# Ontario

## eCampusOntario

We’ve had a busy few years at eCampusOntario facilitating OER research, building partnerships and ultimately saving students nearly $2.2 million in textbook and course material costs.

Hard figures aside, we’re equally proud of the community building work we’ve been doing to support the development of Ontario’s open education community. In 2017 we launched our Open Education Fellows program, welcoming six emerging open education advocates from member institutions to engage in OER advocacy and research across Ontario. In 2017 and 2018 we hosted our annual Open-Education Ontario Summit, an event designed to inspire and connect a growing network of open education advocates known as the Open Rangers.

Our 2017 open textbook call for proposals resulted in 23 new projects at Ontario colleges and universities. Through this initiative, the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities invested $1 million to create and adapt open textbooks, including material to fill in gaps in key subject areas. These can all be found in our Open Library.

Additionally, in 2017 we created Ontario Extend, an openly-licensed professional learning program designed to empower educators in their own pedagogical practice. The framework for this program is based on the Anatomy of a 21st Century Educator model (2014) by UBC’s Simon Bates. The program features six modules, which are open-licensed and can be downloaded, adopted or adapted here.

Since our last update, we have hosted three OER Student Government seminars, engaging all five of the major Ontario-based student alliances in conversation about open advocacy and faculty perspectives around OER. Our seminars have been enriched by student speakers from across Canada including Brady Yano and Aran Armutlu from British Columbia and Hailey Babb from Alberta.

We have also recently invested in open education infrastructure by funding a series of Pressbooks enhancements as part of a partnership with Ryerson University. These enhancements include a new cloning feature that eases adapting or distributing copies, H5P features that allow interactive components to be added to text-based versions, as well as a tracking feature allowing authors to see who has used or adapted their content. We are so pleased to share the benefits of these enhancements with the wider open education community.

Our roadmap for 2019 and beyond includes developing OER in targeted subject verticals, such as Nursing and Business, partnering with a new group of OE Fellows to build OER capacity in Ontario, investing further in open innovation and open practice at our institutions and building partnerships with like-minded organizations both within and beyond the higher education sector.