

# Launching the Second Round of the Virtual Learning Strategy

Expanding the capacity and quality of virtual learning

On November 4, 2021 eCampusOntario released the call for Expressions of Interest (EOIs) for the Second Round of funding in support of the Government of Ontario’s Virtual Learning Strategy (VLS). Through this Second Round of VLS funding, an additional \$8 million was made available by eCampusOntario. Originally announced on December 11, 2020, the VLS is a historic investment by the Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities (MCU) to drive growth and advancement in virtual learning across the province’s postsecondary institutions.

## The Virtual Learning Strategy is built on three key pillars:



Being the future



Being a lifelong learner

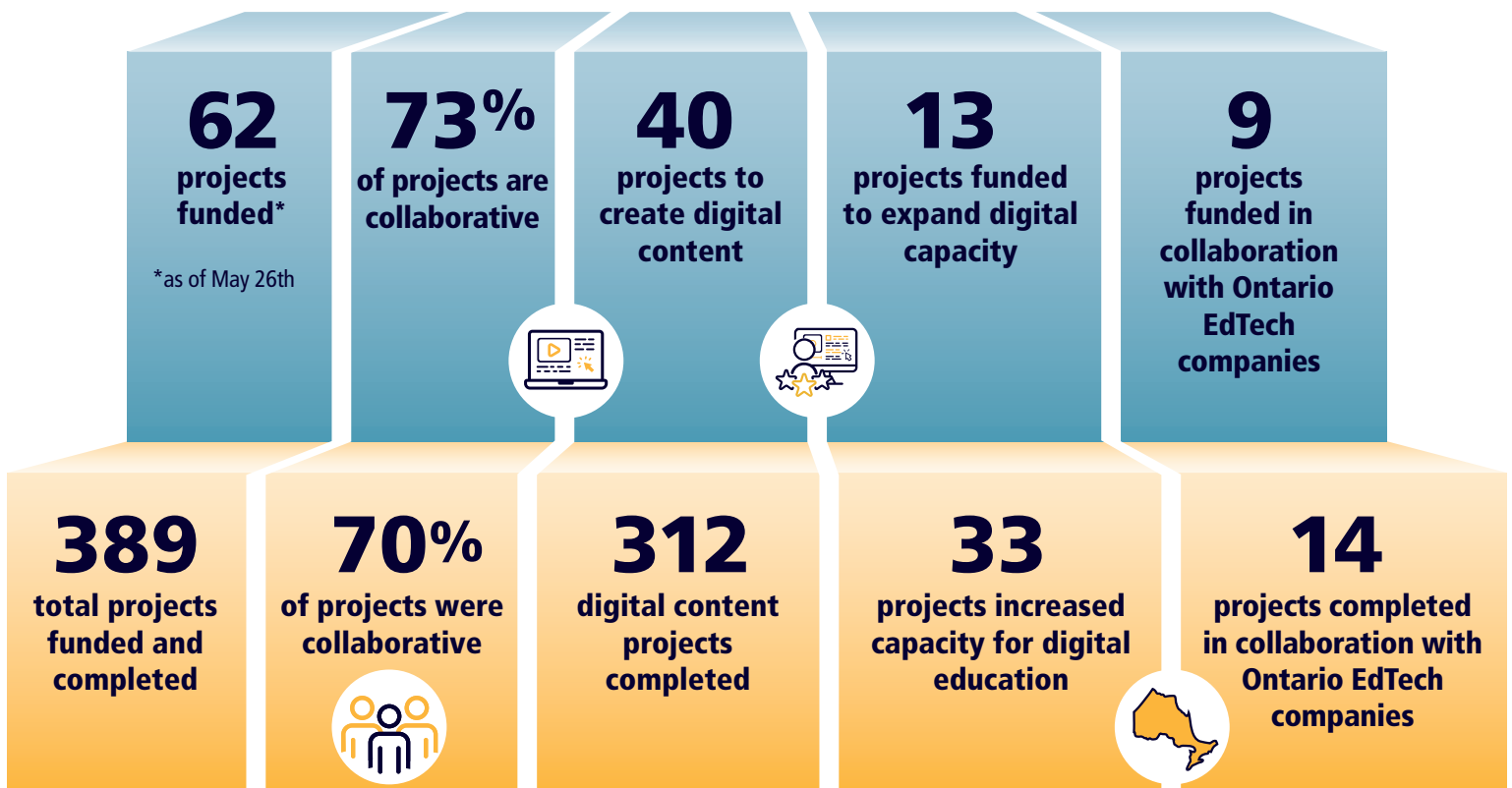


Being a global leader

Building on the successes of the **First Round of funding**, the **Second Round** continues to expand the capacity and quality of virtual learning in Ontario’s postsecondary education sector.

■ First Round of VLS funding

■ Second Round of VLS funding



# VLS Second Round Response and Results

## Application Response

**430**

**applications submitted**

**93%** of Ontario publicly funded postsecondary institutions participated

**98**

**evaluators**

from Ontario postsecondary institutions reviewed applications

**2**

**evaluators**

independently reviewed each application



**Virtual Learning Advisory Committee (VLAC)**

reviewed funding portfolio to ensure alignment with VLS pillars and elements of equity, collaboration, and impact



**62**

**projects funded\***

\*as of May 26th

**80%**

of Ontario's public postsecondary institutions involved in a funded project

**\$5.6**

**million total funding**

## Funding Results Through EOIs

### Digital Capacity



#### Targeted Supports

...to assist institutions with low virtual learning capacity through funding to hire additional staff to support the development of virtual learning materials and capacity.

**Over \$1.7 million**



#### International Marketing

...to further develop and launch international marketing for "Destination Ontario" for postsecondary education.

**Over \$200,000**

### Digital Content



#### Digital Content

...to promote institutions' achievement of excellence in virtual teaching and learning in support of digital transformation through the continued development, adaptation, adoption and translation of Ontario-made educational materials and micro-credentials for virtual environments.

**Over \$2.8 million**



#### Digital Content - XR

...to support partnerships between postsecondary institutions and Ontario educational technology companies to create innovative XR learning content. Projects will test technologies and provide support for wider market distribution while producing content for use in Ontario's postsecondary institutions.

**Over \$900,000**

# VLS Second Round Participation

4

Indigenous  
Institutes

23

Colleges

21

Universities

participating in at least one funded project

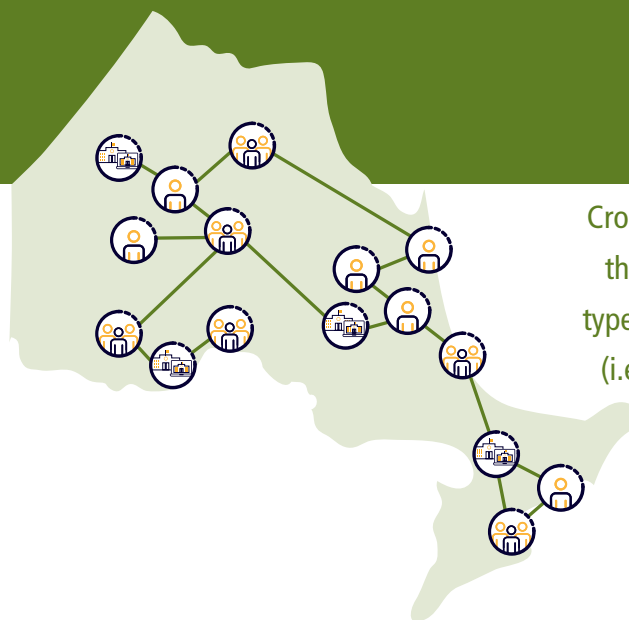
## By prioritizing collaboration, the VLS:

- promotes sector-wide digital transformation,
- ensures effective, efficient, and strategic use of virtual learning resources,
- encourages use, re-use, and re-mixing of VLS-developed materials,
- increases the reach of impact to all Ontario publicly-funded institutions,
- positions the Ontario postsecondary community as a leader in the global market.

73%  
of projects are  
collaborative

30  
cross-region  
funded projects

Cross-region collaborations are those that include two or more institutions from different Ontario regions working together.



14  
cross-sector  
funded projects

Cross-sector collaborations are those that include two or more different types of institutions working together (i.e. Indigenous Institutes, colleges, and/or universities).

13

projects will have  
outputs available  
in French

22

projects include the engagement of Indigenous communities,  
Indigenous Ways of Knowing, Indigenous pedagogies, and/or  
Traditional Knowledge

# VLS Second Round Total Investment

## Highlights

\$8 million



### Digital Content

**\$3.8 million**

- Digital Content and Digital Content - XR through EOIs (page 2)
- Sector participation in reviews of Educational Technology through EdTech Sandbox



### Digital Capacity

**\$2.9 million**

- Targeted Supports and International Marketing projects through EOIs (page 2)
- Connecting institutions with targeted supports through Ontario Exchange (OEX)



### Virtual Teaching and Learning

**\$950,000**

- Promote adoption of VLS materials
- Create mentorship opportunities and communities for Digital Transformation
- Develop resources for professional development across the sector



### VLS Administration

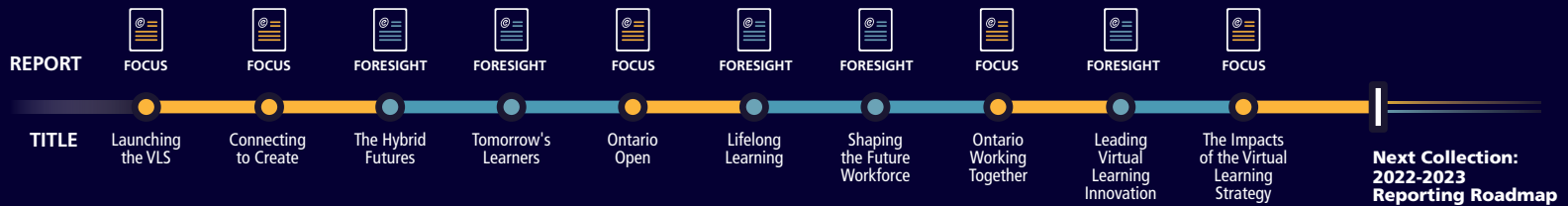
**\$406,000**

- Program management, monitoring of impact, and building capacity for future virtual learning growth

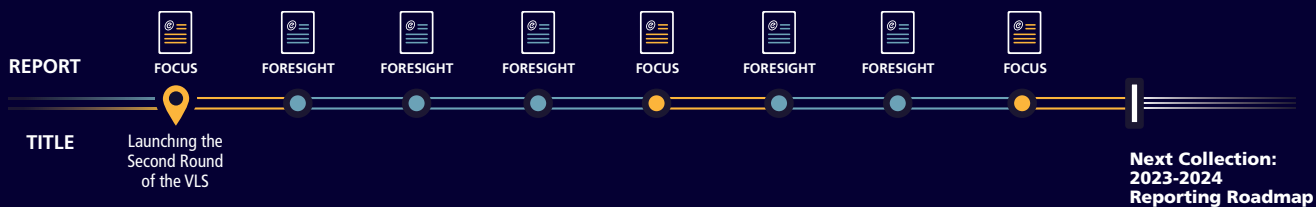
Some of the data presented in this infographic has been rounded and represent approximations. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact [vls@ecampusontario.ca](mailto:vls@ecampusontario.ca).

This report is part of a series of Virtual Learning Strategy (VLS) **Focus Reports** that tell data-driven stories about the VLS investment. VLS Focus Reports are accompanied by a series of **Foresight Reports**. The Foresight Reports expand on the VLS pillar of Being the Future by exploring maturing trends in the Ontario postsecondary sector and situating the VLS in the futures of virtual learning. Visit the [Virtual Learning Strategy website](#) to read the reports collection.

## 2021-22 VLS Reports Outline



## 2022-23 VLS Reports Outline



● Focus Report ● Foresight Report