



OCEA e-NEWS@ ~ JANUARY 2026 EDITION

Ontario Cooperative Education Association | Stay Connected | oceacon.ca

Facilitating and Supporting the Exchange of Ideas Among Experiential Learning Professionals



Pathways to Success



Celebrating 50 Years of
Cooperative Education in
Ontario: 1976 - 2026

2026 OCEA Spring Conference

Celebrating 50 Years of Cooperative Education in Ontario: 1976-2026!

Sheraton Parkway Toronto North Hotel
600 Highway 7, Richmond Hill, ON L4B 1B2
April 26th, 27th, and 28th, 2026

[Call for Workshop Presentations](#) - Due date: February 26, 2026

[2026 OCEA Spring Conference Fees/Rates for Attendees](#)

[Conference and Symposium Funding \(How do I get funding?\)](#)



Room Reservation Links (attendees are responsible for their own room reservations): Hotel(s) offering special rate:

[Best Western Parkway Toronto North Hotel & Suites](#) for \$149 CAD per night

Room Rates Start on: Sunday, April 25, 2026

Room Rates End on: Tuesday, April 28, 2026

Last Day to Book: Deadline: Friday, April 3, 2026

[Sheraton Parkway Toronto North Hotel & Suites](#) for \$175 CAD per night

Room Rates Start on: Friday, April 24, 2026

Room Rates End on: Tuesday, April 28, 2026

Last Day to Book: Deadline: Friday, April 3, 2026

[Exhibitor Information and Application](#) - Due date: March 26, 2026

[Sponsor Information and Application](#) - Due date: March 26, 2026

Keep checking our website for further details! <https://oceacon.ca/events/spring-conference/>

[CAPTURING THE STUDENT VOICE@:](#)

Do you have a student who would like to share their success at a placement? We are always looking for stories in the following areas: Dual Credits and Co-op; Successful OYAP / Co-op; Successful SHSM / Co-op; Successful Special Ed. Co-op (non-earning credits); Successful Co-op.

[OCEA e-NEWS@ CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:](#)

The Association invites innovative ideas, original stories and relevant publications on a variety of topics related to Cooperative Education and other forms of Experiential Learning from teachers in Ontario and the rest of Canada, in English and French. Let's inspire our colleagues by sharing our successes and innovative work!



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2026 OCEA PROFESSIONAL AWARDS—[CALL FOR NOMINATIONS](#)

Nominations will be accepted until March 27, 2026

"OPEN TO CURRENT OCEA MEMBERS ONLY"

Each year, OCEA members recognize colleagues who have made outstanding contributions to Cooperative Education and other forms of Experiential Learning.

NOW IS YOUR TIME TO NOMINATE THESE INDIVIDUALS!

There are two awards that may be presented annually, and they are presented in the context of the annual OCEA Spring Conference. Those two awards are:

1. The George King Award of Excellence (teacher award)

THE GEORGE KING AWARD OF EXCELLENCE IS THE HIGHEST, MOST PRESTIGIOUS AWARD THAT OCEA CAN BESTOW TO ITS MEMBERS.

This award may be presented annually to a teacher and board level educator who has distinguished themselves by making an ongoing and outstanding LOCAL, REGIONAL, and PROVINCIAL contribution to Cooperative Education and / or other forms of Experiential Learning for a minimum of five years in the Province of Ontario.

The growth and development of the Ontario Cooperative Education Association (OCEA) is the result of teachers and board level educators who have worked diligently and have contributed their talents and energies to promote Cooperative Education and all other forms of Experiential Learning in the Province of Ontario.

To recognize and acknowledge these teachers and board level educators' exceptional contributions, OCEA has made it an annual tradition to present The George King Award of Excellence to one deserving teacher and / or board level educator during the annual OCEA Spring Conference.

2. The S.J. (Jack) Ulan Professional Contribution Award (teacher award)

The "S. J. "Jack" Ulan Professional Contribution Award" may be presented annually to a teacher or board level educator who has distinguished themselves by making an ongoing and outstanding LOCAL, REGIONAL, and PROVINCIAL contribution to Cooperative Education and / or other forms of Experiential Learning for a minimum of three years in the Province of Ontario.

The growth and development of the Ontario Cooperative Education Association (OCEA) is the result of teachers and board level educators who have contributed their talents and energies to promote Cooperative Education and all other forms of Experiential Learning in the Province of Ontario.

To recognize and acknowledge these teachers and / or board level educators' exceptional contributions, OCEA has made it an annual tradition to present The "S. J. "Jack" Ulan Professional Contribution Award" to deserving teachers and / or board level educators during the annual OCEA Spring Conference.

OCEA Mission Statement

"Facilitating and Supporting the Exchange of Ideas Among Experiential Learning Professionals"

The Ontario Cooperative Education Association (OCEA) is a not-for-profit professional organization of Ontario Cooperative Education and Experiential Learning Professionals. It strives to provide the leadership and vision needed for optimal professional development of its members. The Association also develops and facilitates access to information, resources and other supports relevant to OCEA members and other Experiential Learning Professionals in the province of Ontario, while supporting excellence in the education of all students in Ontario.



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2026 OCEA ELECTIONS: [CALL FOR NOMINATIONS](#)

The final date to submit nominations for the 2026 OCEA Elections is April 19, 2026

CALLING ALL “STATUTORY” OCEA MEMBERS!

Do you have a passion for Cooperative Education? Do you like to stay connected with the latest news in Cooperative Education? Are you a team player? Would you like to expand your leadership, professional development, and networking opportunities? If you answered yes to those questions, then we are looking for you to join our team!

OCEA is currently seeking nominations for the Board of Directors and Provincial Representatives. The positions listed on the nomination form are to be filled by Election at OCEA’s 2026 Annual Business Meeting (ABM) being held on April 26, 2026, during the 2026 OCEA Spring Conference in Richmond Hill, Ontario.

Bylaws:

4.1 Only STATUTORY MEMBERS in good standing with the Ontario College of Teachers holding a minimum of AQ Part I in Cooperative Education shall have the right to run for and hold office as a member of the OCEA Leadership Team.

5.4.3 Elected positions that do not receive any on-time nominations shall be re-posted in writing to the membership, and nominations shall remain open for the seven (7) calendar days leading up to the ABM.

5.4.3.1 The Elections Committee Chairperson shall declare nominations for re-posted positions closed at the opening of the morning of the ABM.

5.4.3.1.1 In the event that only one (1) nomination is received for a re-posted position at the close of nominations in accordance with Bylaw 5.4.3.1, the Elections Committee shall declare the sole nominee acclaimed to the position.

5.4.3.1.2 Nominations from the floor of the ABM shall only be accepted for positions where still no nominations have been received after the close of nominations for re-posted positions in accordance with Bylaw 5.4.3.1.

5.4.3.1.3 The Elections Committee Chairperson shall cause the names of all the nominees, including on-time, re-posted, and from-the-floor nominees, to be published electronically, by the end of the day that the ABM is held.

5.5 The chairperson of the Elections Committee shall cause the list of on-time nominees to be published electronically three (3) days prior to the ABM.

The [OCEA STUDENT CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT](#) for COOPERATIVE EDUCATION and / or EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING are available on-line ONLY in the **RESOURCES+ Members’ Only** section.

The certificates are provided in an interactive PDF format. OCEA members can download the PDF file from the Members’ Only Resource section, insert the student’s name, add the date and print to present to their student. OCEA members are instructed to print (2) two copies per school year.

Please note, however, that THESE STUDENT CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT ARE NOT AWARDS and should not be represented as such to post-secondary school officials, students, parents and/or placement supervisors. Rather, the Student Certificates allow you, the educator, to acknowledge exemplary student success in their secondary school Cooperative Education and/or Experiential Learning program in a formal manner.