

COLLEGES | COLLÈGES
ONTARIO | ONTARIO

ANNUAL REPORT

2022 | 2023

COLLEGES ARE HELPING TO CHART A NEW COURSE

“Ontario colleges are critical in providing students with the career-focused education they need and in addressing the labour requirements of key sectors driving the province’s economy.”

– Ontario Premier Doug Ford

Over the past year, Ontario’s colleges have responded to the demands of the post-pandemic landscape. Through policy changes and innovative measures, colleges are equipping students with the professional expertise to succeed in a rapidly evolving economy.

One of the most significant contributions this past year was in the health-care sector.

Ontario’s colleges worked with the provincial government to find new ways of upskilling the nursing workforce and bringing new nurses to the labour market more quickly.

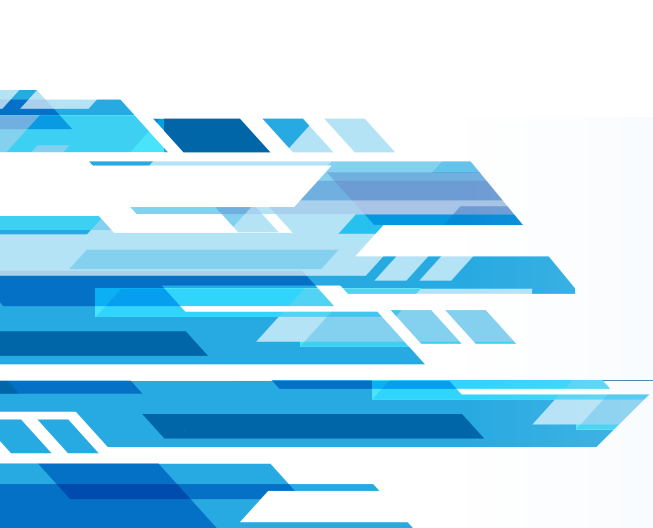
Colleges have also been offering accelerated tuition-free courses for personal support workers that allow students to complete their courses more quickly.

Finally, 2022-23 marked the final year of Linda Franklin’s 16-year run as president and CEO of Colleges Ontario.

“Linda has been a phenomenal leader and we can’t thank her enough for everything she’s done for our colleges and our students,” said Glenn Vollebregt, the president of St. Lawrence College and chair of Colleges Ontario. “We will definitely miss her but wish her all the best for a very well-earned retirement.”

The following report summarizes the key achievements from 2022-23.





STRATEGIC PRIORITIES IN ONTARIO'S COLLEGES: CATALYSTS FOR CAREER SUCCESS

STRATEGIC
PRIORITY

1

PUT ONTARIO
AT THE FOREFRONT
OF INNOVATION

Ontario's colleges will produce a 21st century workforce for a new age of rapid automation. More people will get the expertise that is pivotal to economic growth and successful communities.

Virtual learning expanded

ECampusOntario led the distribution of the Ontario government's second round of funding for the province's virtual learning strategy for post-secondary education. The province provided \$8 million in funding and 23 colleges participated in at least one of the funded projects.

The projects included:

- The creation of **new multidisciplinary, game-based simulations** (Centennial College, Conestoga College and Northern College).
- The development of **virtual learning materials and the expansion of the digital capacity** at colleges (Algonquin, Cambrian, Conestoga, Confederation, Fanshawe, Georgian, La Cité, Loyalist, Northern, Niagara and St. Clair).
- The development of **digital tools and resources** that help support students' academic success at colleges (Durham, George Brown and Seneca).

Colleges will deliver improved access to quality programs to ensure everyone has the opportunity to fulfil their ambitions.

International programs strengthened

Colleges have seen phenomenal growth in the number of international students coming to Ontario for a post-secondary education.

Attracting more students is a prominent part of Ontario's efforts to increase immigration to strengthen the workforce. While colleges have a number of programs and services to support international students, the huge growth in enrolment in recent years has brought challenges.

The college sector determined the programs and supports could be strengthened through a common set of standards of practice for international education. College leaders spent a year developing the standards that were announced on March 16.

The standards cover everything from the transparent marketing of programs to targeted assistance to help students adapt to life in Ontario. The standards incorporate best practices from other jurisdictions and align with similar standards in the United Kingdom and New Zealand.

The March 16 announcement attracted significant attention in the news media, including a front-page story in the [Toronto Star](#) and prominent coverage in the [Globe and Mail](#) and other news outlets.



Developing new three-year degree programs

Colleges have begun developing a wide range of new three-year degree programs after the government confirmed in spring 2022 that colleges were approved to offer the degrees alongside the existing three-year diploma programs.

In March 2023, Cambrian College in Sudbury launched the first three-year degree program at an Ontario college. The bachelor in business administration degree program will “combine degree-level theory with real-world learning experiences,” said Parvinder Arora, the dean of the college’s school of business.

“(It will) produce well-rounded graduates who can work in a variety of business and non-profit organizations.”

Truth and Reconciliation Commission work continues

Ontario's 24 colleges continued to make great strides this past year, implementing innovative ways to address the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Here are some examples

- Georgian College in Barrie released a new Indigenization strategy. The college also developed a new [VR language program](#).
- Centennial College in Toronto has been incorporating [Indigenous principles](#) into its new campus expansion.
- Cambrian College in Sudbury created a [new transition program](#) for Indigenous students. It has also launched a new [gathering space](#).
- Canadore College in North Bay has made plans to build a [new Indigenous clean water learning lodge](#).
- Northern College in Timmins has been bringing [trades training](#) to Indigenous communities.



REVITALIZE COLLEGE EDUCATION
IN ONTARIO

Colleges will create new opportunities for people to strengthen their qualifications and expertise.

New nursing pathways created

In 2022-23, Ontario's colleges began expanding access to nursing education by developing flexible courses that allow health-care professionals to upgrade their credentials while continuing to work.

The courses were developed in collaboration with the provincial government.

The first slate of courses launched in February of 2023: new tuition-free upgrading courses were made available for internationally educated nurses who need additional training to work in Ontario as registered practical nurses and registered nurses.

Election platform highlighted college priorities

Throughout the 2022 provincial election, Ontario's colleges promoted the measures needed to produce a more highly qualified workforce for the new economy.

The sector's priorities were highlighted on a dedicated web page that was promoted on social media and in news releases and blog posts. The sector's four priorities for the election were tackling climate change, promoting wellness on campus, investing in college education and taking a leading role in innovation.

News coverage of the sector's platform included a column in the [Hamilton Spectator](#) on the colleges' ongoing challenges by Mohawk College president **Ron J. McKerlie**, a column on innovation in the [North Bay Nugget](#) by Canadore College president **George Burton** and a column on fiscal sustainability in the [Barrie Advance](#) by Georgian College's past president, **MaryLynn West-Moynes**.

Higher Education Summit charts a new course

Colleges Ontario hosts an annual conference called the Higher Education Summit. The theme for the conference in 2022 was "charting the course" and the event was a huge success, with 100 per cent of attendees rating it good to excellent.

The highlight was a keynote speech by internationally renowned CNN host **Fareed Zakaria**. He discussed the current geopolitical landscape and the challenges ahead in a post-pandemic world.

Other highlights included remarks by climate change activist **Bill McKibben**, a moving speech about people's struggles in war-torn countries by Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist **Lynsey Addario** and a featured address from technology expert **Amber Mac** on top trends in technology.

The 2022 conference also included an exhibit area with more than 20 exhibitors showcasing a variety of products and services. This included a fundraiser for **Food4Kids**, where delegates scanned QR codes at exhibitors' booths to raise funds to buy food for needy kids.

The conference concluded with the annual Premier's Awards gala for outstanding college graduates. The audience of over 800 people celebrated a wide variety of remarkable success stories from across the province and throughout the world.

Award winners this year included veteran CBC journalist **Murray Brewster** and gun violence survivor and advocate **Shereen Ashman**.



PARTNERS

The Ontario College Quality Assurance Service (OCQAS)



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

The Ontario College Quality Assurance Service (OCQAS) is the oversight body for the college's self-regulatory system that was established in 2005. OCQAS operates two quality assurance services for the colleges: the credentials validation service (CVS) at the program level and the college quality assurance audit process (CQAAP) at the institutional level.

The report containing the activities of the CVS can be found on the OCQAS website in [English](#) and [French](#).

The emphasis in 2022-23 was on consultation and enhanced services:

- a) OCQAS engaged in a comprehensive consultation with all its stakeholders for the CQAAP with the aim to revise the process and streamline services. OCQAS established five stakeholder working groups to review the requirements that have been more challenging for the colleges. Each group has between eight to 10 individuals and meets every four weeks. The feedback received has been very valuable and the system will see the suggested changes in the 2023-24 resources.
- b) OCQAS completed a validation process for apprenticeship programs that allows Ontario colleges to present college certificates to apprentices who successfully complete their in-school training at the college.
- c) OCQAS continued work with the sector's Indigenous thought leaders circle to find ways to introduce Indigenous ways of knowing and being into quality assurance.
- d) OCQAS established a working group to gather input on the functionality and usability of the application used to validate programs. OCQAS continues to work with the Ontario College Application Service to implement the suggested changes and users are now seeing the benefits of these changes as a result of their feedback. Users can now reorganize courses, identify experiential learning opportunities and see explanations for every section.
- e) OCQAS developed short and relevant training videos to address important elements of the CVS that will support individuals submitting new programs for validation.

- f) To provide better service to francophone colleges and to enhance its internal resources, OCQAS hired a second permanent staff member.
- g) OCQAS is working closely with its stakeholders to develop an auditing process for the new standards of practice for international education.

The combined benefit of these strategies allows OCQAS to engage all stakeholders in activities that are relevant to their potential future or current work with OCQAS. These activities and strategies ensure the work of the OCQAS is continuously improving, transparent and serves the needs of users.

Ontario College Application Services (OCAS)



OCAS was established by Ontario's public colleges in 1991 to manage the domestic college application process. In the years that followed, it created a data warehouse to house information associated with those applications and generate insightful reports that continue to help its partners make strategic decisions around recruitment, enrolment, program development and more.

Today, the not-for-profit organization supports its partners in myriad ways, from managing domestic and international applications to leveraging data and collaborating with partners to overcome dynamic challenges and continuously enhance the post-secondary learner experience.

In the past year, OCAS made strides on several of these fronts. In 2022, it processed **186,073 domestic applications** and a record **267,552 international applications**, thanks in part to reaching 14 post-secondary institutions using its international application service.

To support international students entering Canada, it also launched **OCAS Verify**, a new web-based solution that helps government officials rapidly and accurately verify proof of acceptance. Not only does this service help international students get into Canada and start their studies quicker and easier but it also replaces a dated system whereby officials had to call or email post-secondary institutions to verify proof of acceptance. So far, OCAS Verify has been well received by both the Canada Border Services Agency and a number of Ontario's colleges.

Another emerging OCAS service offering is **Domestic on Demand**, which enables its college partners to access application information in near real-time, rather than using an older system that takes more time and has been in place for years. The advantage of this optional system is that colleges can more rapidly access and address applications, enabling them to respond to applicants sooner. OCAS recently launched Domestic on Demand with two colleges, Seneca and Georgian, and will be working to bring others onto the platform soon.

In the coming year, OCAS will focus on building **more advanced data analysis capabilities for international education** in the form of an international data warehouse; implementing a data governance framework for making data more accessible to partners and employees; and upgrading its security capabilities.

OCAs will continue to tap into its combined passions for education and technology to provide partners with solutions that support learners as they begin their post-secondary journeys.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS SUMMARY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

March 31, 2022, with comparative figures

Assets	2022	2021
Current assets	29,350,973	8,548,139
Capital assets	6,878,890	7,074,034
Total assets	36,229,863	15,622,173
Liabilities and net assets		
Current liabilities	25,909,834	4,133,496
Deferred capital contributions	3,058,897	3,159,286
Long-term portion of mortgage payable	2,007,862	3,159,921
Net assets	5,253,270	5,169,470
Total liabilities and net assets	36,229,863	15,622,173

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

Year ended March 31, 2022, with comparative figure

Net assets, beginning of year	5,169,470	3,130,952
Excess of revenue over expenses	83,800	2,038,518
Balance, end of year	5,253,270	5,169,470

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Year ended March 31, 2022, with comparative figures

Revenue	12,729,290	10,102,086
Expenses	12,645,490	8,063,568
Excess of revenue over expenses	83,800	2,038,518