

ONECA Members Meetings 2021

Purpose of Meetings: ONECA committed to hosting virtual meetings with the members in 2021 to keep lines of communication open during this time of the COVID pandemic. This forum provides an avenue for open communication, networking, sharing information, learning from each other and problem solving.

Meeting Frequency: Every two months.

Focussing Discussions: ONECA selects topics for discussion but also honours the need for members to share timely and current issues.

Meeting Summary

April 2021 – The focus of the discussion was to share information about how responsibilities have changed since the beginning of the pandemic. Twenty-eight (28) members signed in for this meeting.

Topics	Member Responses
How have responsibilities changed since the beginning of the pandemic?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The format of how we do our work has changed; there are now more face to face meetings through virtual formats; there are more mental health issues; I'm spending double or triple the time helping students with mental health; some students are delaying their studies for in-person programming - No changes; students are adapting to online learning; sending out links for mental health issues more often; less partners to talk to freed up more time to catch up with administrative duties; some staff changes; more meetings with students on zoom - Not much has changed; focussing on helping grade twelve students get ready for post-secondary; there are mental health issues; some students struggling with online learning; working in office and using personal protective equipment - The building has been shut down off and on; staff changes; difficult to work at home with two children learning at home; difficult to keep up with task lists; 10 students withdrew; no students got covid; we finally got a database - Learning is all virtual now; more students are seeking financial assistance and assistance with identity; more students seeking online programming; 15-week programs are now 12-week programs; seeing more career students – students seeking programming of 12 months or less in order to keep EI; more zoom meetings; students with conflicting demands; more mental health issues; two new pathways programs to be available next month - COVID funding was used for student tutors and to provide students with technology assistance; students still struggling with online

	<p>learning; some programs were cancelled; we need to work together to be there for the students; it's hard</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Some changes; working remotely; building renovations now; working with the Board who makes decisions, finance staff and students; contacting students via texts, social media and zoom meetings; some technical issues with email; using personal protective equipment; try to provide financial help to students for computers, laptops, printers and financial subsidies; more drop outs this year from both new students and students with children/child care issues- Everyone is tired; mental health issues; graduation by zoom this year and dropping off gifts- Funding approved for graduation this year – no graduation last year so two cohorts this year; lost 10% of students; lots of mental health issues; hard to do online learning; at least 80 students have done very well; using direct deposits to refund students- Education plans have been disrupted; new system at secondary school – quadmester; provide students with laptops and chrome books; some students get wifi sticks and others get burner phones for internet access; some students lack motivation; 5 to 7 % of students missed some credits; needed to help students and some parent with technology/access; split shifts in the office; virtual meetings using different formats; IPRC virtual meetings; its taking its toll on students; mental wellness issues; not able to access mental wellness helpers; emergency funding used for post-secondary students; some withdrawals; some student need the classroom setting- We had the option to work from home; student attendance is worse; poor wifi; the school was not ready for online learning or for online learning on reserve; all students equipped with technology and wifi but parents are still asking for help; tired of zooming; schools asking for help to deliver school work; students need to be logged in from 9 to 3 and sometimes need to wait until the next day for teachers to upload schoolwork; students are using the tutors; one student has had very little contact with the EA; parent engagement is low; need parents feeling at ease; 2 post-secondary student deferred; may hire a parent to help- Same issues, particularly with online learning and mental health; some students prefer online learning; numbers have increased with the spring intakes; a few withdrawals- Happy with the number of applications so far this year; applications may be high; some students prefer learning from home; increase in mental health issues; planning a virtual graduation this year and will try to livestream- Mental health and wellness are the biggest issues; the most vulnerable students are disengaged; they need that personal touch; trying group chats with some success and some failures; their needs are diverse and intense; they need to feel the love- Supporting students more with zooms and porch visits; concentrating on mental health ie. dropped off games, bird seed and feeders, garden box supplies for high school students; wellness boxes, paint kits, bingo – something other than academics; had to source out speech therapy; some youth are participating more e.g. camps;
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	<p>working with mental health and economic development more to engage youth and provide incomes; students now know each other more; will continue to focus on non-academic/mental health supports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting with school boards regularly - Trying to fill gaps in student needs; using blackboard sessions to promote and assist with bursaries - Continuing to do mental health check-ins; internet access issues; need activities not on laptops and need to support parents; we miss the students – its difficult to read their body language on zoom; have what do you do for ‘you time’; encourage bubble systems, keep your bubbles small; share resources as needed; its really hard - Same concerns; outreach is challenging; student want in class programming; apprehension about virtual learning; students are not engaged; some students do not have private spaces at home for online learning - We get our buckets filled by being in the classroom; its hard for students but
<p>Messages from the Chat</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At our secondary school, we have been online for most of the year. It has impacted us a lot. Students have stopped attending due to various reasons although we have provided each student with a laptop. It is also difficult to communicate with many as they do not respond -various reasons, mental health, socio-economic etc. - What are your policies for students that owe monies? Do they have to pay it all back before they regain their eligibility? do you forgive a percentage? has council ever wiped out all of the historical student dept to the post-secondary program? feel free to email me at amjones@gardenriver.ca - We prefer payment upfront before sponsorship but are willing to make a payment arrangement with the student as well. We try to accommodate as much as we can. - We deduct a maximum of \$50 per living allowance for students who owe money to post secondary - For the deductions and payment plans, if the monies are not paid back while being sponsored, and they drop/withdraw/abandon their studies again, what do you do then? - It’s forgiven after 7 years. - Future sponsorship will be held until full repayment. - When forgiven, does that student get a clean slate so to speak? they regain all eligibility for the same level of education or do you keep that history and they would only be eligible for remaining time at same level of education? - We finally got a student database and we have been working on getting information in that. - Our policy states that they would only be eligible for remaining time at same level of education. If they wish to take a second program at that level there is a waiting period for all students. - Of two years. - Spring 2021 was our first go round of the online applications with it. - Which database did you buy?

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- We also purchased a new system. It is still being prepared for our use, hopefully by June and this will allow us to do online applications as well. A lot of adjusting ahead. We went with dadavan.- We are with dadavan as well- We are looking into purchasing DADAVAN as well- We are looking for funding to purchase as our 10% won't cover. Any suggestions where we could look for additional funding to purchase a new database?- We did a graduation parade for all graduates last year and will do this again, I am sure. It was well received by the community. For those not here, we mailed their gifts.- We did a Covid Graduation we had time slots for students that could make it in. We had snacks prepared covid style everything was covered. We had their gifts wrapped and ready and the ones that couldn't make we sent them gift cards- I am having problems with the internet, keeping shutting down- I have another appointment at 11:30am. Nice to hear from everyone. If ONECA wants us to reply to the questions asked today via email, please let me know :)- Great work everyone - keep up the good work!- Thank you everyone for the great amazing work that you do! Take care and keep safe!! :)- Thank you so much!! Have a great day everyone.- Thank you!!- Congrats Winners! Thank you for hosting this sharing time.- Miigwech |
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