



# BRIEFING NOTES

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## Upcoming Events

**April 15**  
International Pathways  
Colloquium  
Chicago, IL

**April 20 - 21**  
ONCAT Student Pathways in  
Higher Educations Conference  
Toronto, ON

**May 24 - 26**  
CICan 2015 Conference  
Winnipeg, MB

**June 24 - 25**  
PCCAT2015 - Blending Borders:  
Expanding Capacity and Access  
through Student Transfer and  
Mobility  
Windsor, ON

## Contact us!

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## Welcome!

In the summer of 2014, the Centre for Research in Student Mobility at Seneca was established to become a hub for ongoing research in student movement within the postsecondary education sector.

The Centre will investigate how and why students transfer between postsecondary institutions and programs to help inform policy, program and pathway development, student advising, student support services and institutional partnerships.

This publication is the first in a series of monthly briefing notes which will include updates on current research projects, interesting facts related to student mobility, upcoming events and more.

## Student Mobility Milestones in Ontario: A Brief Timeline

*In 1965, Ontario Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology were established. They were originally designed as a binary system of college and university sectors, with little or no movement between the two. However, William Davis, the Education Minister at the time, stated that "no able and qualified student should be prevented from going on from a College of Applied Arts and Technology to a university" and recommended the creation of a committee to set the conditions under which qualified college graduates would be admitted to university. Although that did not occur at the time, there has been slow and steady progress towards a more seamless postsecondary education system in Ontario:*

**1990** The Council of Regents, on behalf of the Minister of Colleges and Universities, was asked to develop "a vision of the college system in the year 2000". The resulting report, *Vision 2000: Quality and Opportunity*, recommended the Ontario government should "endeavor to expand and improve the opportunities for students to move between the college and university sectors, while maintaining the distinctiveness of each sector".

**1993** The Ontario Task Force on Advanced Training, chaired by Walter Pitman, recommended the elimination of barriers to inter-sectoral transfer of credits in postsecondary education (through new funding mechanisms) and the creation of an agency or council to provide leadership in the development of credit transfer policies and practices.

**1995** The Pan-Canadian Protocol on the Transferability of University Credits was signed by the provincial Ministers of Education. Canadian universities agreed to accept credit towards a degree for all course work completed by transfer students during the first two years of university study in Canada, provided certain conditions were met. Also included in this agreement were the final year of CEGEP studies in Quebec, as well as university transfer courses in BC and Alberta colleges and university colleges.

**1996** The College University Consortium Council was created. Its aim was to "promote and coordinate joint education and training ventures that will: aid the transfer of students from sector to sector; facilitate the

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creation of joint programs between colleges and universities; and, further the development of a more seamless continuum of postsecondary education in Ontario". It was also given the responsibility of updating and expanding the Ontario College University Transfer Guide.

**1999** The Ontario College University Degree-Completion Accord (Port Hope Accord) was signed, outlining a series of principles and providing a framework for developing new degree programs and degree-completion agreements between colleges and universities.

**2000** The Post-secondary Education Choice and Excellence Act, 2000, was passed. It required organizations wishing to offer programs or parts of a program leading to a degree, or to be known as a university, to have either a consent of the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities or an act of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. Its major impact was to provide Ontario Colleges the authority to grant degrees, via a submission to the Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board and subsequent approval by the Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities.

**2002** The Councils of Ministers in Education Working Group on Credit Transfer was established to develop pan-Canadian strategies of credit transfer through an initial focus on developing and enhancing strong provincial/territorial systems.

**2003** Canadian college presidents sign the Mobility and Transferability Protocol for College to College Transfer. The protocol committed the institutions to maximizing the recognition and transfer of learning acquired at other colleges.

**2004** Ontario Postsecondary Education Review initiated, chaired by former premier Bob Rae (the *Rae Review*). The Colleges Ontario and the College Student Alliance submissions, among others, included a call for a more coherent, integrated PSE system in order to promote student access and success.

**2005** *Rae Review: Ontario, a Leader in Learning* was released, recommending that colleges and universities be required to recognize each other's related programming to create clear and efficient pathways for students.

**2006** The Pan Canadian Consortium on Admissions and Transfer was created, whose purpose included facilitating "the implementation of policies and practices that support student mobility both within and

among provinces and territories and granting of transfer credit in order to improve access to post-secondary education in Canada"

**2008** The Council of Ontario Universities and Colleges Ontario established a joint task force to consider the best approach to improving the quality of, and access to PSE, as well as to inform a model of an Ontario credit transfer system.

**2009** A credit transfer steering committee was established by the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities to support the policy development, design and implementation of an Ontario credit transfer system. The steering committee was chaired by the ministry and included representatives from the colleges, universities, and student groups.

**2010** Ontario government releases its five year *Open Ontario* plan which includes commitments in the 2010 provincial budget to improve "students' ability to navigate Ontario's postsecondary system by providing additional resources to support the implementation of a credit transfer system."

**2010** Ontario's Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, added system wide indicators on participation in the credit transfer system for the 2009-2010 multi-year accountability agreement report back process.

**2011** The Ontario Council on Articulation and Transfer was created, replacing the College University Consortium Council, with a goal to enhance student pathways and reduce barriers for students looking to transfer among Ontario's 44 publicly funded postsecondary institutions

**2011** A new provincial credit transfer framework was announced by Ontario's Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, committing \$73.7 million over five years to develop a more comprehensive and transparent system of pathways and credit transfer.

**2013** The Ontario government releases *Ontario's Differentiation Policy Framework* with a goal over time "to steer the system in ways that align with provincial priorities while respecting the autonomy and supporting the strengths of our institutions." One of the six key components included Institutional Collaboration to Support Student Mobility, with system-wide metrics established for all institutions. The differentiation framework supported the negotiation of strategic mandate

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agreements between the province and its postsecondary institutions, which were signed by all Ontario colleges and universities the following year.

**2014** The Ontario Council on Articulation and Transfer launches the Course-to-Course Transfer Guide, with a goal to ease the transfer of credits for postsecondary students in the province.

**2014** The provincial councils, Alberta Council on Admissions and Transfer, the British Columbia Council on Admissions and Transfer, the New Brunswick Council on Articulations and Transfer, and the Ontario Council on Articulation and Transfer sign a memorandum of understanding to formalize their intent to enhance student mobility across their jurisdictions and on a pan-Canadian basis.

*Adapted in part from pages 4-6 in Kerr, A., McCloy, U., Liu, S. (2010). Forging Pathways: Students who Transfer Between Ontario Colleges and Universities. Toronto: Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario.*

## Other selected readings:

**Cameron, D.M., Royce, D. (1996) Prologue to Change: An Abbreviated History of Public Policy and Postsecondary Education in Ontario.**

<http://www.tcu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/reports/futuree.htm-#appendixB>

**Association of Canadian Community Colleges (2011). Transferability and Post-secondary Pathways – The Role of Canadian Colleges and Institutes.**

<http://www.accc.ca/wp-content/uploads/archive/pubs/-studies/201104TransferabilityReport.pdf>

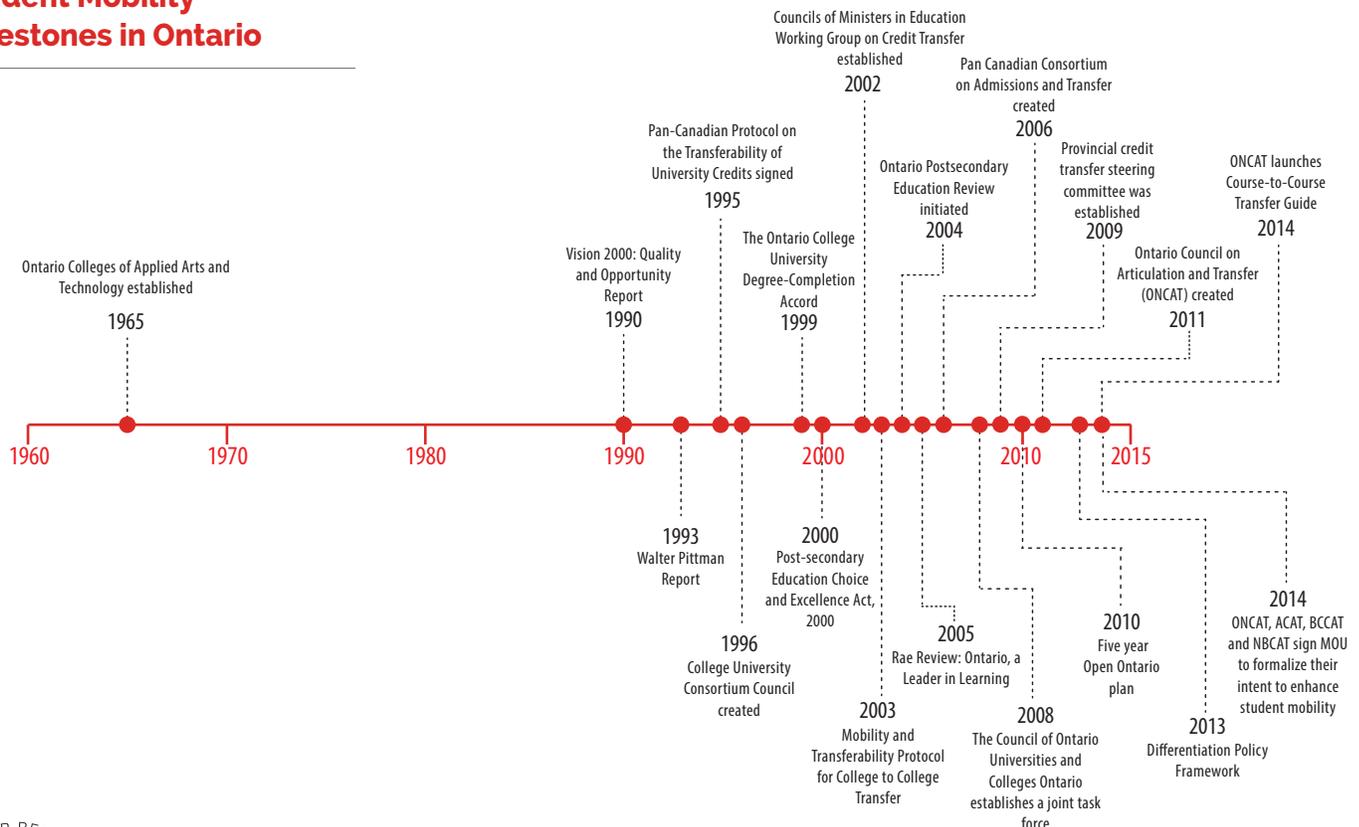
**Stanyon, W. (2003) College University Collaboration: An Ontario Perspective, College Quarterly. Volume 6 Number 1**

<http://www.collegequarterly.ca/2003-vol06-num01-fall/stanyon.html>

**BCCAT. The BC Transfer System: A Brief History**

<http://www.bccat.ca/system/history>

## Student Mobility Milestones in Ontario



## Comments? Contact Us!

Want to leave a comment or provide feedback? We would love to hear from you. Send your thoughts to: [matthew.duncan@senecacollege.ca](mailto:matthew.duncan@senecacollege.ca)