CCAMPUS Ontario

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.

First Round of VLS funding

Second Round of VLS funding

62 projects funded*

*as of May 26th

73%

of projects are collaborative

40

projects to create digital content 13

projects funded to expand digital capacity 9

projects funded in collaboration with Ontario EdTech companies





389

total projects funded and completed 70%

of projects were collaborative



312

digital content projects completed 33

projects increased capacity for digital education

14

projects completed in collaboration with Ontario EdTech companies

VLS Second Round Response and Results

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 Colleges 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).

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

Highlights





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





