



**DELIVERING ON OUR
MANDATE.**

**ONTARIO'S COLLEGES
AND POLYTECHNICS
IN A TIME OF
TRANSFORMATION**



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ABOUT COLLEGES ONTARIO

Colleges Ontario is the collective voice of the province's 24 public colleges and polytechnics, advocating for strategic investment, accessible education and policies that prepare a highly skilled workforce.

Colleges Ontario promotes the sector's role in enhancing innovation, economic growth and community development - ensuring Ontario thrives, now and in the future.

Our institutions are preparing students for successful careers and leading cutting-edge research that Protects Ontario.



“ Ontario’s colleges play a critical role in preparing students with the skills and training needed to meet the needs of our economy. ”

Minister Nolan Quinn |
Colleges, Universities,
Research Excellence
and Security

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



This past year marked a significant step forward for Ontario’s public colleges and polytechnics.

Together, we made the case for the vital role our institutions play in strengthening the economy and communities, and saw that reflected in new provincial investment. The \$6.4 billion in post-secondary education funding in the 2026 Ontario Budget: A Plan to Protect Ontario is a game changer for Ontario’s economic future. It represents a generational investment and a significant step forward in strengthening the province’s economy by building a dynamic, skilled workforce.

Colleges Ontario also continues to support our members as they transform and build capacity to better serve students and regional priorities.

This progress will help colleges continue to deliver career-ready graduates, expand access to in-demand training and respond to evolving workforce needs across Ontario.

Concurrently, the post-secondary environment remains complex. Colleges and polytechnics are operating under sustained financial pressure, with shifting enrolment patterns and rising costs. Institutions are making careful, disciplined decisions to focus resources where they matter most: supporting student success and access, delivering exceptional program quality and aligning with local labour market demand.

Colleges Ontario has worked alongside our members to ensure that new investments translate into meaningful impact, protecting access to education and training and reinforcing the system’s contribution to economic growth and workforce development across sectors, such as health care and skilled trades.

Looking ahead, Ontario’s colleges and polytechnics are entering a period of renewal. Institutions are transforming how they operate to protect student success and strengthen the future workforce.

With a continued focus on accessibility and impact, colleges and polytechnics are working efficiently and collaboratively - aligning programs, partnerships and resources to meet students where they are and support Ontario’s evolving economic priorities.

I want to thank our members, partners and government for their collaboration and commitment. Together, we are strengthening a system that creates opportunity for students, for communities and for Ontario’s economy.

Dr. Maureen Adamson
President & CEO | Colleges Ontario

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Ontario’s public colleges and polytechnics are central to building a more productive, competitive, and resilient economy.

Over the past year, Colleges Ontario has brought together institutions across the province with a shared focus: connecting talent to opportunity and ensuring our system continues to deliver the skilled workforce Ontario needs. From health care and skilled trades to clean energy, advanced manufacturing and technology, our colleges are preparing graduates who are ready to contribute on day one – strengthening productivity and supporting growth in every region.

This work is grounded in strong collaboration—across our member institutions, with industry partners and with all levels of government. Together, we are helping to close critical labour market gaps while reinforcing the value of applied, career-focused education. The success of our graduates, celebrated through initiatives like the Premier’s Awards, is a powerful reflection of that impact.

At the same time, colleges and polytechnics continue to navigate a complex and evolving environment. Despite financial pressures and system-wide change, institutions remain focused on student success, program quality and meeting the needs of our surrounding communities.

As chair, I am proud of the leadership across our system and the shared commitment to innovation, collaboration and productivity. Together, we are strengthening Ontario’s college system by ensuring it continues to expand opportunity, drive economic growth, and support a dynamic workforce for the future.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ann Marie Vaughan
Chair | Colleges Ontario
President & CEO | Humber Polytechnic

POLICY WIN

\$6.4B INVESTMENT IN POST-SECONDARY

The Ontario government announced a

\$6.4 BILLION

investment in the province's post-secondary sector over the next four years, providing long-term, sustainable funding for colleges, universities and Indigenous Institutes.

This funding strengthens academic programming, supports expanded capacity in high-demand fields and provides greater financial stability for institutions across the province. The investment is intended to support workforce development and institutional stability across the sector. Specific institutional allocations were subsequently shared.



COMMUNITY IMPACT

ENGAGEMENT AT THE AMO CONFERENCE



Ontario's public colleges and polytechnics participated with municipal leaders at the 2025 AMO Conference in Ottawa, highlighting their role as community anchors and contributors to economic development.

Discussions focused on workforce shortages in health care, construction and community services, as well as colleges' and polytechnics' role in training graduates and supporting local economies. Institutions also highlighted municipal partnerships on new programs, infrastructure projects and local initiatives.



SUPPORTING RURAL AND NORTHERN COMMUNITIES

At the 2026 Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Conference, municipal and college and polytechnic leaders highlighted the importance of strong partnerships in building workforce capacity and economic resilience in small, northern and rural communities.

A panel featuring Confederation College president Michelle Salo and Marathon mayor Rick Dumas, moderated by Maureen Adamson, emphasized our members' role as community anchors delivering flexible, locally responsive training that supports regional employers.

Speakers noted that sustaining these partnerships depends on stable, targeted provincial investment to ensure learners can access education and training close to home.

ADVANCING NURSING EDUCATION THROUGH SECTOR COLLABORATION

Over the past four years, Colleges Ontario supported the implementation of the Nursing Program Transformation Initiative (NPTI), a sector-wide project funded by the Ministry of Long-Term Care to strengthen the nursing workforce.

Through the NPTI, Ontario's colleges and polytechnics collaboratively developed 10 nursing pathways - five in English and five in French - creating more accessible and flexible routes for learners.

Since the launch of the earliest courses in 2022-23, the initiative has supported over 12,000 course registrations, with more than 3,000 individual learners participating across both English and French offerings. Today, 18 colleges deliver the pathways.

The flexible, online delivery model enables many learners to continue working in their communities while advancing their education.

The ministry-funded phase of the initiative will conclude in March 2026, with oversight transitioning to the Coordinating Committee of Vice Presidents Academic (CCVPA). The pathways and courses are expected to continue under this model, supporting long-term sustainability and alignment with workforce needs.

The NPTI demonstrates sector-wide collaboration to deliver coordinated approaches to workforce development.



PREMIER'S AWARDS

In November, 2025, Colleges Ontario recognized the recipients of the 2025 Premier's Awards for college graduates and the Minister's Lifetime Achievement Award (MLAA).

The Premier's Awards recognize outstanding college and polytechnic graduates in seven categories who have made significant contributions to their fields and communities. The MLAA established in 2005, honours individuals who have made long-term contributions to Ontario's college and polytechnic system.

The event was held on November 24 in Toronto. Linda Franklin, Niagara College board member and former Colleges Ontario president and CEO, was presented with the MLAA. Additional information on award recipients will be shared in a future College Voice edition.



SEVEN
RECIPIENTS



PROVINCIAL ADVOCACY

QUEEN'S PARK DAY

Presidents from Ontario's 24 public colleges and polytechnics met at Queen's Park on November 25 to highlight their role in workforce development and to advocate for government investment.

Discussions focused on the role of colleges and polytechnics in training a skilled workforce. The event highlighted the role of our members in applied research and in preparing students for careers in health care, technology, skilled trades and other key sectors. Government officials from several ministries, as well as stakeholders, met with college and polytechnic leaders.

President and CEO of Colleges Ontario, Maureen Adamson, presented 170 employer support letters to Premier Ford and Minister Quinn, which were also shared with government officials. The letters outlined employer reliance on our institutions for workforce development and applied research partnerships.



PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSION

Ontario's economic strength depends on a skilled workforce. College and polytechnic graduates contribute to key sectors across the province, including housing, infrastructure, health care, manufacturing and resource development. Colleges Ontario's pre-budget submission outlined additional measures to support the sector.

PROVINCE ENGAGED IN REVIEWS OF FUNDING AND GOVERNANCE

Last year, the Ontario government engaged in a review of the post-secondary funding formula and governance structures. The funding review aimed to align investments with labour market needs, regional priorities and student outcomes, while the governance review focused on board composition and legislative modernization. Colleges Ontario engaged members and developed sector-wide recommendations. The governance consultations concluded and a submission was submitted; both consultations are completed with some additional technical work still being finalized on the funding model.

PRESIDENT AND CEO APPEARS BEFORE SCFEA

In December 2025, Maureen Adamson, PhD, presented before the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs (SCFEA) in Peterborough to highlight the role of public colleges in workforce development and economic growth. She outlined how financial pressures in the sector are contributing to program suspensions, job losses and reduced training capacity.

FEDERAL WORK



ON THE GROUND FROM FEDERAL HILL DAY IN OTTAWA

Colleges Ontario and institution presidents participated in Federal Hill Day in Ottawa on March 11, engaging with members of the Ontario Liberal caucus and other federal representatives. The 28-person delegation met with at least 19 external government, parliamentary and political contacts.

Key strategic opportunities included a Liberal/Ontario Caucus presentation, Federal Economic Development Agency (southern and northern Ontario) working lunch, a meeting with the Minister of Finance, a meeting with Minister LeBlanc's office, an Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada deputy minister meeting and a Privy Council Office meeting. Together, these engagements provided access to central agencies, regional economic development officials, senior public servants, ministerial offices and parliamentarians connected to Colleges Ontario's core advocacy priorities.

COLLEGES ONTARIO ENGAGES FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOLLOWING CARNEY VICTORY

Following the federal election, Colleges Ontario continued advocacy with the federal government. A letter was sent to the prime minister outlining post-secondary priorities related to student success and workforce development. Another letter was also sent to the immigration minister with recommendations on the post-graduate work permit (PGWP) program. Engagement will continue with federal partners, including Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada and members of Ontario's federal caucus.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Colleges Ontario responded to the federal budget and Ontario's Fall Economic Statement, identifying implications for the sector. The organization noted that Budget 2025 did not include new investments specific to colleges and polytechnics, while introducing measures such as the Build Communities Strong Fund and renewal of the Student Work Placement Program. It also indicated that changes to international student policy could reduce tuition revenue. The Fall Economic Statement included continued funding for key Employment Ontario programs (Better Jobs Ontario) and additional support for students studying high-demand healthcare programs in under-served areas.

PARTNERS



THE COLLEGE CENTRE



The College Centre, co-sponsored by Colleges Ontario and the College Employer Council (CEC), offers two professional development streams: Board Excellence and College Executive Leadership.

Providing accessible, consistent and sector-specific governance and leadership training across Ontario's 24 colleges remains a priority. With the 2025 suspension of the Higher Education Summit, the College Centre fully transitioned to virtual program delivery. The learning management system launched in 2024 positioned the College Centre well for this shift. During the 2025-26 program year, all content is offered through on-demand webinar courses and virtual workshops. These flexible delivery options support broad access to governance training and targeted executive leadership development during a period of fiscal restraint.

BOARD EXCELLENCE STREAM

All foundational content is delivered through the learning portal, including webinar courses and virtual workshops that provide scenario-based learning in governance and risk management. Planning is underway to further develop board excellence training to meet evolving and complex needs across the sector.

2025-26 ENROLMENT

90 Newly enrolled participants

78 of these participants are actively participating

COLLEGE EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP STREAM

Launched in fall 2025, the College Executive Leadership Certificate builds on the former Leadership Excellence Certificate program. It is designed to develop the core competencies required for strategic, operational and people leadership at the executive level within Ontario's colleges. The program targets leaders in Dean, Director, AVP or equivalent roles who are advancing toward executive responsibilities.

Executive and vice-president sponsorship is a key component, including leadership panels that provide participants with direct access to senior college leaders.

2025-26 ENROLMENT

43 Participants across

20 colleges and polytechnics



ONTARIO COLLEGE QUALITY ASSURANCE SERVICE (OCQAS)



Established in 2005, the Ontario College Quality Assurance Service (OCQAS) provides oversight for the sector's self-regulatory quality assurance system. It delivers two core services: the Credentials Validation Service (CVS) at the program level and the College Quality Assurance Audit Process (CQAAP) at the institutional level.

Comprehensive reports detailing the activities of the Credentials Validation Service are publicly available on the OCQAS website in both English and French. In addition, an examination of trends from the past 10 years of this service is available in both languages.

To inform its Strategic Plan 2025-2030, OCQAS engaged all 24 colleges to ensure its future direction reflects service excellence and capacity building. These engagements supported alignment between OCQAS priorities and the evolving needs of the sector.

OCQAS has also undertaken a focused exploration of artificial intelligence to modernize quality assurance workflows. Through training and evaluation, the organization is identifying opportunities to support more efficient, data-informed processes.

In addition to coordinating sector-wide alignment of college programs with Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes, OCQAS has established multiple forums to support open dialogue. These forums facilitate collaboration and discussion on key quality assurance priorities across the sector.

Together, these initiatives support transparency, continuous improvement and system-wide alignment across Ontario's public colleges and polytechnics.



OCAS
ONTARIO COLLEGE
APPLICATION SERVICE (OCAS)



For more than 30 years, OCAS has managed the college application service for Ontario’s public colleges. In 2025, OCAS processed 217,818 domestic applications, representing an increase of 3.5 per cent from 2024.

In 2026, OCAS is renewing its focus on enhancing the application experience in close partnership with Ontario colleges through a new strategic plan. The plan includes an updated vision, refreshed values and guiding principles that reinforce its commitment to the college system.

In late 2025, OCAS rebuilt and launched the Ontario Colleges website, through which all Canadian applicants explore and apply to college in Ontario. The site is available in both official languages and features updated branding and design. It includes enhanced content on the application process, campus life and college events, along with dedicated pages for key audiences, including Indigenous, military-connected, newcomer and international applicants.

OCAS also introduced enhancements to the domestic application in collaboration with college partners. These included expanded degree options and improvements to account activation, informed by partner and applicant feedback. Updates to the application cycle selection page improved clarity and navigation, enabling both new and returning applicants to more easily identify the appropriate application cycle.

Looking ahead, OCAS will modernize the backend technology for the domestic program catalogue through a dedicated working group of OCAS staff and college partners. This work will include expanded self-service options for colleges to update program information, improvements to the annual rollover process for the next application cycle, the addition of new program fields and other enhancements to support a more efficient and flexible system.

In 2025, OCAS continued to support colleges in strengthening domestic enrolment through engagement initiatives focused on collaboration and knowledge sharing. In the coming year, these efforts will continue through the Domestic Priorities Alignment Committee (DPAC), a cross-functional group designed to strengthen alignment with partners and support the effective delivery of application services.

24 COLLEGES ONTARIO MEMBERS



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

COLLEGES ONTARIO | 2025-2026

Algonquin College

Claude Brulé | Board Member

Collège Boréal

Daniel Giroux | Vice-Chair

Centennial College

Craig Stephenson | Board Member

Canadore College

George Burton | Board Member
Mar. 2025 - Jan. 2026

Sandra Efu | Board Member
Feb. 2026 - present

Cambrian College

Kristine Morrissey | Board Member

Conestoga College

John Tibbits | Board Member
Mar. 2025 - Dec. 2025

Norma Ewing | Interim Board Member
Jan. 2026 - present

Confederation College

Michelle Salo | Secretary Treasurer

Durham College

Elaine Popp | Board Member

Fanshawe College

Peter Devlin | Board Member

Fleming College

Theresa Knott | Interim Board Member

George Brown Polytechnic

Gervan Fearon | Board Member

Georgian College

Kevin Weaver | Board Member

Humber Polytechnic

Ann Marie Vaughan | Board Chair

Collège La Cité

Lynn Casimiro | Board Member

Lambton College

Rob Kardas | Board Member

Loyalist College

Mark Kirkpatrick | Board Member

Mohawk College

Paul Armstrong | Board Member

Niagara College Canada

Sean Kennedy | Board Member

Northern College

Mitch Dumas | Board Member

St. Clair College

Michael Silvaggi | Board Member

St. Lawrence College

Glenn Vollebregt | Past Chair & Board Member

Sault College

Sherri Smith | Interim Board Member

Seneca Polytechnic

David Agnew | Board Member

Sheridan College

Cindy Gouveia | Board Member

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS SUMMARY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

March 31, 2025, with comparative figures

	2025	2024
Assets		
Current assets	14,962,013	15,474,851
Capital assets	6,464,180	6,674,532
Total assets	21,426,193	22,149,383
Liabilities and net assets		
Current liabilities	7,654,255	11,232,252
Deferred capital contributions	2,757,730	2,858,119
Net assets	11,014,208	8,059,012
Total liabilities and net assets	21,426,193	22,149,383

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

Year ended March 31, 2025, with comparative figures

Net assets, beginning of the year	8,059,012	5,961,789
Excess of revenues over expenses	2,955,196	2,097,223
Net assets, end of year	11,014,208	8,059,012

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Year ended March 31, 2025, with comparative figures

Revenues	14,884,100	12,643,699
Expenses	11,928,904	10,546,476
Excesses of revenues over expenses	2,955,196	2,097,223



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ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26

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