

Launching the Virtual Learning Strategy (VLS)

The Call, the Response, and the Results

The VLS is supporting ongoing and future virtual learning needs at all Ontario Indigenous institutes, colleges, and universities.

The VLS investment is:

- ✓ Helping make the next semester better than the last
- ✓ Accelerating the transition from emergency remote teaching to high-quality online learning
- ✓ Preparing the Ontario postsecondary sector for a future of hybrid learning
- ✓ Positioning Ontario as a global leader and innovator in virtual learning

VLS Framework

The Virtual Learning Strategy is built on three key pillars:



Being the future

Providing sector supports to drive a continued co-existence with hybrid learning: Ensuring learners have high-quality education: anytime, from anywhere. This requires quality and innovation, better data, and digital access to enable lifelong learning and fuel Ontario's global competitiveness.



Being a lifelong learner

Enabling learners to meet the needs of the rapidly evolving labour market at any stage of their careers by providing digital supports and infrastructure for new short duration training.



Being a global leader

Strengthening Ontario's leadership domestically and globally, by expanding access for Ontario's institutions to the global marketplace for virtual learning. With this, we aim to position Ontario as a global leader for virtual innovation in teaching and learning, including Ontario educational technology companies.

VLS Milestones

December 2020 to January 2021
The call

eCampusOntario engaged the postsecondary education sector to provide information and co-design elements.



February 3, 2021
The response

860
Applications submitted



March 2021
The results

397
Projects funded
as of September 13, 2021



December 11, 2020

The announcement

The Ontario Minister of Colleges and Universities announced a historic \$50 million investment.

<https://news.ontario.ca/en/backgrounder/59593/a-made-in-ontario-virtual-learning-strategy-for-postsecondary-education>

January 2021

Project teams developed ideas, collaborations, and applications.

100% of Ontario Indigenous Institutes, colleges, and universities were engaged in developing at least 1 VLS application as either a lead institution or a collaborator.

February – Mid March 2021

The review

eCampusOntario utilized a multi-stage, best-in-class, merit review process modeled after the Canadian Foundation for Innovation to evaluate applications.

Peer review

153 Evaluators were recruited from 65 postsecondary and industry organizations across Canada.

2 Evaluators independently reviewed each application.

VLS mandate review



Virtual Learning Advisory Committee (VLAC) reviewed a portfolio of projects to ensure alignment with VLS pillars and elements of equity, collaboration, and impact.

VLS Investments

\$50 million

50%

\$25 Million

Developing digital content, including courses, programs, resources, & micro-credentials.

Highlights



Developing new simulations, serious games, and extended reality (XR) experiences



Transitioning courses online, developing new online courses, programs, & micro-credentials, and developing new online resources



All content developed will be available for use and reuse across Ontario

21%

\$10.5 million

Building digital capacity through targeted supports, wraparound services, & marketing.



Creating an international marketing campaign for the Ontario higher education sector



Connecting institutions with targeted supports through the Central Virtual Learning Platform (CVLP)

10%

\$5 million

Supporting digital delivery of educational technology.



Developing Ontario-made educational technology through institutional-industry collaborations and creating sectoral efficiencies through common processes

10%

\$5 million

Enhancing digital fluency by creating supports & resources for educators and learners.



Supporting the development of digital fluency skills and competencies in educators and learners

5%

\$2.5 million

Indigenous Institute Virtual Learning Grant*



Supporting on-going virtual learning needs & building capacity at Indigenous Institutes

4%
\$2 million

VLS administration



Program management, monitoring of impact, and building capacity for future virtual learning growth



Collaboration is a competitive advantage.

Together we are transforming the sector and positioning the Ontario postsecondary community in the global market.



All Ontario Indigenous Institutes, colleges, and universities are engaged in at least 1 VLS project.



are collaborative and engage at least one Ontario Indigenous Institute, college, university, or industry partner.



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* The Indigenous Institute Virtual Learning Grant is administered directly through the Ministry of Colleges and Universities.

Some of the data presented in this infographic has been rounded and represent approximations. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact vls@ecampusontario.ca.

This report is the first in a series of five Virtual Learning Strategy (VLS) **Focus Reports** that tell data-driven stories about the VLS investment. VLS Focus Reports are accompanied by a series of five **Foresight Reports**. The Foresight Reports expand on the VLS pillar of Being the Future by exploring maturing trends in the Ontario postsecondary sector and situating the VLS in the futures of virtual learning.

2021-22 VLS Reports Outline

● Focus Report ● Foresight Report

