



COLLEGES | COLLÈGES  
ONTARIO | ONTARIO

**DELIVERING ON  
OUR MANDATE:  
ONTARIO'S PUBLIC  
COLLEGES IN AN  
ERA OF CHALLENGE**

“ONTARIO’S PUBLIC COLLEGES ARE DOING MORE WITH LESS—  
DELIVERING LOCAL OPPORTUNITY AND WORKFORCE RESILIENCE IN  
UNCERTAIN TIMES.”

Colleges Ontario is the  
collective voice of the province’s  
24 public colleges, 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.

# ABOUT COLLEGES ONTARIO



# MESSAGE FROM THE CEO:

**Dear colleagues and partners,**

The past year tested Ontario’s public colleges—and proved their resilience. Despite shifting policies, a broken funding model and record demand for skills training, colleges delivered.

They trained career-ready graduates, partnered with employers and supported communities across the province.

But the pressures are growing. Federal immigration changes have disrupted international student pipelines and damaged Canada’s reputation as a destination for education and training.

Too many institutions now face hard choices about programs and campuses—even as colleges consistently deliver strong returns on public investment.

After a year of managing external pressures, Colleges Ontario is stepping up our call for sustainable reinvestment. We are highlighting the sector’s community impact and making the case for stable, long-term public funding.

Colleges provide the workforce for advanced manufacturing, carpentry, resource and health care—just to name a few.

**Thank you to our members, partners and allies. Together, we will keep delivering opportunity—no matter the challenge.**

Sincerely,

Maureen Adamson  
Interim president and CEO, Colleges Ontario



# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR:

**Dear readers,**

Colleges are not just institutions—they are lifelines for people and communities across Ontario.

As those of us in the sector know, colleges are adapting, innovating and supporting students in real time. Whether it's welcoming newcomers, reskilling workers or launching cutting-edge programs, our colleges are engines of opportunity.

But right now, that engine is running on empty. Ongoing funding shortfalls, rapid policy changes and mounting student needs are placing enormous strain on institutions. And yet, our sector continues to deliver.

Colleges Ontario's 2024 Annual Report tells that story. It highlights resilience. It shows impact. And it makes the case for urgent action to preserve and strengthen a public college system that matters—economically, socially and locally.

We are proud of what we have achieved, and we will continue educating people on the value colleges and our students bring.

Thank you for reading—and for standing with us.

Sincerely,

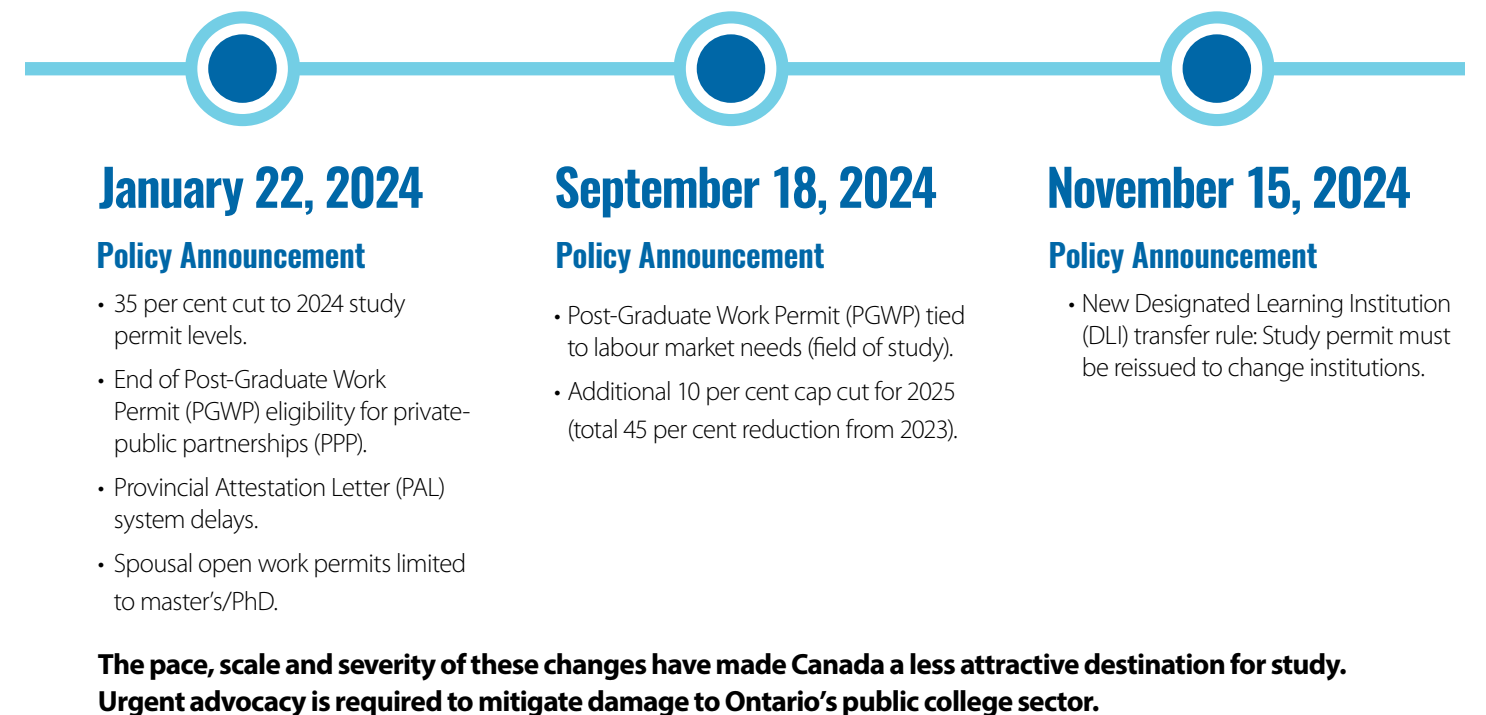
Glenn Vollebregt  
Chair, Colleges Ontario  
President and CEO, St Lawrence College

## POLICY SHIFTS, ECONOMIC HEADWINDS: WHY ADVOCACY MATTERS NOW

In early 2024, sweeping changes from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)—including caps on international student permits and new restrictions on post-graduate work permits—created seismic disruptions for Ontario's colleges, which had previously been encouraged to expand their international student enrolment.

These changes, combined with a broken funding model and rising operational costs, are jeopardizing access, equity and regional labour market alignment.

Colleges Ontario's 2024 Annual Report outlines how Ontario's colleges are responding with resilience—and why urgent, strategic investment is needed now.







# COMMUNITY IMPACT

Ontario's 24 public colleges continue to anchor communities despite rising financial pressures.

Over the past year, colleges have met economic and policy challenges head-on, with a shared focus on access and local impact. Colleges Ontario backed these efforts through provincewide advocacy and local outreach.

**FOR EXAMPLE, CANADORE COLLEGE BOOSTS THE NIPISSING-PARRY SOUND REGION'S ECONOMY WITH \$458.6M IN SPENDING, SUPPORTING MORE THAN 5,000 JOBS.**

Colleges are building strong ties with municipal leaders, businesses and community groups. These partnerships help colleges meet regional needs and drive innovation.

In 2024, Ontario's colleges used their coordinated advocacy to help shape stronger, more connected regions through collaboration and a clear commitment to students and community growth.







## ON THE GROUND AT THE ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES CONFERENCE

Colleges Ontario strengthened ties with local governments through its participation at the 2024 Association of Municipalities of Ontario conference.

Leaders spoke on stage about the sector’s role in supporting local economies, workforce development and community resilience. College delegates also met directly with municipal and provincial officials to discuss shared priorities, including housing, health care, skilled trades and innovation.

The event boosted awareness of the sector’s impact and helped align college efforts with local and provincial priorities.





# ADVOCACY WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Through a coordinated advocacy effort with the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) and local chambers, Colleges Ontario spent the past year highlighting the effects of new policies on college communities.

At the provincial level, Colleges Ontario contributed through the OCC’s Workforce Development Committee and joined Ontario Business Advisory Committee roundtables with provincial and federal ministers.

This integrated approach—connecting local outreach with provincial engagement—amplified the sector’s voice and reinforced the economic importance of public colleges.

This year, Colleges Ontario joined the Ontario Chamber of Commerce and the Council of Ontario Universities to deliver a clear message: Ontario’s post-secondary system needs urgent, strategic investment.

Colleges Ontario, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce and the Council of Ontario Universities issued a [joint open letter](#) calling for urgent action to sustain the province’s post-secondary system.

The letter urged government and community leaders to modernize the funding model, address systemic issues and protect education quality and access.

This united message—with support from business and university partners—strengthened the case for investment in Ontario’s workforce, economy and innovation.

By aligning local, provincial and sector-wide advocacy, the college sector amplified its voice and ensured its priorities remained part of broader policy discussions.



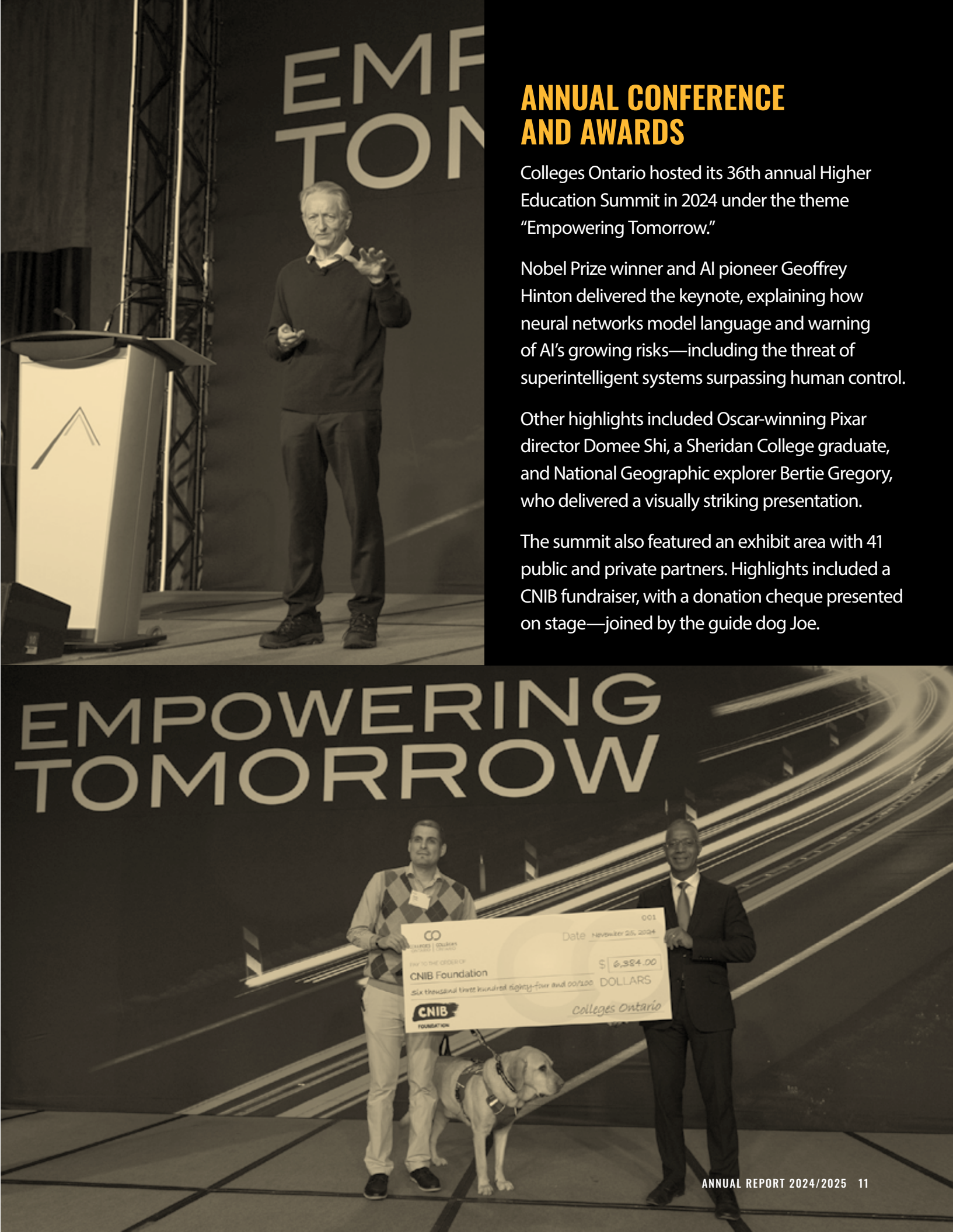
# ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND AWARDS

Colleges Ontario hosted its 36th annual Higher Education Summit in 2024 under the theme “Empowering Tomorrow.”

Nobel Prize winner and AI pioneer Geoffrey Hinton delivered the keynote, explaining how neural networks model language and warning of AI’s growing risks—including the threat of superintelligent systems surpassing human control.

Other highlights included Oscar-winning Pixar director Domee Shi, a Sheridan College graduate, and National Geographic explorer Bertie Gregory, who delivered a visually striking presentation.

The summit also featured an exhibit area with 41 public and private partners. Highlights included a CNIB fundraiser, with a donation cheque presented on stage—joined by the guide dog Joe.





The Higher Education Summit closed with the Premier's Awards gala, honouring outstanding college graduates from across Ontario and beyond.

The event celebrated alumni achievements in fields ranging from business to health care to the arts. Performances by student musicians and dancers added energy to the evening.

2024 winners included Indigenous business leader JP Gladu, Habitat for Humanity Windsor-Essex CEO Fiona Coughlin, media personality George Stroumboulopoulos, health-care leader Lynne Innes, VFX artist Andrés Coimbra Castedo, dentist Eric Kukucka and AutoNiche founder Emily Cheung.

The Minister's Lifetime Achievement Award went to Patricia France, former president of St. Clair College, for her leadership in advancing post-secondary education in southwestern Ontario.



# DISCOVERYX

Local partnership was highlighted in April, 2024 when Colleges Ontario sponsored the "College Corridor" at DiscoveryX, hosted by the Ontario Centre of Innovation (OCI). DiscoveryX is an annual conference and trade show focused on innovation within Ontario. Colleges showcased their cutting-edge applied research and innovation projects, demonstrating their crucial role in helping businesses and driving Ontario's economy. The "College Corridor" brought colleges together in a dedicated space, making it easier for attendees to explore their latest advancements and contributions to Ontario's innovation ecosystem.





# PROVINCIAL ADVOCACY



## A UNIFIED VOICE AT QUEEN'S PARK

Over the past year, Colleges Ontario helped the province's 24 public colleges advance a united message at Queen's Park, promoting their role in driving economic growth and workforce resilience.

The organization supported local engagement with MPPs and candidates, aligned sector messaging and kept college priorities front and centre in provincial policy discussions.

From navigating a key election to shaping post-secondary funding talks, Colleges Ontario provided intelligence, tools and strategic guidance. It empowered colleges to influence policy while advocating for long-term investment and modernization across the sector.

## SUPPORTING COLLEGES THROUGH THE ONTARIO ELECTION

During the provincial election, Colleges Ontario took a non-partisan leadership role to ensure public colleges remained informed and active.

Ontario's public colleges delivered a united message during the provincial election: colleges are essential to the province's economic recovery and future growth.

Colleges Ontario urged candidates to adopt key recommendations from its pre-election budget submission and worked to keep college priorities front and centre by engaging all parties.

By speaking with one voice, the college sector was in the political conversation.



## NURSING TRANSFORMATION

Colleges across Ontario have been innovating to improve nursing program delivery and collaborating to find system-wide efficiencies.

One of the sector's signature initiatives is the Nursing Program Transformation Initiative (NPTI), funded by the Ministry of Long-Term Care. The NPTI involves all 24 public colleges and is part of the provincial strategy to strengthen the nursing workforce. Over the past year, the initiative has continued to demonstrate the efficiencies made possible through system-wide collaboration.

To date, there have been more than 5,000 course registrations across three highly flexible HyFlex NPTI pathways:

- Personal Support Worker to Practical Nursing Pathway
- Registered Practical Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing Pathway.
- Internationally Educated Nurses Pathway.



Colleges have also completed the development of HyFlex Practical Nursing and Bachelor of Science in Nursing programs, under the leadership of Fleming College and St. Lawrence College, respectively. These programs are scheduled to launch in fall 2025.

In addition, the college sector mobilized quickly to respond to changes in nursing education requirements that took effect on April 1. George Brown College led the development of a new, fully online Transition to Practice for Nurses course.

Launched in April 2025 through OntarioLearn and available to all public colleges, the course supports students in meeting updated provincial registration requirements through flexible, asynchronous learning that builds on existing nursing knowledge. Due in large part to the initiative's success to date, the partnership has been extended through the 2025–2026 fiscal year.





## BUDGET SUBMISSION

In its [2025 Ontario Budget submission](#), Colleges Ontario urged the province to make strategic reinvestments in public colleges to support Ontario's workforce amid global instability and the threat of new U.S. trade tariffs.

The submission warned that chronic underfunding weakened the province's ability to build a skilled, resilient workforce and risks program cuts, staff layoffs and reduced student services.

Colleges Ontario called on the government to make the Postsecondary Education Sustainability Fund permanent, increase operating grants, enhance the Small, Northern and Rural Grant and modernize funding to reflect today's learners—including support for part-time enrolments.

## ADVOCACY IN ACTION: ADVANCING COLLEGE PRIORITIES

In 2024, Colleges Ontario helped shape key legislation by working directly with provincial decision-makers to advance sector priorities that affected students, programs and institutions, including advocating for:

- A balanced approach to new laws on mental health, anti-hate policies and fee transparency—highlighting the sector's leadership while cautioning against excessive administrative burdens.
- The removal of regulatory barriers to student accommodation development and offered solutions to help colleges expand housing capacity.
- Regulations recognizing veterinary technicians, underscoring colleges' role in training and pushing for sector representation in regulatory decisions..

Through strategic, member-driven advocacy, Colleges Ontario ensured colleges didn't just participate in policy conversations—they helped lead them.

## THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

In a [Toronto Sun op-ed](#), Maureen Adamson, interim president and CEO of Colleges Ontario, reinforced the sector's role in shaping Ontario's workforce strategy.

She called for urgent investment and funding reform, arguing that colleges are essential to closing the skills gap and driving economic resilience. Her message reflected a broader call from sector leaders for government to back the institutions powering Ontario's future.



# FEDERAL WORK

## RAISING THE SECTOR'S VOICE ON THE NATIONAL STAGE

Amid major policy shifts and a snap election, Colleges Ontario worked with partners like Colleges and Institutes Canada (CICAN) to elevate college sector concerns in Ottawa.

By coordinating with national and regional allies, Colleges Ontario helped shape the federal conversation on international education, labour and funding—turning local impacts into a unified national message.

## FEDERAL ISSUES

Colleges Ontario took early action in response to 2024 federal changes to the international student program, including new eligibility rules for the Post-Graduate Work Permit (PGWP) program and reductions to international study permits by 10 per cent.

The policy, effective Nov. 1, 2024 was introduced without consultation, creating confusion and misalignment with local workforce needs.

Federal changes to the PGWP program threatened not only college finances but also local workforce pipelines—especially in smaller communities that rely on international students.

Colleges Ontario worked closely with CICan and regional partners to highlight the economic and institutional impacts. Advocacy spanned provincial, federal and media channels.

In a show of unified leadership, all 24 Ontario colleges signed a letter to Minister Marc Miller outlining sector concerns.

Following successful advocacy by CICan and Colleges Ontario, the federal government exempted college degree programs from the recent PGWP changes.

**A year that began with disruption ended with a stronger, more united college sector.**





# COLLECTIVE RESOLVE THROUGH CHALLENGE

Over the past year, Ontario’s public colleges have faced growing financial and operational pressures, driven by structural underfunding, declining international enrolment and rising costs.

As a result, several institutions have made difficult decisions to close satellite campuses, consolidate operations or suspend programs—particularly in areas with low enrolment or limited funding viability.

These decisions are never made lightly. They underscore the urgent need for sustainable, predictable funding that enables colleges to plan long-term, preserve program diversity and maintain access in all regions of the province.

While colleges continue to show resilience and innovation, these closures are a stark indicator of the financial strain facing the sector.

Colleges Ontario remains committed to advocating for stable investment and modernized funding models, so colleges can continue to serve students and communities—urban, rural and remote—without compromising quality or accessibility.



# PARTNERS



## COLLEGE CENTRE

The College Centre, co-sponsored by Colleges Ontario and CEC (College Employer Council), offers two professional development certificate programs: Board Excellence and Leadership Excellence. Ensuring accessible, consistent and sector-specific governance and leadership training across all 24 colleges remains a key priority.

The Board Excellence training program continued to provide high-quality, relevant learning experiences through a blend of in-person events as part of the Higher Education Summit, alongside virtual and on-demand sessions. These flexible delivery options ensured broad access to essential governance training for college board members.

The Leadership Excellence training continued to focus on orienting and equipping college leaders with the skills and knowledge required for executive leadership within the unique context of Ontario’s colleges. This program enhances participants’ understanding of their roles and responsibilities as senior leaders, helping them navigate the complexities of leadership in the sector.

The newly implemented learning platform has further increased accessibility, allowing all College Centre participants to progress through the program at their own pace while engaging with relevant content.

In the current program year, ending June 2025, the College Centre anticipates awarding the following certifications:



These certifications acknowledge the ongoing commitment of college leaders to upholding the highest standards of governance and leadership within the Ontario college system.





Ontario College Quality Assurance Service  
Service de l'assurance de la qualité des  
collèges de l'Ontario

## THE 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.

In 2023–24, OCQAS prioritized stakeholder engagement to strengthen service delivery. Enhancements included a more user-friendly CVS application, new resources such as tutorials on program titling and learning outcomes, and an AI tool to support the development of vocational learning outcomes.

Comprehensive reports detailing the activities of the CVS during the year are publicly accessible on the OCQAS website in both [English](#) and [French](#). In addition, an examination of trends from the past nine years of this service in [English](#) and [French](#).

Other highlights include drop-in sessions for college staff and the successful sector-wide alignment of college programs with CIP codes, delivered in collaboration with the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, OCAS and the colleges.

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



## OCAS

For over 30 years, OCAS has managed the domestic application system for Ontario's colleges. In recent years, it has expanded its role to include technology, data and research services—deepening its commitment to helping colleges attract and support learners.

In 2024, OCAS focused on driving domestic enrolment. A key initiative was the launch of the Strategic Enrolment Collaboration Committee (SECC), a joint effort with college partners to strengthen collaboration across the system and engage key stakeholders like guidance counsellors and government.

OCAS also advanced its **Domestic Technology Modernization program**, including a shift to cloud-based document storage and modernization of its Data Warehouse, enabling faster processing and richer insights—such as new student mobility reports with ONCAT.

Other highlights include working towards the relaunch of the **ontariocolleges.ca** website and a record-breaking **210,477 domestic applications processed in 2024**, marking a 6 per cent increase over 2023.



# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS SUMMARY

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

March 31, 2024, with comparative figures

<b>Assets</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Current assets	15,474,851	56,366,686
Capital assets	6,674,532	6,923,885
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>22,149,383</b>	<b>63,290,571</b>
<b>Liabilities and net assets</b>		
Current liabilities	11,232,252	54,370,274
Deferred capital contributions	2,858,119	2,958,508
Net assets	8,059,012	5,961,789
<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<b>22,149,383</b>	<b>63,290,571</b>

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

Year ended March 31, 2024, with comparative figure

Net assets, beginning of year	5,961,789	5,253,270
Excess of revenue over expenses	2,097,223	708,519
<b>Balance, end of year</b>	<b>8,059,012</b>	<b>5,961,789</b>

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Year ended March 31, 2024, with comparative figures

Revenue	12,643,699	12,509,898
Expenses	10,546,476	11,801,379
<b>Excess of revenue over expenses</b>	<b>2,097,223</b>	<b>708,519</b>