Annual Report

2021
2022

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Message from the Board Co-Chairs

As we entered the second year of a global pandemic, the world of postsecondary education began the challenging work of adapting to a new normal.

Students, institutions and ONCAT alike braced themselves for a transition to hybrid learning, teaching and workspaces. Though a promising sign of post-pandemic normal, the transition was not without challenges. And we commend the resilience and adaptability needed on all fronts to make it a success.

ONCAT experienced its own period of transition this past year. In November 2021, we said goodbye to our Executive Director, Yvette Munro. Yvette was an invaluable presence at ONCAT and her impact on the organization continues to be felt. We thank her for her years of service.

We would also like to thank **Andrew Wilson** and **Shauna Love** for stepping in as interim Executive Directors as ONCAT embarked on a search for a new Executive Director. Their work was integral in helping ONCAT navigate the waters of adapting to a new normal.

Through it all, ONCAT has continued to work steadily in service of Ontario's postsecondary transfer system, adapting to the shifting needs of transfer students and staff.

We have seen data linkage research projects lead to new insights, institutions improve their internal transfer processes, and more students served by ONTransfer.ca. At a time when all institutions faced serious operational and financial challenges, we have seen a renewed commitment to collaboration.

As we reflect back on this year, there is much to be proud of. And as we look to the future for ONCAT, there is much to be hopeful for. We are thrilled to welcome **Dr. Adrienne Galway** aboard as our new **Executive Director**. Adrienne brings over twenty years of postsecondary experience and a passion for supporting student success, and we are confident ONCAT will continue to flourish under her leadership.

On behalf of the Board, we thank the Government of Ontario for funding ONCAT's work, our institutional partners for their continued collaboration, and the Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities for their continued support of pathways and transfer.

Best wishes for another successful year ahead.

Ron Common,
President,
Sault College

Deb MacLatchy,
President &
Vice-Chancellor,
Wilfrid Laurier
University

Message from the Executive Director

Over the past two and a half years, the postsecondary education sector has done an exemplary job of adapting, changing and pivoting in order to continue to provide students with high quality education. There were times that the constant pivoting made us all a little dizzy, and our colleges, universities and Indigenous Institutes should be proud of what they have accomplished under the most challenging of circumstances. ONCAT is very grateful to the postsecondary sector for its continued engagement and cooperation, especially in the face of the myriad of other competing priorities.

Like our partner institutions, over the past year ONCAT has transitioned to a "new normal," but our core mission to support student mobility in Ontario through transfer and pathways has remained the same. ONCAT has made significant progress on a number of fronts, which are highlighted in this report.

On a personal level, I also experienced a significant transition when I joined ONCAT as Executive Director in May 2022. I have been so impressed by ONCAT's work to support transfer and pathways in Ontario, whether it is through funding innovative projects to help institutions build their data reporting capacity, develop pathways, adopt new technologies such as MyCredsTM (digital transcripts), and better understand and support transfer students by providing students with up-to-date credit transfer information through ONTransfer.ca.

Times of transition can be a little frightening, but they are also times of excitement and creativity. As ONCAT embarks upon the development of a new Strategic Plan to support student mobility and pathways, the sky is the limit. Like every other aspect of our lives, the pandemic has changed postsecondary education and it has changed student expectations of their postsecondary and career journey. We have all learned that key to success is the ability to find a path forward through uncertain terrain, and ONCAT is well positioned to continue to guide students on their journey.

The ONCAT team is one of the most talented and engaged group of professionals that I have had the privilege to work with and I am excited to see what the future holds.

Adrienne Galway
Executive Director, ONCAT

Ontario PSE Pathways & Transfer System Improvements

Grants by the Numbers

ONCAT supports the postsecondary system in Ontario to develop in-demand and student-centred pathways, implement consistent and transparent transfer practices and ensure evidence-driven transfer system improvements. Led by **Ana Skinner, Research, Data & Funding Director**, and aided by **Inna Yeranosyan, Administrative Coordinator, Grants & Projects**, we provide funding to support student mobility research, system-level improvements, pathway development, and transfer capacity building within Ontario postsecondary institutions.

Across ONCAT's funding streams and sector engagement strategies, we **approved over 60 projects** in 2021-2022. The projects include:

- **5** transfer pathways
- **3** seamless transfer
- **10** research
- **1** postdoctoral research fellowship

- **3** student action projects
- **7** DataPilot (4 phase 1, 2 phase 2)
- **12** MapIt (9 phase 1, 2 phase 2)
- **2** Indigenous Institutes transfer grants
- **11** MyCredsTM Onboarding grants

Completed Projects

8 Pathway

9 Research

5 MapIt

5 DataPilot

3 Student Action Projects

2 Seamless Transfer

More than **30 projects** were completed in 2021/22. For more information on these and other projects funded by ONCAT, check out https://oncat.ca/en/projects-search for project snapshots.

Strategy Spotlight:

Enhanced Institution Transfer Capacity

ONCAT works deeply with our partners to assess transfer student outcomes and experiences, address process improvements and work towards a more seamless system in Ontario. This year, ONCAT expanded our Institution Transfer Capacity funding strategies. This included the launch the Indigenous Institutes Transfer Operations and Capacity fund and MyCredsTM Institutional Onboarding fund.

Indigenous Institutes Transfer Operations and Capacity Grant

First Nations Technical Institute and Seven Generations Education Institute were awarded II Transfer Capacity Grants in 2021-2022. Funding supports Indigenous Institutes to enhance student pathways and transfer opportunities through increased transfer student supports, transfer advising and other transfer functions determined by the institute.

MyCreds ™

In 2021, ONCAT began supporting the onboarding of institutions to MyCredsᴛᴍ. MyCredsᴛᴍ is a national project supported by the Association of Registrars of the Universities and Colleges of Canada (ARUCC) to create a digital learner credential wallet and national data exchange network. Sector-wide adoption of MyCredsᴛᴍ will provide digital and secure transcript exchange between Ontario's publicly assisted postsecondary institutions, will make it easier for students to share their transcripts and for institutions to ensure the veracity of application documents. The first year of ONCAT's strategy has seen strong uptake from the sector, with 11 institutions receiving funding to onboard and/or enhance their use of MyCredsᴛᴍ for transcript exchange.

MapIt

The MapIt Learning collaborative supports institutions to map their current transfer processes in order to support process improvements. Working with Higher Education Strategy Associates to facilitate the process, each institution gains valuable insights on their transfer processes.

To date, ONCAT has supported 28 institutions through MapIt, where ONCAT and participating institutions are able to share effective transfer processes and areas for improvement. Cohort 4 is underway and recruitment for Cohort 5 will begin in fall 2022. In 2021-2022, we expanded MapIt to include funding for phase 2 projects focused on improving transfer processes.

DataPilot Learning Collaborative

The DataPilot launched in 2020, and this year we reached an important milestone of working with 25% of Ontario postsecondary institutions to increase their data reporting capacity and assess transfer student outcomes at their institution. This includes 26% of universities and 25% of colleges. ONCAT will continue to accept new partners on an ongoing basis.
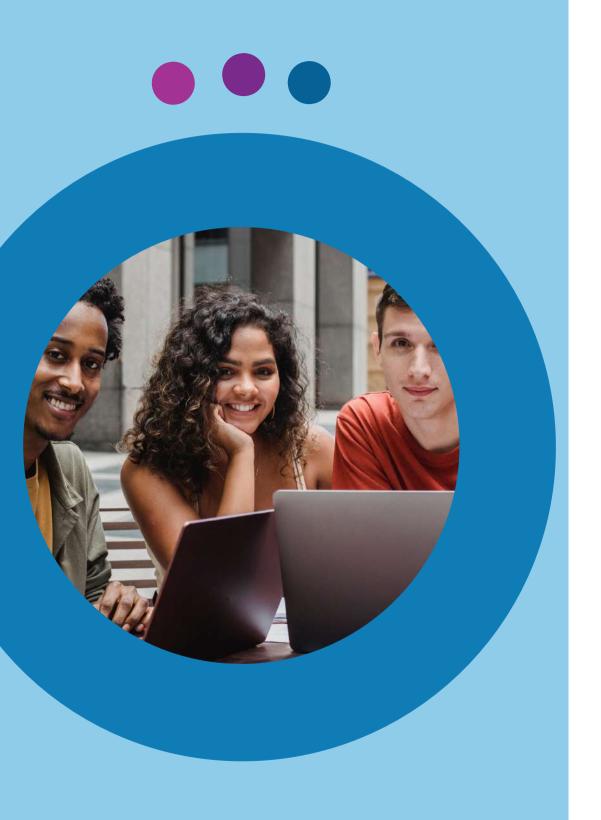
Internal Research & Data Projects

Transfer Intent Survey

In September of 2021, ONCAT launched its first proprietary survey in partnership with York University's Institute for Social Research. As we approach the one-year mark, we have close to 2,500 completed survey responses. The dataset includes information about prospective transfer student decision-making and includes the demographic and educational background of participants. From this survey, ONCAT has begun developing analyses about who and why certain student populations transfer, the most popular pathways, as well as program types. The survey has been extended for another 12 months to bolster the overall sample size, as well as to continue to add to the panel of prospective and eventual transfer students that have opted in for future interviews and focus groups. We hope to launch the transfer experience survey in 2023, as a follow up with students from the first wave who eventually transferred. This project aims to understand the transfer student journey from the point of intent to transfer.

Transfer Intent Interviews

We have completed 53 semi-structured interviews with students who expressed interest through our Transfer Intent Survey. These interviews probe more deeply into the reasons why students want to transfer and allows students the space to reflect in more detail on their experiences in postsecondary. We have transcribed and begun analyzing student responses, which have helped us develop new questions for the survey reboot, as well as compare results between the two collection methods. We have also successfully recruited a handful of students from our panel to participate in focus groups to help improve our ONTransfer website for future users. We hope to release our initial reports from the interviews in January of 2023.

Student Outcomes Across Transfer Pathways

ONCAT published a set of research briefs in February 2022, drawing from data contained in the UCAS™ survey. These reports focused on applicant pathways into Ontario colleges and universities and included topics such as regional variations in degree aspirations and the effects of socio-economic status and prior academic achievement on transfer pathways. Since the UCAS™ contains demographic information about students (i.e., broad ethnic categories) that other datasets do not include, we will continue to work with this data into 2023. We hope to continually release information to the sector using this rich data source on student applicant preferences. Upcoming reports include data about students' first-choice institutions and the influence of race/ethnicity on transfer pathways and degree aspirations.

Sector Engagement & Knowledge Mobilization

Research Spotlights

Working with the research and communications teams, ONCAT designed the research spotlight series to highlight key findings from our research reports and emphasize the application of this evidence to policy, decision-making, and professional practice. Research spotlights are intended to capture the most significant findings that the sector needs to know about and to spark further reading and interest in transfer research. Spotlights, written by **Meryl Borato, Knowledge Mobilization Specialist**, appear on oncat.ca and are promoted through ONCAT's monthly newsletter.

June 2022

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

New Findings on Postsecondary Transfer Students at the University of Toronto

Transfer Advising Lunch and Learn Series

ONCAT launched a monthly learning event for the Transfer Advisor Group, called Transfer Advising Lunch and Learns. Offered once per month, the learning event series is meant to build capacity in the transfer advising space and cultivate evidence-based practices and decision-making. Intended for both seasoned administrators and staff entirely new to transfer, these events provide information about the transfer space, recent research on transfer, promising practices, as well as allow participants to build relationships with staff at other institutions. To date, we have held sessions on student advising, communications and recruitment, and multiple sessions on pathway development.

Online community Hub for TAG and HOTA

ONCAT created inter-institutional communications platforms on Microsoft SharePoint that allow our community groups to share resources, ask questions, and communicate outside of our publicly-held events. The site is private and restricted to Transfer Advisor Group (TAG) and Heads of Transfer Advising (HOTA) community members, which is facilitating smoother communication regarding transfer, polls about what others are doing, mentorship opportunities, and general support among members.

Community Animators on Transfer

Last year, ONCAT launched a new student-led initiative called the Community Animators on Transfer (CATs). CATs are students who transferred once during their time in postsecondary. As part of the program, they receive a stipend to develop a creative way to share their experience and to offer advice or tips to current transfer students. CATs then receive coaching and mentorship on their creative work by ONCAT staff. Submissions have included a comic strip, blog posts, written narrative, a short video, and a photographic essay. So far, we have had two cohorts complete the program. You can view the CATs' creative work on oncat.ca!

Sector Engagement

ONCAT, with the help of **Carolyn Poplak, Manager of Sector Engagement,** and **Sanja Pavlovic, Committees Coordinator**, continues to work with various established committees including the Northern Ontario Pathways Steering Committee, the Francophone and Bilingual Advisory Committee and the Heads of Transfer Advising Committee.

In Spring 2022, ONCAT established the Discipline Steering Committee (DSC). The role of the DSC is to advise and steer the work of ONCAT, in collaboration with the Ministry of Colleges and Universities (MCU), in building a mature transfer system. More specifically, the DSC will work with ONCAT and the discipline committees (business, social services etc.) to lead the expansion of transferability of first year courses. The goal is for first year students to be able to transfer to like programs with full credit recognition.
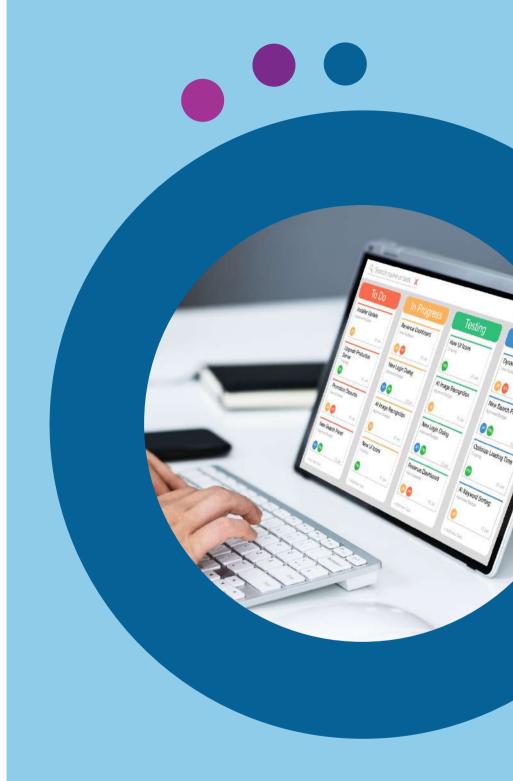
IT & Project Management

IT Updates & Improvements

ONCAT's IT Team, including **Allison Maldonado, Business Systems Analyst,** and **Natalie Isber, Project Manager,** implemented five Sharepoint sites to facilitate information sharing and collaboration among Ontario institutional partners and ONCAT.

1. **Ontario Postsecondary Education Hub**
2. **ONTransfer Site**
3. **Transfer Advisor Group (TAG) Site**
4. **Heads of Transfer Advising (HOTA) Site**
5. **Discipline Steering Committee Site**

They also launched an internal absence management system to simplify the absence tracking process for ONCAT team members and management and introduced a project management software for ONCAT team members to increase transparency across teams and improve task management and oversight.

Ontario's Transfer & Pathways Guide & ONTransfer.ca

Ontario's Transfer & Pathways Guide (ONTransfer.ca)

Ontario's Transfer & Pathways Guide provides a user-friendly platform for students to investigate their transfer options and receive support on their academic journey.

Able to support data from Ontario's all the province's publicly assisted colleges, universities, and Indigenous Institutes, ONTransfer.ca has ongoing development to support students and institutions with relevant, up-to-date information.

ONTransfer.ca Website Improvements

In 2021, the ONTransfer.ca team (led by **Andrew Wilson, Transfer and Technology Director**), continued to enhance the website by providing design-savvy and user-centric supports. We successfully launched course outline/syllabi index for the province, reviewed and updated the website's content, and continue to find ways to simplify and operationalize our collection processes for course calendars, online offerings, and course equivalencies. In late 2021, the team began a project to improve our content management software (CMS) that will provide modern web design and user graphics for 2022 and beyond. Our focus in the coming years will continue to be on better navigation, increased promotion of in-demand pathway programs and overall site searchability, along with more targeted communications for transfer students from intent, pre- and post-application, admission, and registration.

Analytics and Growth

The pandemic has continued to effect overall website traffic to ONCAT.ca, though not as dramatically as in the previous year, with overall traffic seeing modest increases of these numbers by 1.24% and 4.88%. Beginning in early 2022, an updated communication plan was developed by **Lindsay McRae (Communications Manager)** and implemented with the support of **Jane Waldner (Digital Communications Coordinator)** to increase website traffic and enhance how we share transfer and pathway information on the Transfer & Pathways Guide.

174,180
Unique users of ONtransfer.ca

252,614
Unique session visits

Service Level Implimentation

Implementation of ONTransfer.ca's Service Level Expectations (SLEs) has streamlined processes that resulted in an 29% increase in institutional data files from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022.

243,642
Course Equivalencies

1979
Academic Pathways

25,000
Unique Pathways

Ontario Student Transfer Fair

As part of our continued redevelopment and service strategy, the ONTransfer.ca team hosted two successful OSTFs in Fall 2021 and Spring 2022, led by **Sienna Stock (ONTransfer.ca Service Manager)**. Held virtually to ensure the health and safety of participants, the event allowed transfer students to connect directly with institutions to have their specific questions answered. The latest OSTF saw over 1,000 unique visits to virtual booths, almost 500 documents accessed, and 335 webinar views.

ONTransfer.ca Team

Despite challenges related to the pandemic, the team continued to strengthen and improve our ONTransfer.ca supports and communications. Targeted monthly digests were established using MS SharePoint to communicate important information for our partners. The Team has continued to adjust SLEs and commitments to the sector through the development of an automated ticketing system that utilizes workflow to support internal and external communications.

Strategic Planning

Strategic Plan for 2023-2026

ONCAT is embarking on consultations for a new **Strategic Plan for 2023-2026,** which will be aided by ONCAT's **Senior Policy Analyst, Alastair Woods.** While certainly challenging, the pandemic gave ONCAT an opportunity to pivot to new forms of student support and delivery, as well as time to consider the challenges and opportunities ahead. With our current Strategic Plan coming to a close in 2023 and the recruitment of our new **Executive Director (Adrienne Galway)**, now is the perfect time for ONCAT to chart a new course into the future.

Through our collaboration with the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, ONCAT has already identified four long-term priorities that will inform and complement our new strategic plan:

1. **Expanding first-year transferability:** Assisting in efforts to make introductory/core courses more easily transferable across the sector.
2. **Increasing smart pathways for students:** Working with postsecondary institutions to scale up in-demand student pathways.
3. **Helping transfer students to graduate on time:** Supporting transfer students to graduate with minimal excess costs in study time or tuition fees.
4. **Integrating Indigenous Institutes into Ontario's credit transfer system:** Closer collaboration with the third pillar of Ontario's postsecondary education system.
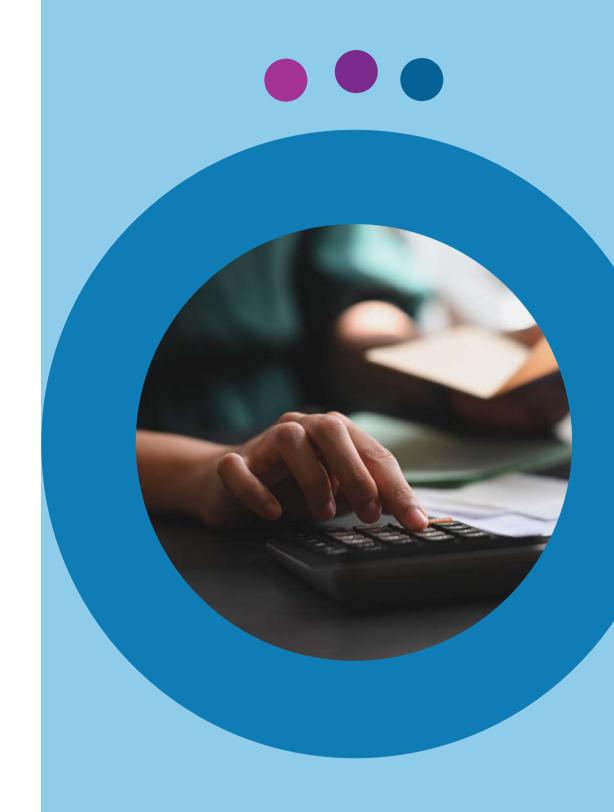
These priorities run alongside ONCAT's day-to-day work in research, policy development, student support, institutional collaboration, sector engagement and technology. Through this consultation process, ONCAT will explore areas for growth and further investigation, building upon our strengths as an organization and moving into new and innovative projects. The Strategic Plan consultations will take place in **Fall 2022 and Winter 2023**, with the Board of Directors given an opportunity to review and approve the plan in **Spring 2023**.

Financial Report

Financial Report 2021-2022

Our audited financial statement for 2021-2022 can be found at: https://oncat.ca/en/about-us

The report is comprised of the statement of financial position as of March 31, 2022; the statements of operations and changes in net assets and cash flows for the year; and notes on the financial statements — including a summary of significant accounting policies.

ONCAT Team

Adrienne Galway,
Executive Director

Shauna Love,
Operations Director

Andrew Wilson,
Transfer and
Technology Director

Ana Skinner,
Research, Data &
Funding Director

Peter Desera,
Finance Manager

Alastair Woods,
Senior Policy Analyst

Carolyn Poplak,
Manager, Sector
Engagement

Lindsay McRae,
Communications
Manager

Sienna Stock,
ONTransfer.ca Service
Manager

Rod Missaghian,
Senior Researcher

Natalie Isber,
Project Manager

Henrique Hon,
Quantitative
Researcher

Nicolas Boileau,
Researcher

Meryl Borato,
Knowledge
Mobilization Specialist

Jane Waldner,
Digital
Communications
Coordinator

Allison Maldonado,
Business Systems
Analyst

Tina Liu,
Data Analyst

Inna Yeranosyan,
Administrative
Coordinator, Grants &
Projects

Sanja Pavlovic,
Committees
Coordinator

Liwei Liao,
ONTransfer Data
Coordinator

Abdullah Mushtaq,
Executive &
Governance
Coordinator

Board of Directors

Ron Common (Co-Chair)   President & CEO, Sault College
Deborah MacLatchy (Co-Chair)   President & Vice-Chancellor, Wilfrid Laurier University
Christine Bradaric-Baus   Vice-President Academic of Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College
Lyne Michaud   Vice-President Academic, Collège Boréal
Serge Demers   Interim Vice-President, Academic and Provost, Laurentian University
Elaine Popp   Vice-President Academic, Durham College
Kathryn Kettle   Student Representative

Ex Officio Members of the Board:

Janet Hope   VP of Policy and Innovation, Colleges Ontario
Robert Luke   CEO, eCampusOntario
Marny Scully   VP of Policy and Strategy, COU
Heather Lane   Executive Director, OUAC
Marc Provencher   President & CEO, OCAS
Adrienne Galway   Executive Director, ONCAT

Former Board Member:

Caitlin Smith   Student Representative

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Our Partners

Summary & Project Descriptions of 2021-2022 Funded Projects

2021 Transfer Pathways Funding Stream

#P2220: *Engineering and Engineering Technology Transfer Pathway Development*

Project Lead: Queen's University at Kingston | **Partners:** Cambrian College, Centennial College, Conestoga College, Mohawk College, Seneca College, Sheridan College, St. Lawrence College, University of Toronto | **Amount Awarded:** $282,700

This project will support multi-institutional pathways between engineering technology advanced diploma and engineering degree programs in Ontario. These pathways will allow students holding an Ontario advanced diploma in Engineering Technology from a participating program to receive advanced standing in a participating Ontario Engineering degree program.

#P2221: *Pathways in Chemistry and Applied Life Science*

Project Lead: Lakehead University | **Partners:** Fanshawe College of Applied Arts and Technology | **Amount Awarded:** $12,296

The goal of this project is to develop a set of transfer pathways to and from Fanshawe College's Chemical Laboratory Technology - Science Laboratory Advanced Diploma and Lakehead University's Honours Bachelor of Science in Chemistry/Honours Bachelor of Science in Applied Life Science. The project will also assess the viability of developing additional pathways into Lakehead University's medical concentration programs and related Engineering credentials.

#P2222: *Ontario CAAT Direct Admissions and Upper Year Pathways*

Project Lead: Queen's University | **Amount Awarded:** $41,500

The goal of this project is to identify programs that have capacity to bring college graduates (specified certificates/ diplomas) into first year/ upper year and develop pathways with fully mapped transfer credits in the Faculty of Arts and Science at Queen's University. This project will reduce barriers for college students interested in attending Queen's University, focusing on developing pathways into programs with both capacity and demand at the upper year level.

#P2223: *Remodeling Honours Bachelor of Kinesiology Pathways*

Project Lead: Lakehead University | **Partners:** Cambrian College, Canadore College, Collège Boréal, Confederation College, Georgian College, Sault College | **Amount Awarded:** $47,971

Through this project, Lakehead University will update and re-model pathways to reflect changes in curriculum and accreditation/quality assurance standards so that they continue to align with the Honours Bachelor of Kinesiology (HBK) degree program. Furthermore, this project represents an opportunity to combine similar pathways into multilateral pathways, thus making them more efficient, consistent, and transparent.

#P2243: *Remodelling of Colleges Boreal/La Cite to Universite de Hearst Psychology Transfer Pathways*

Project Lead: Université de Hearst | **Partners:** Collège Boréal, Collège la Cité | **Amount Awarded:** $46,030

This project will remodel existing pathways between Université de Hearst psychology programs and Collèges La Cité and Boréal programs. It will support the development of new pathways and an umbrella agreement to facilitate the transfer of graduates and the ongoing maintenance of the memoranda of understanding.

2021 Seamless Transfer

#S2201: *Expansion of Digital Transcript Exchange in Ontario through MyCreds™*

Project Lead: Association of Registrars of the Universities and Colleges of Canada |
Amount Awarded: $500,000

The goal of this project is to help improve transfer student processes through digital transcript exchange. It will support MyCreds™ operations to build, expand and implement its learner credential wallet and national data exchange network for all of Ontario's publicly funded colleges, universities, and Indigenous Institutes. Sector-wide adoption of MyCreds™ will provide digital and secure transcript exchange between Ontario's publicly-assisted postsecondary institutions. This data exchange network will facilitate more seamless student transfer by making it easier for students to share their transcripts and for institutions to ensure the veracity of application documents.

#S2251: *Transfer Student Ambassadors at Trent University*

Project Lead: Trent University | **Amount Awarded:** $11,000

This project will support the implementation of a transfer student ambassador pilot. The Trent Transfer Student Ambassador will play an important role in developing and maintaining relationships between transfer students applying to Trent and the University and provide peer supports through the transfer process.

#S2255: *Expansion of Digital Transcript Exchange in Ontario Through MyCredsTM, Year 2*

Project Lead: Association of Registrars of the Universities and Colleges of Canada |
Amount Awarded: $500,000

This project is the second phase of a multi-year strategy that will help accelerate the secure digitizing and onboarding of transcripts to MyCredsTM. It will provide system-level document exchange infrastructure that can improve transfer student experiences of document exchange. The project addresses key process gaps and challenges in transfer processes (e.g., timely receipt of transcripts, completeness of documents for transfer credit assessment/admission decisions).

MapIt Phase 2 Funding Stream

#S2248: *Development of Université de Hearst Credit Transfer Policies*

Project Lead: Université de Hearst | **Partners:** Collège Boréal, Collège la Cité | **Amount Awarded:** $86,020

This project supports the development of Université de Hearst credit transfer policies as it becomes an independent university. It will also create a credit equivalencies administrative tool that stipulates equivalencies to be granted for the 20 collegiate programs at the two French-language colleges in Ontario: College la Cité and Collège Boréal.

#S2249: *Implementing New Equivalency Assessment Processes at Trent*

Project Lead: Trent University | **Amount Awarded:** $55,000

This project supports improvements to internal equivalency assessments at Trent University by collecting first year/introductory courses from universities across Canada to assess for their Trent equivalencies. This project will allow Trent to pre-emptively assess courses and input them into Trent's database, helping decrease the transfer credit assessment period for university transfer students coming to Trent.

#S2250: *Lakehead University Development of Transfer Credit Assessment (TCA) Guidelines*

Project Lead: Lakehead University | **Amount Awarded:** $51,838

This project will enhance the transfer credit process through the development of transfer credit assessment (TCA), guidelines and decision-making for course-by-course TCA at Lakehead University. This project includes the development of training materials required to effectively advise subject-matter experts in their assessments.

Indigenous Institutes Transfer Operations & Capacity Funding ● ● ●

#I2267: *FNTI Transfer Strategies*

Project Lead: First Nations Technical Institute | **Amount Awarded:** $79,637

This project supports FNTI to enhance its transfer functions in several key areas through a dedicated Pathways Coordinator. This includes developing and enhancing current transfer operations for partnered programs; providing applicants/students with transfer counselling and assistance with transfer processes and understanding pathway opportunities, ensuring transferability and pathways are considered with the development of standalone programs; and developing admissions, governance and policies related to transfer.

#I2268: *Developing Capacity for Student Mobility in the Treaty 3 Region*

Project Lead: Seven Generations Education Institute | **Amount Awarded:** $64,240

This project will support Seven Generations Education Institute (SGEI) to integrate a Pathways Coordinator position across the organization as well as among the student body so that it can build trusting relationships and better assist students in the transfer process. SGEI will focus on creating necessary protocols and policies that will help to build opportunities to create new pathways.

2021 Research Projects

#R2203: *A Qualitative Analysis of the Post-Transfer Experiences of College and University Students in Ontario*

Principal Investigator: Dr. Janice Aurini | **Amount Awarded:** $135,265

The goal of this project is to advance understandings of university and college students' post-transfer experiences and how they may vary by pathway and region. This project builds in a longitudinal component to capture student transfer as a multi-faceted social process. This research has the potential to inform the development of policies and practices that improve transfer student retention across the Ontario PSE, including enhancing student advising, bridging programs, and initiatives to help students adjust to their new institutional environments.

#R2204: *Predicting Transfer Pathway Uptake and Associated Income Profiles – A Second Look at the TDSB-PSIS Linkage with a Focus on Disability*

Project Lead: York University | **Principal Investigator:** Dr. Gillian Parekh |
Co-Investigators: Dr. Rob Brown and Dr. David Walters | **Amount Awarded:** $119,609

In 2019, ONCAT funded the creation of the custom TDSB-ELMLP linkage to examine the extent to which transfer students differ from direct entry counterparts in their propensity to borrow from the Canada Student Loans Program (CSLP). A preliminary report explored provincial-level trends drawing simply on the PSIS-CSLP linkage. A secondary report explored the same trends with a focus on the TDSB-PSIS-CSLP linkage. This project will draw on the TDSB-PSIS-T1FF linkage to explore an additional set of questions focused on socio-demographic predictors, with a particular focus on disability, across (disaggregated) transfer pathway uptake and whether there is a net earnings premium or "penalty" associated with disaggregated transfer pathways and disability status.

#R2210: *Non-Linear PSE Pathways and Credential Accumulation - Phase 2: Leveraging Survey-Administrative Data Linkages to Document the Role of Family Background in Detailed Transfer Pathways*

Project Lead: *Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS)* |
Principal Investigator: Dr. Xavier St-Denis | **Amount Awarded:** $167,367

This project draws on the first ONCAT-funded project, "Non-linear PSE Pathways and Credential Accumulation: Statistical Portrait and Evaluation of Labour Market Outcomes" (2020-2021), which was based on data from the Longitudinal and International Study of Adults (LISA). This new project intends to produce 3 research papers and focus on the role of family background in detailed transfer pathways.

#R2211: *TDSB-UofT Replication Project*

Principal Investigator: Dr. Scott Davies | **Amount Awarded:** $27,290

This project will advance exploratory transfer related analyses with dataset between administrative student records at the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) and the University of Toronto, leveraging the "previous institution" field within the University of Toronto records to identify those TDSB students that arrived at the university from another postsecondary institution.

#R2219: *Transfer Postdoctoral Research Fellow*

Project Lead: *Nipissing University* | **Supervisor:** Dr. David Zarifa | **Amount Awarded:** $90,675

ONCAT is providing matching funding for a postdoctoral research fellow at Nipissing University, as part of a multi-institutional research partnership funded by SSHRC. This project explores the potential barriers experienced by many youth as they pursue postsecondary education and employment by linking Toronto District School Board (TDSB) data with postsecondary administrative, survey, and tax data. The postdoctoral research fellow will help organize and analyze linked longitudinal administrative data, prepare manuscripts, and support Knowledge Mobilization activities associated with this project - including highlighting relevant transfer and student mobility insights.

#R2242: *"The Missed Education" of Black Women: Disability, Access and Transfer*

Project Lead: Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly Ryerson University) |
Principal Investigator: Dr. Idil Abdillahi | **Amount Awarded:** $121,845

This qualitative research project will explore the experiences of disabled Black women transferring between Ontario colleges and Ontario Universities. It will provide key insights on transfer student experiences and contribute to deeper understanding of the experiences of Black women, non-binary, and trans people living with disabilities transferring between Ontario colleges and universities.

#R2254: *Understanding the Role of Streaming in College-to-University Pathways*

Project Lead: Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly Ryerson University) |
Principal Investigator: Sam Andrey | **Co-Investigators:** Andre Cote, Tianna Thompson |
Amount Awarded: $58,053

This project will contribute to deeper understanding of the profiles and experiences of students who connect their College to University (CTU) transfer pathway to the impacts of secondary academic streaming and course selection. Using a survey and semi-structured interviews with current and former college-to-university transfer students, the project will document their secondary and post-secondary academic pathways. Through this examination the project will investigate if, and to what extent, secondary streaming experiences influence why and how students access CTU transfer.

Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

#R2256: *ONCAT Post Doctoral Research Fellowship*

Project Lead: University of Guelph | **PostDoc Fellow:** J. Sparks | **Supervisor:** Dr. David Walters | **Amount Awarded:** $110,000

This Post Doctoral Research Fellowship will investigate transfer shock and the impact of support services on transfer students in Ontario. The postdoc will be supported by the University of Guelph, under the supervision of Dr. David Walters, and the research project will be conducted in collaboration with members of the Student Transitions, Access & Research on Tertiary Education Partnerships team.

Micro-credentials in Ontario: Exploring Stackability & Transferability

#R2245: *Possibilities and Barriers to Transfer and Stacking of Micro-Credentials in Ontario Public Colleges and Universities*

Principal Investigator: Dr. Scott Davies | **Amount Awarded:** $74,072 ($69,600+$4,472 HST)

This project will advance understandings of the potential for transferability and stackability among micro-credentials. Through an in-depth scan of micro-credential offerings in the eCampus portal and key informant interviews, this project will deepen understandings on how stakeholders understand current challenges and successes when designing and implementing transferable micro-credentials.

#R2246: *Approaches to Stackability of Micro-credentials: Options for Ontario*

Project Lead: Higher Education Strategy Associates | **Amount Awarded:** $69,900+HST

This project includes a jurisdictional analysis that will explore approaches to micro-credential stackability in other countries and jurisdictions to present recommendations for Ontario. The project includes a) a review of publicly available information on micro-credentials offered by (public) colleges, universities and Indigenous Institutes across Ontario; b) a comparison of international models for stacking micro-credentials, drawing on academic and policy literature c) interviews with administrators and faculty from a diverse range of (public) colleges and universities across Ontario; d) interviews with 10-12 Ontario career college owners, managers and instructors.

#R2247: *Exploring Newcomer Perceptions of Micro-credentials Credibility in Facilitating Employment and Postsecondary Education Pathways*

Project Lead: Fanshawe College of Applied Arts and Technology
| **Principal Investigator:** Dr. Alexander Pershai | **Co-Investigators:** Dr. Michele Manocchi,
 Dr. Rob Downie | **Amount Awarded:** $74,882

This project will document student perceptions of micro-credentials, with a focus on newcomer perceptions of micro-credentials in facilitating employment and postsecondary education pathways. This includes whether transferability and stackability among micro-credentials is a consideration for learners' advisors and postsecondary institutions offering micro-credentials. The study will identify existing gaps and provide recommendations for the development and enhancement of micro-credentials to address the employment and postsecondary needs of newcomers to Ontario.

MyCreds™ Institutional Onboarding

#S2224 | Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly Ryerson University) | Amount Awarded: $25,000

#S2225 | Oshki-Pimache-O-Win: The Wenjack Education Institute | Amount Awarded: $37,700

#S2226 | University of Ottawa | Amount Awarded: $25,375

#S2227 | Confederation College | Amount Awarded: $38,500

#S2228 | Humber College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning | Amount Awarded: $25,200

#S2229 | Sheridan College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning | Amount Awarded: $25,958

#S2230 | Brock University | Amount Awarded: $25,000

#S2231 | Trent University | Amount Awarded: $17,900

#S2232 | Université de Hearst | Amount Awarded: $27,720

#S2234 | Mohawk College of Applied Arts and Technology | Amount Awarded: $25,000

#S2235 | York University | Amount Awarded: $25,000

DataPilot Phase 1

#D2208 | Durham College of Applied Arts and Technology | Amount Awarded: $27,500

#D2212 | Lambton College | Amount Awarded: $51,843

#D2244 | Humber College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning | Amount Awarded: $33,264

#D2253 | Nipissing University | Amount Awarded: $55,000

DataPilot Phase 2

#D2202 | Trent University | Amount Awarded: $16,200

#D2209 | Fanshawe College of Applied Arts and Technology | Amount Awarded: $43,395

#D2236 | Algoma University | Amount Awarded: $55,000

MapIt 3.0 Institutional Process Mapping Project

#M2214 | Lambton College | Amount Awarded: $10,000

#M2215 | The University of Ontario Institute of Technology | Amount Awarded: $10,000

#M2216 | Wilfrid Laurier University | Amount Awarded: $10,000

#M2217 | Collège Boréal | Amount Awarded: $10,000

#M2218 | The Canadore College of Applied Arts and Technology | Amount Awarded: $10,000

#M2213 | Consultant: Higher Education Strategies Associates |
Amount Awarded: $36,000 + HST

MapIt 4.0 Institutional Process Mapping Project

#M2238 | York University | Amount Awarded: $10,000

#M2239 | University of Ottawa | Amount Awarded: $10,000

#M2240 | Humber College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning | Amount Awarded: $10,000

#M2241 | Algoma University | Amount Awarded: $10,000

#M2237 | Consultant: Higher Education Strategies Associates |
Amount Awarded: $65,000 + HST

Discipline Steering Committee

#C2257 | Algoma University: David Marasco | Amount Awarded: $20,000

#C2259 | Collège La Cité: Isabelle Guérin | Amount Awarded: $20,000

#C2260 | Fanshawe College of Applied Arts and Technology: Mary Pierce | Amount Awarded: $20,000

#C2261 | Sir Sandford Fleming College of Applied Arts and Technology: David Adam Baker | Amount Awarded: $20,000

#C2262 | Humber College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning: Melinda Kao | Amount Awarded: $20,000

#C2263 | Oshki-Pimache-O-Win: The Wenjack Education Institute: Susan Sinclair | Amount Awarded: $20,000

#C2264 | Lakehead University: Michel Beaulieu | Amount Awarded: $20,000

#C2265 | Laurentian University: Brigitte Desjardins | Amount Awarded: $20,000

#C2266 | University of Waterloo: Heather O'Leary | Amount Awarded: $20,000

2021 Community Animators on Transfer (CATs)

#T2205 | Ahmad Butt | Amount Awarded: $1,500

#T2206 | Constant Yen | Amount Awarded: $1,500

#T2207 | Jennifer Sparks | Amount Awarded: $1,500