



OCEA e-NEWS@ ~ OCTOBER 2025 EDITION

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Facilitating and Supporting the Exchange of Ideas Among Experiential Learning Professionals

OCEA Chair's Message 2025-2026

As the 2025-26 Chair of the Ontario Cooperative Education Association (OCEA), I am pleased to extend a warm welcome as we begin a new school year and celebrate a significant milestone—OCEA's 50th year of excellence and support in Cooperative Education, OYAP, SHSM and all other forms of Experiential Learning! And it all began with three dedicated teachers / volunteers: Tom Douglas, Jack Ulan and Ted Knott who are considered the founding members of the Ontario Cooperative Education Association (OCEA)! These three individuals brought Cooperative Education to Canada – specifically, Ontario.



As we look ahead, we honour the legacy of those who have paved the way, while continuing to build on our shared vision of creating powerful learning experiences for all students. On behalf of OCEA, thank you for the vital role you play in shaping students' futures through Cooperative Education, OYAP, SHSM and all other forms of Experiential Learning.

For five decades, OCEA has been committed to advancing Cooperative Education, OYAP, SHSM and all other forms of Experiential Learning, strengthening partnerships, and supporting educators in providing meaningful opportunities that help students explore career pathways while building future success. This milestone would not have been possible without the dedication, innovation, and professionalism of Cooperative Education, OYAP, SHSM and all other forms of Experiential Learning teachers / educators like you!

As we celebrate this important year, I encourage you to renew or apply for your OCEA membership. Please Note: Check with your school board lead to see if they've purchased the current OCEA School Board Subscription (SBS) for this current year – the SBS provides for teachers to obtain an OCEA membership at no cost to the teacher.

Membership in this vital, subject-based, volunteer association is essential in contributing to your professional development, ensuring access to valuable resources, and building a strong network of colleagues who share the same passion for student success in Cooperative Education, OYAP, SHSM and all other forms of Experiential Learning!

[Continue reading on website...](#)

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.



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



2026 OCEA SPRING CONFERENCE

Sheraton and Best Western Parkway Toronto North Hotel

600 Highway 7, Richmond Hill, ON L4B 1B2

April 26th, 27th and 28th, 2026

OCEA's 50th Anniversary!



Save the Date for the 2026 OCEA Spring Conference!

- ◇ *Where inspiration meets innovation in Co-op, OYAP, SHSM and all other forms of Experiential Learning!*
- ◇ *OCEA's 50th Anniversary!*
- ◇ *50 years of Cooperative Education in Ontario and it all began with the Ontario Cooperative Education Association: 1976 ~ 2026!*

More details to follow in the coming months, on registration, keynote speakers, and enriching workshops that will elevate your professional growth!



Date: April 26th, 27th, 28th, 2026



Location: Sheraton and Best Western Parkway Toronto North Hotel in Richmond Hill.

Join us for this in-person gathering where educators, administrators, and industry leaders converge to share best practices, explore emerging trends, and collaborate on the future of Cooperative Education, OYAP, SHSM and all other forms of Experiential Learning!

#OCEASpringConference #CooperativeEducation #OYAP #SHSM #ExperientialLearning #ProfessionalDevelopment #Co-op #OCEA50th

OCEA PROFESSIONAL AWARDS 2026

Nominations will be accepted until March 27, 2026

"OPEN TO MEMBERS OF OCEA 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!

THE AWARDS WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE 2026 OCEA SPRING CONFERENCE.

There are (2) two awards that may be presented annually, and they are presented in the context of the annual OCEA Spring Conference. Those (2) awards are:

1. [The George King Award of Excellence](#) (teacher award)
2. [The S.J. \(Jack\) Ulan Professional Contribution Award](#) (teacher award)

PLEASE NOTE: AS THE CRITERION IS UNIQUE FOR EACH OF THESE TWO AWARDS, OCEA MEMBERS SHOULD REVIEW EACH OCEA AWARD DESCRIPTION VERY CAREFULLY.



AROUND THE PROVINCE...



The Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development

[National Skilled Trade and Technology Week 2025 is November 2-8!](#)

The goal of this week-long event is to promote and explore the many career opportunities in skilled trades and technology in Canada. [Level Up!](#) is a series of dynamic, multi-day career fairs highlighting the 144 skilled trades in Ontario. This fall, students in Grades 7 to 12, parents and jobseekers have been learning about the trades through interactive exhibitions and hands-on activities – hearing directly about what their careers are like from tradespeople and local employers.

[Find a career fair](#) | [Learn about the skilled trades](#)

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development

[Youth Video Contest: Safety in the Workplace](#)

Ontario's annual Youth Video Contest is back! Students aged 13 to 19 are invited to submit short videos promoting workplace safety. Winners will advance to the national competition hosted by the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety.

[Contest details](#)

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development

[Take Our Kids to Work](#)

On November 5, people across Canada will bring their children in Grade 9 into work with them. While this day is about exploring career options, it's also never too early to start teaching our emerging young workers about their rights to safety and fair treatment at work. If you have a Grade 9 student in your life, these resources may help.

[Practice Safe Work](#) | [Employment standards rights](#)

[myBlueprint: Take our Kids to Work Day Activity Package & Slideshow](#)

To support Grade 9 students with Take Our Kids to Work Day, the most recognized career exploration event in Canada launched by The Students Commission of Canada (<https://www.studentscommission.ca/resources/projects/tokw/>), this resource is designed to support educators with creating Custom Class Activities in myBlueprint Education Planner to document this experiential learning opportunity. Plus, we've added a brand-new student-friendly slideshow resource to further support you!

[Students Commission of Canada: Take Our Kids to Work \(TOKW\) Resources Hub](#)

Led by the Students Commission of Canada and made possible thanks to support from RBC, this year's theme—**Lift Up the Future**—celebrates the power of supporting young people to uncover their potential, strengthen our communities, and lift up the future for all.

Here, you'll find a comprehensive collection of guides, activities, and tools designed to make your TOKW experience as meaningful as possible. Whether you're a student, educator, parent, or workplace, these resources will help you prepare, participate, and reflect on this exciting career exploration journey.

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.