



COLLEGES ONTARIO | COLLÈGES ONTARIO

ANNUAL REPORT

2015



Ontario must continue to build its advantage in post-secondary education and training and transform its focus to align with the future needs of the economy.

Throughout 2015, Colleges Ontario and the 24 colleges promoted public policy measures that strengthen higher education and help more people find meaningful employment.

Particularly noteworthy was the completion of the college sector's policy and protocol on sexual assault. The new policy promotes safer campuses and ensures that everyone's rights and responsibilities are understood.

As well, new opportunities were created to help students in apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs. The Ontario government agreed to increase funding for apprenticeship training, resulting in \$55 million in new funding in the May 2015 budget.

In 2015, Colleges Ontario also went public for the first time with its strategic plan for the sector. The strategic directions in *Fuelling Prosperity* speak directly to the colleges' commitment to see more students attain a post-secondary education that effectively prepares them for long-term success.

The following are some highlights of how the sector is fulfilling the goals in the strategic plan.

Strategic Priority 1:

Developing a new generation of leaders and innovators

ONLINE LEARNING ENHANCED

In 2015, the ministry approved continued funding for the development of online courses. Colleges Ontario was successful in negotiating more than \$5.5 million for the development of college online courses and modules. This includes two programs that will be fully available online.

Ontario's colleges also supported the development of eCampus Ontario, a new online portal for learners looking to find online college and university courses and programs. The portal expands access to the colleges' broad range of professional and technical courses.

LANDMARK AGREEMENT PROVIDES GREATER ACCESS TO MANAGEMENT TRAINING

McDonald's Restaurants of Canada and Ontario's colleges signed a groundbreaking memorandum of agreement in 2015 that makes it easier for McDonald's employees to pursue further post-secondary studies in business.

Under the agreement, McDonald's employees who have completed specific levels of the company's national training curriculum are granted the equivalent of first-year credit in college business programs. The agreement means employees who are looking to get into management will be able to directly enter the second year of business diploma or business administration advanced diploma programs.

Strategic Priority 2: Investing in learning and teaching excellence

NEW FUNDING ANNOUNCED FOR APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING

Following successful lobbying by Ontario's colleges, the provincial government announced \$55 million in new funds for apprenticeship training in its May 2015 budget.

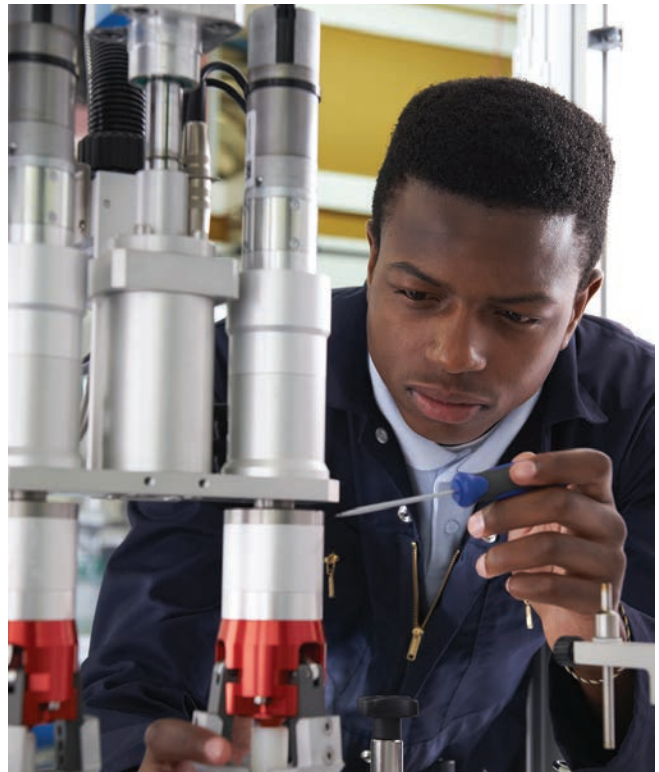
This funding helps support the sustainability of apprenticeship programs throughout the province. The budget announcement included an allotment for new equipment and technology upgrades, as well as improvements for in-class education.

COLLEGES PUSH FOR INVESTMENTS IN INNOVATION

One of the priorities emphasized in the sector's pre-budget submission to the provincial government in December 2015 was the need for Ontario to increase its support for innovation.

The colleges called for new investments into applied research partnerships between colleges and businesses that support competitiveness and job creation. The colleges argued the funding would allow colleges to work with key industry clusters on a sustained basis to solve industry-defined applied research challenges. News media throughout Ontario reported on the budget request and how applied research at colleges promotes local economic development.

In its February 2016 budget, the Ontario government responded with a commitment of \$20 million over three years for college-based applied research. The government said the funding would better connect companies and Ontario colleges on applied research projects that result in breakthrough products and services for sale at home and abroad.



Strategic Priority 3:

Providing the right education and credentials for tomorrow's workforce

COLLEGES EARN RIGHT TO DESIGNATE HONOURS DEGREES

College students' educational achievements received enhanced recognition in 2015 with a major change to the nomenclature for degree programs at colleges.

Following discussions with the Postsecondary Education Quality Assurance Board (PEQAB) colleges were advised they could refer to their degree programs as "honours" degrees. The change recognizes that graduates are successfully fulfilling the requirements of honours degree programs.

Strategic Priority 4:

Increasing opportunities for access and student success

TUITION GRANT CHANGES EXPAND ACCESS

Ontario's colleges advocated for reforms to student assistance, playing a leading role in promoting changes to help greater numbers of mature students.

Those efforts paid off – college education in Ontario will be strengthened by the improvements to student assistance that were announced in the 2016 Ontario Budget.

The 2016 budget helps more low-income students pursue higher learning that leads to a good job without incurring debt. For example, the budget measures will provide grants to cover average tuition costs for every student with a family income of \$50,000 or less, starting in the 2017-18 school year.

NEW AD EMPHASIZES COLLEGE GRADUATES' CAREER SUCCESSES

A new provincewide advertising campaign was developed in 2015 that launched in early 2016.

The TV ad, *Higher Education for a New World*, built upon previous campaigns and emphasized how colleges prepare students for rewarding careers.

Currently, Ontario's colleges offer about 900 programs in everything from IT, paramedicine, aviation, advertising and the skilled trades to game development, biotechnology and 3D manufacturing. The new ad – which depicts opportunities for graduates in areas such as business, health care, and digital animation – seeks to broaden awareness of how college graduates are achieving success in every sector of the economy.

STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF COLLEGE EDUCATION

Colleges Ontario's *Picture Your Future* tour continued in 2015, visiting high schools and College Information Program events throughout the province.

This was the third year for the tour, which provides high school students with information about college education and the range of careers available to college graduates. The tour uses green-screen technology to take high school students' photos in an array of career settings, such as firefighting, game development, nursing and aviation.

Students received general information about college education, as well as graduates' success rates. They were also encouraged to upload their pictures on social media.

Strategic Priority 5: Providing strong community leadership

ONTARIO'S COLLEGES FINALIZE SEXUAL ASSAULT POLICY

To help prevent sexual violence and promote safer campuses, every college in Ontario implemented a new sexual assault and sexual violence policy and protocol in March 2015.

The information is easy to access and is being actively promoted so that everyone's rights are clearly understood and victims get the support they need. It includes information about protecting people's privacy and the steps that should be taken if someone witnesses a sexual assault or has learned about a sexual assault.

Work was done throughout 2015 to promote the policy and provide training to college employees. One-day training sessions were held at Humber College in July and August to teach employees how to intervene in cases where a sexual assault may be occurring. As well, a training module developed by Centennial College and Durham College is being used throughout the system. The colleges also shared materials that were distributed to students during student orientations in the fall.

A college sector task force on sexual violence continues to pursue measures to promote safe campuses. The task force has worked on priority areas such as providing expert feedback to the Queen's Park committee reviewing provincial legislation on sexual violence.

PROMOTING A TRANSFORMATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

David Agnew, the president of Seneca College and chair of Colleges Ontario, spoke to the Canadian Club of Toronto in October about the need for a transformative plan for higher education.

He called for a new approach to post-secondary education that recognizes that the sophistication and expertise at colleges is evolving, and that colleges and universities are sharing greater numbers of students. He said creativity is needed to enhance the system's flexibility and nimbleness while preserving what's best about the current structure's competitiveness.

An excerpt of the speech was carried in the Nov. 15 edition of the Toronto Star.

Colleges and universities are sharing
greater numbers of students.

SUPPORTS PROVIDED FOR MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

Ontario's colleges continued to play a leading role in providing supports to students with mental health issues.

Colleges Ontario was the provincial government's lead partner for the Centre for Innovation in Campus Mental Health, which provides online resources to colleges and universities to improve their capacity to help students with mental health issues. The centre is administered by the Canadian Mental Health Association Ontario on behalf of the project partners – Colleges Ontario, the College Student Alliance, the Council of Ontario Universities, and the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance.

In 2015, the Ontario government approved more than \$1.6 million over three years in new funding for the centre. The funding has been used to develop resources such as monthly Ask the Expert webinars and an interactive tool kit to help institutions establish partnerships with community agencies that offer services for students with complex mental health and addictions issues.

In June, the centre hosted the Campus Exchange, bringing together 435 college and university representatives and student leaders to share information about various mental health projects on campuses and available provincial resources.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE FEATURES HIGH-PROFILE CANADIAN NEWSMAKERS

Colleges Ontario's annual conference, the Higher Education Summit, proved to be a huge success in terms of attendance and ratings from participants. Delegates to the 2015 conference were moved and inspired by the keynote speaker, Man in Motion Rick Hansen.

Other highlights of the two-day conference in November included a keynote address by political commentator David Frum and featured speeches by Wiki pioneer Sue Gardner, economic inequality expert Richard V. Reeves, and neuroscientist and bestselling author Daniel J. Levitin.

The Premier's Awards gala celebrating the achievements of Ontario's college graduates was held on the final night of the conference. More than 800 people attended the event, which paid tribute to college graduates' successes in Ontario and throughout the world in fields such as community services, technology, the creative arts and more.

There were 116 graduates from across Ontario nominated in the awards' six categories. Training, Colleges and Universities Minister Reza Moridi helped present the awards and he spoke at the event about the importance of college graduates to the province's economic growth.



The Higher Education Summit's keynote speaker, Rick Hansen (left), was greeted by Ontario Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure Minister Brad Duguid.

EXCEPTIONAL TURNOUT FOR COLLEGE DAY

MPPs from all parties took part in Colleges Ontario's annual reception at Queen's Park on Nov. 17. Culinary arts students from across the province treated politicians, political staff and civil servants to fine food, wine and entertainment. Provincial officials also had a chance to mingle with college presidents and board chairs and discuss the sector's policy priorities.

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 Program Quality Assurance Process Audit (PQAPA) at the institutional level. In 2015, OCQAS received and processed nearly 200 applications for validation from the 24 colleges.

Its focus in 2015 was reviewing the Program Quality Assurance Process Audit (PQAPA) in order to strengthen the rigor and reliability of the quality assurance system and develop the policies and procedures necessary to move to accreditation. As part of that process, the audit was renamed the College Quality Assurance Audit Process (CQAAP).

Later in the year, the move to accreditation was delayed and the sector's Committee of Presidents established a task force to resolve outstanding issues and questions about accreditation. OCQAS changed its focus towards supporting the task force in its development of a report that will be presented to the Committee of Presidents at the end of 2016.



ONTARIO COLLEGE APPLICATION SERVICE (OCAS)

OCAS is the link between prospective applicants and Ontario's public colleges. Each year, OCAS helps more than 200,000 individuals research college programs, connect with Ontario's colleges and complete their applications. OCAS is also a shared service provider for colleges and industry partners, delivering centralized technology solutions, financial services, marketing, and data collection and reporting.

2015 was a year of innovation for OCAS. Building on 2014's technology refresh, and with continued support and collaboration from partners, OCAS delivered a number of initiatives to better serve both applicants and the colleges.

The initiative with the highest profile was the development of the ontariocolleges.ca mobile app. The first of its kind in Canada, the app was designed to deliver a fast, easy way to apply to college and to put the complete application process into the hands of users, from searching for programs, creating an account and requesting transcripts to paying fees and accepting offers of admission.

Another critical project delivered was the College Branded User Interface – a platform that, through custom links embedded on college program pages, guides applicants through an entirely college-branded application experience. The platform not only provides a faster application process for individuals interested in applying to only one program at one college, it also allows colleges to strengthen and persist their unique branding and marketing efforts.

In 2015, OCAS continued to make service cost reduction on behalf of colleges a priority, delivering two key initiatives: an extension of the OCAS contact centre to provide opt-in Tier 1 customer support to interested colleges, and facilitating the negotiation of one of the largest, most comprehensive Microsoft Campus Agreements, helping to drive down licensing costs across the college system.

Each year, OCAS helps more than 200,000 individuals research college programs.

OCAS also focused on reducing its own operational costs, while still continuing to drive toward innovation. A key example of this was the organization's inaugural annual general meeting, which was attended by 25 colleges via live-stream conferencing software. A highlight of the meeting was the live presentation of OCAS' first-ever annual report, delivered in an online, interactive format and designed as a first step in exploring new methods for online communication and engagement.

With each of these projects now complete and many others already underway, OCAS will continue to focus on opening new pathways for applicants and providing enhanced service to its college partners in the year ahead.

Financial statements summary

COLLEGES ONTARIO'S FINANCIAL POSITION

March 31, 2015, with comparative figures for 2014

Assets	2015	2014
Current assets	8,014,642	11,517,150
Capital assets	286,292	304,900
Total assets	8,300,934	11,822,050

Liabilities and net assets		
Current liabilities	5,971,005	9,833,908
Net assets	2,329,929	1,988,142
Total liabilities and net assets	8,300,934	11,822,050

Statement of changes in net assets		
<i>Year ended March 31, 2015, with comparative figures for 2014</i>		
Net assets, beginning of year	1,988,142	1,802,985
Excess of revenue over expenses	341,787	185,157
Balance, end of year	2,329,929	1,988,142

Statement of operations		
<i>Year ended March 31, 2015, with comparative figures for 2014</i>		
Revenue	22,088,784	11,586,317
Expenses	21,746,997	11,401,160
Excess of revenue over expenses	341,787	185,157