2021 FORESIGHT REPORT Tomorrow's Learners

This report explores:

Tomorrow's Learners

Inspiring intentional actions today to shape future inclusive campus communities that center and celebrate the diverse, intersectional identities of their learners.



Featured Artwork: Formations

"Postsecondary education environments should be like the ocean, fluid and dynamically responsive to diverse communities of students within the system, while bringing waves of structural, positive change." - Mehdia Hassan, Artist of the featured work



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The Virtual Learning Strategy (VLS) is preparing Ontario postsecondary institutions for Hybrid Futures

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

The VLS (link here) is built on three key pillars:





ng a Lifelong Learner Being a Global Leader Being the Future

By applying strategic foresight approaches, the Ontario postsecondary sector can co-create hybrid futures by monitoring maturing trends and identifying future possibilities. This work aligns with the VLS pillar of Being the Future.

What is a Foresight Report?

Foresight reports are tools to support the navigation of uncertain and complex futures. Using strategic foresight (i.e., a research-driven, systematic exploration of possible futures), Foresight Reports help inform present-day decision-making by identifying patterns of change that may have significant lasting impacts for digital-bydesign futures.

How do I use this Foresight Report?

This foresight report is a high-level overview of maturing trends within the postsecondary education sector. We recommend readers to use this report as a map for further exploration. Readers can click on the links provided to learn more about topics of interest. At the end of this report, readers will find a conversation guide to spark futures-facing conversations and explore gradients of possibility.

Why is Strategic Foresight *important* to Ontario postsecondary education?

The COVID-19 pandemic and the shift to emergency remote teaching amplified challenges across the Ontario postsecondary system. Strategic foresight supports institutions in navigating transformation by building awareness of some possible forces of change. Strategic foresight can help address immediate and short-term challenges, while articulating long-term visions for systems level evolution.



Why do we use futures instead of future?

In foresight practice, we refer to the future in plural.

As we cannot predict the future, there is no definite image or vision of it. Thus, the future will always be an infinite range of possible outcomes rather than a single destination.

REPORT OUTLINE



Shaping an Inclusive Hybrid Campus

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Diverse Learner Experiences

Identity wheel Examples of intersectional learner identities & lived experiences



Intentional Initiatives

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Shaping an Inclusive Hybrid Campus

An inclusive hybrid campus community is built upon the perspectives of their diverse learner identities and respective lived experiences.

By embracing an intersectional approach, an inclusive campus community engages in intentional initiatives that take place across all levels of the organization; from the individual level to in the (virtual/in-person) classroom, to across the entire campus.

Centering lived experiences and the intersectional identities of all learners can support intentional initiatives that evolve and grow concurrently with our collective and shared understanding of equity, diversity, decolonization, and inclusion (EDDI).

The visual below represents the relationship between two critical elements and reinforces that shaping an inclusive campus is an iterative and ongoing process.

From inclusion -Designing from inclusion means upholding a participatory approach, ensuring that the people destined to use the systems play a critical role in designing them. 2

SHAPING AN INCLUSIVE HYBRID CAMPUS MEANS...

Designing [1] for inclusion, [2] from inclusion, and [3] sustainable inclusion.



"Futures for all cannot be imagined by a few." - Pupul Bisht, Futurist

3 Sustainable inclusion

Sustainable inclusion requires a futures approach, to identify patterns and drivers of change that create a wide array of implications and possibilities for diverse people and circumstances. Inclusion is essential to enable inclusive desired futures.



ABOUT THE STUDENT ARTIST



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FORMATIONS - MEHDIA HASSAN

Much like the multidirectional waves and currents of the ocean, my intersectional identities are constantly in fluid formation within and beyond academia. *Formations* disrupts traditional modes of knowledge-making in postsecondary education by embracing and carving out important spaces of belonging for students' dynamic intersectional identities. Making space for the multiple, intersecting dimensions of students' identities and embracing their strengths are important to building an inclusive postsecondary learning environment. Postsecondary education environments should be like the ocean, fluid and dynamically responsive to diverse communities of students within the system, while bringing waves of structural, positive change. **MEHDIA HASSAN** is a PhD student in the Department of Social Justice Education at the University of Toronto's Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE). Mehdia holds a MA in Social Justice Studies from Lakehead University and a Hon. BSC in Health Studies and Psychology from the University of Toronto. Mehdia identifies as Afghan Canadian and settler on Tkaronto. Her intersectional identities and diverse lived experiences deeply inform her research, advocacy, and visual artwork within and beyond academia.

Diverse Learner Experiences

Postsecondary institutions in Ontario are experiencing shifts in demographics which will lead to more diverse campus identities and communities.

Identities are complex and personal. By taking an intersectional approach, grounded in the Ontario Human Rights Code (OHRC), we understand that every person has a set of personal characteristics that overlap and interact in a variety of ways. Learners, educators, and staff at postsecondary institutions all have intersectional identities

The first step to building an inclusive hybrid campus community is to understand different identities and how these identities shape an individual's educational, cultural, economic, social, and lived experiences.

In this section, we explore different identities and trends related to the intersectional identities of postsecondary learners.

Adapted from YMCA

EXAMPLES OF INTERSECTIONAL IDENTITIES

An inclusive hybrid campus is one that embraces the best of both in-person and virtual campus life and understands the diverse needs and intersectional identities of learners, educators, and staff. We encourage you to directly engage with learners and actively seek resources from the perspectives of those who identify with each identity, and any identity not covered in this report.

2SLGBTQ+ LEARNERS

Student-led Collective: **Trent Queer Collective** Two-spirt, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer + (2SLGBTQ+) refers to spectrums of intersecting identities related to gender identity, expression, and sexual orientation. 2SLGBTQ+ learners report experiencing vicinization (e.g., threats stalking, physical and sexual assault) and stressors related to physical and psychological safety on campus more freguently than heterosexual and cisgender learners on campus. Mental health concerns are significantly higher among 2SLBTQ+ learners, and listening and incorporating the perspectives of this group of learners is an important step in designing a safe hybrid campus experience.

LEARNERS WITH DISABILITIES

Disabilities include, but are not limited to: physical disabilities; chronic pain; developmental disabilities; and, learning, memory, and communication challenges. Disabilities can range in severity and visibility. There is a growing body of research that demonstrates learners with disabilities face attitudinal, organizational, systemic, architectural, physical, technological, and communication barriers at postsecondary institutions. Persons with disabilities, especially severe disabilities, have lower education rates, and have higher representation in low-skill and low-education jobs. Accessible in person and online wraparound learner supports are critical to supporting learners with disabilities.

Association:

Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario

LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE LEARNERS

Many of Ontario's learners are multilingual, and postsecondary institutions can connect majority-language and minority-language learners to strengthen relationships and foster innovative cross cultural collaborations, both in person and online. Most multilingual learners speak English as an additional language with varying degrees of proficiency and needs. These needs change depending on the learner's previous experiences and require flexibility in the helping methods and tools, as well as respect for their heritage language and culture.

Around 22,000 learners study in French-language postsecondary institutions in Ontario. Many Francophone learners seek a healthy linguistic and cultural balance as the demand for English-language dominates, both in education and work settings.

Student-led initiatives: Franco-Ontarian Students' Association

English Language Learners (ELL)

The label "English as a Second Language, (ESL)" can reduce learners' sense of belonging at their host institution. Learners' full spectrum of identity, intelligence, and lived experiences transcend their English-Language proficiency. We recommend using the term "English Language Learner" to be more inclusive.

FURTHER READING



TESL Ontario

-Secondary Students with Ital Health Disabilities Mental Health Innovation Fund

The Challenges of Student ivers The Chronicle of Higher Education

INTERNATIONAL

the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the experiences of intermational learners due to closed borders, in bureaucratic processe (e.g., granting visas). We do not yet fully understand the effects of the pandemic on international learners, but believe that inclusive hybrid futures could include transnational online learning opportunities

LEARNERS

INTERSECTIONAL IDENTITIES

In this identity wheel we have centered identity around the general protected grounds identified in the Ontario Human Rights Code (OHRC). Each individual has identities related to these protected grounds which can manifest in a variety of ways, suggested by the outer ring of the identity wheel. Please note this is not a comprehensive identity wheel, but a starting point for conversation regarding different identities that impact the lived experiences of individuals.



"Identity should be seen as a nexus of multiple subjective roles, positions, and knowledge(s), along with a combination of students' individual traits, interests, goals, and abilities." - Vander Tavares, 2020

Identities as ever-evolving

This collection of identities and manifestations of identities is nonwhatties latures of the international of the exhastitive. We give space for individuals to see themselves represented at all points of discussion. As we listen to individual lived experiences and learn more, we must make space for continual growth and understanding.

Student-led Collective: **Black Public Health Collective**

BIPOC LEARNERS

Size

BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour) learners face additional barriers related to postecondary education (e.g. overt and covert racism, bias, discrimination, inadequate mental health support, lack of BIPOC representation in faculty, staff, and administration) from admission to post-graduation. Postecondary institutions can best create a thriving hybrid campus experience for BIPOC learners with BIPOC learners.

Indigenous Learners in Ontario face specific challenges resulting from Canada's history of colonialism, residential schools, and ongoing systemic oppression. According to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), Indigenous learners face substantial economic and social barriers to entering and completing postsecondary education. This impacts Indigenous participation in the workforce, and social and economic mobility. Indigenous institutes in contain each education devices and education entering hometopic participation in the workforce. Ontario are building culturally responsive hybrid education systems by centering Indigenous knowledge and wisdom in their adoption of educational technology.

> First Nations-led Institute: Yellowhead Institute



A forward pointing arrow that includes light blue, pink, and white from the transgender flag and black and brown strips to represent people of colour. The progressive pride flag is more inclusive and highlights the intersectionality of gender, sexual orientation, and race.

OTHER LEARNER EXPERIENCES

Socio-economic status First-generation learners Learners as caregivers Mature learners Women and gender minorities and more ...

Student Organizations:

Canadian Alliance of Student Associations Canadian Federation of Students College Student Alliance



Helping First-Generation Students Find Their Way

University Affairs

The VLS is investing in almost 90 Digital Content projects that are developing courses, programs, resources, and simulations that build learner competency and understanding of principles of EDDI and the impacts of inequity.

Learn more here

An intersectional approach to the future of learning University World News

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Intentional Initiatives

Meaningful, equitable, and holistic initiatives across all levels of postsecondary institutions can ensure learners, educators, and staff have a sense of belonging, safety, and inclusion. Initiatives can take place at the individual level, person to person, in the virtual and in-person classroom (i.e., teaching, learning, and assessment), and across the campus. In this section, we focus on initiatives that an individual can take. In the next section, we will focus on campus-wide initiatives.

We recommend that initiatives emphasize learner agency and engage learners as cocreators and partners in the postsecondary education experience. This will ensure that initiatives are truly reflective of intersectional identities represented on campus.

LEARNER AGENCY & INVOLVEMENT

Co-creating the hybrid campus experience with diverse learners can further increase personalization, accessibility, and usability. By using intentional strategies to enable inclusive dialogues and practices, co-creating methods can increase motivation and build a sense of community both in-person and virtually.

LEVELS OF LEARNER INVOLVEMENT

LEARNER ENGAGEMENT	LEARNERS AS CO-CREATORS	LEARNERS AS PARTNERS
:	:	:
A broad range of activities to increase learner interest and motivation, such as surveys and questionnaires.	A meaningful collaboration between learners and teachers, empowering learners to to be more active participants in learning process.	A deep level of learner involvement and agency; a fully collaborative and reciprocal process through which opportunity for contribution is equally provided for all.

TEACHING, LEARNING, & ASSESSMENT

- Ensure learners have access to the supports they need for success (e.g., sign language interpretation, service animals, accessible Learning Management Systems)
- Provide opportunities for accessible & equitable work-integrated learning
- Apply principles of <u>Universal Design for Learning</u> (UDL) and competency-based assessment to ensure accurate and fair assessment of learner progress
- Reflect culturally appropriate values through curriculum reform including Traditional Indigenous Ways of Knowing, teaching, learning, and being
- Set up systems for prompt and effective technology and learning support (e.g., Artificial Intelligence supported chatbots and tutoring)
- Be cognizant of **bias and inequity** in educational technology (EdTech) and develop policies and processes for on-going evaluation of EdTech decisions.
 and more ...
- PERSON TO PERSON
- Use mindful language and ask how individuals would prefer to be identified (e.g., personal pronouns, person-first language, reclaiming labels)
- Create safe spaces through respectful engagement
- Engage in formal & informal peer-support or peermentorship programs

Learners engaging in

mentorship activities

and more ...

CASE STUDY: INDIGENOUS PEER-MENTORSHIP

Nipissing University offers a variety of Indigenous mentorship programs led by the Office of Indigenous Initiatives: Two examples of these programs include: Peer2Peer Indigenous Mentorship program connects learners with upper-year Indigenous learners. The goal is to connect Indigenous learners at Nipissing with one another.

Link here for more information.

Wiidooktaadwin Indigenous Mentorship Initiatives: Wiidooktaadwin is an Anishnaabe word that means "helping one another." Wiidooktaadwin connects Indigenous learners in university with Indigenous youth (ages 13-17) in local secondary schools. Link here for more information.

Establish community

These peer mentorship programs provide current and future learners with an opportunity to build community. Initiatives as ever-evolving The initiatives included in this section are suggestions and not exhaustive. We encourage readers to reflect and connect with their peers and colleagues to identify initiatives that are appropriate an applicable within their own contexts.



The VLS is investing in 14 Digital Fluency projects that are creating professional development resources to support humanizing learning, promote authentic, equitable, and decolonized assessment, and encourage UDL.

INDIVIDUALS

- Practice cultural humility by learning about one's own culture & biases
- Encourage self reflection about own relationship with oppression
- Explore the meaning of **allyship** & take **meaningful action**
- Practice **empathy**, particularly in virtual environment

and more ...

LEARNER PROFILE: COLTER ASSINIWAI SHINGWAUK KINOOMAAGE GAMIG

Colter Assiniwai studied General Arts and Sciences at Sault College and majored in History and minored in English at Algoma University and studied Indigenous and non-Indigenous history and literature. Colter shared how his undergraduate experience helped him become the person he is today. While at school he had interactions with cultural advisors and elders, who helped him discover and understand part of his identity as an urban indigenous person.

Colter now works as a staff member in recruitment at both Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig and Algoma University. His desire to build educational spaces for Indigenous learners to retain and/or rediscover their identity was inspired by Chief Shingwauk's vision. As Colter says:

"... you can learn the skills and trades of the <u>modern world w</u>hile remaining who you are."

Colter shared his dream of a post-secondary education system that encompasses all Indigenous voices, in all areas of education (such as curriculum, hiring, and support services). This dream also includes Institutions that place greater emphasis on "learning about the land you are on and where you are situated, especially for those who wouldn't know." Coltre believes that the future of education nurtures and supports each learner's unique perspective, while prioritizing land-based education.

FURTHER READINGS



Indigenous Ally Toolkit Montreal Urban Aboriginal Community Strategy







How to be an LGBTQI2S Ally Egale Canada Human Rights Trust

"Education is perceived as a shared endeavour where learning and teaching are done with students not to them." - Boyill, 2020, p. 1026

Learn more here

Inclusive Hybrid Campus Communities

An inclusive hybrid campus ensures that awareness, action, and cross-cultural skills are present at all levels, within all systems, and across all individuals. Successful transformation to an inclusive hybrid campus is facilitated by affirming a sense of belonging, community, and identity among community members.

These connections facilitate dialogue and co-creation of an inclusive campus experience. Campus-wide interdisciplinary EDDI initiatives make meaningful and lasting progress to support the EDDI journeys of community members and systemic transformation. Meaning is co-created through reflection, evaluation, and accountability metrics to ensure virtual and in-person brave spaces for all.



1 BRAVE SPACES FOR ALL

Affirming in person and virtual spaces

Campus-wide EDDI committees bring together stakeholders to co-design and implement initiatives to support EDDI journeys of interdisciplinary community members. These committees work to develop brave spaces for community members at all levels to share their experiences and identify opportunities for change. They build EDDI capacity through reflection, literacy, fluency, evaluation, and accountability.

Principles to consider when building brave spaces:

Controversy with civility, where varying experiences are accepted

Owning intentions and impacts, in which learners acknowledge and discuss instances where a dialogue has affected the emotional well-being of another person

Challenge by choice, where learners have an option to step in and out of challenging conversations

Respect, where learners show respect for another's basic humanity

No attacks, where learners agree not to intentionally inflict harm

on one another Adapted from Arao & Clemens, 2013.

CAMPUS-WIDE INITIATIVES

Create safe, brave, affirming virtual & inperson spaces across campus (e.g., Indigenous centers, gender neutral washrooms, nondenominational prayer spaces)

Employ equitable hiring practices to ensure diversity & representation at all levels of campus

- Design intersectional programming rooted in culture & tradition (e.g., Pride week)
- Build flexible, personalized virtual and in-person wraparound supports to meet learner needs throughout their educational journey (e.g., transition services, mental health supports)
- Offer opportunities for learning & support for all community members on their personal EDDI journey
- Develop equitable policies & procedures for both virtual and inperson settings that ensure learner safety (e.g., zero tolerance, name change policy)
- Advocate for resources & funding to reduce disparities & provide support for all campus community members
- and more ...

2 REPRESENTATION ACROSS CAMPUS

Intersectional hiring practices

Leaders can reflect on the intersectionality of the current faculty, and examine how well the faculty demographic represents the learner population. Leaders can identify what perspectives might be missing currently, and what new perspectives could add to the department through equitable hiring practices, where unconscious biases and assumptions do not influence decisions. Rather decisions are made to bolster diverse knowledges, perspectives, and experiences on campus.

> "Our students are best served by faculty and staff who reflect their diversity, and diverse faculty are fundamental to innovation, teaching, scholarship and creative activities." - Ryerson University*, 2021



CASE STUDY: PRIDE MONTH

Pride month at Centennial College aims to celebrate Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, and asexual (25LGBTQOIA+) communities, and all other sexual orientations and genders. In the month of June, Centennial College hosts an array of events that create spaces of dialogue and raising awareness throughout the College. These events work as a part of Centennial's commitment to fostering an inclusive learning, living and working environment.

Centennial float at the Toronto Pride Parade

NNI

Fundraising Centennial College raised \$15,000 for 2SLGBTQQIA+ student bursaries at their Virtual Pride Fundraiser. Building community

Conversations for Social Change invites the Centennial community to engage in critical dialogue around pressing social issues. The purpose of the series is to raise awarenes empower and offer resources / expertise to the community

Link here for more information

From "Safe Space" to Brave Space

Safe spaces were intended to validate all experiences, and ensure the emotional and physical safety of all those present.

Brave spaces build upon safe spaces by emphasizing the strength and courage of expressing one's emotional vulnerability. Brave spaces also increase accountability for learning, action, and justice and affirm lived experiences. Link to learn more.

Mental Health & Wellness

According to the National College Health Assessment (2019), the majority of Canadian postsecondary students have experienced feeling depressed or anxious. The COVID-19 global pandemic increased the incidence and severity of health and wellness issues for postsecondary learners.

As part of Ontario's Roadmap to Wellness the Ontario government is investing to support learner access to high quality mental health supports and services across the Ontario postsecondary sector. Link here to learn more.

Adressing gender-based violence on campus

Ensuring the safety of all is foundational to an inclusive campus. Gender-based violence is defined as the "use and abuse of control over another person and is perpetrated against someone based on their gender expression, gender identity, or perceived gender" (BCFED, 2018). Gender-based violence can take place in all postsecondary school-related settings including on-campus, off-campus, and online. Learn more about Courage to Act, a national initiative to address and prevent gender-based violence at post-secondary institutions in Canada. Learn about the lived experience of a postsecondary learner and survivor.

FURTHER READINGS



ograms & Services: A rative Analysis Indigenous Institutes Consortium



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



Holacracy for Schools Teal School



Students' experiences of unwanted sexualized behaviours and sexual assault at postsecondary schools in the Concellian sections of 2010 an provinces, 2019 Statistics Canada

EXPLORATION OF COMMONLY USED TERMS

Understanding the terminology and nuances of commonly used terms is an important part of engagement. Having a shared vocabulary allows us to communicate effectively about complex concepts in the context of virtual and inperson learning implications.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

This matrix outlines the difference between diversity and inclusion, and why striving for high levels of both are critical to a thriving institution.



EQUALITY, EQUITY, ACCESSIBILITY, AND JUSTICE



Providing each learner with the same level of support, despite their needs and differences.



Fairness, impartiality, even-handedness. A distinct process of recognizing differences within groups of individuals, and using this understanding to achieve substantive equality in all aspects of a person's life. <u>As defined by OMC</u>.



The degree of ease that something (e.g., device, service, physical environment and information) can be accessed, used, and enjoyed by learners with disabilities. The term implies conscious planning, design and/or effort to make sure something is barrier-free. Accessibility also benefits everyone by making things more usable and practical.

Racism

"Preiudice beliefs

against people of

- Olou (2018)

colour that is unheld

by systems of power.



Eliminating the systemic structures that oppress and create challenges to learners in their educational experience, instead incorporating intentional processes within institutions that represent intersectional learner identities so that every learner is fully supported to succeed.

Anti-Racism

Acknowledging that

Actively challenging

and dismantling power dynamics and structures

that sustain these dynamics

systemic racism exists

DECOLONIZATION, INDIGENIZATION, ANTI-RACISM, AND RACISM

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (<u>IRC</u>) and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (<u>MMIWG</u>) emphasize the vital role that education plays in reconciliation, and highlight the importance of indigenizing and decolonizing institutions.

There is a need to re-design a postsecondary education system to reject systemic racism rooted in colonialism and treat Indigenous and settler knowledge systems with equal respects.

To learn more, please visit <u>TRC Final Report</u>, <u>TRC</u> <u>Calls to Action</u>, and <u>MMIWG Final Report</u>.



perpetuate racism. The cultural, psychological, and economic freedom for

Indigenous people.

Including Indigenous perspectives, cultures, law, and values into existing social, economic, political, and postsecondary infrastructures, while moving beyond tokenistic gestures.

Indigenization

Incorporating Indigenous ways of knowing into curriculums and learning experiences.

Restoring and preserving Indigenous cultures and traditions.

CONVERSATION GUIDE

We invite you to select one or more trends from this report and use the questions provided to spark conversations across your institution.

Remember, this report is simply the beginning.

Please use the additional links and reading resources provided to help guide and support your futures-focused journey.

Reach Out to Us!

For additional guidance, questions, or to share your work, please contact research@ecampusontario.ca.

QUESTIONS TO FACILITATE FUTURES THINKING

₩нат	What new opportunities and challenges could arise from this trend? What are the ethical implications of this trend? What resources are needed to implement this trend (e.g., human, financial)?
₩нү	Why are intersectional identities important to our community (including learners)? Why is this trend important to building inclusive hybrid campus communities?
₩но	Who needs to be involved in shaping inclusive campus communities? Who will be impacted (positively and/or negatively) by this trend?
How	How do we enhance capacity to facilitate the implementation of this trend? How does this trend impact equity, decolonization, diversity, and inclusion efforts? How can we build this trend to be sustainable?
Where & When	Where do we go from here (i.e., what are next steps)? When can we take action? When can we explore this trend further?

CO-CREATING WITH LEARNERS & ECAMPUSONTARIO

Student Experience Design (SXD) Lab

Discover more about how eCO engages with learners to co-create the future with SXD Lab.

Tomorrow's Learners

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Tomorrow's Learners is the second in a series of five Foresight Reports that 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.

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