

ANNUAL REPORT >> 2018 | 19





**This past year was an important one for
Colleges Ontario, as it marked the final year
of Colleges Ontario's 2015-18 strategic plan,
Fuelling Prosperity.**

The plan advanced a bold agenda to promote economic growth and stronger communities. *Fuelling Prosperity* called for reforms to help greater numbers of people pursue apprenticeship training. It promoted measures to help more people further their education in everything from retraining to programs that help working professionals build on their credentials. It spoke to the importance of helping businesses grow and create new jobs by expanding research partnerships between colleges and industries.

The plan also addressed the need for concrete policy measures that elevate Ontario's post-secondary system to international standards by expanding the range of career-focused degree programs available to students. It highlighted the colleges' commitment to developing new online offerings and to expanding the use of technology-enabled learning. In addition, it reinforced the essential role colleges play in their communities.

The last year saw great strides in all of these areas. The following report summarizes many of the highlights.

A full-page background image featuring a man in a white hard hat and safety glasses, looking down at a smartphone he is holding. He is wearing a light-colored work shirt. The background is a blurred industrial setting with tall structures and pipes. A semi-transparent blue horizontal band is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing white text.

Colleges championed policy proposals to ensure more people find meaningful employment.



Promoting stronger colleges in the 2018 Ontario election

Colleges championed policy proposals in the 2018 Ontario election to strengthen college education to ensure more people find meaningful employment.

The colleges' election platform, called "Enriching Ontario," was launched May 7, 2018. It focused on four priorities: Revitalize college programs, strengthen mental health services, produce more apprentices and invest in student success.

The priorities were promoted throughout the election campaign through a frequently updated website, letters and fact sheets for candidates, regular blog posts and in ongoing earned and social media.

News coverage of the colleges' positions included prominent stories by the Ottawa Citizen, CTV News in northern Ontario, CBC News Sudbury, the North Bay Nugget, Le Droit and others.

A number of opinion pieces were also prominently featured in the news media.

An op-ed on apprenticeship reform by Linda Franklin, the president and CEO of Colleges Ontario, ran in the Hamilton Spectator, the Waterloo Region Record, the St. Catharines Standard and a variety of other daily and weekly newspapers.

An opinion column by Conestoga College president John Tibbits that called for colleges to acquire the authority to offer more degree programs ran in the Waterloo Region Record.

Similar arguments were captured in a column by St. Lawrence College president Glenn Vollebregt that ran in the Kingston Whig-Standard and in the Brockville Recorder and Times, and in a column by Canadore College president George Burton that was featured in the North Bay Nugget.

Protecting the right to free speech

Colleges adopted a system-wide policy on free speech in December 2018 that promotes the open discussion of diverse ideas and respects everyone's right to express their opinions.

The policy was developed by a task force of senior college leaders in collaboration with the College Student Alliance, legal experts and others. It was based on the University of Chicago's Statement on Principles of Free Expression, which is well regarded internationally.

The December announcement of the colleges' free speech policy attracted national media attention.

A story in the Globe and Mail on Dec. 17 dominated the top half of Page 3. Similarly, a story in the Toronto Star commanded the top half of Page 4 in the Saturday edition of the newspaper on Jan. 5, 2019.

Colleges Ontario president and CEO Linda Franklin was interviewed about the policy in January on Power and Politics on CBC News Network.

As well, there were stories by the Canadian Press, the Toronto Sun, the Peterborough Examiner, the Kingston Whig-Standard, the Sault Star, TB Newswatch in Thunder Bay and others, and the policy was endorsed by columnist Sue-Ann Levy in the Toronto Sun.

Colleges showcase innovation at Queens Park

Real-life examples of innovation and creativity at the colleges were showcased at a morning exhibit at Queen's Park on College Day on April 1, 2019.

The event, called "College Education for a New Economy," promoted the colleges' cutting-edge research partnerships with businesses.

Ministers, MPPs and civil servants visited booths that included the display of a UV-responsive sticker from Lambton College that tells you when your sunscreen is no longer working. Other booths included one from Loyalist College that described the development of the first-ever beer created from cannabis and a Durham College booth featuring AI-empowered voice assistants for the parking industry.



Emphasizing long-term sustainability

One of Colleges Ontario's priorities in the 2018 election was the call for provincial measures to support the long-term fiscal sustainability of Ontario's colleges.

News coverage of the college position was successfully secured and included a story in the Globe and Mail on June 6, 2018, that addressed the challenges facing many colleges, particularly in northern and rural communities.

The province must continue to explore options to ensure students throughout Ontario have access to high-quality programs.

A woman with dark hair tied back is shown in profile, looking towards the right. She is positioned in the foreground, with her head and shoulders visible. The background is a soft-focus image of a person working on a laptop. Overlaid on the background are several glowing, futuristic digital elements: a large, bright circular pattern resembling a target or a stylized 'O' with concentric rings, and several smaller, rectangular shapes that look like floating data points or UI elements. The entire image has a blue color cast.

There is growing support for the recommendation that the province create a simplified application process for apprentices to produce a more highly skilled workforce.



Improving access to apprenticeship

To recognize the importance of apprenticeship training in Ontario, a new apprenticeship category was added in 2018 to the Premier's Awards for outstanding college graduates. The first winner in this new category was Don Gosen, the past president of Gosen Electric Limited and director of the Canadian Apprenticeship Forum.

Meanwhile, there is growing support for the colleges' recommendation that the province create a simplified application process for apprentices to produce a more highly skilled workforce.

The current apprenticeship system in Ontario is awash in red tape. Many students seeking apprenticeship training have no idea how to enrol as an apprentice or where to find a willing employer. Colleges continue to call for a simplified application system that would make applying to be an apprentice as simple as applying to college or university.

The colleges' proposal gained significant traction with the April 11, 2019 release of the Ontario PC government's first budget.

The 2019 Ontario Budget commits the government to the creation of a one-window digital portal for apprentices to modernize apprenticeship delivery. The budget also said the government will create programs to encourage people to enter the skilled trades.

New pathway option

There were further advancements in the advocacy for measures to help students strengthen their qualifications for their future careers.

Colleges continue to enter into partnerships and agreements that let students build on their post-secondary education. This includes partnerships between colleges and with universities that allow more students in diploma programs to transfer to degree programs.

In 2018, the Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board (PEQAB) – an agency that makes recommendations to government for program approvals – responded to advocacy by Colleges Ontario and the sector by adopting changes to improve the pathways to degree programs at colleges. The changes allow students in diploma programs to get more recognition for their completed studies.

Teaching tradespeople to run their own businesses

Ontario's colleges launched a new online business program in 2018 that teaches management and entrepreneurial skills to certified tradespeople who are looking to run their own businesses.

The new online business trades diploma is the first of its kind in Ontario. It was launched through OntarioLearn for students who enrol through Algonquin College in Ottawa, Canadore College in North Bay and Lambton College in Sarnia. It is currently being expanded and will be made available system-wide.

The program is available to tradespersons who possess a certificate of qualification. It lets them develop business-related supervisory, managerial and entrepreneurial skills that are necessary to planning and managing a business.

The flexible program design allows tradespeople to complete their program on a part-time basis.



STRATEGIC
PRIORITY **4**

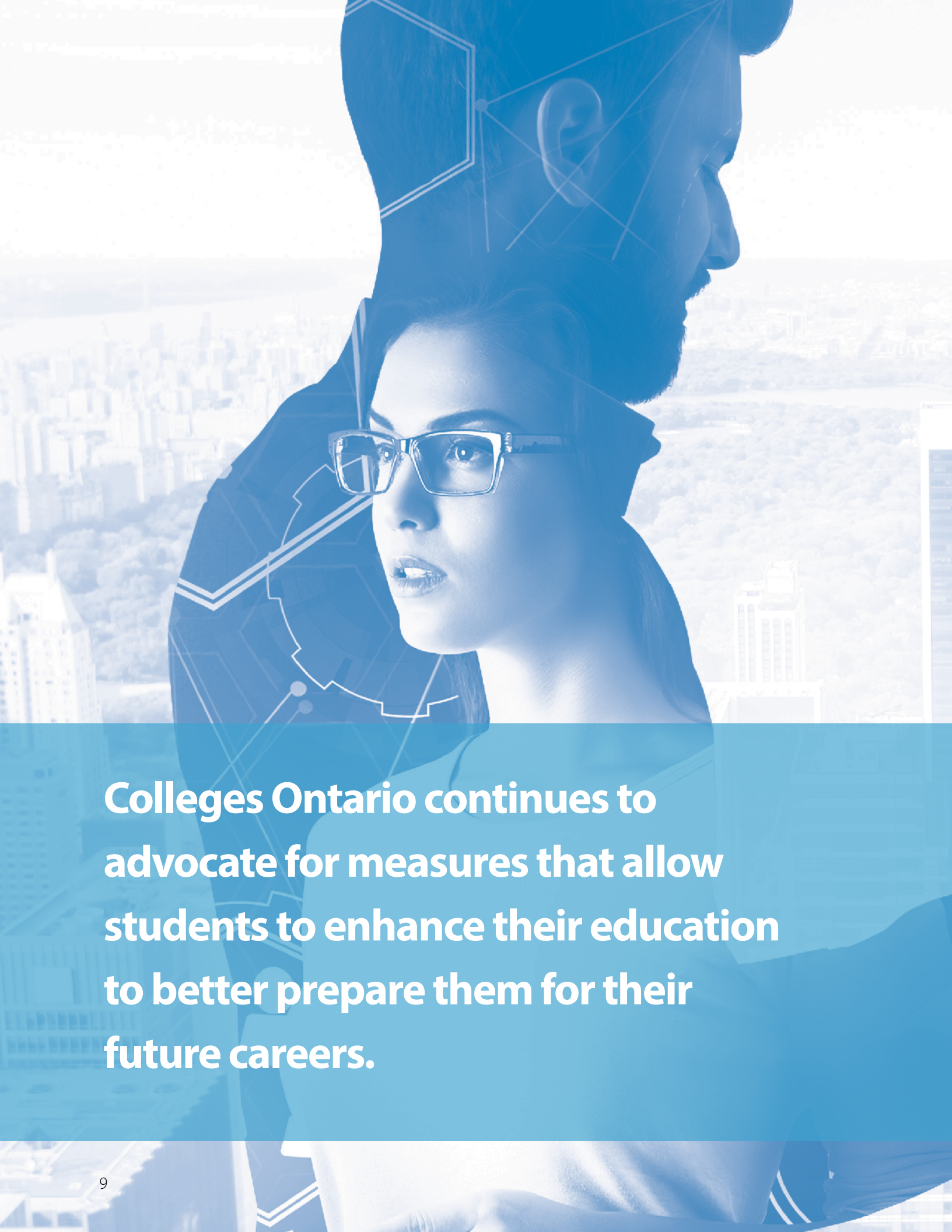
**INCREASING OPPORTUNITIES FOR
ACCESS AND STUDENT SUCCESS**

Addressing the Truth and Reconciliation recommendations

Colleges continue to incorporate Indigenous culture and teachings into their programs, campuses and the student experience. Mohawk College in Hamilton hosted the sector's third annual Truth and Reconciliation Conference in February 2019, which included sessions on how colleges can further incorporate Indigenous content into programs and courses.

There were also notable examples of how colleges are creating dedicated spaces for Indigenous students that recognize their history and culture. Algonquin College in Ottawa invested over \$5 million to incorporate Indigenous learning and ceremonial spaces at the college.

As well, Seneca College in North York opened Odeyto, an award-winning, multi-purpose Indigenous centre supporting Indigenous students and the wider Indigenous community. And a new Indigenous Cultural Markers project at Humber College in Toronto serves as a physical land acknowledgement that places the college in the context of the long history of the region's Indigenous Peoples.



Colleges Ontario continues to advocate for measures that allow students to enhance their education to better prepare them for their future careers.



Higher Education Summit empowers audience

CNN host and former White House adviser Van Jones delivered a powerful keynote address that was the highlight of Colleges Ontario's annual conference – the Higher Education Summit – in November 2018.

Jones spoke about how it is essential for liberal and conservative politicians to find ways to work together to ensure government is doing the best it can to support its citizens. His moving address was actively promoted on social media and helped make the Higher Education Summit a trending topic on Twitter.

Other featured speakers at the conference included Toronto Star columnist Chantal Hébert, who discussed the Canadian political scene, former Supreme Court chief justice Beverley McLachlin, who spoke about living with diversity, and a motivational speech on leadership by South African professor Jonathan Jansen.

The Higher Education Summit is one of North America's premier conferences on post-secondary education. It raises awareness of the post-secondary sector's involvement in key issues of the day and promotes the many successes of Ontario's college graduates.

The 2018 conference included an exhibit called the Empowerment Expo that showcased VR and AR technology and a variety of interactive displays featuring robots, support dogs and more.

There was also the annual presentation of the Premier's Awards for outstanding college graduates. About 800 college alumni and leaders from business, government and education attended the marquee gala. The 2018 Premier's Awards recipients included Allie Libertini, a Special Olympics athlete, and Colleen Hele-Cardinal, the co-founder of the National Indigenous Survivors of Child Welfare Network.



OUR PARTNERS

The Ontario College Quality Assurance Service (OCQAS)

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 Credential Validation Service can be found [here](#).

The emphasis in 2018-19 was the review of the criteria and activities that guide the College Quality Assurance Audit Process. OCQAS engaged in a very collaborative conversation with college community stakeholders to enhance the language of the standards and requirements, and ensure that the revised process is clear and easy to follow.

OCQAS renewed its service and support to the colleges in their continuous work towards enhancing their quality assurance mechanisms.

OCAS

OCAS is lucky enough to leave its mark on the world every day, providing the pathways and support that help over 200,000 individuals every year as they take the first step toward a brighter future. As a shared service provider, OCAS also leverages the power of data, people and partnerships to deliver leading-edge systems, dependable technology and cost-effective solutions across the higher education sector.

2018 was a year of growth at OCAS, with a focus on evolving and enhancing its application services for both domestic and international applicants, while continuing to expand its suite of opt-in shared service offerings. With over 25 years of service, OCAS has stayed true to its commitment to providing high-quality service and support – and significant cost savings – to its applicants, partners and stakeholders.

At just over a year since OCAS launched its International Application Service (IAS), 10 colleges have now signed on to take advantage of the service, and over 65,000 international students submitted their applications through the new system. Throughout 2018, OCAS continued to grow and enhance the IAS to support the international business needs of its partner colleges, while also working with colleges to integrate the IAS with their student information systems, and toward developing a comprehensive international data and reporting portfolio.

The OCAS Conference made its long-awaited return in 2018. The full-day event of learning and collaboration gave colleges a behind-the-scenes look at the work OCAS does and the opportunity to share their ideas and feedback on improving OCAS' products and services.

2018 also saw the relaunch of OCAS' Applicant Experience Survey, a brief survey designed to help colleges gain insight into how applicants' decision-making processes were affected by major events such as the government's reform of student assistance in 2017. OCAS shared an overview of the data collected from the survey's 21,000-plus respondents in a system-wide report and created separate reports for each individual college with summarized responses from only their respective applicants.

Home to the largest repository of college system data in Ontario, OCAS leveraged its data expertise to host open data for a national online learning survey and make it available to researchers on request. Conducted by the Canadian Digital Learning Research Association, the survey offers insight into online learning and distance education in Canadian public post-secondary education.

Finally, OCAS partnered with the Colleges of Nurses of Ontario to prototype an automated exam application solution for nursing program graduates embarking on the next phase of their careers. This new endeavor has given OCAS the opportunity to work collaboratively across the college and university systems and to extend its technology to support college graduates.

With many new projects already underway, OCAS will continue in 2019-20 to focus on providing the high level of service their college partners have come to depend on, while also growing and exploring new partnerships with organizations in the higher education sector.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

March 31, 2018, with comparative figures for 2017

Assets	2018	2017
Current assets	8,667,623	8,063,872
Capital assets	115,805	183,895
Total assets	8,783,428	8,247,767
Liabilities and net assets		
Current liabilities	6,077,157	5,705,934
Net assets	2,706,271	2,541,833
Total liabilities and net assets	8,783,428	8,247,767

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

March 31, 2018, with comparative figures for 2017

Net assets, beginning of year	2,541,833	2,423,781
Excess of revenue over expenses	164,438	118,052
Balance, end of year	2,706,271	2,541,833

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

March 31, 2018, with comparative figures for 2017

Revenue	10,164,601	10,628,209
Expenses	10,000,163	10,510,157
Excess of revenue over expenses	164,438	118,052