

2015-2016

YEAR IN REVIEW



OTTAWA
NETWORK FOR
EDUCATION

RÉSEAU
D'OTTAWA POUR
L'ÉDUCATION

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MESSAGE TO THE COMMUNITY



We all want our young people to leave high school ready for post-secondary education and fulfilling careers, ready to experience personal success and contribute to the social and economic success of the community.

Yet, preparing students to launch into our globally-connected world – where the pace of technology change continues to accelerate – and where the job market is continually shifting – is challenging. So, ensuring a strong and vibrant education system that responds to the needs of our community is a job for the whole community, not just the education sector.

The Ottawa Network for Education (ONFE) plays a critical role in facilitating discussion about important issues like career readiness, then leveraging resources and developing programs that will meet the needs of our local students.

For the past 31 years, ONFE has been bringing education, business, government and community partners together to help students succeed. ONFE is the only organization in Ottawa that works directly with, and is endorsed by, all four schools boards to deliver programs in more than 80% of schools, providing 110,000 students access to our programs.



ONFE acts as a trusted neutral third party, leveraging community relationships to develop innovative education programs that respond to local needs.

Our success is a direct result of the many committed individuals who make up our network – staff, Board and committee members, over 100 partners and 2300 volunteers. We have enjoyed tremendous support from our funding partners this year, who have invested \$4 million in our organization.



We're very proud of our accomplishments over the past year. We look forward to 2016-17 with anticipation as we prepare to launch a new strategic plan and two exciting new programs. We thank all the members of our network for their enthusiastic support as we work together to "connect the community to support student success."

Rob White
Chair
Ottawa Network for Education

Kathy McKinlay
President & CEO
Ottawa Network for Education

LEARNING SUPPORT & STUDENT WELL-BEING

Ottawa Network for Education strives to remove barriers to learning and provide additional targeted learning support to help students succeed. Through innovative programming, ONFE provides solutions to critical issues like student hunger and inadequate nutrition, early literacy and numeracy deficits, learning disabilities, and substance abuse. We collaborate with community partners to provide students with the additional supports they need to succeed in school and in life.



OTTAWA VOLUNTEERS IN EDUCATION



The Ottawa Volunteers in Education program brings volunteers from the community into classrooms, to help educators ensure the academic success of students. We recruit, screen, and train volunteers to provide much-needed one-to-one support for students with learning challenges. Our volunteers are supporting over 800 Syrian refugees, newcomers, First Nations, Métis and Inuit students, and international students learning English. Volunteers also provide classroom support in a variety of academic subjects, clubs and activities.

need

15% of students in every Ottawa classroom have learning challenges, and are at risk of falling behind their peers in school. Additionally, many refugees and new Canadians start school without pre-literacy skills and/or need support learning English.

impact

1,497 volunteers provided vital support to students with learning challenges and complex needs in **147 local schools**. Together, with teachers, ONFE volunteers help students to build core skills, grasp new concepts, close learning gaps, and develop greater self-confidence.

"I love this program. I feel it is very important to include volunteers in schools to prevent students from falling behind. The one-to-one time spent with a volunteer helps to give everyone an equal chance to succeed in school, no matter their abilities or weaknesses."

~ ONFE Volunteer, 2016





OTTAWAREADS

OttawaReads is an early literacy program that inspires a love of reading in high-needs Kindergarten to Grade 3 classrooms. OttawaReads volunteers from corporate and public sector reading teams spend an hour each week reading aloud to children in a one-to-one setting. This helps to develop essential reading and language skills, and demonstrate that reading is fun.

need

22% of Ottawa students are immigrants or new English language learners. As such, many local children can't or don't have the opportunity to participate in English or French reading at home.

impact

175 ONFE volunteers worked one-to-one with English language learners, including hundreds of Syrian refugees with limited prior schooling; **125 OttawaReads volunteers** spent an hour reading aloud to children in a one-to-one setting to inspire a love of reading in high-needs Kindergarten to Grade 3 classrooms.

"A lot of children in our public schools are from immigrant families; and I was one of them. Growing up, my parents couldn't read to me. So I know how crucial it is to have reading programs like Ottawa Reads in our public schools. Reading is an invaluable skill – and the simplicity of spending an hour reading aloud to students is wonderful. I'm so pleased to be able to share the joy of reading with them."

~ Doris Ramphos,
District Realty reading
team volunteer, 2016



OTTAWA SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM



Every morning, before the school day begins, the Ottawa School Breakfast Program provides students in need with a nutritious breakfast, and the chance to start their day ready to learn and on equal footing with their peers. With support from individual and corporate donors, volunteers, educators, the City of Ottawa, and the Ontario Ministry of Child and Youth Services, we ensure that local children have the energy their growing bodies and developing brains need to succeed in school.

Research verifies that children who eat a healthy breakfast engage more in class and perform better academically. They also have better attendance, and fewer behaviour issues.

need

1 in 5 children in Ottawa live in poverty. This means that thousands of children – through no fault of their own – arrive at school hungry; and that's a serious problem because hungry kids can't learn.

impact

The Ottawa School Breakfast program provides **13,500 students** in 189 schools with a nutritious breakfast every day. That's over 2.5 million meals per year that are absolutely crucial to the health and well-being of our children and youth.



"Many of our students come from single-parent households; many of [the parents] do not have any income, or are working at minimum-wage jobs. The breakfast program is an important part of our ability to support student learning... Students are very appreciative."

~ Ottawa School
Principal, 2016



SUBSTANCE ABUSE SUPPORT PROGRAM

Ottawa Network for Education collaborates with 20 community partners to address the serious issue of substance abuse in the grade 7 to 12 population. Collectively, with funding from the Province of Ontario, the City of Ottawa, the four local school boards and United Way/Centraide Ottawa, ONFE is improving access to substance abuse education, and providing critical school-based counselling to students and parents affected by drug and/or alcohol misuse.

In 2015-16, this substance abuse program expanded to include youth who are attending school in community-based settings. Education and prevention workshops and substance abuse counselling is now offered at Youturn, Operation Come Home, Youville Centre, and St. Mary's Home.

need

85% of adults with addictions started abusing drugs or alcohol before the age of 18; 40% of Ontario students have admitted to using an illicit drug in the last year.

impact

Over **1,400 students** and 200 parents across all 4 school boards received school-based counselling. In addition, 4,096 high school students, 8,215 middle school students, and 3,105 parents participated in substance abuse education and prevention sessions.



"The recommendations from the counsellor certainly made me realize that I should change my current habits and do what's best for me, rather than act on what I'm tempted to do."

~ Student, 2016

CAREER READINESS

Ottawa Network for Education strives to help secondary students make informed career choices and transition successfully to post-secondary studies and fulfilling careers.

Through innovative programming, ONFE provides students with the opportunity to develop financial literacy, entrepreneurial thinking and other work readiness skills.

ONFE also creates opportunities for educators and employers to engage, collaborate and develop work-related learning experiences for secondary students.





JA OTTAWA

JA (Junior Achievement) recruits volunteers from the business community to deliver programs and lead hands-on experiential learning activities for students in grades 5 to 12. JA programs teach entrepreneurship, financial literacy and work readiness skills by giving students real-world tasks like creating a budget, managing personal finances, exploring interests and career pathways, and working with a team to start a small business.

JA Ottawa is known for its innovative approach to program development and delivery. In 2015-16, with support from ONFE, JA Ottawa established JA Company Hubs in community centres to give students better access to the JA Company program, a JA Company Co-op Model for high school students, and a partnership with University of Ottawa's Telfer School of Business.

need

46% of post-secondary students in Canada envision starting a business after graduation; however, few opportunities exist for students to learn entrepreneurship, financial literacy and work readiness skills.

impact

473 volunteers from Ottawa's business community engaged 7,572 students in a JA program. JA Company program involved 283 students who worked together to develop 15 new companies.



"Unlike at school, where you are provided with materials, taught a lesson, and given time to study, JA puts you in situations that make you think and act on your feet. You are tested first, and then you learn from your failures or your successes."

~ Khadeer,
JA Company
participant and
award winner



TechU.me recruits volunteers from the University of Ottawa, Carleton University and local high technology firms to teach coding and app development to high school students. Over the course of a semester, the students, with support from their mentors, develop original apps for use on computers and tablets. Since 2007, TechU.me has removed barriers to learning high-level technology skills like coding, challenged students to use their creativity, critical thinking, collaboration and communication skills to complete team projects, and raised students' interests in continuing STEM-related studies.

need

Today, **70-80%** of the top careers in Canada are related to STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics), yet only 50% of high school students complete senior level math and science courses.

impact

Enrollment in computer science and communication technology courses at participating high schools (where the TechU.me program was delivered) increased by an average of 35% over the past 3 years.

"I'd never thought about going into this kind of career, but now it sounds so interesting. It's important to show girls there are role models in the industry. People who can say, 'I'll show you, I'll teach you, and you can do it yourself.'"

~ Melanie,
grade 11 student





EDUGALA

Each spring, through EduGala, ONFE celebrates the outstanding contribution of Ottawa educators that enhance the lives and academic success of local students, from elementary school through post-secondary education. Since its inception in 2001, EduGala has recognized more than 900 educators, either as finalists or award recipients.

In 2015-16, 500 guests attended EduGala, including 63 award finalists, culled from nearly 300 nominations. As we celebrated the 15th anniversary of this extraordinary event, we honoured 18 award recipients that represented all 10 public education institutions in Ottawa.

Finalists and award winners have described EduGala and the recognition they have received as validating, motivating and inspiring.

"This recognition is not only encouraging for nominees, but also powerful in cultivating a sense of community across the full spectrum of educators in our Ottawa community."


~ Award Recipient,
Krista Ohmayer







ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT A GLANCE

1  Ottawa School Breakfast Program provided more than 2.5 million healthy breakfasts to local students. 3 out of 4 school principals surveyed agreed or strongly agreed that students who participate in their school's Breakfast Program demonstrate an improvement in academic performance.



2 1,400 students across Ottawa's four school boards received critical school-based counselling to address a substance abuse problem.

3



Ottawa Volunteers in Education filled 1,902 volunteer placements in 147 schools; amongst those, 900 trained volunteers worked directly with students needing additional literacy support.



4 JA Ottawa delivered financial literacy, work readiness, and career preparedness programs to 288 classes, at no cost to the schools.

5



1000 students engaged in technology-based activities and challenges through participation in a TechU.me workshop or mentorship program.



6 Five-year funding was secured for a pilot program, Classroom Gardens, that will integrate elementary school curriculum with hands-on experiential learning about plants, nutrition and healthy eating.

7



Support was secured for Employer Connections, a pilot program that will connect educators and employers, boost enrollment in STEM-related courses, share labour market information, and create work-related learning experiences – all to better prepare students for tomorrow's careers.

did you know?

Ottawa Network for Education is the only organization in Ottawa that *partners with all four school boards to deliver innovative programs* in schools across the region. Our staff and volunteers **work side-by-side with teachers to meet the complex needs of our children and youth.**

No other community organization in Ottawa has the same reach and ability to deliver much-needed programs directly to schools, including: supporting health and learning through the School Breakfast Program; recruiting skilled volunteers to help students overcome language differences or learning difficulties; or teaching essential skills to high school students in preparation for post-secondary education or work.

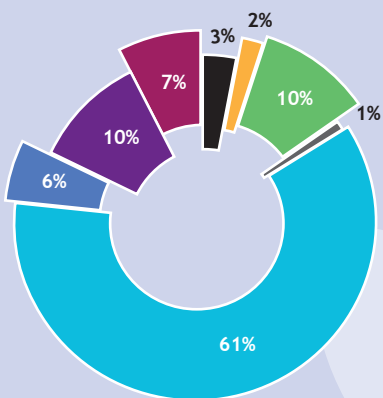
FINANCES AT A GLANCE



In 2015-16, the Ottawa Network for Education invested more than \$4 million in programs that provide targeted learning support, improve student well-being, help secondary students make informed choices and transition successfully to post-secondary studies and fulfilling careers.

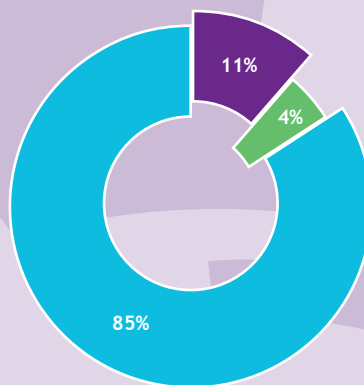
We are grateful for the financial and volunteer support that we receive from hundreds of individuals, local community groups and organizations, granting foundations and corporations. We're equally grateful for the invaluable funding provided by the City of Ottawa and the Province of Ontario. This collective commitment is essential to our financial stability, our capacity to innovate, collaborate and deliver programs that support student success, and our ability to direct 84% of total revenue to these necessary programs.

program expenses



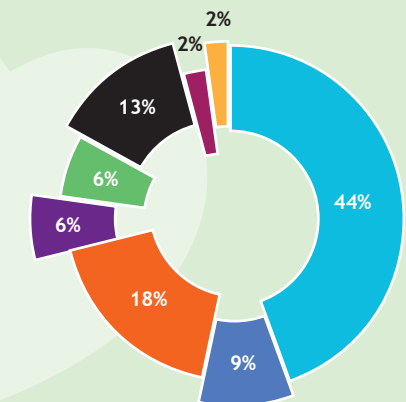
- EduGala and Events
- TechU.me
- JA (Junior Achievement)
- Employer Connections
- School Breakfast Program
- Volunteers in Education
- Substance Abuse Support Program
- Tech Coaches

overall allocation



- Administration
- Fundraising
- Programs

revenue by source



- Foundations and Charities
- Events
- Federal Government
- Provincial Government
- Municipal Government
- Educational Institutions
- Clubs and Associations
- Individuals



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

Thank you to our education, corporate, government and community partners, as well as our generous individual donors, who supported the Ottawa Network for Education in 2015-16. You are making a measurable difference in the lives of K-12 students in our community.

EDUCATION PARTNERS



GOLD SPARKS



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS



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Connecting the community to support
student success.

205-900 Morrison Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K2H 8K7
613.366.3085

www.onfe-rope.ca

