Launching the Second Round of the Virtual Learning Strategy
Expanding the capacity and quality of virtual learning

On November 4, 2021 eCampusOntario released the call for Expressions of Interest (EOIs) for the Second Round of funding in support of the Government of Ontario’s Virtual Learning Strategy (VLS). Through this Second Round of VLS funding, an additional $8 million was made available by eCampusOntario. Originally announced on December 11, 2020, the VLS is a historic investment by the Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities (MCU) to drive growth and advancement in virtual learning across the province’s postsecondary institutions.

The Virtual Learning Strategy is built on three key pillars:

- Being the future
- Being a lifelong learner
- Being a global leader

Building on the successes of the First Round of funding, the Second Round continues to expand the capacity and quality of virtual learning in Ontario’s postsecondary education sector.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Round of VLS funding</th>
<th>Second Round of VLS funding</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>62 projects funded*</td>
<td>389 total projects funded and completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73% of projects are collaborative</td>
<td>70% of projects were collaborative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 projects to create digital content</td>
<td>312 digital content projects completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 projects funded to expand digital capacity</td>
<td>33 projects increased capacity for digital education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 projects funded in collaboration with Ontario EdTech companies</td>
<td>14 projects completed in collaboration with Ontario EdTech companies</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*as of May 26th
430 applications submitted
93% of Ontario publicly funded postsecondary institutions participated

98 evaluators from Ontario postsecondary institutions reviewed applications

2 evaluators independently reviewed each application

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

62 projects funded*
*as of May 26th

80% of Ontario’s public postsecondary institutions involved in a funded project

$5.6 million total funding

Digital Capacity

Targeted Supports
...to assist institutions with low virtual learning capacity through funding to hire additional staff to support the development of virtual learning materials and capacity.

Over $1.7 million

International Marketing
...to further develop and launch international marketing for “Destination Ontario” for postsecondary education.

Over $200,000

Digital Content

Digital Content
...to promote institutions’ achievement of excellence in virtual teaching and learning in support of digital transformation through the continued development, adaptation, adoption and translation of Ontario-made educational materials and micro-credentials for virtual environments.

Over $2.8 million

Digital Content - XR
...to support partnerships between postsecondary institutions and Ontario educational technology companies to create innovative XR learning content. Projects will test technologies and provide support for wider market distribution while producing content for use in Ontario’s postsecondary institutions.

Over $900,000
VLS Second Round Participation

4 Indigenous Institutes
23 Colleges
21 Universities

participating in at least one funded project

By prioritizing collaboration, the VLS:

- promotes sector-wide digital transformation,
- ensures effective, efficient, and strategic use of virtual learning resources,
- encourages use, re-use, and re-mixing of VLS-developed materials,
- increases the reach of impact to all Ontario publicly-funded institutions,
- positions the Ontario postsecondary community as a leader in the global market.

73% of projects are collaborative

30 cross-region funded projects
Cross-region collaborations are those that include two or more institutions from different Ontario regions working together.

14 cross-sector funded projects
Cross-sector collaborations are those that include two or more different types of institutions working together (i.e. Indigenous Institutes, colleges, and/or universities).

13 projects will have outputs available in French
22 projects include the engagement of Indigenous communities, Indigenous Ways of Knowing, Indigenous pedagogies, and/or Traditional Knowledge
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Investment</th>
<th>Highlights</th>
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</table>
| Digital Content                  | $3.8 million | • Digital Content and Digital Content - XR through EOI (page 2)  
• Sector participation in reviews of Educational Technology through EdTech Sandbox |
| Digital Capacity                 | $2.9 million | • Targeted Supports and International Marketing projects through EOI (page 2)  
• Connecting institutions with targeted supports through Ontario Exchange (OEX) |
| Virtual Teaching and Learning    | $950,000   | • Promote adoption of VLS materials  
• Create mentorship opportunities and communities for Digital Transformation  
• Develop resources for professional development across the sector |
| VLS Administration               | $406,000   | • Program management, monitoring of impact, and building capacity for future virtual learning growth |
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 part of a series of Virtual Learning Strategy (VLS) Focus Reports that tell data-driven stories about the VLS investment. VLS Focus Reports are accompanied by a series of 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. Visit the Virtual Learning Strategy website to read the reports collection.

**2021-22 VLS Reports Outline**

**2022-23 VLS Reports Outline**