate and master's degrees over the course of the partnership.

Enriched Academy



Enriched Academy is a financial education and awareness company that will provide important assistance to CFL players in managing their finances while offering career guidance. Players will benefit by enhancing their overall financial knowledge through informative, entertaining and engaging learning programs. This partnership has been built to add another tool, allowing CFLPA members to maximize their earning potential on the field, while being supported by the CFLPA in how to save and invest for the future.

Limitless – Scott Armstrong



Limitless is a group of passionate people with enough life perspective and skill sets to help you dream, create and live a life that satisfies like nothing else. As the Managing Director for Limitless, Scott Armstrong is also helped in creating the ACADEMY! If you have any questions about your future – this is a great place to start!

Spectrum Airways



The shared goal between Spectrum Airways and the CFLPA Career Academy is to provide players with a foundation for lifelong learning that can continue after their time on the field has passed. Spectrum Airways delivers flexible flight training during the CFL's regular/off-season that caters to students' continual learning year-round. This partnership aims to ensure that members of the CFLPA are given the opportunity to build on their abilities in order to pursue a career in aviation during/after football.

Training Division



Training Division is proud to partner with the Canadian Football League Players Association to provide scholarships to their members for our online based Basic Fire Academy. This program will provide CFLPA members with the NFPA 1001: Firefighter Level I&II and NFPA 472: Hazmat Awareness and Operations certifications needed to apply to fire departments throughout Canada, US, and the World. Whether a member of the CFLPA or any other Canadian student, please feel free to contact info@smartfire.ca for information on how we can help you achieve your dream of becoming a firefighter.



Employment Partnerships

CBTU / SMCC



With the support of the CBTU, CFLPA members can now enroll in apprenticeship programs supported by any of the fourteen major affiliates of the CBTU while still playing in the CFL. The initiative is structured to allow players to complete the necessary hours and levels of a chosen apprenticeship during the off-season in either country (Canada/US).

The list consists of: Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers, Electrical Workers, Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers, Operating Engineers, Carpentry & more.

GoodLife Fitness



We are excited to announce that GoodLife Fitness has partnered with the CFLPA to offer employment for various positions across Canada. If you are a current or Alumni of the CFL, you are welcome to apply to this posting.

London Life / Freedom 55 Financial



The 144-year old financial institution will work with the CFLPA's Career Academy to offer internships, job shadowing and career opportunities for retired players who are interested in becoming a Financial Security Advisor or taking on another supporting role with Freedom 55 Financial across Canada.

Candidates for the program can select from a list of available opportunities and will be provided with a description of the career itself, along with long-term possibilities if this path is chosen.

Morneau Shepell



Starting in January of 2018, the CFLPA Career Academy and Morneau Shepell teamed up to begin offering employment/internship opportunities across Canada. Ultimately the goal will be to have each city that currently houses a CFL franchise offering these off-season positions. This is a great step in building the CFLPA Career Academy and allows us to now have a set template for this model going forward. It will be an extremely beneficial tool for any/all members who choose to gain valuable working experience outside of football while continuing their on-field careers.

Vivint Solar



Vivint Solar is the largest residential solar panel company in the US. The US-based company has a fondness for hiring athletes and have provided many with rich and rewarding careers. Former Montreal Alouette – Jerald Brown reached out to the CFLPA directly as a result of his personal success with Vivint Solar.



CFLPA Mentorship Program

Brett MacNeil



As the current President of the CFL Alumni Association Brett played for 12 seasons as an offensive lineman, most for the Blue Bombers. Brett has extensive experience in the after sales automotive market and has an interest in helping players plan for their transition and helping them take the necessary steps.

Dave Kirzinger



After football Dave completed his MBA and has spent his entire professional life on rental apartments in the United States, mostly Seattle, but up and down west coast as well. He now oversees a fund that he is party owner in with Rise Properties.

Robert Bronk



Robert is an experienced Chief Executive Officer with a demonstrated history of working in the construction industry. Strong business development professional skilled in Nonprofit Organizations, Government, Sales, Event Management, and Team Building.

Sean Graham



Sean is a chiropractor specializing in sports injuries and the clinic director for Satori Integrative Health Centre. Sean played 7 years in the CFL, 3 years with Winnipeg and 4 years with BC.

Rudy Florio



After the CFL, Rudy entered the workforce and started a professional career. From 1988 to 2018 he successfully operated a private career college specializing in Culinary Arts; the business was sold in 2019 and Rudy is officially retired.

Dominic Vetro



Vetro was a sixth-round draft pick of the Montreal Alouettes in 1981. Dom played mainly on special teams for Montreal (and later Hamilton), both covering kicks and returning them. Dom is now President of DOM VETRO & ASSOCIATES, a company specializing in Educational Film Distribution.



Additional Resources



Morneau Shepell's LifeWorks platform is a complete and convenient online program for CFL players and their families.

- *The platform provides several benefits including confidential wellness assessments, and resources that include helpful videos, live chats and overall wellness support and assistance.*
- *Players' spouses and dependants will also have access to the full platform, and the CFLPA will begin to recruit "player champions" to make it easy for all CFL players understand and use the platform.*

COMING SOON...

- Spousal and Family Support
- NEW, Exciting Offerings for Academy Members

For more information please contact:

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