



OTTAWA
NETWORK FOR
EDUCATION

RÉSEAU
D'OTTAWA POUR
L'ÉDUCATION

LONG-TERM STRATEGIC DIRECTION

BRINGING OUR PURPOSE TO LIFE IN A WAY THAT'S RELEVANT TO OUR TIMES



At the Ottawa Network for Education (ONFE), we believe that every child should finish school prepared to take on the world. For 35 years, ONFE has been harnessing the resources of our incredible community to equip local children and youth with the nutrition, tools, knowledge, and skills they'll need to thrive in post-secondary studies, and to build fulfilling careers. We fuel kids and ignite learning, making sure all children in Ottawa have an equal start every day.

In 2019-2020, ONFE engaged in strategic planning with a strategy mapping structure to set the direction and intent of the organization, and to improve and innovate over the next three years. Timing is everything. As we came off this work in January 2020, we were already in an environment maneuvering ONFE programs around unprecedented roving union strikes across all four public school boards. By March 2020, we were thrust into rapid response with an extended school closure due to COVID-19.

For two years, we have been adapting to an unprecedented speed and scale of digitization of education and business operations; changing competition; outcomes-driven funding; and evolving donor, partner, student and employee expectations. As we adapt, we too must also look to the future, anticipating what lies on the horizon and how we can greet new challenges with our innovative, adaptable and entrepreneurial learning mindset.

To support this, in 2021 ONFE engaged in vivid visioning exercises to build long term strategic goals and priorities to guide our work. This important foundation builds on the tremendous success of recent years and focuses the organization and our journey on a clear and ambitious path forward.

OUR STRATEGIC POSITION



The Ottawa Network for Education (ONFE) is a charitable organization that collaborates with partners from education, business, government, and the community to develop enriching programs for K-12 students. Working with the four public school boards in Ottawa, ONFE supports children and youth in English and French.



Mission

To inspire and support every child's learning journey in reaching their full potential by connecting community resources to help K-12 students succeed.



Value Proposition

No other community organization has the reach and ability to deliver much-needed programs to fuel and ignite kids where they are learning. We have a proven record of accomplishment fostering a culture of inclusion and wellbeing, learning and innovating, flexibility and fun. Our operation is highly effective, and incredibly resourceful. With a hybrid work environment, our team creates experiences that reach everyone in Ottawa.

OUR VISION STORY

The Ottawa Network for Education (ONFE) is in a unique and privileged position. We inspire and support every child's learning journey to reach their full potential by empowering them to finish school prepared to take on the world. As a result, ONFE builds future leaders.

We understand that students are the real heroes. We design and deliver programs that exceed expectations by meeting students where they are both physically and in their learning journey. We create intentional social environments that give students the opportunity to succeed today and prepare for tomorrow. Our modernized programs are responsive to needs as they unfold.

Ensuring food security for all is an integrated and natural school experience for students; we lead the way in teaching food, financial and technology literacy,

and create experiential and entrepreneurial learning opportunities, all with inclusive and specialized volunteer support.

Programs powered by ONFE have influential partners because we excel at working side-by-side with educators, government, local businesses, and community leaders to meet the learning needs of every student. ONFE is a recognized and respected partner of choice, uniquely positioned to connect our broad network of sector partners to inspire children and youth.

Our programs are accessible and inclusive, and our delivery models include customized blended synchronous and asynchronous modes of learning that reach students where they are; in-class, at-home or in the community.

ONFE is a trusted and respected charity. Our philanthropic expertise offers a personalized approach and experience. With our diverse suite of programs, we partner with donors and funders who want to help ensure student success. Our goal is to learn about you and your priorities and through the magnitude of our work have an impact on our future leaders.

If you are an individual or organization interested in fostering the growth and development of children and youth, we have a program you can support and/or a volunteer opportunity for you.

Every experience with ONFE will be impactful and highlight our collective passion and commitment to fuel kids and ignite learning. Our future workforce needs us now more than ever.

OUR FRAMEWORK

ONFE Pillars



We strive to remove barriers to learning by matching trained volunteers with teachers and students that need extra help.



We strive to identify and provide solutions to serious problems that affect wellness and academic achievement, including student hunger, inadequate nutrition and problematic substance and technology use.



We strive to help secondary students make informed career choices and transition successfully to post-secondary studies and fulfilling careers.



ONFE Programs

Ottawa Volunteers in Education
OttawaReads
Assistive Technology Support

School Breakfast Program
Classroom Gardens
step for Youth in Schools and
Community Coalition

JA Ottawa



OUR LONG-TERM STRATEGIC GOALS



1

Build broader community recognition of ONFE and its programs to ensure that we are a well-recognized and a respected choice for partners and volunteers.



2

Achieve sustainable funding at minimum one year in advance of program delivery and increase the percentage of unrestricted funds.



3

Extend partnerships with child & youth organizations across regions, using the ONFE model to scale our impact and provide support to children where they are learning.



4

Expand ONFE's reach such that 100% of Ottawa schools has one or more ONFE programs.

OUR LONG-TERM STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Recognition	Resources	Partnerships	Programs
Growing our relevance (Activate our vision and tell our story)	Building our resources (Generate resources to thrive)	Accelerating our culture of collaboration (Nurture relationships, culture & capacities)	Increasing our impact (Adapt and innovate)
<p>Be the partner of choice for business, education, and policy makers</p> <p>Bolster our position and accelerate our ability to fuel kids and ignite learning</p>	<p>Strengthen our organizational health and sustainability to support our capacity to drive impact</p> <p>Adapt to an unprecedented speed and scale of digitization of education and business operations, changing competition, outcomes-driven funding, and evolving donor, partner, student, and employee expectations</p>	<p>Mobilize an aligned force of educators, partners, volunteers, and alumni</p>	<p>Ensure that programs are relevant and flexible to meet the emerging demands of an ever-changing environment and increasingly technological world</p> <p>Ensure that programs are designed for access and inclusion to attract, welcome and expose a diverse range of students to new types of opportunities and skills</p>



A TIME OF CHANGE, CHALLENGE & OPPORTUNITY

Never has the pace of change in an economy and in a society been as rapid and as transformational as it is today. While in this time of great crisis, inequities have been laid bare and we are watching and engaging with K-12 students profoundly impacted by the pandemic. Anxiety and disengagement, learning and social loss, and the loss of loved ones to COVID-19 are realities.

Challenged by the onset of the pandemic, we suddenly found ourselves in the middle of emergency food security initiatives, and we could no longer deliver our educational programs in the traditional way.

We had to search for solutions while everyone in the world – including our staff and Ottawa’s educators and students – maneuvered to find new ways to live and learn.

ONFE’s nimbleness allowed us – with our exceptional team, programs and partnerships – to remain active in supporting student well-being and success. We have been constant in a complex, everchanging environment, bolstering our position as a modern, highly relevant and resilient organization.



Thank you!



Thank you to everyone who gave their time, talent, and thoughtful contributions to this long-term strategic work. To the Board of Directors, Strategic Planning Subcommittee, Staff, Directors of Education, and Sprott Student Consulting Group, thank you for participating - our plan is stronger for your engagement.



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