



## ONTARIO COOPERATIVE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (OCEA) ASSOCIATION DE L'ÉDUCATION COOPÉRATIVE DE L'ONTARIO (AÉCO)

### ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING (ABM) OCEA YEAR-END BOARD REPORTS

#### Pasquale (Pat) Piro, OCEA Chair, 2023-2024

The 2023-2024 school year has been a great year for our OCEA team. As I reflected on my time as the Central Provincial Representative for six years, then one year instated as the Vice-Chair position. As the pandemic diminished, our communities adapted and opened, we continued to support the challenges that educators faced in performing their jobs in this province and as a result this year has been very productive and successful.

OCEA continues to fulfill its mission of “Facilitating and Supporting the Exchange of Ideas Among Experiential Learning Professionals”. OCEA’s Leadership Team has worked diligently to meet the challenges that educators are facing and respond to the needs of our members. The association’s accomplishments in the past year are outlined below:

- OCEA’s membership numbers continue to be strong, and we are pleased to welcome many new Co-op teachers and counselors who joined as members this year. I highly recommend that members take an active role with OCEA by presenting a workshop, being a resource writing team member, contributing to conference planning, or serving on OCEA’s Team.
- OCEA is committed to keeping members up to date on the latest news about Cooperative Education and other forms of Experiential Learning occurring throughout the province. Thank you to Carol Madsen for publishing several e-newsletters and e-bulletins for our members this year.
- Proud to strengthen our relationship with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Training and Skills Development and colleagues with OCTE, Skilled Trades Ontario, Skills Ontario, Job Talks, and OSCA to name a few.
- Working with our website provider OnWin, we have recently added a feature that provides support and advertising opportunities for employers. In addition, many improvements and resources including a question-and-answer section to help support co-op teachers have been added. Thank you OnWin for your continued support over the years.
- The 2024 OCEA Spring Conference, “Cooperative Education: It’s Working!” will once again prove to be an exciting event with a selection of over 40 workshops. The conference program has allowed for many opportunities to socialize and network with fellow educators from across our great province. We extend our sincere gratitude to the workshop presenters for their willingness to volunteer their time and expertise to prepare and provide professional development workshops for this event, it is very much appreciated and valued by OCEA.
- I have been facilitating the Plenary called Skilled Trades Toolbox – A panel of experts to provide valuable information at the Spring conference. The panel includes STO, Skills Ontario, EDU officers, Job Talks, HIEC, and apprenticeship ambassadors.
- The 2022 OCEA Fall Symposium, “The Future Looks Bright”, was held virtually on October 5th, 2023. This was a well-attended event, providing quality workshops in both French and English. A big thank you to Carol Madsen for her tremendous efforts and support and to the OCEA Leadership Team for their time and dedication in organizing this event.
- New logo and posters are in-progress. We applied for the OSSTF grant and have been approved to support our new branding. We hope to have these available for Sept. 2024.
- Involved with the planning of our Annual Business Meeting (ABM).
- We would like to extend a huge thank you to this year’s Conference Planning Team: Carol Madsen, Julia VanderWeerden, Geoff Sheppard, Stephanie Lafontaine, Debbie Callan, Denise Roman, and Nicole Norgate for their exceptional work. The Conference Planning Team generously volunteered their time and talents to plan and organize this event, and their outstanding efforts are greatly appreciated.
- Actively coordinate monthly OCEA board meetings.
- Continuously, supporting Cooperative Education teachers and community partners across the province.
- Provided support on the updating of the Trades Handbook (English and Francophone).



## **ONTARIO COOPERATIVE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (OCEA) ASSOCIATION DE L'ÉDUCATION COOPÉRATIVE DE L'ONTARIO (AÉCO)**

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- Contributing articles and stories for the publications.
- Actively recruiting new members, board members, award nominations, conference workshops, sponsors, and exhibitors, and more.
- OCEA continues to recognize the outstanding contributions to Cooperative Education teachers by honouring deserving nominees at our Annual OCEA Professional Awards' Banquet. Two nominations were received this year. One for the "S. J. (Jack) Ulan Professional Contribution Award" and one for "The King George Professional Award". Congratulations to our well-deserved award winners: Lisa Owens, Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board and "The King George Professional Award" to Adam Cox, York Region District School Board. Thank you to the nominators for recognizing and nominating their colleagues and thank you to the OCEA Awards' Committee for planning and organizing this year's event.

We continue to collaborate with the Ministry, educators, and organizations to strengthen relationships throughout the province. On an ongoing basis, OCEA adds updated innovative resources to our website. These initiatives are benefiting Cooperative Education and teachers using experiential learning as part of the province-wide work with OCEA.

We strive and continue to have teachers involved in Cooperative Education from English and Francophone boards to collaborate and share their knowledge and experiences and hopefully you become more involved. I would encourage anyone who wants a more rewarding role and experience to consider becoming involved with OCEA.

A special thank you to Carol Madsen, OCEA's Executive Administrative Assistant, for all that she does for OCEA. Her guidance, tireless work and dedication over the past 28 years ensures that everything runs smoothly.

To our membership, thank you for your passion and commitment to your students and for your continued support of OCEA. We hope that you enjoy your time at the conference, reconnecting with old acquaintances and forming new ones. As you approach the end of another busy school year, we wish you all the best and hope that you take some time to unwind and rejuvenate during the summer break.

It is a pleasure to continue my work in the Chair position.



## ONTARIO COOPERATIVE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (OCEA) ASSOCIATION DE L'ÉDUCATION COOPÉRATIVE DE L'ONTARIO (AÉCO)

### ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING (ABM) OCEA YEAR-END BOARD REPORTS

#### Rebecca Gauthier, OCEA Vice-Chair, 2023-2024

I am honoured to have served as the 2023-2024 Vice Chair for the Ontario Cooperative Education Association (OCEA) organization this past year. I served as OCEA Secretary for a brief period and quickly jumped into this new role which has really shown me all that OCEA does for its members and for Cooperative Education.

Over the past year, I have contributed to a variety of capacities including:

- 2023 Virtual OCEA Fall Symposium - Mentoring | Refreshing | Learning - Master of Ceremonies.
- 2024 In-person OCEA Spring Conference - *Cooperative Education: It's Working* - leading the Elections at the Annual Business Meeting (ABM).
- Actively participating in monthly virtual and in-person Board meetings.
- Acting as a resource to Cooperative Education teachers and community partners.
- Assisted in the role of Secretary until the position was filled.
- Continually looking for ways to attract new members to OCEA and to fill roles such as becoming a Regional Rep.
- And fulfilling any other duties to help my fellow Board members.

We are continually working with educators, Board leads, and organizations to strengthen and broaden our relationships throughout the province. We are consistently looking for ways to encourage our 'new-to-Co-op' teachers and our veteran, experienced Co-op teachers to expand upon their own classroom teachings, initiatives, and learnings.

I would encourage anyone interested in becoming involved with OCEA in either a Provincial Representative or a Board member role to do so! I am glad I took the initiative to join OCEA and have not only gained an incredible number of resources but have also gained valuable connections with fellow Board members and Co-op teachers throughout the province. For me, it is a pleasure to continue my work in the position of Vice-Chair.

Please feel free to contact me or any member of the OCEA Board of Directors or Provincial Representatives (<https://oceacon.ca/contact-us/>) with any input that will help us in continuing to best serve our members.

Wishing you a fantastic start to your 2024-2025 school year!

Yours in Cooperative Education

Rebecca Gauthier  
OCEA Vice-Chair 2023-2024  
Cooperative Education Teacher  
Rainbow DSB



## **ONTARIO COOPERATIVE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (OCEA) ASSOCIATION DE L'ÉDUCATION COOPÉRATIVE DE L'ONTARIO (AÉCO)**

### **ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING (ABM) OCEA YEAR-END BOARD REPORTS**

#### **Susanna Scocchia, OCEA Past-Chair, 2023-2024**

It has been an honor to serve as the Past-Chair of the Ontario Cooperative Education Association for 2023-2024. In my role as Past-Chair, my responsibilities this year have included:

- Collaborating with the OCEA Leadership team to uphold its mission of facilitating and supporting the exchange of ideas among Experiential Learning Professionals.
- Attending monthly OCEA Board meetings.
- Contributing to the planning and organizing of our Fall Symposium and Spring Conference.
- Overseeing the Awards Committee, which involved receiving and reviewing the nominations for OCEA's annual awards. Congratulations to the deserving award recipients and thank you to the nominators for recognizing and nominating their colleagues.

Over the past 15 years, I've had the privilege of serving OCEA in various roles. As I approach the end of my final year, I reflect with deep appreciation on the wealth of experiences and opportunities I've had. Most memorable, however, are the exceptional individuals I've had the pleasure of meeting and working alongside.

I strongly encourage members to consider taking an active role with OCEA by presenting workshops, joining resource writing teams, contributing to conference planning, or serving as a Director or Provincial Representative on OCEA's Leadership Team. Several positions are open for election annually. The opportunity to continually learn, network, and expand the presence and integrity of Cooperative Education throughout the province is a rewarding experience.

In closing, I want to thank my colleagues on the OCEA Leadership Team for their expertise, dedication, and willingness to serve. Your efforts have been instrumental in ensuring the ongoing success of OCEA and providing valuable resources to members across the province.

A special thank you to Carol Madsen, OCEA's Executive Administrative Assistant, for her guidance and support over the years.

To our membership, thank you for your passion and commitment to your students and for your continued support of OCEA. We hope you enjoy your time at the conference.



## **ONTARIO COOPERATIVE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (OCEA) ASSOCIATION DE L'ÉDUCATION COOPÉRATIVE DE L'ONTARIO (AÉCO)**

### **ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING (ABM) OCEA YEAR-END BOARD REPORTS**

#### **Julia VanderWeerden and Thairn Sintic, OCEA Treasurers, 2023-2024**

As we work towards onboarding a new Treasurer, I would like to thank the OCEA Board and membership once again for their continued support and encouragement. I continue to promote the benefits of Cooperative Education and Experiential Learning and continue to work with the OCEA Board while serving the OCEA membership.

Thank you to Carol Madsen, OCEA's Executive Administrative Assistant, for her invaluable assistance. Thank you, Carol, for 28 years of service as OCEA's Executive Administrative Assistant. Your support, guidance, assistance, and in-depth knowledge of the association, ensures OCEA is in the best of hands.

We continue to work with Baker Tilly, OCEA's accountants, to ensure timely and current reporting practices are met. OCEA has honoured financial obligations in a timely fashion, operated within a framework of fiscal responsibility, and provided a vision for the financial future of OCEA.

The 2024 OCEA Spring Conference "Cooperative Education – It's Working!" will bring us together once again in the spirit of collaboration, sharing, mentorship and personal growth. We look forward to welcoming you all once again!

Highlights from the 2022-2023 Review Engagement will be provided at the Annual Business Meeting. The Review Engagement is an overview and summary of OCEA's financial position as of August 31st, 2023. OCEA is in a solid financial position. This is attributable to the hard work and dedication of the OCEA Board, as well as sound guidance from our bookkeeper and accountants.

Looking forward, OCEA will continue to implement its strategic plan aimed at serving the membership with solid professional development and practical resources, rebuilding attendance at in-person events, monitoring expenses and ensuring the organization's financial stability. The OCEA Board looks forward to working with every one of its members.

I urge you to become involved as a volunteer on a future conference or symposium planning team, as a Provincial Representative, or as an OCEA Board member. Your voice is important to shape the association's future. A former mentor once said, serving on the OCEA Board is the best professional development possible and I could not agree more!



## ONTARIO COOPERATIVE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (OCEA) ASSOCIATION DE L'ÉDUCATION COOPÉRATIVE DE L'ONTARIO (AÉCO)

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#### Jenny Garrett, OCEA Communications Officer, 2023-2024

I'm Jenny Garrett, specializing in adult learning in the greater Toronto area. While many of our members focus on experiential learning programs for high school students, my expertise lies in working with adult learners from across the GTA. It's thrilling to witness the positive influence of Cooperative Education has across all age groups, spanning from elementary to secondary levels and continuing into adults.

OCEA provides a valuable experiential learning pathway for all students and learners as they strive to realize their hopes and dreams and become sustainable contributors to society. Adults participating in cooperative education find it to be an invaluable tool in helping them reach their goals. OCEA was established to advance Cooperative Education, Work Experience, School-Work Transition, and OYAP Program development, while also supporting the professional growth of its members.

As the Communications Officer for OCEA, I've had the opportunity to work alongside some amazing individuals including Carol Madsen, the OCEA Executive Administrative Assistant, the OCEA Board members, Provincial Reps, and other stakeholders to strengthen and promote OCEA's mission. We aim to empower educators with the information, resources, and support necessary for program success and student achievement.

We stay connected with our members through OCEA e-NEWS, social media platforms, and our LinkedIn page which launched in 2023. Don't forget to follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and X. Throughout the school year, we offer professional learning and networking opportunities at our annual Virtual Fall Symposium and In-person Spring Conference. As an OCEA member, you have access to a wealth of resources and past workshops on our website to keep you updated on topics related to experiential learning.

We are thrilled to announce the 2024 OCEA Spring Conference, returning for its second year at the Hilton Mississauga/Meadowvale. What better way to learn than by sharing and connecting through informal chats during lunch or at our information-packed workshops? It's also an excellent opportunity to connect with our industry partners and organizations at the exhibitor booths. This year, our theme is "Cooperative Education: It's Working!" We aim to showcase the real impact of cooperative education on students' lives and the lasting impact on student career choices by having an opportunity to experience it first-hand.

As an OCEA member, you could showcase stories of impact and success that your students are experiencing. OCEA has been highlighting and supporting excellence through various avenues, which can be explored on our website at [www.ocea.on.ca](http://www.ocea.on.ca), including but not limited to:

**OCEA e-News** - is an electronic newsletter that is published throughout the year to keep our members up to date on the latest news about Cooperative Education and other forms of Experiential learning take place across the province.

**OCEA Capturing the Student Voice** - is an electronic journal that includes success stories written by students across Ontario who have participated in the Cooperative Education Program and other forms of Experiential Learning (OYAP, SHSM etc.) in their high school. These stories are submitted annually by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**OCEA Professional Awards** – These awards are given to Cooperative Educator and other forms of Experiential Learning teachers / educators. The Professional Awards are presented annually at the OCEA Spring Conference.

We would love to hear from you and explore ways to foster greater community, collaboration, and influence within our programs and among each other. If you're interested in joining or learning more about being part of the OCEA Board or a Provincial Representative, please be sure to visit the OCEA website at [www.ocea.on.ca](http://www.ocea.on.ca) or reach out to any of the OCEA Board Members. We would be delighted to welcome you as part of OCEA!



## **ONTARIO COOPERATIVE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (OCEA) ASSOCIATION DE L'ÉDUCATION COOPÉRATIVE DE L'ONTARIO (AÉCO)**

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#### **Barb Omland, Director-At-Large, English, 2023-2024**

It has been an eventful year, with OCEA focusing on ensuring clear and open communication with its members and providing members with opportunities for enriching professional development. The year has flown by, and I am happy to see how much we've accomplished.

Some highlights of the year include:

- Assisting with the planning and delivery of our Fall symposium and Spring Conference.
- Ensuring that the Provincial Representatives communicate regularly with the members in their regions through electronic mailings.
- Communicating with Provincial Representatives to problem-solve, provide information, and develop strategies regarding workshops, memberships, and meetings.
- Forwarding and responding to requests and questions posed by our members.
- Facilitating, with the Director at Large (French), meetings for Co-op Board Leads.
- Delivering professional development workshops at our Fall symposium and Spring Conference.

As always, the biggest reward from my involvement in OCEA is the many opportunities I've had to network with colleagues from across the province. Thank you all for participating in our Association, and for all the work you do to support students.



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#### **Roman Nowak, Directeur général, français, 2023-2024**

J'ai eu le plaisir d'œuvrer à nouveau en tant que directeur français, pour 2023-2024. J'ai collaboré avec une belle grande équipe de direction de l'AÉCO.

Cette année, certaines des tâches que j'ai entreprises en tant que directeur français étaient:

- Participer aux rencontres régulières du conseil de direction.
- Partager et faire valoir les besoins des francophones.
- Participer à des réunions avec le ministère de l'Éducation et les coordonnateurs des conseils scolaires.
- Faire la promotion des postes vacants à divers membres francophones de l'association.
- Aider à la prise de décision concernant la conférence virtuelle de l'automne et le volet français de la conférence de printemps.
- Animer divers ateliers aux conférences virtuelles ou celles du printemps.
- Appuyer la traduction de certaines ressources et messages.
- Participer à la promotion de la ressource en français de la composante scolaire de l'éducation coopérative.

Ce mandat de deux ans en tant que Directeur a été une belle expérience professionnelle. Il est essentiel de continuer à bien représenter les besoins des membres, des francophones et de faire valoir l'importance de l'éducation coopérative en Ontario. Il faut continuer à participer en tant que francophone et s'assurer que les besoins uniques de notre culture et de nos écoles soient entendus et pris en considération lors du processus décisionnel. Un grand merci à Carol Madsen et toute l'équipe de l'AÉCO pour votre appui, votre compréhension et votre engagement continu.





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



## ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING (ABM) 2023 OCEA BOARD REPORTS

### Susanna Scocchia, OCEA Chair

Serving as the Chair of the Ontario Cooperative Education Association for the 2022-2023 year has been both an honour and a privilege. As I conclude my two-year term as Chair, I reflect on my 14 years as an OCEA Board member, which has been a rewarding experience. I am grateful for the opportunity to work alongside dedicated and talented individuals who volunteer countless hours of their time to provide professional learning opportunities, meaningful resources, and relevant information to our members across the province.

OCEA continues to fulfill its mission of “Facilitating and Supporting the Exchange of Ideas Among Experiential Learning Professionals”. OCEA’s Leadership Team has worked diligently to meet the challenges that educators are facing and respond to the needs of our members. The association’s accomplishments in the past year are outlined below:

- OCEA’s membership numbers continue to be strong and we are pleased to welcome many new Co-op teachers who joined as members this year. I highly recommend that members take an active role with OCEA by presenting a workshop, being a resource writing team member, contributing to conference planning or serving as a Director or Provincial Representative on OCEA’s Leadership Team. There are several positions that are open for election annually.
- OCEA is committed to keeping members up to date on the latest news about Cooperative Education and all other forms of Experiential Learning occurring throughout the province. Thank you to Carol Madsen for publishing several e-newsletters and e-bulletins for our members this year.
- Working with our website provider OnWIN, we have recently added a feature which gives companies an opportunity to advertise on our website. We greatly appreciate the work of Richard Laliberte and David Hunter from OnWIN. Thank you for your continued support over the years!
- The 2022 OCEA Fall Symposium, The Future Looks Bright, was held virtually on November 14th, 2022. This was a successful, well attended event, providing quality workshops in both French and English. A big thank you to Carol Madsen for her tremendous efforts and support and to the OCEA Leadership Team for their time and dedication in organizing this event.
- OCEA applied for and received OSSTF funding to assist with a new curriculum resource of pre-placement lessons for our members. This new resource, titled the “Co-op Classroom Component” replaces the “Pre-placement and Integration Curriculum (PIC) Resource for Cooperative Education, OYAP and School-Work Programs, 2004” and is available in both English and French. A special thank you to the curriculum writing and tech savvy team members: Nicola Martin, Erin Coulson, Eleanor MacNiven, Ali Meilach, and Marianne Salvo, for developing this resource. We also extend our sincere thanks to Barbara Omland and Robert Fleming for their dedication and support in overseeing the completion of this section of the resource. Next year, OCEA will source a team of writing / tech savvy members to create the second section of this resource titled: “Integration Lessons for Cooperative Education”.
- This year we oversaw the final formatting and French translation of the “Ethical Guidelines and

Legal Issues for Cooperative Education, Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP), and other Experiential Learning Programs” document. We are pleased to have this resource available online in our Members Only area of our website to view, download and print as needed.

- The 2023 OCEA Spring Conference, Cooperative Education: Full Speed Ahead! will once again prove to be an exciting event with a selection of 38 workshops. The conference program has allowed for many opportunities to socialize and network with fellow educators from across our great province. We extend our sincere gratitude to the workshop presenters for their willingness to volunteer their time and expertise to prepare and provide professional development workshops for this event, it is very much appreciated and valued by OCEA.
- We would like to extend a huge thank you to this year’s Conference Planning Team: Geoff Sheppard, Kevin Kokerus, Vince Charbonneau, Jenny Garrett, Julia VanderWeerden, Carol Madsen, and Barbara Omland for their exceptional work. The Conference Planning Team generously volunteered their time and talents to plan and organize this event, and their outstanding efforts are greatly appreciated.
- OCEA continues to recognize the outstanding contributions to Cooperative Education teachers by honouring deserving nominees at our Annual OCEA Professional Awards’ Banquet. Four nominations were received this year for the “S. J. (Jack) Ulan Professional Contribution Award”. Congratulations to the four well-deserved award winners: Miryt Tambasco, Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board, Joseph Da Costa, Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board, Paul Altobelli, Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board and Leonard Bumbacco, Waterloo Catholic District School Board. Thank you to the nominators for recognizing and nominating their colleagues and thank you to the OCEA Awards’ Committee for planning and organizing this year’s event.

In closing, I want to thank my colleagues on the OCEA Leadership Team for their dedication, hard work, and willingness to serve. Your efforts have ensured the continued success of OCEA and the provision of valuable resources to members across the province. Thank you to all of you for your support and encouragement throughout this past year.

**OCEA Board Members:** Jenny Garrett, Rebecca Gauthier, Robert Fleming, Roman Nowak, Barbara Omland, Pat Piro, and Julia VanderWeerden.

**OCEA Provincial Representatives:** Kimberly Leger and Jennifer McGinn.

A special thank you to Carol Madsen, OCEA’s Administrative Executive Assistant, for all that she does for OCEA. Her guidance, tireless work and dedication over the past 27 years ensures that everything runs smoothly.

To our membership, thank you for your passion and commitment to your students and for your continued support of OCEA. We hope that you enjoy your time at the conference, reconnecting with old acquaintances and forming new ones. As you approach the end of another busy school year, we wish you all the best and hope that you take some time to unwind and rejuvenate during the summer break.

## **Pat Piro, OCEA Vice-Chair**

The 2022-2023 school year was a good year for our OCEA team. I have served as the Central Provincial Rep for 5 years, and 1 year instated as the Vice-Chair position. As the pandemic diminished, our communities adapted and opened we continued to support the challenges that educators faced in performing their jobs in this province and as a result, this year was very productive and successful.

Some of the on-going good work happening is:

- Involved with the ABM – Annual Business Meetings;
- Conference presenter at both Fall symposium and Spring conferences;
- Actively participating in monthly board meetings;
- Always supporting Cooperative Education teachers and community partners across the province;
- Provided support on the updating of the Trades handbook (English and Francophone);
- Contributing articles and stories for the publications;
- With the Chair, began the process of assembling an Equity Committee;
- Actively recruiting new members, board members, award nominations, conference workshops, Sponsors, exhibitors, and more.

We continue to collaborate with educators and organizations to strengthen relationships throughout the province. On an ongoing basis, OCEA adds updated innovative resources to our website. These initiatives are benefiting Cooperative Education and teachers using experiential learning as part of the province-wide work with OCEA.

We strive and continue to have teachers involved in Cooperative Education from English and Francophone Boards to collaborate and share their knowledge and experiences and hopefully become more involved. I would encourage anyone who wants a more rewarding role and leadership experience to consider becoming involved as an OCEA Provincial Representative or as an OCEA Board member.

**Barb Omland, OCEA Past-Chair**

It seems like just yesterday I was beginning my time on the board as Vice-Chair and now here it is, five years later and I am finishing my tenure as the OCEA Past Chair. What challenges we have all been through in that time! I am amazed at how resilient educators and students have been, and we have learned so much from this adversity.

Through all of this, OCEA persevered. In the past three years our writing teams have updated key documents: Designing for Success, Ethical Guidelines and Legal Issues, and our old Preplacement and Integration Curriculum Resource. Next year, the intent is to create another writing team to focus on the “Integration” portion of the original PIC resource. And I have been so happy to be a part of the planning team for our Spring Conference, the first in-person event in three years!

I would like to extend my gratitude to the OCEA board and provincial representatives for their dedication and commitment to supporting experiential learning in Ontario.

<b>OCEA Board Members:</b>	Chair-Susanna Scocchia	Vice-Chair-Pat Piro
	Treasurer-Julia Vanderweerden	English Director-Robert Fleming
	French Director-Roman Nowak	Secretary-Rebecca Gauthier
	Communications Officer-Jenny Garrett	

<b>Provincial Reps:</b>	Kimberly Leger (East Rep)	Jennifer McGinn (North Rep)
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As always, this organization could not survive without Carol Madsen, our Administrative Assistant. Regardless of the time of day, when our members reach out for help or information, Carol is typically the first one to respond. We would be lost without her!

Thank you all for the work you do for students and the support you give OCEA. I wish you a smooth wrap-up to the school year, and a well-earned, restful summer break.

## **Julia VanderWeerden, OCEA Treasurer**

It is an honour and a privilege to serve the OCEA membership as Treasurer. As yet another year comes to a close, I find myself in the fortunate position of reflecting on an extremely positive experience. I would like to thank the OCEA Board for its support and encouragement. I will continue to promote the benefits of Cooperative Education and Experiential Learning in its many forms, and continue to work with the OCEA Board while serving the OCEA membership as needed.

Thank you to Carol Madsen, OCEA's Administrative Assistant, for her invaluable assistance. Please join me in thanking Carol for her 27+ years of service as OCEA's Administrative Assistant. Without Carol's support, guidance, assistance and in-depth knowledge of the association, my role, together with the work of the OCEA Board, would not be possible.

I have worked with the OCEA Board and our bookkeepers, Baker Tilly – Bookkeeping and Accounting Divisions, to ensure timely and current reporting practices are met. Baker Tilly (formerly Collins Barrow) remains as OCEA's accountants. They have been invaluable in ensuring a smooth transition to our bookkeeping practices and guiding us through the pandemic. OCEA has honoured financial obligations in a timely fashion, operated within a framework of fiscal responsibility, and provided a vision for the financial future of OCEA. OCEA has updated the Legal and Ethical document, a foundational piece for Cooperative Education and Experiential Learning providing Cooperative Education teachers with valuable tools to support learning. The virtual events provided many valuable opportunities and certainly filled the professional learning void during the pandemic. The OCEA Board and Conference Planning Committee worked closely with Escouade Multimedia Inc. to provide an almost seamless and cost-effective alternative to our popular professional development events. OCEA is thrilled to once again host an in-person event. The 2023 OCEA Spring Conference – Full Speed Ahead – will bring us together for the first time in over 3 years. I know that you are as excited as we are to re-ignite the networking opportunities. Welcome back!

Highlights from the 2021 – 2022 Review Engagement will be provided at the Annual Business Meeting. The Review Engagement is an overview and summary of OCEA's financial position as of August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022. I am very happy to report that the association is in an excellent financial position. This is attributable to the hard work and dedication of the OCEA Board, as well as sound guidance from our bookkeeper and accountants.

Looking forward, OCEA will continue to implement its strategic plan aimed at serving the membership, rebuilding attendance at in-person events, monitoring expenses and ensuring the organization's financial stability. The OCEA Board continues to explore opportunities to provide members with added value with respect to membership and access to professional resources. The OCEA Board looks forward to working with each and every one of its members. Above all, welcome back!!!

I urge you to consider your role within OCEA: become involved as a volunteer on a future conference or symposium planning teams, as a Provincial Representative, or as an OCEA Board member. Your voice is important to shape the association moving forward.

## **Jenny Garrett, OCEA Communications Officer**

My name is Jenny Garrett, volunteering on the OCEA Board this year. Most OCEA members work in Experiential learning programs focused on high school-aged students. My specialty is with adult learners across the Toronto area. All learners can benefit from an experiential learning program.

OCEA's value is the experiential learning path. Experiential learning is a valuable tool that students and learners utilize to move their hopes and dreams forward toward the realization of becoming sustainable and contributing members of our society. Adults that participate in Cooperative Education programs have found these programs to be a valuable rudder aiding them in meeting targets and realizing goals.

OCEA is a partner in delivering the underpinning of the programs that deliver these milestones and goals. OCEA was founded to promote the development of Cooperative Education, Work Experience, School-Work Transition, OYAP, and to assist us, the professionals, in our growth to stay relevant and to continue delivering.

Having joined the OCEA Board this year as Communications Officer is a valuable and enjoyable opportunity. Executive Administration Assistant Carol Madsen and the OCEA Board have given me a warm welcome. OCEA is a community and portal of providing us educators with information, resources and other supports needed in providing and assisting the success of our programs and student value.

This isn't my first-time volunteering with OCEA. It first happened in 2018 as part of the OCEA Spring Conference Planning Team. This was my first opportunity to be collaborate and connect with others through OCEA. My understanding of the valuable relationships and communications between OCEA, educators, and industry was born here. In delivering the 2017 OCEA Spring Conference, I learned a lot about what it takes to bring a conference to fruition for us members and our community. From the relationships and collaboration OCEA provides us, we better connect with our learners and influence their path to their goals, some of which they are not yet fully cognizant of.

The OCEA 2023 Spring Conference is a special delight. We will be in-person once again since the pandemic. What better way to learn, when we can be together sharing and connecting through informal chats at lunch, or information packed workshops. It will a wonderful opportunity connecting with industry vendors and partners throughout the Conference and at the Exhibitor's booths.

As a member of OCEA, you have an opportunity to showcase stories of impact and success that your students are experiencing and how it was achieved. OCEA has been showcasing and supporting excellence through various forms. Go online at [www.ocea.on.ca](http://www.ocea.on.ca) for the items below and more.

### **OCEA E-News**

A digital newsletter published throughout the year keeping us members current on Cooperative Education and other forms of experiential from across the province.

### **OCEA Capturing Voice**

A digital journal which includes success stories written by Ontario students themselves who have benefitted from participating in the Cooperative Education program and other forms of Experiential Learning (OYAP, SHSM etc.) through their high schools.

### **OCEA Professional Awards**

These awards are given to Cooperative Educators, Community Partners, and Students who have

contributed their talents and energies in promoting experiential learning. These annual Professional Awards are presented at the Spring Conference, which will occur live at the Awards Dinner this year during the 2023 OCEA Spring Conference.

If you have any thoughts or suggestions, I'd love to hear from you about creating more community, collaboration, and influence amongst our programs and each other.

### **Roman Nowak, Directeur Français**

En tant que directeur français, pour 2022-2023, j'ai eu le plaisir d'apprendre ce nouveau rôle tout en collaborant avec les autres membres de l'équipe de direction de l'AÉCO.

Cette année, certaines des tâches que j'ai entreprises en tant que directeur français étaient:

- Participer aux rencontres régulières du conseil de direction;
- Partager et faire valoir les besoins des francophones;
- Faire la promotion des postes vacants à divers membres francophones de l'association;
- Aider à la prise de décision concernant la conférence virtuelle de l'automne et le volet français de la conférence de printemps;
- Appuyer la traduction de certaines ressources et messages;
- Participer à des réunions avec le ministère de l'Éducation et les coordonnateurs des conseils scolaires;
- Participer à la révision, la mise à jour et publication de la ressource en français de la composante scolaire de l'éducation coopérative;
- Présentation des ateliers en français pour combler les besoins des membres francophones.

Ce fut un immense plaisir d'apprendre durant cette première année en tant que Directeur français. J'espère pouvoir continuer à bien représenter les besoins des membres, des francophones et de faire valoir l'importance de l'éducation coopérative en Ontario. Un grand merci à Carol Madsen et toute l'équipe de l'AÉCO pour votre appui, votre compréhension et votre aide tout au long de l'année. Au plaisir de poursuivre mon travail avec vous!

## **Robert Fleming, Director-At-Large, English**

This year saw us back to 'normal' across the province. For Ontario Cooperative Education Association Board members that started Saturday, September 17 and Sunday, September 18, with our first in-person Board meeting since I have been a member of the OCEA Leadership team. The transition from the pandemic to 'normal' has not been easy for Coop teachers or Coop students and I am happy to see that we have some of the vacant positions on our Leadership team now filled. Welcomed to the OCEA Leadership team this year were Jennifer McGinn (Rep North), Jenny Garrett (Communications), and Roman Nowak (Director at Large, French).

This was my first year as OCEA Director at Large (English). Last year, my second year on the Board, my role was as Communications Officer. The year before that, my first year as part of the OCEA Leadership team I was the Provincial Representative for Eastern Ontario. I have learned a lot in my time as part of the OCEA Leadership team and met many wonderful people. Thank you to our OCEA Executive Administration Assistant, Carol Madsen for her guidance and support.

Being a member of the OCEA Board has been exciting and a great way to learn more about Cooperative Education and Experiential Learning. My role as a Cooperative Education teacher with a smaller school board is sometimes isolating. I have learned that becoming more involved with the Cooperative Education Subject Council that is OCEA is also a great way to network with other Cooperative Education teachers and professionals from across the province of Ontario. We need OCEA members to fill positions at all levels of our organization and I would recommend this experience to everyone. In fact, I wish I had joined sooner in my teaching career.

A new OCEA curriculum resource of preplacement lessons for OCEA members was completed this year in both English and French. The resource was produced with an understanding of culturally responsive and relevant pedagogy and through the lens of equity. This new document replaces "Pre-placement and Integration Curriculum (PIC) Resource for Cooperative Education and other forms of Experiential Learning". I was a member of the writing team selection committee and reviewing the content developed. This new OCEA resource will be introduced to OCEA members at the 2023 Spring Conference.

I was again part of the OCEA committee this year that organized the OCEA Fall Symposium – The Future Looks Bright held November 14, 2022. I also had the privilege to MC the event. This time around our virtual conference was offered free to members. Attendance was great and feedback from OCEA members who attended the conference was amazing. Fall Symposium workshops were recorded and made available online for all OCEA members on the official OCEA website (a benefit of a virtual conference). For those members not able to attend, workshops are available on the official OCEA website for your personal professional development. For Fall Symposium attendees, workshops can be re-visited, or you can watch workshops that you were not able to fit into your Fall Symposium schedule. Thank you to all the sponsors that supported the Fall Symposium and thank you again to OCEA Executive Administration Assistant, Carol Madsen for filling the vacant positions of the Fall Symposium planning team and doing an awesome job.

This is my last year with the OCEA Board of Directors, as an OCEA member and my last year of teaching. I will retire from teaching effective June 30, 2023. I would like to thank members for your support of our cooperative education subject council that is OCEA and wish next year's Leadership team all the best.





## 2022-2023 OCEA Membership Report for ABM

**TO:** OCEA Members 2022-2023  
**CC:** OCEA Board of Directors and Provincial Representatives  
**FROM:** Carol Madsen, OCEA Executive Administrative Assistant  
**DATE:** April 11, 2023

Memberships as of ABM:	2022-2023	2021-2022	2020-2021	2019-2020	2018-2019	2017-2018	2016-2017	2015-2016	2014-2015	2013-2014	2012-2013
Statutory:	680	573	835	606	849						
Non-Statutory	17	22	5	11	13						
Associated:	1	1	3	3	7						
Retired Statutory:	1	1	1	21	14						
Lifetime Statutory:	25	25	25	25	24						
<b>Total:</b>	<b>724</b>	<b>622</b>	<b>869</b>	<b>666</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>589</b>	<b>559</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>507</b>

**NEW Memberships 2022-23: 298**

**RENEWED Memberships: 426**

<b>Memberships by Region as of April 11, 2023:</b>			
SOUTH:	156	NON-REGION:	16
CENTRAL:	276	FRANCOPHONE : NORTH :	20
EAST :	84	FRANCOPHONE : CENTRAL-EAST-SOUTH :	62
NORTH :	110		
			<b>Total = 724</b>

<b>Memberships by Region as of June 13, 2022:</b>			
SOUTH:	144	NON-REGION:	27
CENTRAL:	209	FRANCOPHONE : NORTH :	25
EAST :	64	FRANCOPHONE : CENTRAL-EAST-SOUTH :	55
NORTH :	98		
			<b>Total = 622</b>

<b>Memberships by Region as of May 31, 2021:</b>			
SOUTH:	142	NON-REGION:	28
CENTRAL:	362	FRANCOPHONE : NORTH :	32
EAST :	154	FRANCOPHONE : CENTRAL-EAST-SOUTH :	72
NORTH :	79		
			<b>Total = 869</b>

<b>Memberships by Region as of May 26, 2020:</b>			
SOUTH:	151	NON-REGION:	26
CENTRAL:	242	FRANCOPHONE : NORTH :	16
EAST :	70	FRANCOPHONE : CENTRAL-EAST-SOUTH :	48
NORTH :	88		
			<b>Total = 666</b>