

2013-2014

YEAR IN REVIEW



OTTAWA NETWORK FOR EDUCATION
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04 Message to the Community

05 Year in Review

06 Our Programs

14 Thank You

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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR AND CEO

The Ottawa Network for Education (ONFE) has been bringing education, business, government and community partners together to enrich public education since 1985. Over the past 29 years, ONFE (originally the Ottawa-Carleton Learning Foundation) has launched over 40 innovative programs that channel resources from the Ottawa community into the public education system to help students succeed.

ONFE's programs fall into two categories: our student support initiatives remove barriers to learning and provide additional targeted learning support for K-12 students, while our career preparation programs provide career-related, real-world learning experiences for students to help them move successfully from education to employment.

Over the past 29 years, ONFE has built a reputation as a neutral relationship broker, and catalyst for discussion and collaborative action around education issues in Ottawa. We need to continue to work together to ensure that students are leaving school well prepared to achieve personal success, and to contribute to the social and economic success of our community.

The success ONFE has enjoyed over the past year is the direct result of the committed individuals at all levels of our organization: our Board of Directors, our talented and hardworking staff, our many program partners, and our over 2,000 volunteers who have dedicated their time to helping students in schools. We have enjoyed tremendous support from our funding partners this year, who have invested over \$3 million in our organization.

We thank all the members of our network for their continued dedication and support as we work together to fulfill our mandate in the Ottawa community.



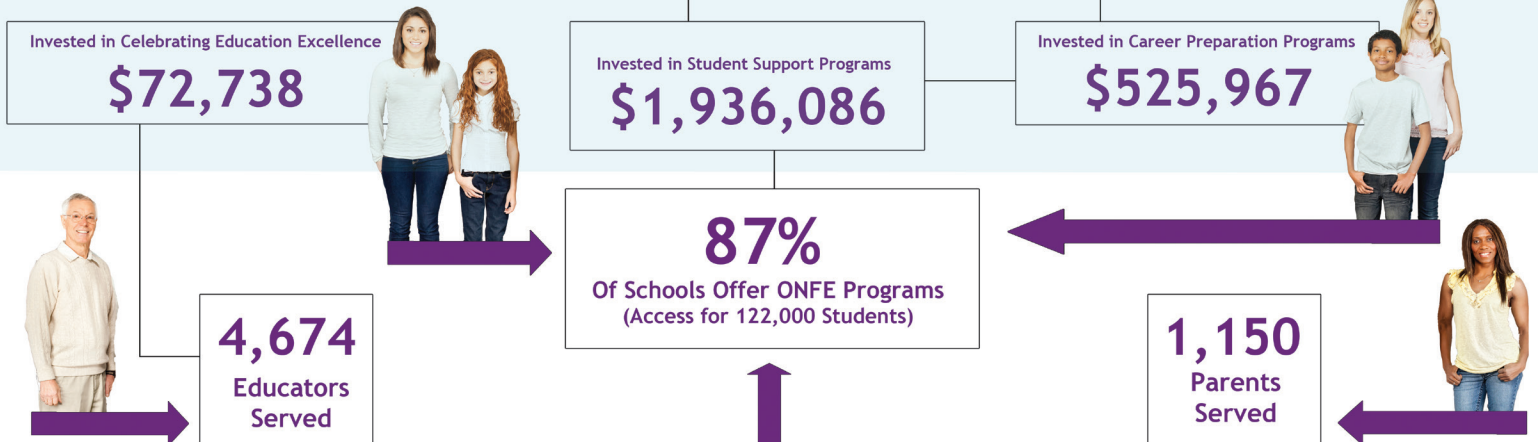
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PRESIDENT & CEO
OTTAWA NETWORK FOR EDUCATION

2013-2014 YEAR IN REVIEW

TOTAL INVESTED IN EDUCATION PROGRAMS
\$2,534,791



298,608
Volunteer Hours
Supporting Student Success

The Ottawa Network for Education is proud to have invested over \$2.5 million in programs that provide an additional layer of support for the students and schools most in need.

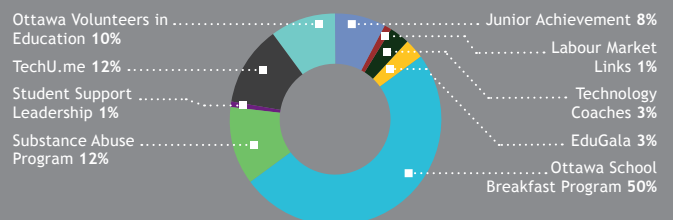
Through government, foundation, corporate and community support, we delivered a broad range of programs to address the ever-changing needs of the community. The Province of Ontario remains the single largest funder, contributing 33% of the total revenue.

ONFE's overall administration expenses are lower than industry standard. We were diligent in our efforts to maximize funds raised and leverage our partnerships, which allowed for 83% of our total revenue to be allocated to programs.

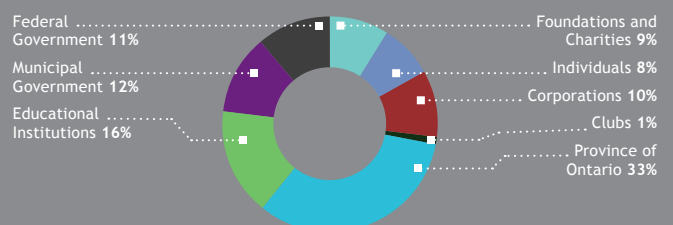
DID YOU KNOW... ONFE served over **2 million** breakfasts to students this year. That is more than **12,000** breakfasts each school day!

...that **2,436** volunteers dedicated over **298,608** hours to support student success. That equates to over **\$5 million** in in-kind support!

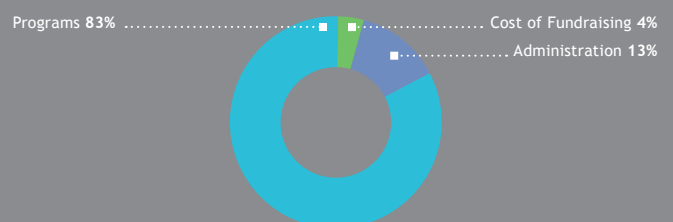
PROGRAM EXPENSES



REVENUE BY SOURCE



OVERALL REVENUE ALLOCATION





2014 marked the 13th year that the Ottawa community has come together to celebrate educators at ONFE's EduGala. This year's theme was "Sparkling Curiosity and Unlocking Potential." EduGala is a unique event celebrating excellence in education from Kindergarten to the PhD. level.

EduGala 2014 was attended by 484 guests, including 65 award nominees, 15 event sponsors and 10 education partners. Every year, a select group of educators receive the Capital Educators' Award in recognition of their achievements. **This year, we received 380 nominations, and celebrated 65 finalists and 18 award recipients.**

The 2014 event featured an expanded silent auction, a photo booth for nominees and an exhibitor's marketplace.

Revenue generated by EduGala supports ONFE's work in the community.

"We nominated our child's teacher because she gives every kid in her class an equal voice so that they feel heard and appreciated. Every one of her students will look back one day and say that she made a difference in their lives; at the very least, she will most definitely be that teacher for my son. Awards like these allow us to see into what amazing teachers are doing to make their classrooms vital and engaging places. They are an opportunity to see best practices in action, and they let the teaching community come together to hear about ideas that keep teaching the curriculum current and fresh." PARENT AND EDUCATOR NOMINATOR

OTTAWA SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM



The Ottawa School Breakfast Program strives to ensure that every child in our community has access to a nutritious breakfast in a safe, supervised environment. Our goal is to ensure all students are given an equal opportunity to succeed in school and that no child in Ottawa starts their day hungry.

The program is delivered in partnership with Ottawa's four school boards. It adheres to the Ministry of Children and Youth Services' nutrition guidelines, providing fresh and nutritious breakfasts that include fruit, vegetables, whole grains and milk. Participating students are identified by school staff and parents.

This year, participation in the program grew significantly. In fact it was the largest single-year growth since 2008, with 21 new school programs added across the city for a total of 166 programs by year-end. The number of participants also increased from 11,300 to a year-end average of just over 12,500 students daily.

We were able to reach more children in need this year because of the generous ongoing support of the community and the Ministry of Children and Youth Services. We are grateful to all of our many partners and supporters in 2013-2014 for helping to ensure that children in Ottawa start their school day well-nourished and ready to learn.

Research shows that children who eat a nutritious breakfast are more engaged in daily learning, perform better in school and have better self-esteem. 89% of Ottawa school principals

report that students participating in the program appear happier and more engaged; 74% of students in the program are making healthier food choices.

Here's what Ottawa school principals had to say about the impact of the Ottawa School Breakfast Program on their students [Principal Survey, June 2014]:

"A mother used to keep her children at home when she had no lunch or snack to send to school. We told her about our breakfast and snack program, both delivered with respect and dignity. The kids have not missed a day of school since."

"With the continuously rising food costs, many of our parents are relying on the school 100% to feed their children. The children are excited to come to school as they know there is a yummy breakfast waiting! The children are really enjoying the variety and trying new foods they have never eaten."

"This program has now become an integral part of the school and parents/students depend on it. It definitely helps students to settle in and learn about good nutrition."

"We have a core group of students who rely on us for their breakfast and snacks every day. They know they have caring adults in the school and, as a result, they come and see us for other needs, outside of food. It keeps these students connected and engaged."

OTTAWA VOLUNTEERS IN EDUCATION



ONFE's Ottawa Volunteers in Education (OVIE) programs bring volunteers from the community to schools to help educators ensure academic success for their students. Volunteers provide much-needed one-on-one support to students at risk or offer general classroom support from math tutoring to music. Volunteers can also choose to help students through the iLit ESL program, OttawaReads corporate early literacy program or the Assistive Technology Support Initiative.

This year 1,882 volunteers supported 60,475 students in 195 schools through OVIE programs alone. In total 232,224 hours were donated with an estimated value of \$4.6 million.

OVIE launched the iLit program in 2014, recruiting, training and matching community volunteers to English language learners who need additional one-on-one support. OVIE and the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board also co-hosted close to 30 workshops for volunteers.

Recruiting francophone seniors for the LectureOttawa early literacy program in the CECCE and CEPEO boards was a focus this year and resulted in the creation of a recruitment video. The video was made in collaboration with the Centre de services à la famille de la Capitale-Nationale. LectureOttawa currently has 130 seniors reading to children weekly.

A highlight for OVIE this year was the 2014 "Give Back to School" day. Thanks to eight ONFE corporate partners who donated their employees' time and talents, six Ottawa schools got a fresh coat of paint or a new garden bed.

Here is a sample of what our teachers and volunteers are saying about OVIE:

"I frequently have volunteers come into my classroom to work with my students. I have two regular volunteers who each spend two mornings a week in my classroom. They have helped my students learn to read, as many of these students don't have academic support at home." TEACHER

"We love our volunteer. She is a grandma figure to my class. It was great to have the extra pair of hands to give attention to a young child with special needs." TEACHER

"I get satisfaction from helping students. I enjoy bolstering their self-esteem by showing them math is fun and they can be good in math." VOLUNTEER

"When I volunteer, I see students become happier and more confident. They start to see that learning and school can be an enjoyable experience!" VOLUNTEER

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND YOUTH IN SCHOOL COALITION



ONFE facilitates the Substance Abuse and Youth in School (SAYS) Coalition in partnership with local school boards, youth-focused addiction treatment agencies, enforcement, health and allied professionals.

Today, 1 in 5 Grade 12 students report symptoms of a drug use problem and 3 in 10 Grade 11-12 students consume alcohol at a hazardous or harmful level. The non-medical use of prescription drugs is on the rise.

The coalition was formed in 2006 to build the capacity of the Ottawa community to work together to develop, resource and implement comprehensive drug and alcohol abuse prevention and treatment programs for Ottawa students in Grades 7 to 12.

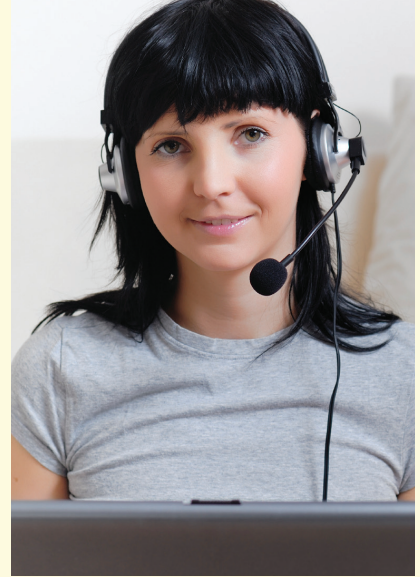
Funding was announced in 2008 to begin expansion of school based substance abuse counseling.

The seven funding partners are the Local Health Integration Network, Ottawa Public Health, United Way and the four Ottawa school boards.

In 2011-2012, an evaluation of the program showed very positive outcomes, including reductions in substance use and improved health and well-being for students. The evaluation also showed that over 80% of all students referred to the program followed-up and were admitted to counseling. This high rate of engagement is a hallmark of the school-based program.

Regrettably, resources to support this program are still insufficient to reach every student in need of help. In 2013-2014, a new governance structure, co-led by ONFE and the United Way, was created to spearhead and oversee community efforts to enhance support for school-based programs, under the umbrella of project s.t.e.p.

STUDENT SUPPORT LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE



The provincially-funded Student Support Leadership Initiative (SSLI) ended in August 2013—ONFE has led this project for its six-year existence. Indeed, ONFE was able to organize a partnership to extend the project for an additional four months (to December 31, 2013) with generous funding by the school boards, Ottawa Public Health, CHEO and the Royal Ottawa Mental Health Centre. This extension allowed an additional 50 schools to benefit from this program.

The SSLI project brought together school boards, hospitals, mental health agencies and other child and youth serving organizations in a collaborative effort around the issue of child and youth mental health. The main accomplishment of the project was to provide **over 250**

school based presentations on issues related to child and youth mental health to educators, parents and students. These presentations, adapted for each type of audience, provided information and resources on help available in the community and generally raised awareness. **Over 18,000 people attended these presentations!**

The very successful SSLI project paved the way for the province to step up its commitment to child and mental health in the province. In 2013-2014, the government announced its intent to transform child and youth mental health services across the province by injecting new resources and programs into the system.

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OTTAWA



Junior Achievement (JA) inspires youth to make smarter financial decisions, start up a business, create a career plan and express their innovative spirit. ONFE, in partnership with JA Canada, is pleased to deliver the Junior Achievement program in Ottawa.

This year, JA volunteers inspired 5,214 students in 194 classrooms at 62 schools. The program was supported by approximately 211 community volunteers, who invested 4,264 volunteer hours, from local businesses, government agencies and post-secondary business faculties.

This year JA delivered the following programs, adding two new programs to its line-up:

JA Business Basics (Grade 5) - This one-day workshop introduces students to the fundamental concepts of business and entrepreneurship — likely their first exposure to these concepts.

JA Economics for Success (Grade 8) - This one-day workshop focuses on financial literacy (creating a monthly budget), employability and interview skills, and the importance of staying in school.

JA Titan (Grade 9-12) - This is an online business simulation in which high school students compete as companies, making critical management decisions in a technology-driven marketplace.

NEW - JA Dollars with Sense (Grade 7) - This one-day workshop provides students with personal money management skills and challenges them to apply these concepts in their own life.

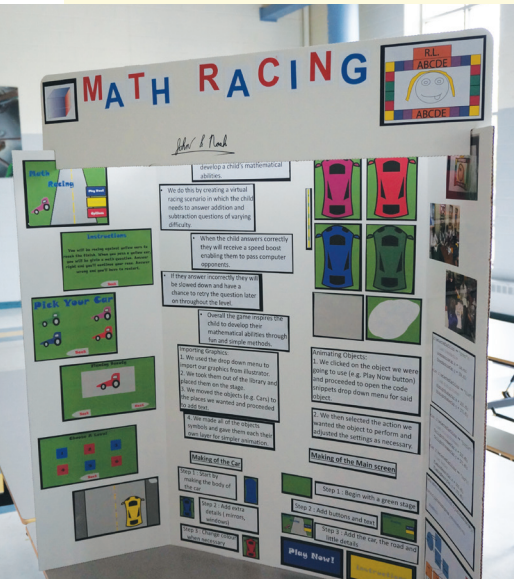
NEW - JA Company Program (Grade 9-12) - This is an exciting, hands-on program. Students are mentored by volunteer business advisors to design, organize and operate a real business. This program is run after school over the course of approximately 18 weeks and requires a commitment of 2.5 hours per week.

Ottawa teachers see JA as a vehicle for bringing hands-on, real-world learning experiences to their classrooms. In fact, ONFE's biggest challenge is meeting the growing demand for JA programs with the K-12 education system. Here is a sample of what our volunteers, students and teachers are saying about JA:

"This was my first time volunteering. It was an amazing experience to work with the kids and feel like I'm passing on valuable information, both from the materials and from life experience." JA ECONOMICS FOR SUCCESS VOLUNTEER

"It showed us that we can make anything happen. Now I know what I want to do when I grow up." JA BUSINESS BASICS STUDENT

"Excellent program. It is nice to see young professionals able to share their experience and enthusiasm. Role models are always a great idea and important. Thank you very much. We had a great day." MARIE-JOSÉE CARON, GRADE 5 TEACHER



TechU.me was designed to equip young people in Ottawa with the enhanced technology and critical thinking skills they need to pursue post-secondary education, obtain employment or start a new business or social venture in today's fast-changing digital world.

TechU.me had three areas of focus this year: The Mentor Program, AppJam (our app design contest) and summer tech camps hosted by IBM. **In 2013-2014 TechU.me reached more than 7 800 students. AppJam participation doubled this year, seeing a 40% female participation rate, and our five sessions of summer camp sold out by April.**

Phase one of the program ended in March 2014 marking the end of a three year funding commitment from FedDev Ontario. **Since the launch of the program in 2012, TechU.me has reached nearly 15,000 students, growing the program from 2 pilot schools to 55 schools representing all four area school boards. TechU.me also saw a 35% increase in enrollment in high school computer science and communications tech courses in the schools that it partnered with in the English school boards.**

New partnerships with IBM and the Natural Sciences and Research Engineering Council (NSERC) were confirmed in 2013-2014. With their support, TechU.me will continue to expose students to opportunities in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) through real-world, hands-on experiences in a re-imagined format.

Here is an example of what a student had to say about the program:

"We had industry professionals telling us what the real workplace was like compared to our class, as well as some university and college students who had taken the exact same focus program as us (The Web Production Focus Program at All Saints CHS). I think it's safe to say that we're both a lot more interested in pursuing something like this as a career now." KRISTA MCCORMICK, GRADE 11 STUDENT



A new Labour Market Links project was launched this year with a broad goal of ensuring that the students of tomorrow are prepared to enter today's very dynamic labour market.

In partnership with Algonquin College and Labour Market Ottawa, ONFE hosted a workshop for secondary school educational professionals who are responsible for helping students make career choices.

The session focused on labour market trends and their impact on students entering the workforce; the skills, strengths and abilities required to succeed in selected sectors; and information on how to access Labour Market Ottawa tools and resources to advise students about career options.

The evening also gave educators an opportunity to meet with employers and post-secondary educators from the Technology, Health Care, Construction Trades, and Hospitality and Tourism sectors.

Ninety-six educators attended the event. ONFE looks forward to developing further programming in this field next year.

THANK YOU

Thank you to the network of education, corporate, government and community organizations that supported ONFE programs in 2013-2014. Many thanks as well to the individual donors who contributed to the Ottawa Network for Education directly and through United Way contributions.

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