

Annual Report

2025–2026

ONCAT Land Acknowledgement

ONCAT is located on the traditional territory of many Indigenous nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat.

We would also like to acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit. This land continues to be home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples.

We recognize the enduring presence, resilience and contributions of Indigenous Peoples — past, present and future — and commit to honouring their stewardship of this land.



About ONCAT

The Ontario Council on Articulation and Transfer (ONCAT) puts learners first by making it easier to navigate and succeed in Ontario's postsecondary system. ONCAT drives efficiencies across the postsecondary system through the implementation of shared tools and evidence-based practices that empower learners to receive appropriate academic recognition for their previous postsecondary education, as well as the knowledge and skills they acquired through workplace, non-formal and informal learning experiences.

ONCAT manages ONTransfer.ca, an online guide that helps learners explore their transfer and pathway options across colleges, universities and Indigenous Institutes. As a convener and sector partner, ONCAT collaborates with postsecondary institutions to advance learner mobility by supporting projects that develop transfer pathways, streamline credit transfer processes and facilitate transitions to the labour market.

ONCAT is funded by the Government of Ontario.



Message From the Board Co-Chairs

A rapidly evolving labour market requires a collaborative postsecondary sector that allows learners to easily pivot in new directions. The progress achieved this year reflects the shared commitment of institutions, sector partners and government to making learner mobility more accessible, transparent and efficient.

We would like to thank the Government of Ontario for its continued investment in learner mobility and student success. This support helps create opportunities for colleges, universities and Indigenous Institutes to work together on system-wide solutions that benefit learners across Ontario. By enabling collaboration across the sector, government investment strengthens the foundation for a more connected and responsive postsecondary system.

We are grateful for the continued commitment of Ontario's colleges, universities and Indigenous Institutes to strengthening learner mobility. Through the sharing of data, the development of transfer pathways and the adoption of common tools, institutions are demonstrating their support for learners throughout their education-to-employment journeys. Their willingness to collaborate and innovate demonstrates a shared commitment to improving access and creating more seamless transitions between programs and institutions.

Together, these efforts are helping build a system that is increasingly learner-centred. Across Ontario, greater collaboration is improving transparency, reducing barriers and making it easier for learners to understand and navigate their options. The continued growth of shared practices and sector-wide approaches is strengthening connections across the sector and helping learners achieve their goals.

As we look ahead, continued innovation, collaboration and evidence-informed decision making will remain critical to supporting learner mobility in Ontario. As co-chairs of ONCAT's Board of Directors, we are proud to support these collective efforts and look forward to working alongside institutions, government and learners to continue building a connected, responsive and learner-focused postsecondary system.

Lesley Rigg, PhD
President and Vice-Chancellor,
Brock University



Kevin Weaver
President and CEO,
Georgian College



Message From the President and CEO

Ontario's postsecondary sector continues to evolve in response to the changing needs of learners, employers and communities. More than ever, it is apparent that our labour market will require a workforce that is nimble and adaptable. A strong system of learner mobility is fundamental to enabling learners to build on prior learning and move more efficiently toward their educational and career goals.

Throughout the past year, I have been inspired by the dedication of ONCAT staff, our Board of Directors, institutional partners and learner mobility professionals across the province who share a commitment to helping learners achieve their goals. Together, we have built on the momentum of previous years and continued to strengthen Ontario's transfer and mobility ecosystem, creating more opportunities for learners to move successfully between educational programs and institutions. The impact of this work is significant. Each year, transfer credits save domestic students approximately \$46 million in tuition and the province \$14 million in operational grant funding, demonstrating the value of a more connected and efficient postsecondary system.

This year marked several important milestones for ONCAT and the sector. We continued to expand and enhance ONTransfer.ca with a full site redesign tailored to key audiences and launched and implemented the Ontario Transfer Credit System (ONTCS), creating a more efficient and consistent process for transfer credit assessment across institutions. We supported institutional projects focused on learner mobility and student success including expanded supports for military-connected learners and we strengthened the evidence base informing policy and practice.

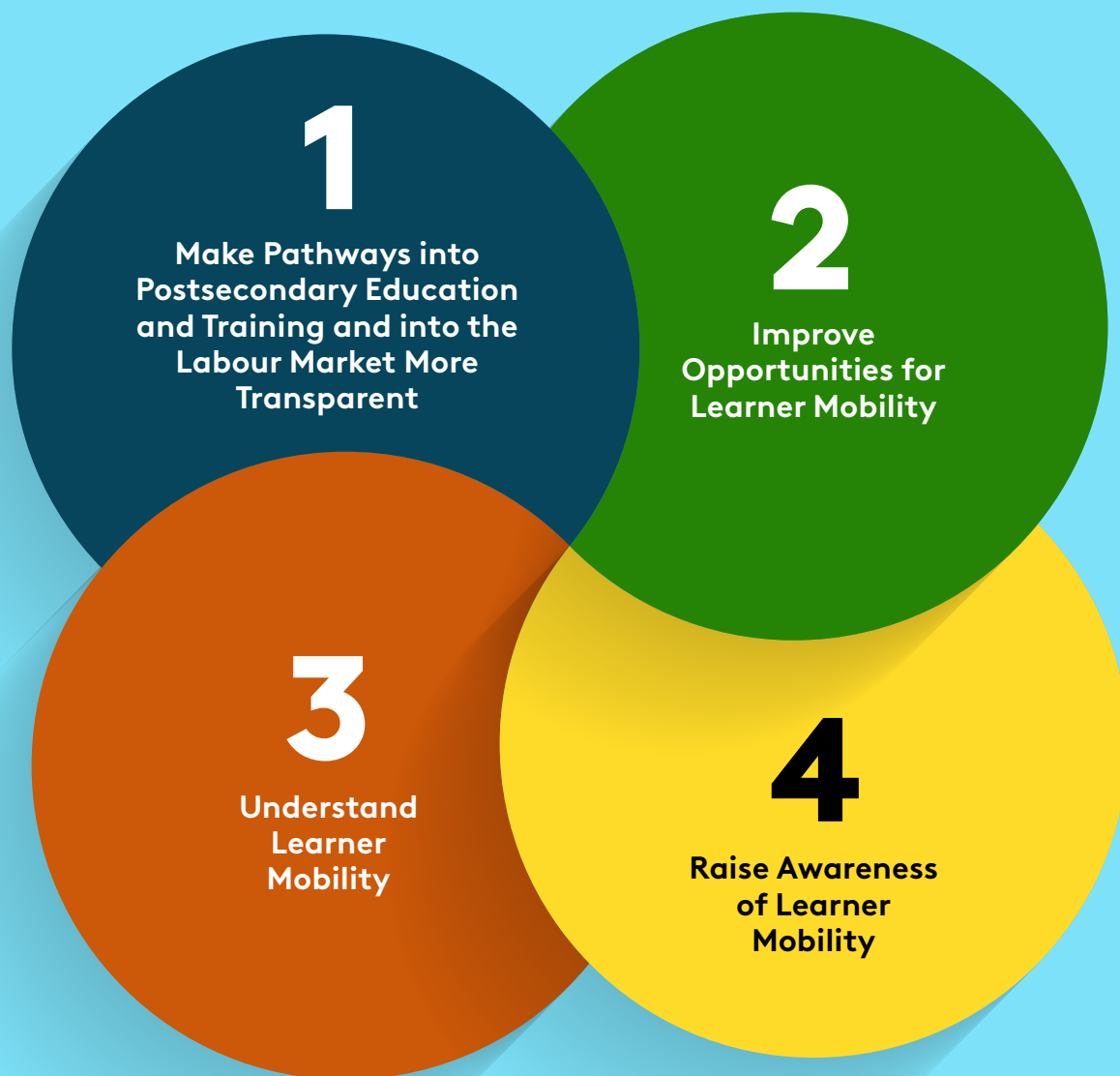
Shared tools, systems and evidence-based approaches are creating efficiencies for institutions while helping government and the sector maximize investments in postsecondary education. By building a strong system of learner mobility, Ontario's postsecondary sector is helping learners pursue more flexible educational journeys and make successful transitions to the workforce.

The progress achieved this year would not have been possible without the contributions of many individuals and organizations. I would like to thank ONCAT's staff for their expertise, professionalism and commitment to excellence. I am grateful to our Board of Directors for their guidance and leadership and to our institutional partners and learner mobility professionals whose collaboration continues to strengthen Ontario's transfer landscape. I would also like to thank the Government of Ontario for its ongoing support and investment in learner mobility and student success.

Adrienne Galway, PhD
President and CEO,
ONCAT



Strategic Priorities



See ONCAT's 2023–26 Strategic Plan for more information.

1 Make Pathways into Postsecondary Education and Training and into the Labour Market More Transparent

ONTransfer.ca

ONTransfer.ca, Ontario's Transfer and Pathways Guide, allows learners to explore and identify their pathway and transfer options to make informed decisions during their education-to-employment journeys.



226,000+
users



31,000+
transfer
pathways



275,000+
course
equivalencies



1.6 million
searches



44
participating
institutions



25
fairs and events

Ontario Transfer Credit System

The Ontario Transfer Credit System (ONTCS) is an all-in-one platform for transfer credit management developed with the BC Council on Admissions & Transfer (BCCAT). This tool is now available to all publicly assisted postsecondary institutions in Ontario. ONTCS was launched with strong sector-wide interest from Ontario's publicly assisted postsecondary institutions.

ONTCS continues to build momentum across Ontario's postsecondary sector as a shared tool designed to modernize transfer credit processes. By providing institutions with a common platform, ONTCS improves transparency for learners, creates administrative efficiencies and reduces the costs associated with developing and maintaining separate institutional systems. ONCAT looks forward to supporting broader adoption and full integration of ONTCS across the province, helping create a more seamless transfer experience for learners.

PathwAI

PathwAI is a sector-wide tool that uses artificial intelligence to compare learning outcomes across programs at different institutions, streamlining course and program assessments. This resource is available to all publicly assisted postsecondary institutions in Ontario.



100+
institutional users
onboarded



3,500+
assessments
completed

2 Improve Opportunities for Learner Mobility

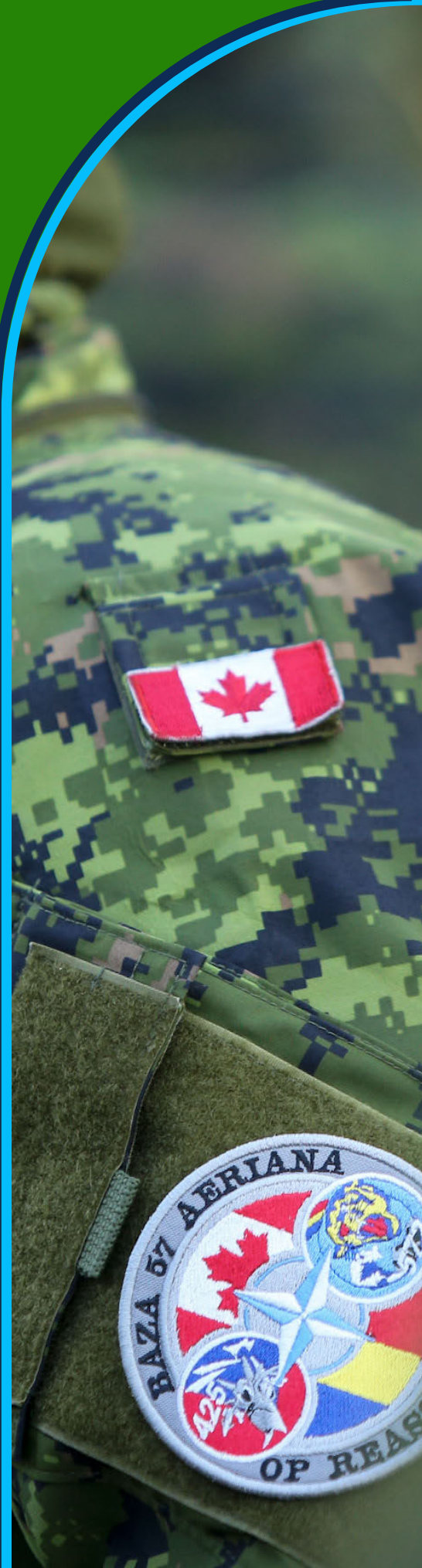
Support for military-connected learners

ONCAT deployed funding to six postsecondary institutions, for projects that help military-connected learners (MCLs) access postsecondary programs and accelerate career transitions.

Several ONCAT-funded projects developed Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) processes that streamline the awarding of academic credits to MCLs based on their professional development in the Canadian Armed Forces.

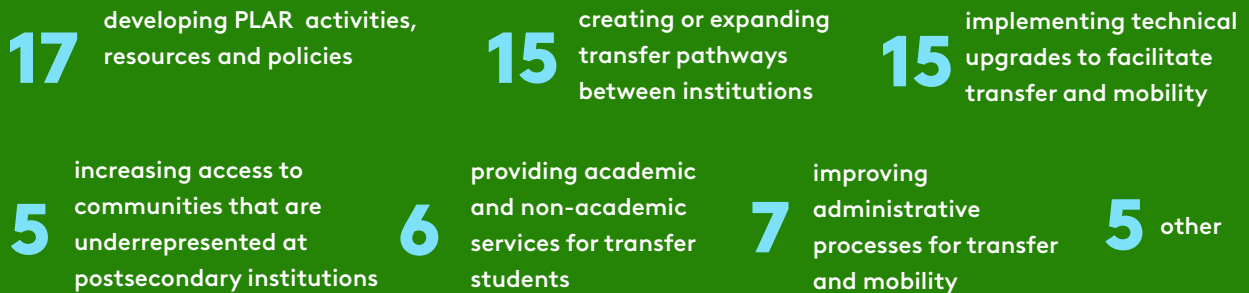
[ONTransfer.ca](#) was enhanced to provide navigation and content tailored to MCLs.

An [ONCAT-funded report](#) provides recommendations to improve the recognition of military training within the postsecondary sector, expanding access to educational opportunities for MCLs and raising awareness about military-to-education transitions.



Institutional project funding

ONCAT received 70 Letters of Interest across the following topics:



\$1.94 million in funding was awarded to support 27 projects at publicly assisted postsecondary institutions in Ontario to help learners access educational opportunities, earn postsecondary credentials and transition to the labour market.

Examples of ONCAT-funded projects

Fanshawe College developed a PLAR framework that recognizes the on-the-job learning for individuals working in childcare settings and grants them credit for up to 75% of a two-year diploma. By standardizing the application requirements and expediting the evaluation process, the initiative reduces barriers to credential completion and supports workforce development in the sector.

Trent University introduced specialized support services to help students transition from college to university. More than 150 transfer students have benefitted from the academic bridging program, with participants achieving retention rates of more than 80%, compared with approximately 60% for non-participants.

Queen's University led the collaborative development of a transfer pathway that allows engineering technology diploma graduates to complete an accredited engineering degree efficiently and with robust academic support. In addition to reducing the time and money required to earn a university credential, the project empowers graduates to expand their career opportunities by pursuing a Professional Engineering (P. Eng.) license.

Exploring new approaches to learner mobility

With support from the Government of Ontario, ONCAT completed two major viability studies to explore opportunities for strengthening learner mobility through shared, sector-wide solutions. The first study examined the potential for OntarioPLAR, a centralized platform for PLAR that could help learners receive recognition for knowledge and skills gained through previous education, work and life experience. The second study explored the feasibility of the Ontario Universities Online Consortium (OUOC), a collaborative approach to online course sharing, credit recognition and learner supports across Ontario's universities.

The studies identified opportunities to improve access, reduce duplication and support a more seamless learner experience across Ontario's postsecondary sector. As ONCAT shares the findings and recommendations from these studies, we look forward to working with government and postsecondary partners to explore future opportunities to build on these activities.

3 Understand Learner Mobility

ONCAT research

ONCAT has explored new approaches to measuring the value of transfer credits awarded in Ontario. An ONCAT-commissioned study has enabled ONCAT to estimate the number of transfer credits students receive and their associated financial impact.

In the 2024-25 academic year, the awarding of transfer credits saved:

\$73+ million
in tuition for domestic students¹

\$22+ million
in provincial operating grant
savings for the government²

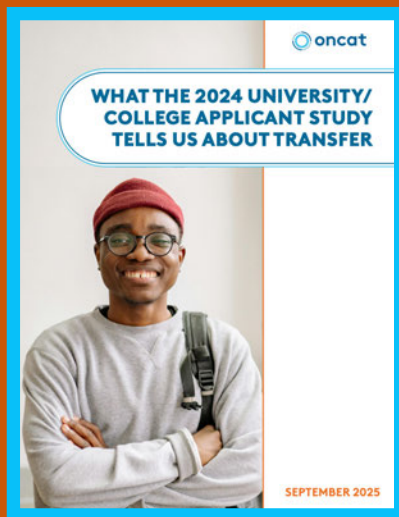
¹ Tuition calculation estimates the annual number of domestic, full-time equivalent transfer students entering publicly funded Ontario postsecondary institutions using the MCURES University/College Enrolment Statistical Reporting system. It combines this estimate with the average number of transfer credits reported in the 2026 ONCAT Mobility Survey and average Ontario tuition rates to estimate total tuition savings.

² Government savings set at 30% of student tuition savings.

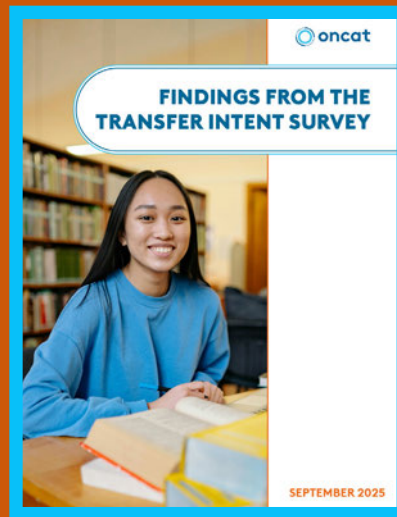


Six ONCAT-led research project publications

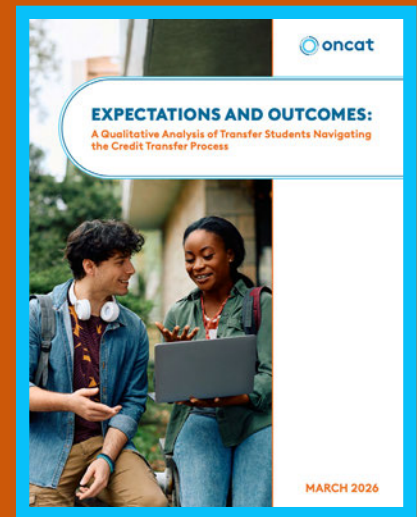
ONCAT research drives innovation to help students navigate Ontario's postsecondary system. In particular, ONCAT research focuses on highlighting practical recommendations that will improve Ontario's transfer system and support learners through their education-to-employment journey.



Jeffrey Napierala (ONCAT)



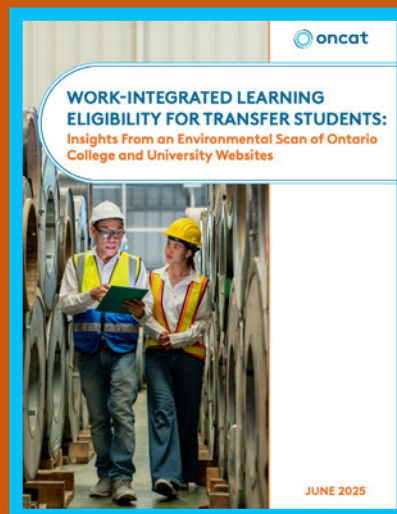
Jeffrey Napierala (ONCAT)



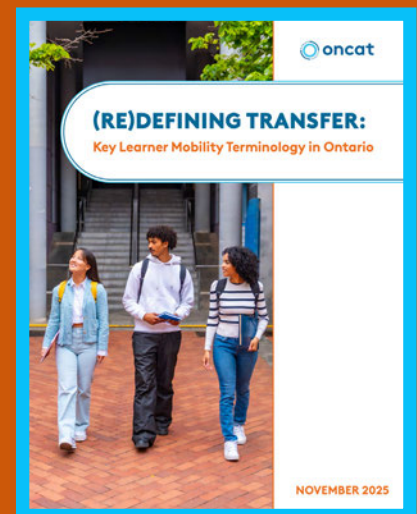
Emerson LaCroix (ONCAT)



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Jeffrey Napierala (ONCAT)



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4 Raise Awareness of Learner Mobility

Connect + Learn

Connect + Learns (C+Ls) are virtual sessions dedicated to knowledge exchange, shared learning and strengthening learner mobility practices across Ontario's postsecondary sector.



4

C+L
sessions



250

registrants



4

partner
organizations



15

universities



20

colleges



3

Indigenous
Institutes



Connect + Learn sessions



Bridging Knowledge: Pathways for Indigenous Learners

Joseph Duncan, Leigh Potvin and Julie Rosenthal (Lakehead University)



Changing Lives with PLAR: Fanshawe's Pilot with Early Childhood Education and Educational Support

Christine Spicer and Kristen Young (Fanshawe College)



Credit Check: Are We Meeting Transfer Students' Expectations?

Emerson LaCroix (ONCAT)



Experience Matters: Unlocking PSW Programs Through PLAR

Tricia Bonner (Loyalist College)

2026 ONCAT Conference: Helping Learners Find Their Way



257

conference
registrants



12

conference
sessions



3

full-day
workshops



4

half-day
workshops

80%

of publicly assisted
postsecondary
institutions in Ontario
represented

88%

of Ontario's publicly
assisted student
population represented

99%

of attendees agreed that
the conference increased
their knowledge about
learner mobility in Ontario

99%

of attendees agreed that
the conference inspired
them to implement new
ideas and practices at their
institution or organization

Conference attendee feedback



"It was fascinating to learn how other institutions manage transfer credit and PLAR. The conference inspired ideas as to how our institution could adopt new initiatives."

★★★★★ ONCAT conference attendee

"I don't know of any other way to be immersed in that type of environment with so many creative go-getters who are passionate about making a difference – and have an INCREDIBLE amount of expertise and knowledge."

★★★★★ ONCAT conference attendee



Principles of Learner Mobility

Over the last ten years, evolving insights about learner mobility have shaped new strategies and practices that foster more seamless and efficient experiences for learners. Developed in collaboration with Ontario's postsecondary institutions and partner organizations across Canada, the [ONCAT Principles of Learner Mobility](#) reflect a shared commitment to fair, transparent and consistent recognition of prior learning and transfer credit.

Board members

Lesley Rigg
(Co-Chair)
President and
Vice-Chancellor,
Brock University

Kevin Weaver
(Co-Chair)
President and CEO,
Georgian College

Cebert Adamson
Vice President,
Academic,
Mohawk College

Darran Fernandez
Registrar,
McMaster University

Baris Berber
Student Representative,
Seneca College

Malcom Campbell
Provost and Vice
President, Academic,
Laurentian University

Alexandra Roy
Student Representative,
Trent University

Sean Monteith
Executive Director,
Indigenous Advanced
Education & Skills
Council

Chris McGrath
Vice President, Students,
Niagara College

Surranna Sandy
External Representative,
CEO,
CivicAction

Kathryn Kettle
Graduate Representative

Jen McMillen
Vice Provost, Students,
Toronto Metropolitan
University

Gillian Gibbons
External Representative,
Superintendent of
Education,
School and System
Operations,
York Region District
School Board

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Registrar and Senior
Director,
Enrolment and Student
Services,
Canadore College

Nicole Nicolas-Bayer
Director of Program
Development and
Quality Assurance,
Kenjgewin Teg

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Vice President,
Policy and Innovation,
Colleges Ontario

Heather Lane
Executive Director,
Ontario Universities'
Application Centre

Shannon Lipskie
President & CEO,
OCAS

Robert Luke
CEO,
eCampusOntario

Marny Scully
Vice President of Policy
and Strategy,
Council of Ontario
Universities

Financial Report

The audited financial statements for 2025–26
can be found [here](#).



