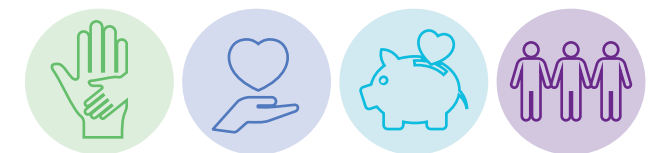


2016-2017

YEAR IN REVIEW

Connecting the community to support
student success.



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

www.onfe-rope.ca



MESSAGE TO THE COMMUNITY

The future of work is daunting. According to the World Economic Forum (WEF), over half of the world's young people will end up in jobs that haven't been created yet. Thirty-five percent of the skills necessary to thrive in a job today will be different five years from now. How can young people prepare? Or more importantly, how do we prepare young people for this journey of uncertainty?

Preparing students to thrive in a globally-connected world is challenging work – too challenging for the education system to tackle alone. Giving students the support they need to leave school ready for post-secondary education and fulfilling careers is clearly a job for the whole community.

Ottawa Network for Education (ONFE) has been bringing education, business, government and community partners together since 1985 to help K-12 students succeed. ONFE acts as the intermediary, leveraging community relationships to develop and deliver innovative education programs that respond to local education-related needs in three areas: Learning, Well-Being, and Career Readiness.

Our success has been the result of committed individuals working at all levels of the organization: our Board of Directors and advisory committee members, 25 talented staff, over 100 program partners, and 2300 volunteers. We thank all the members of our network for their enthusiastic support.

We have also enjoyed tremendous support from our funding partners who invested nearly \$4 million in our organization this year. Their trust in us is a gift that we try to honor every day.



Rob White
Chair
Ottawa Network for Education



Kathy McKinlay
President & CEO
Ottawa Network for Education

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Ottawa-Carleton District School Board

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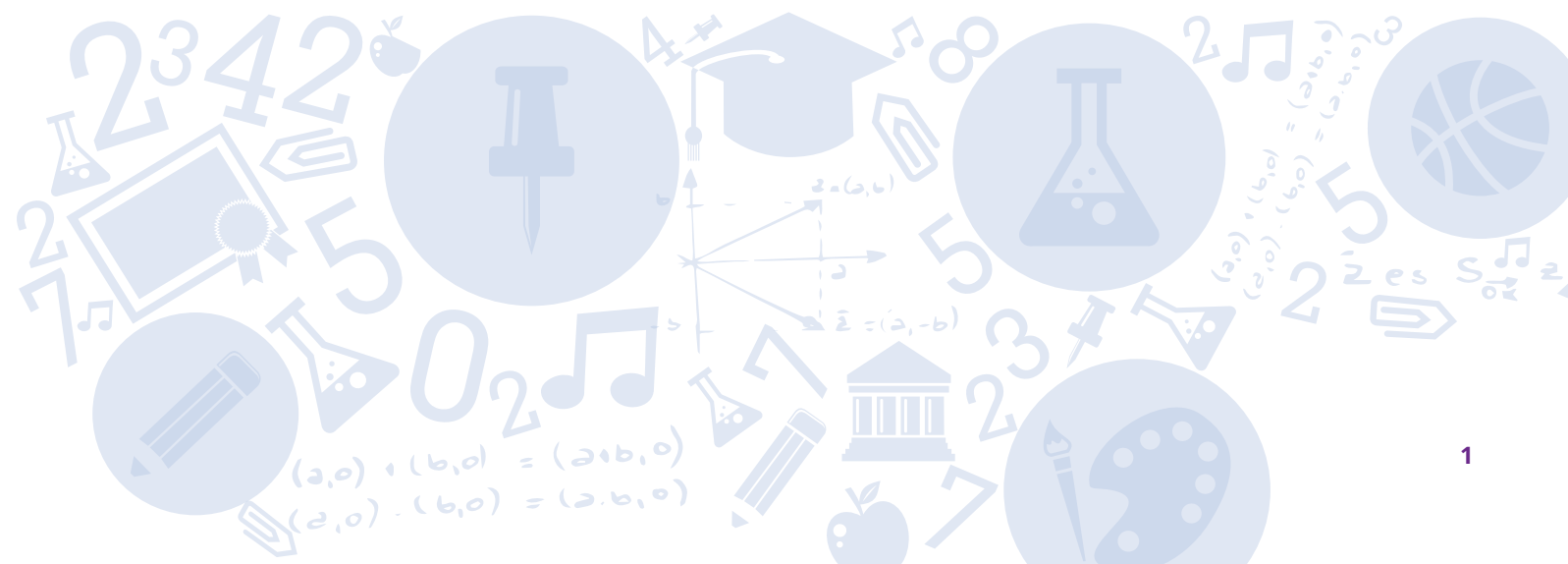
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Rob White (Chair)
Chartered Professional Accountant
Growth Company Advisor





ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT A GLANCE

1



Over 13,500 students in 189 schools started their day ready to learn with a healthy breakfast at school – every day. 88% of school principals surveyed agreed that students who participate in their school's Breakfast Program demonstrate healthier eating habits and increased knowledge of healthy food choices.

2



13,714 students and 3,015 parents across Ottawa's four school boards received support to address a substance abuse problem. 100% of students were served without being waitlisted.

3



400 students learned to plant, tend and harvest their own vegetables in classrooms gardens.

4



1,500 volunteers filled 2,165 volunteer positions in 152 schools. 80% of volunteers and teachers reported improvements in their students' literacy, numeracy, language, self-esteem, confidence and social skills.

5



7,403 students participated in financial literacy, work readiness, and career preparedness programs delivered by JA Ottawa at no cost to the schools.

6



965 students, 78 educators, and 50 employers participated in Employer Connections, a pilot program that connects educators and employers for a variety of 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 organization in Ottawa has the same reach and ability to deliver much-needed programs directly to schools; over 80% of public schools in Ottawa have one or more ONFE programs on site.

LEARNING SUPPORT & STUDENT WELL-BEING

Ottawa Network for Education removes barriers to learning and provides 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 or challenges, and drug and alcohol addiction. 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

"Having a volunteer allows me to encourage more small-group interactions and play. In my Language Learning Disabilities class this would not be possible without other adults in the room, as the social skills and turn taking manners are still being developed. It allows my students to have fun, explore, and learn with the help of another."

~ Ottawa School Teacher, 2017

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

1,500 volunteers provided vital support to students with learning challenges and complex needs in 152 local schools. Together, with teachers, ONFE volunteers help students to build core skills, grasp new concepts, close learning gaps, and develop greater self-confidence.

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 and provide classroom support in a variety of academic subjects, clubs and activities. Due to the large number of English Language Learners (ELLs) in our schools, volunteers are supporting over 800 Syrian refugees, newcomers, First Nations, Métis and Inuit students, and international students learning English. In the 2016-2017 school year, 324 volunteers supported ELLs in English Language Development, English Second Language designated, and regular classrooms.



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.

"We have several volunteers who come in to read to our students every week. Our children love the opportunity to choose any book from the classroom library, and have someone read it and discuss the book with them in a quiet space where they are free to ask questions, make comments, and discuss their thoughts without having to wait their turn or follow a lesson focus. It is an amazing experience for children who don't necessarily have this opportunity at home."

~ Ottawa School Teacher, 2017



need

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

impact

This year marked the 14th year for OttawaReads.

233 volunteers, including 153 corporate volunteers from 15 local organizations, spent an hour every week reading aloud to children in 49 schools.



OTTAWA SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Every day, the Ottawa School Breakfast Program provides thousands of students in need with a healthy meal, so they can start their day ready to learn and on equal footing with their peers. This is a critical component of achieving success in school, and our support for students doesn't end after the morning bell. Over the course of the day, we care for the nutritional needs of 13,500 Ottawa students in 189 schools by offering breakfast, healthy snacks and emergency lunches as needed. That's over 2.5 million meals per year that are absolutely crucial to the health and well-being of our children and youth.

We rely on the support of volunteers, educators, the City of Ottawa, the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services, as well as many individual and corporate donors. Together, we ensure that local children have the energy their growing bodies and developing brains need to succeed in school.

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. That's a serious problem, because hungry kids can't learn. As food costs and food insecurity rates soar, demand for the breakfast program also grows. In the past 4 years alone, 30 schools and 1,000 participants were added to the program.

impact

Research shows that **children who eat a nutritious meal are more engaged** in daily learning and perform better in school. They also have better attendance, and fewer behavioural issues. Over three-quarters of school principals in Ottawa say that students who participate in student nutrition programs have improved academic performance.

"Students come to school knowing there will be food available here when there is no food at home... one less thing for them to worry about. It is difficult to self-regulate and learn when you are hungry."

~ Ottawa School Principal, 2017



CLASSROOM GARDENS

Kids learn best when they can see, feel, touch and fully experience the subject matter they are studying. That being true, can you think of a better way to teach children about plants and nutrition, and to support healthy eating, than to grow vegetables in the classroom?

Classroom Gardens is a pilot project that is bringing indoor gardening into grade 3 and 5 classrooms across all four Ottawa school boards. Throughout the school year, and even through the cold winter months, these students are growing plants from seed, and learning in a hands-on way about plant life-cycles, nutrition, and entrepreneurship. Most importantly, students will have the opportunity to eat the food they've grown, which is a proven way to get kids excited about eating healthy, fresh vegetables.



need

Food insecurity is a mounting issue in Ottawa, with direct links to household income, poverty, and unhealthy food choices. It has the potential to affect the learning, health, development and well-being of our children and youth. Locally, 1 in 5 children live in poverty, which puts them at risk of consuming fewer essential micronutrients each day (especially dairy, fruit and vegetables which cost more), and gaining an unhealthy amount of weight.

impact

Classroom Gardens engages local teachers and students in creating and tending to indoor gardens. Targeted lesson plans connect hands-on gardening activities with curriculum goals in a variety of subjects. **Students gain a better understanding of plants, food supply and demand, nutrition and healthy eating, and food-related careers.**

"Billy likes salad and now eats it every day. He is planting a garden at home with his parents this summer."

~ Ottawa School Teacher, 2017



SUBSTANCE ABUSE SUPPORT PROGRAM

Ottawa Network for Education collaborates with 22 community partners to address the serious issue of substance abuse for students in grades 7 to 12. 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 addiction. Education and prevention workshops and substance abuse counselling are also offered at Operation Come Home, Youville Centre, Wabano Aboriginal Health Centre, as well as residential treatment at two centres – one in each official language.

need

85% of adults with addiction started abusing drugs or alcohol before the age of 18 and 40% of Ontario students have admitted to using an illicit drug during 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, 8,218 middle school students, and 3,015 parents participated in substance abuse education and prevention sessions.

"The meetings with the counsellor allowed me to talk with someone outside of family and friends, and to better understand my problems."

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 (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 has been recognized for its innovative approach to program development and delivery. In 2016-17, JA Ottawa received an IPN Global Best Award for its innovative partnership with secondary school teachers and its in-class JA Company Program. The Grade 8 financial literacy program was able to reach 100 students in an additional 9 non-mainstream schools across the city.

"Students often reference the lessons you taught them and apply them elsewhere. Many kids go home and make budgets based on their allowances. When doing a fundraiser in class, students asked how they could give if they didn't put it in their budgets, then followed an amazing student-led discussion about how budgets adjust as we grow and change, and sometimes we have to sacrifice from one area to give to another."

~ Ottawa School Teacher, 2017

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

525 volunteers from Ottawa's business community engaged 7,403 students in a JA program. Through JA Company program 425 students worked together to develop 20 new companies.



Employer Connections, a pilot program, brings high school teachers and employer volunteers together to co-develop and deliver learning projects that demonstrate how classroom subjects, such as science and technology, can be applied to innovate and solve problems in the workplace. Career exploration events provide students with the opportunity to talk to professionals in a variety of job sectors.

need

Many Canadian youth find themselves unemployed for long periods of time or under-employed in jobs that do not match their qualifications. Research has shown that 70% of the top jobs in Canada require a STEM-related education, yet less than 50% of high school students complete senior level math and science courses. Today's high school students need to understand the job market and develop skills for tomorrow's careers.

impact

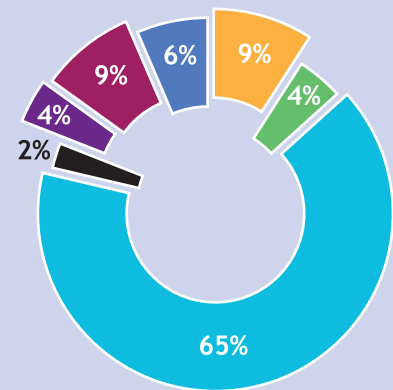
In its first year, the Employer Connections program connected school to the world of work for **1,000 high school students** in Ottawa through innovative projects developed by teachers and industry experts, workplace visits, problem-solving activities, and roundtable discussions with employers. Employer Connections is helping students make informed education and career choices.





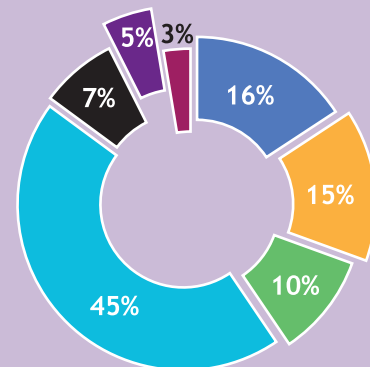
FINANCES AT A GLANCE

program expenses



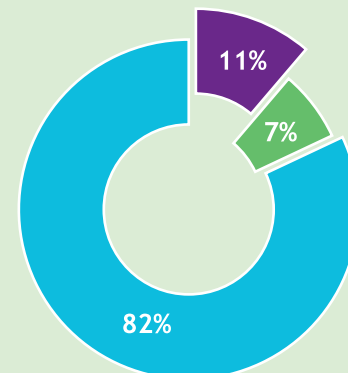
- JA (Junior Achievement)
- Employer Connections
- School Breakfast Program
- Classroom Gardens
- Volunteers in Education
- Substance Abuse Support Program
- Tech Coaches

revenue by source



- Educational Institutions
- Foundations and Charities
- Municipal Government
- Provincial Government
- Individuals
- Organizations
- Third Party Events

overall allocation



- Administration
- Fundraising
- Programs

In 2016-17 the Ottawa Network for Education invested nearly \$4 million in programs that provide targeted learning support, improve student well-being and help secondary students make informed choices and transition successfully to post-secondary studies and fulfilling careers.

We are grateful for the financial and voluntary 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. Their collective commitment is essential to our financial stability, our capacity to innovate, collaborate, and prepare students to thrive in a globally connected world.





JOIN OUR NETWORK



Become an annual or monthly donor

The Ottawa Network for Education (ONFE) helps students to succeed by tackling issues that create barriers to learning and have a negative impact on student well-being. Your donation will fund programs that remove barriers like hunger, inadequate nutrition, skill deficits, and substance abuse and support students' learning, skill development, and career preparation.

Partner with us

▷ **Align your business with ONFE and give local students the chance to soar**

ONFE is the only organization in Ottawa that partners with all four school boards to develop and deliver much-needed programs directly to schools. We collaborate with community partners, and work side-by-side with educators in all four Ottawa school boards to meet the learning needs and career readiness needs of local students.

▷ **Sponsor a Program or Event**

Our signature events and programs provide sponsors with business-to-business networking, visibility and recognition. There are many options to consider at a variety of price points.

▷ **Make a Corporate Donation**

Companies that value education and youth, and want to invest in the communities where their employees work and live, often choose the Ottawa Network for Education because they know their contribution will enhance public education and support student success right here, at home.

▷ **Create an Employee Giving Campaign**

Workplace giving provides your company and employees with the opportunity to rally around a common cause working together to organize events, collect pledges, and raise important funds that will benefit their local schools and community. It's also a simple way to increase corporate visibility and customer loyalty.

▷ **Support Us at your Next Event**

Turn your next corporate event into a fundraiser by directing the proceeds of your golf tournament, staff barbecue or holiday gathering to the Ottawa Network for Education. Let your creativity be your guide – or contact us for more ideas.



Volunteer with us

Working with children and youth is deeply rewarding, and we have many ways for you to get involved! Every year, thousands of community retirees, students and working professionals give their time to facilitate ONFE programs in classrooms across Ottawa. Our volunteers mentor, instruct, tutor, read aloud, serve breakfast, play music and more. They are central to our mission to support student success.



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

Our partners play a pivotal role in enhancing public education in Ottawa. They volunteer. They donate. They work side-by-side with our staff and educators in all four school boards to ensure that students develop the skills, experience and knowledge they need to succeed.

Education Partners



Gold Sparks



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

Silver Sparks



Bronze Sparks

2 Keys Corporation
Advocis
Algonquin College
Assumption Catholic School
Atlantic University Pub Night
Avison Young
Barrhaven Lions Bingo
Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation
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Capital Benefit Financial
CitiFinancial
Duffey Financial Services
Dynamic Funds
Economic Development & Innovation
Economical Insurance
Elizabeth Park Protestant Congregation
FMAV
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Hay Design Incorporated
Hendry Warren LLP
Hobin Architecture
IKEA Canada
Invest Ottawa
Kanata North BIA

La Cité
Mitel Corporation
New Edinburgh Cricket Club
Ottawa Sport and Social Club
Peak Centre Academy Ltd.
Pricewaterhouse Coopers Canada Foundation
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Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 638 Bingo
Sega Electric Inc.
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Sprott Business Students' Society
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The Institute of Engineering and
Technology Ottawa Network
The King Eddy
Toronto Convention & Visitors Association
Trevella Stables
Variety of Ottawa
Walmart Canada
West Ottawa Board of Trade
Wired Synergy
Zak's Diner