



Annual Report

2021 - 2022

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COLLEGES CONTINUE TO DELIVER DURING CHALLENGING TIMES

“Ontario colleges play a key role in providing students with career-focused education and in addressing the labour needs of key sectors driving the province’s economy.”
- Hon. Jill Dunlop,
Minister of Colleges and Universities

Ontario’s colleges succeeded in acquiring a number of substantive policy changes in 2021-22 that will ensure more students get the professional expertise to succeed.

One of the most profound changes was winning provincial approval to start developing new three-year degree programs at colleges. This historic improvement to post-secondary education in Ontario will encourage more students to pursue specialized programs that prepare them for a workforce that is being revolutionized by accelerating automation.

It also responds to the growing demand from employers for more college graduates with degrees and elevates the reputation of Ontario’s post-secondary system on the world stage.

Colleges also won the right to expand their range of four-year degree programs and obtained significant funding increases to expand their training programs for nurses and personal support workers.

The following report summarizes a number of the key achievements from 2021-22.





What we did and how we did it

What we've been getting up to

PRIORITIES IN THE STRATEGIC PLAN, “ONTARIO’S COLLEGES, THE FOUNDATION FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY”

Ontario colleges will be global leaders in providing higher education that is a gateway to successful careers.



ONTARIO'S COLLEGES

The Foundation for Economic Recovery

2021–2024 STRATEGIC PLAN

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: DRIVE COLLEGE FLEXIBILITY, INNOVATION AND RESEARCH TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES.

More virtual learning solutions implemented



Over 100 projects at Ontario's colleges received funding under Ontario's virtual learning strategy to drive growth and advancement in virtual learning across the province's post-secondary institutions.

Some examples of the successfully funded projects included:

- The development of virtual learning scenarios in nursing.
- The creation of new open educational resources.
- The production of virtual learning solutions for engineering programs.
- The implementation of micro-credential diversity training for faculty/staff.
- The development of an online course to empower English-as-a-second-language learners.

Partnership created to promote applied research

Mitacs, a non-profit national research organization, and Colleges Ontario have jointly sponsored a business development position at Mitacs that is helping colleges access funding for applied research projects through Mitacs' funding programs.

The partnership with Mitacs will facilitate new applied research internships and new work-integrated-learning opportunities for students.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2: SUPPORT, PROMOTE AND ADVANCE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES THAT LEAD TO MEANINGFUL EMPLOYMENT FOR ALL ONTARIANS.

New three-year degree programs announced

Colleges and Universities Minister Jill Dunlop announced a historic policy change in early 2022.

The minister announced colleges can begin developing new three-year degree programs to run alongside their three-year diploma programs. As well, the colleges can expand their range of four-year degree programs.



Prior to the announcement, colleges were only approved to offer a specific number of four-year degrees.

“Expanding the degree programs at colleges ensures more students will have access to high-quality, career-focused programs,” Minister Dunlop said at an event at Conestoga College in Kitchener. “More students will acquire the expertise and credentials to succeed in today's job market.”

“This will open up a greater range of career options for graduates and drive economic growth through a more highly qualified workforce,” said Linda Franklin, the president and CEO of Colleges Ontario.

The announcement reaffirmed the success of the colleges' existing degree programs and recognized that every student who completes a degree-level program should be awarded a degree, regardless of whether that person studied at college or university.

Colleges are developing a wide range of three-year degree programs that will prepare students for rewarding careers in fields such as legal services, electrical engineering, tourism

and hospitality, advanced manufacturing and more.

Province invests in micro-credential programs

The provincial government announced that 14 colleges would receive over \$5 million in funding to create new micro-credential retraining programs. The programs provide people with access to rapid training programs for new careers.

Colleges address truth and reconciliation recommendations



Colleges continued to take steps to fulfil the recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's calls to action. Some examples of the initiatives included:

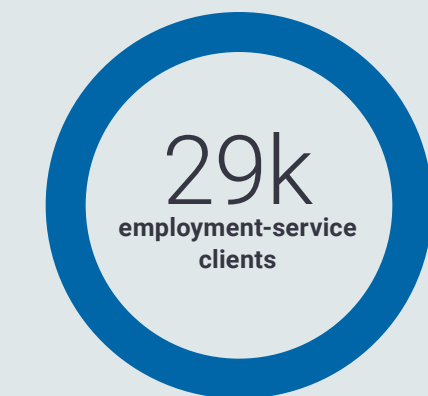
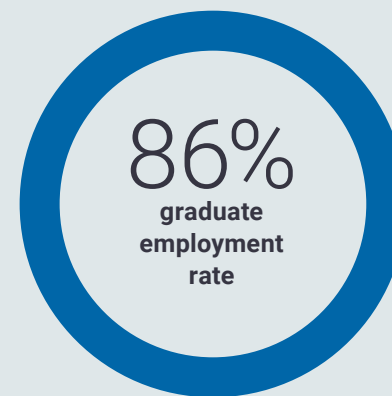
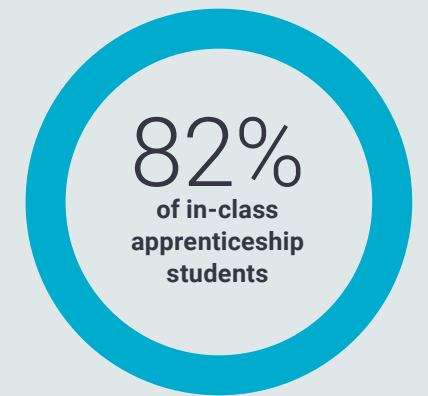
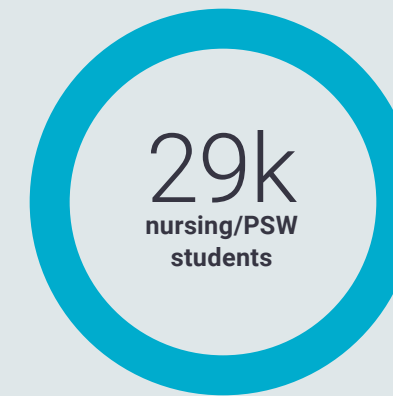
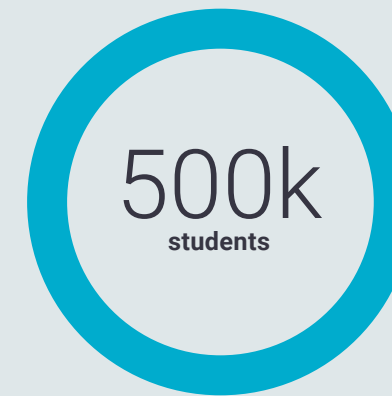
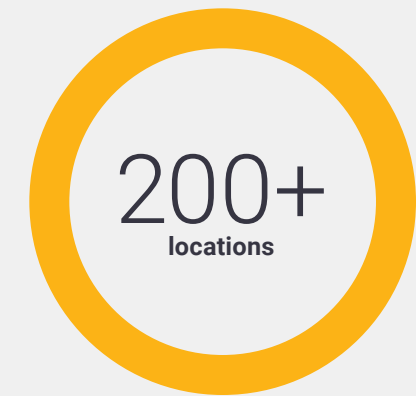
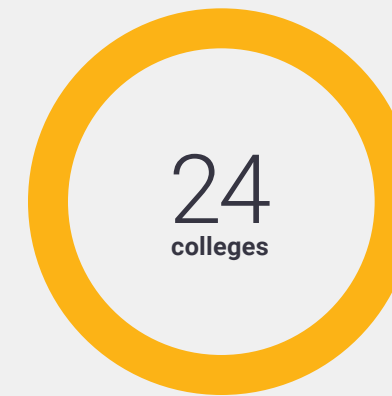
- [George Brown College](#) in Toronto and [Sault College](#) launched new Indigenous education strategies.
- Confederation College in Thunder Bay partnered with Humber and Seneca colleges in Toronto to create an [Indigenous leadership degree program](#).
- Fanshawe College in London created a [new advanced diploma](#) in Oneida language immersion, culture and teaching that was considered a first for Indigenous languages.
- Students at Lambton College in Sarnia developed and delivered culturally tailored financial literacy and entrepreneurship programming to support over 30 First Nations communities.





About the college system

Ontario's colleges offer 900 programs that provide students with the professional expertise that opens the door to rewarding careers in many of today's most in-demand fields.



STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: UNLEASH THE FULL POTENTIAL OF COLLEGES TO ADVANCE ONTARIO'S ECONOMY.

New initiatives launched to strengthen the nursing workforce

Ontario's colleges launched independent nursing degree programs in 2022 that will help fill the provincewide demand for more nurses.

The programs were developed after colleges won provincial approval in 2020 to offer independent bachelor of science in nursing programs that don't require colleges to partner with a university. The change meant more students could pursue nursing degrees without having to relocate to another community to complete their programs.

By the end of 2021-22, stand-alone nursing degree programs had been announced at Canadore College in North Bay, Collège Boréal in Sudbury, Georgian College in Barrie, Loyalist College in Belleville, St. Lawrence College in Kingston, Sault College in Sault Ste. Marie and Humber and Seneca

colleges in Toronto.

The province also made significant new investments into the health-care programs at colleges.

In October 2021, the government [announced](#) approximately \$38 million for college programs that allow nurses and personal support workers to pursue further training as they advance in their careers. As well, the government [announced](#) in March 2022 an additional \$41.4 million annually to expand the labs and hands-on learning for nursing students at colleges and universities.

Annual conference focused on the future

A "fireside chat" on leadership between Toronto Raptors president Masai Ujiri and etalk host Tyrone Edwards was one of the highlights of the 2021 Higher Education Summit, the annual conference hosted by



Colleges Ontario.

The theme for the conference was "refocus" as speakers looked at how the country can emerge from the global pandemic.

The chat between Ujiri and Edwards explored how leaders can build equity and opportunity without discrimination. Other featured speakers included Toronto Star columnist Chantal Hébert, who examined the political scene in the country in the aftermath of the Canadian election; award-winning journalist and author Tanya Talaga, who looked at how the country should respond to its harrowing history; and futurist Martin Ford, who examined advancements in technology.

Colleges Ontario also hosted the Premier's Awards for outstanding college graduates in October 2021. The 2021 celebration was an online event where hundreds of college alumni, family, staff and students were treated to the comedic genius of MC James Cunningham and at-home celebration kits.

The award winners in 2021 included award-winning Indigenous actress Nadine George, Renfrew County emergency services director Michael Nolan and Punjabi Community Health Services CEO Baldev Mutta.





Partners

Who we've been working with

ONTARIO COLLEGE QUALITY ASSURANCE SERVICE (OCQAS)

The Ontario College Quality Assurance Service 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 at the program level and the college quality assurance audit process at the institutional level.

A report containing the activities of the credential validation service can be found online in [English](#) and [French](#).

The emphasis in 2021-22 was on collaboration and transparency:

- OCQAS engaged in a comprehensive consultation with all its stakeholders and developed a three-year [strategic plan/plan stratégique](#) that sets the organization on a path to streamline services and increase visibility.
- OCQAS worked closely with Colleges Ontario to validate apprenticeship programs as Ontario college certificates. This credential will be presented to every apprentice who completes their final in-school training at a college.
- OCQAS continued work with the Indigenous Thought Leaders Circle to find ways to introduce Indigenous ways of knowing and being into quality assurance.
- OCQAS established two stakeholder working groups to review the processes that guide the two services it offers. Each group has between nine and 12 individuals and meets every three weeks. The feedback received is very valuable and the system will see the suggested changes in the 2022-23 resources.
- The organization also established a working group to gather input on the functionality and usability of the application used to validate programs. OCQAS continues to work with OCAS (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 now have access to program hour totals by semester, confirmation of submission emails and detailed timestamps.

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



ONTARIO COLLEGE APPLICATION SERVICES (OCAS)

For more than 30 years, OCAS has been helping post-secondary learners take the first step toward exciting careers. Through valuable shared services – including the management of post-secondary applications, data analysis and reporting, and customer support – they help their partners in higher education build world-class student experiences.

In 2021-22, OCAS took important steps forward on all these fronts, from enhancing their domestic application and contact centre offerings to investigating emerging technologies like artificial intelligence and machine learning.

On the applications front, OCAS set a record in 2021-22 by processing a total of 400,000 college applications. To help learners navigate these applications more effectively, OCAS launched a new mobile app that streamlines the domestic application experience across mobile and desktop, making it easy for applicants to jump between the two platforms.

OCAS also added Google Analytics and Google Tag Manager functionality to its college-branded application, a customizable interface that keeps college branding throughout the application experience. Thanks to this addition, college partners can learn how long applicants take to complete their application, at what stage applicants pause their application and more.

As for new and emerging service offerings, much of OCAS's work in 2021-22 was focused on helping learners find their way in higher education. The upcoming program catalogue upgrade is a centralized repository for storing and managing all college offerings, enabling learners to easily find and apply to full- and part-time programs, as well as those involving continuing education, micro-credentials, workshops and even corporate training.

Also new is FindYourTrade, an extension of the [ontariocolleges.ca](#) website that helps individuals learn about how Ontario's colleges can prepare them for rewarding careers in manufacturing, construction, technology and more. FindYourTrade also includes one-on-one learner advisement – hosted by the OCAS contact centre – designed to help prospective students find the college and program that suits their unique interests.

2021-22 also saw OCAS deepen its commitment to the future of higher education through the expansion of its new emerging technology team. In 2021-22, this team established strong partnerships across the higher education ecosystem by developing an understanding of colleges' needs for emerging technologies like artificial intelligence and machine learning. The goal is to position OCAS to quickly adapt to change and proactively use emerging technologies to support learners and colleges.

In the coming year, OCAS will continue to provide high-quality service and support to its partners in higher education while constantly looking for opportunities to innovate. As always, its focus will be on helping learners find their way, now and in the future.





Financial statement summary

How we fared fiscally

Statement of financial position

March 31, 2021, with comparative figures	2020	2021
Assets		
Current assets	\$6,762,716	\$8,548,139
Capital assets	\$7,228,879	\$7,074,034
Total assets	\$13,991,595	\$15,622,173
Liabilities and net assets		
Current liabilities	\$4,353,914	\$4,133,496
Deferred capital contributions	\$3,259,675	\$3,159,286
Long-term portion of mortgage	\$3,247,054	\$3,159,921
Net assets	\$3,130,952	\$5,169,470
Total liabilities and net assets	\$13,991,595	\$15,622,173

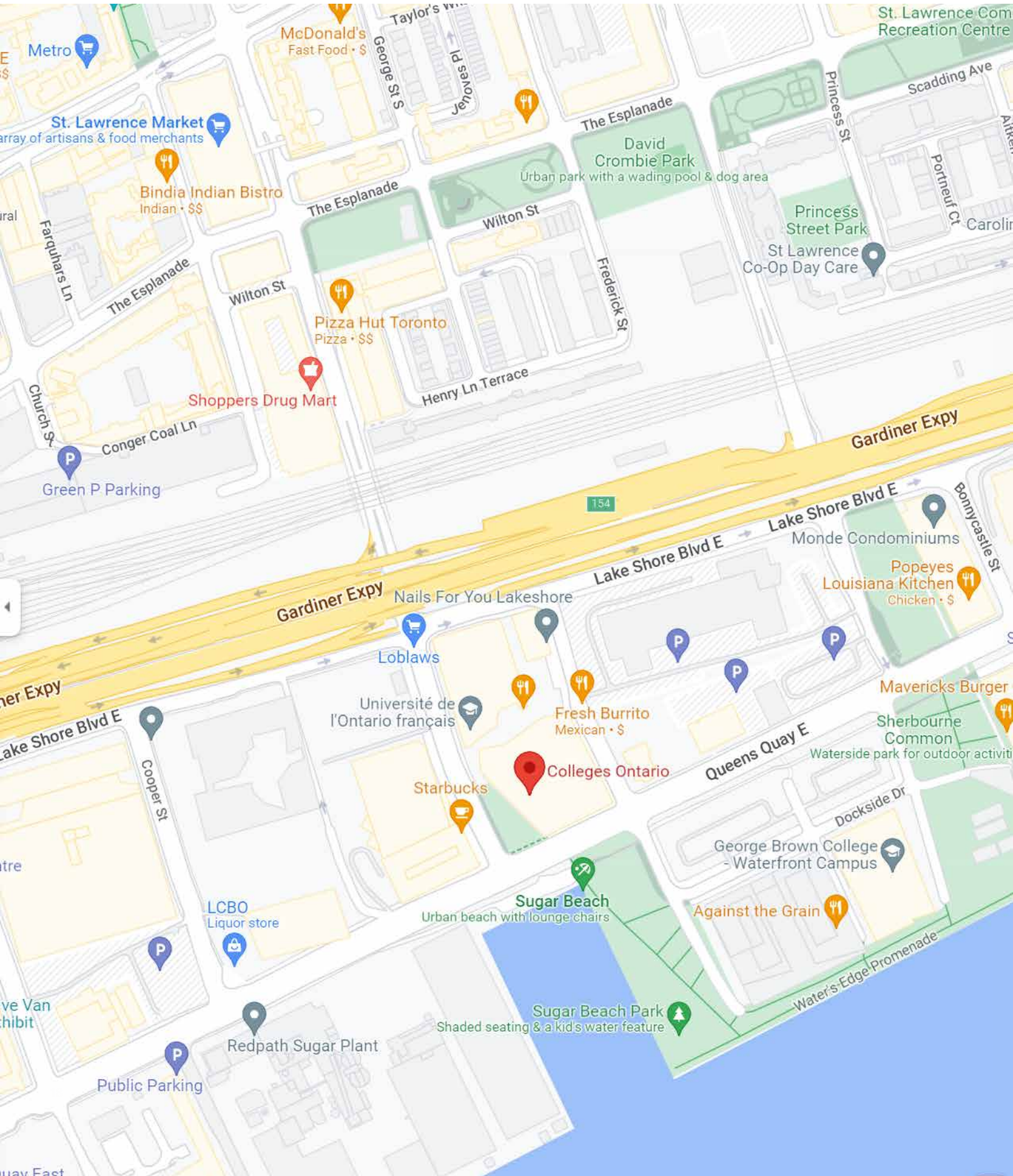
Statement of changes in assets

Year ended March 31, 2021, with comparative figures	2020	2021
Net assets, beginning of year	\$3,007,683	\$3,130,952
Excess of revenues over expenses	\$123,269	\$2,038,518
Net assets, end of year	\$3,130,952	\$5,169,470

Statement of operations

Year ended March 31, 2021, with comparative figures	2020	2021
Revenues	\$10,898,477	\$10,102,086
Expenses	\$10,775,208	\$8,063,568
Excess of revenues over expenses	\$123,269	\$2,038,518





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