



Ontario Cooperative Education Association *Association de l'éducation coopérative de l'Ontario*



ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING 2020 OCEA BOARD REPORTS

Barbara Omland, OCEA Chair

This, my first of two years as the OCEA Chair, has been one for the record books. I began my tenure with excitement, looking forward to working with colleagues around the province, networking face to face at Symposium and the Spring Conference, and meeting regularly with the OCEA Board and Provincial Representatives. And that is how the year began. Then came the strikes, and then came COVID-19.

Our world looks so quite different now, in a way we could never have predicted. But our purpose as teachers has remained the same. We still need to inspire our students to help them reach their potential, providing new and innovative ways for them to achieve the overall expectations of the curriculum. OCEA's mandate "***Facilitating and Supporting the Exchange of Ideas Among Experiential Learning Professionals***" has also not changed. As new challenges developed, seemingly on a daily basis, we worked hard to offer the necessary supports, ideas and resources our members required to ensure quality experiential learning across the province.

Over the course of the last year, I was able to be involved in many long-range projects as well as short term responses to the demands set in front of us. I was able to participate in the following ways:

- Set agendas and chaired our monthly board meetings
- Called and chaired several emergency meetings as new challenges arose
- Applied for and received OSSTF funding to assist with updating "Designing for Success"
- Worked closely with the Vice Chair to secure a substantial Ministry of Education Francophone Grant for much needed resources for our French colleagues
- Co-led the 2019 Fall Symposium
- Provided resources for the Member's Zone of the OCEA website
- Acted as a resource to Cooperative Education educators and community partners across the province
- Liaised with Ministries of Education, Labour, and MTCU, to represent the concerns of our members and stay abreast of policy changes

I fervently hope that next year, this ABM will be conducted back in our usual setting, in a conference venue where we can speak face to face and learn alongside our members. I keenly feel the lack of opportunity to gather with one another, sharing ideas and participating in a collegial, welcoming environment. The isolation we have been forced to endure has made me even more aware of how important it is to have a strong membership supporting each other and working together.

This year would have been much more difficult without our amazing OCEA board. So much has been asked of you this year, and each time a new challenge was presented, you handled it with grace and wisdom. I am so fortunate to work with this team:



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OCEA Board Members:

Eleanor MacNiven Hoecht, Barb Omland, Tamara Tremblay-Bartolomucci, Geneviève Labrosse, Susanna Scocchia, Margit Muller, Jamie McClellan, Julia VanderWeerden, Tawnya Smith

Provincial Reps:

Sherry McAllister, Pat Piro, Vincent Bénard, Steve Roach, Jerry Slobojan

Special thank you to Carol Madsen, our Administrative Assistant, and all she does behind the scenes to keep us organized and on top of things.

My biggest thank you is to our OCEA members. You have all been forced into a seemingly impossible situation, but you remain dedicated and determined to ensure your students receive the best experiential learning opportunity possible. I wish you all good health and hope that this summer will be a time for rest and renewal. I look forward to working with you all again in September.

Tamara Tremblay-Bartolomucci, OCEA Vice-Chair

The 2019-2020 school year has been a very eventful one for our OCEA Leadership Team. We had to face a few challenges that changed the face of how educators perform their jobs in this province. From province wide labour disputes to a global pandemic, OCEA had to adjust to multiple situations that arose from these events. Our team was truly up to the task. I am very proud and honoured to work with all OCEA team members who brought their expertise and problem-solving skills to the table in order to make this year a very productive and successful one.

As Vice-Chair, I worked on several projects. In the past eight months, I have been fortunate to play a role in a variety of tasks including:

- Symposium 2019 and Spring Conference 2020 lead planner
- Actively participating in monthly board meetings
- Member of the interview and hiring team for the 2020 conference planner
- Helping to research and secure this venue for our Spring 2020 Conference
- Acting as a resource to Cooperative Education teachers and community partners
- Facilitating nominations for elected OCEA positions
- Assisting in the publication of e-news

Additionally, our association responded to our members' calls to develop resources that would support the new curriculum of 2018 and help support our Francophone membership by adding resources to the French side of our website. As such, I - with the help of our Provincial Representative - North, Sherry McAllister - prepared a proposal for the Ministry of Education's French Sector Funding in order to update our Francophone resources and website, and recreate the *Designing for Success* document to act as a resource to support Co-op teachers in their planning. Having been granted the funding, I was able to spearhead several projects as a project



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lead. I am happy to report that we will be releasing this document in both French and English and it will be available on our website for free as a resource for all Co-op teachers in time for the 2020-2021 school year. Additionally, we are in the process of updating and reviewing all French language items on the website and adding French resources that may have only been available in English before. This will ensure parity for all our members.

Further, we were able to build relationships with several innovative educators. We will continue to foster these relationships throughout the province and identify and translate several helpful resources that were once only available in English. New partnerships have also been forged that will allow for our association to continue to add updated innovative resources to our website in both official languages. This will alleviate the burden of translating documents for Co-op teachers in the French language boards throughout the province.

Knowing that all these initiatives are benefiting Cooperative Education and teachers using Experiential Learning as part of Province wide teaching makes the work that I have done extremely rewarding. I have learned that we have some extraordinary educators across this Province, and their willingness to work with OCEA and share their resources has been overwhelming.

In order to continue to do great work for our members, we need to continue to have teachers involved in Cooperative Education or other forms of Experiential Learning in both our French and English boards to come and share their expertise and join our team. I would encourage anyone who wants to take a wider role outside of their school or board to consider becoming involved as a Provincial Rep or a Board member. It is truly gratifying work.

I want to thank all those who helped me transition into this new role, and those who continue to support me in my role as Vice-Chair. The school year ahead will be a challenging year for all teachers, and I am so grateful to have the OCEA team to help support Co-op teachers across the province.

Eleanor MacNiven Hoecht, OCEA Past-Chair

I have always believed strongly in the value of Experiential Learning, but with the onset of a pandemic that grinded our province to a halt, hands on learning has never been so important. Students are taking on new roles in their home and developing skills that will last a lifetime. As Co-op teachers, we are adapting our teaching to honour the work our students are doing. OCEA played a major role in assisting our educators to be ready to meet these new challenges by providing an online database of resources. Sadly, we were not able to host a spring conference this year, but members can still gain access to past workshops on our website as well as contact us with any questions or concerns.



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I am very proud to be your OCEA Past-Chair this year. I have moved through the ranks as a Provincial Rep, a Director, Vice-Chair, and Chair with each role bringing so many learning opportunities and rewards. Your OCEA team works tirelessly to keep its members up to date on policies and initiatives relating to Cooperative Education and Experiential Learning, as well as to offer professional development on topics of relevance.

Over the course of the last year I was able to be actively involved in the following ways:

- Assisting with updates to the OCEA website
- Promoting the Student Poster Contest
- Promoting and assisting with selection of award winners
- Assisted with planning and execution of a successful 2019 Fall Symposium, which included our first hands-on learning opportunity in welding
- Assisted with development of French resources and updating the French part of our website
- Provided resources for the Member's Zone of the OCEA website
- Acted as a resource to Cooperative Education educators and community partners across the province
- Liaised with Ministries of Education, Labour, and MLTSD, as well as OCPA and OSCA

Thank you to our OCEA Board this year – you are appreciated and valued. Quite often long thankless hours are required to serve our members, but you do so with dedication, passion and integrity.

I want to encourage any member who is interested to get involved with OCEA at any level to continue to make our association grow and to make a difference with Co-op in Ontario.

Jamie McClellan, OCEA Treasurer (2019-2020)

Record numbers attended the 2019 OCEA Fall Symposium in Collingwood (Blue Mountains Resort) in October and the weather cooperated so well that some of the breakout sessions were conducted outdoors in the sunshine and warmth.

Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic the 2020 OCEA Spring Conference had to be canceled. However, due to our strong relationship with the Hilton Mississauga/Meadowvale, OCEA will be planning the next two future conferences at their facility.

OCEA's fiscal year runs from September 1st to August 31st, and there are several people involved in recording and reporting the financials. In following sound accounting principles, the tasks of receiving funds and dispersing funds are separated. Carol Madsen, our Executive Administrative Assistant, is responsible for Accounts Receivable, and the Treasurer takes care of Accounts Payable. The bookkeepers at *Finance Without Borders Inc.* record the accounting transactions,



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manage our GST/HST remittances, and ensure OCEA is compliant with applicable financial laws. *Baker Tilly SNT LLP*, the accounting firm, conducts the Review Engagement and generates the Year-End Fiscal Report that is presented at the Annual Business Meeting (ABM).

Financial transparency is important as it ensures that the OCEA Board of Directors has the most current financial information on which to base decisions. For the Treasurer, this means frequent communication between the OCEA Executive Administrative Assistant, *Finance Without Borders Inc.*, and the *Baker Tilly SNT LLP*.

The upcoming year (2020-2021) may be full of trials and tribulations as the OCEA Board of Directors and Provincial Representatives plan and deliver events amid a climate of cutbacks and the uncertainty of the Covid-19 virus. However, the gains made over the past six years should help sustain OCEA.

It has been a privilege to work as the OCEA Treasurer for the 2019-2020 year, and I would like to thank everyone for their support and kindness during my term.

I wish OCEA all the best in the coming years.

Tawnya Christian-Smith, OCEA Communications Director

I am honoured to be part of such a fantastic team that genuinely believes in the importance and value of Experiential Learning to our students and the importance of sharing that with Experiential Learning teachers. To say this has been an interesting year, would be putting it mildly. I have seen this Board of volunteers work tirelessly to rise to the challenge that COVID-19 has presented by working hard to deal with changes that needed to be made and to provide resources to our members.

I am not new to the OCEA Board; I started out as a Provincial Rep and then obtained the Director-at-Large, English position. This has been my first year taking on the role of Communications Officer and I am still learning.

After I had attended a few conferences as a "fresh, new Co-op teacher", I wanted to become involved with OCEA. I have found that every person I have met is so ready to share with you not only their experiences but their resources. I wanted to be a part of something that really had an impact on me and helped me grow as a Co-op teacher. Becoming involved with OCEA has been a great learning experience and I look forward to growing as I develop in this new role.

Hopefully you met me in one of my roles – if not before then at the 2019 Fall Symposium: I was the one taking pictures and posting them to Twitter! I was also working with Geoff Shepherd to provide updates and evaluations at the symposium on Sched app.



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I have been working with Eleanor MacNiven Hoecht and representatives from SNAP360 to get our website updated and troubleshoot some issues that we were having with it. It makes it easier since I work in Belleville to have a face-to-face meeting with them.

I continue to actively work on OCEA Board initiatives and attend Board meetings.

Thank you to the Provincial Reps who bring your concerns and questions forward. Thank you to the OCEA Leadership Team for their knowledge and work they do on behalf of the OCEA members. Thank you to our members for your support.

A huge thank you to Carol Madsen, our Executive Administrative Assistant. Carol keeps us organized and on our toes! She is Experiential Learning & OCEA's biggest advocate. Her knowledge and dedication are limitless, and I am lucky to have had her as a resource and support as I navigate this new role.

To our members, COVID-19 has definitely made our jobs as experiential learning teachers look "*different*" - thank you for continuing to support your students during this time and sharing your resources with each other. *It takes a Village.*

Geneviève Labrosse, Director-At-Large, Francophone

In my role as French Director, for part of 2019-2020, I have had the pleasure to collaborate with all the dedicated members of the OCEA Leadership Team.

This year, some of the tasks I undertook as a French Director were:

- Participated in Board meetings
- Targeted the needs of Francophones
- Helped with decision making regarding Spring Conference
- Revised the updated version of "Planifier pour la réussite, une ressource pour la planification et la mise en oeuvre efficace du programme d'éducation coopérative et autres formes d'apprentissage par l'expérience"
- Helped with the online resource sharing for Co-op teachers (due to COVID19 situation)
- Answered questions from the Francophone general membership
- Supported my Board colleagues in various committees and portfolios
- Acted as liaison for the Francophone members
- Worked with the Francophone Provincial Representatives, Mme Sherry McAllister (French Northern region) and M Vincent Bénard (French Central, East, South and West regions).



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It was a pleasure to work with all the Board members and our Executive Administrative Assistant, Ms. Carol Madsen. I learned a lot about what it takes, on the part of all Leadership Team members of a provincial not-for-profit organization such as OCEA, to represent the needs of a particular group of teachers, to organize large scale events and to produce meaningful resources for their members.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of our Leadership Team for their ongoing cooperation and for their understanding of the Francophone reality. I would also like to recognize the efforts of Sherry McAllister and Vincent Bénard who spent many hours revising the updated version of “Planifier pour la réussite, une ressource pour la planification et la mise en oeuvre efficace du programme d'éducation coopérative et autres formes d'apprentissage par l'expérience”, as well as Brigitte Sharp-Ménard and Lise Paulin for writing the French and English versions of this resource.

Having accepted a position as Vice-Principal next September, I must unfortunately resign from my role as French Director. I will however make myself available to facilitate the transition of a new French Director to the OCEA Leadership Team.

Susanna Scocchia, Director-At-Large, English

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve as OCEA's Director-at-Large: English for 2019 - 2020. Over the course of the year, I was actively involved in the following ways:

- Participated in OCEA's monthly board meetings and committees
- Reviewed and revised the *Fall Symposium Planning Manual*
- Represented OCEA at the Ontario Teachers Federation Forum by attending meetings and events and collaborating with other Subject Associations representatives from across the province.
- Participated in the rewriting of the *Ethical Guidelines for Cooperative Education, Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP), and Other Experiential Learning Programs* document

I would like to encourage members to become actively involved with OCEA, either as a workshop presenter, a conference planning team member, a Provincial Representative or as a Board member. It is an excellent opportunity for professional development and a rewarding experience.

In closing, thank you to my colleagues on the OCEA Leadership Team for your dedication and the work you do for the benefit of all members. Also, a big thank you to Carol Madsen, OCEA's Executive Administrative Assistant, for your guidance, support and dedication to OCEA throughout the years.



2019-2020 OCEA Membership Report for ABM

TO: OCEA Members 2019-2020
CC: OCEA Directors and Provincial Representatives
FROM: Carol Madsen, OCEA Executive Administrative Assistant
DATE: May 26, 2020

Memberships as of ABM:	2019-2020	2018-2019	2017-2018	2016-2017	2015-2016	2014-2015	2013-2014	2012-2013	2011-2012	2010-2011	2009-2010
Statutory:	606	849									
Non- Statutory	11	13									
Associated:	3	7									
Retired:	21	14									
Total:	641	883	539	589	559	520	591	507	544	537	708

Memberships by Region as of May 26, 2020:

SOUTH:	151	NON-REGION:	26
CENTRAL:	242	FRANCOPHONE : NORTH :	16
EAST :	70	FRANCOPHONE : CENTRAL-EAST-SOUTH :	48
NORTH :	88		
			Total = 641

Memberships by Region as of April 24, 2019:

SOUTH:	228	NON-REGION:	16
CENTRAL:	348	FRANCOPHONE : NORTH :	27
EAST :	100	FRANCOPHONE : CENTRAL-EAST-SOUTH :	54
NORTH :	110		
			Total = 883

Memberships by Region as of April 20, 2018:

SOUTH:	122	NON-REGION:	8
CENTRAL:	223	FRANCOPHONE : NORTH :	24
EAST :	47	FRANCOPHONE : CENTRAL-EAST-SOUTH :	47
NORTH :	67		
			Total = 539

Memberships by Region as of April 20, 2017:

SOUTH:	139	NON-REGION:	28
CENTRAL:	199	FRANCOPHONE NORTH :	35
EAST :	56	FRANCOPHONE CENTRAL-EAST-SOUTH :	66
NORTH :	66		
			Total = 589

Memberships by Region as of April 20, 2016:

SOUTH:	107	NON-REGION:	30
CENTRAL:	161	FRANCOPHONE NORTH :	30
EAST :	96	FRANCOPHONE CENTRAL-EAST-SOUTH :	74
NORTH :	61		
			Total = 559