



OELC

Annual Report 2024



OELC

We empower student leadership for all through innovative, experiential learning to inspire change!



Vision & Philosophy

OELC is grounded in the belief that "our youth can, and do make a difference—both today and tomorrow." Our programs aim to create an environment that fosters curiosity, reflection, and growth, allowing young people to learn about themselves, connect with peers, and envision their role in their communities.

Over its long history, OELC has continuously adapted its programming, and today serves over 2,000 students annually, with more than 100,000 youth having participated since its inception. Our programs consistently emphasize hands-on learning, personal growth, social responsibility, and actionable change.



Message from our Managing Director

As we reflect on 2024, I am proud to share the remarkable progress Ontario Educational Leadership Centre (OELC) has made in advancing our mission: to empower and inspire the leaders of tomorrow.

This year marked a renewed energy in our work, as we continued to strengthen our relationships with school boards across the province. Through deeper collaboration and open dialogue, we've been able to extend our reach and ensure that more young leaders see themselves reflected and supported in our programming. These partnerships are critical, and we're grateful for the trust and shared commitment to student leadership that our school board partners demonstrate every day.

We also saw growth in our OELC@School initiative, bringing our leadership development programming directly into school communities. This expansion allowed us to engage more students, educators, and communities than before, and helped us embed the values of leadership, equity, and voice at the heart of everyday school experiences. The response from students and staff alike has been overwhelmingly positive, reaffirming the importance and impact of accessible, in-school leadership opportunities.

As always, the heart of our work is the students. Our spring and fall programs continued to be a powerful space for youth to grow, connect, and be inspired. We were thrilled to once again partner with Camp Couchiching, whose beautiful setting and dedicated team helped us deliver a memorable and meaningful leadership experience for hundreds of young people. The sense of community and belonging created there is unlike any other, and we are deeply grateful for their partnership.

At every turn this year, we have seen how leadership can flourish when young people are given the tools, the space, and the encouragement to lead. Whether in school gyms, classrooms, or around the campfire, we are witnessing a generation of youth stepping forward with purpose, empathy, and vision. Thank you to our dedicated staff, facilitators, volunteers, school board partners, and donors who make this work possible. Together, we are building not just leaders for tomorrow—but confident, compassionate changemakers for today.

Laura Sparks

Managing Director, OELC

Opening Doors to Leadership: How the McCall MacBain Foundation is Creating Opportunities for Rural Youth



Each year, hundreds of young people come through the Ontario Educational Leadership Centre (OELC) with fresh ideas, energy, and a desire to grow as leaders in their schools and communities. But for many students living in rural and remote areas of Ontario, the opportunity to participate in these transformative leadership experiences—especially those offered during our spring and fall sessions at Camp Couchiching—can be limited by geography and financial barriers.

Thanks to the generous and continued support of the McCall MacBain Foundation, more of these students are able to access life-changing leadership development programs that might otherwise be out of reach.

The Foundation's annual grant plays a critical role in removing barriers and increasing equitable access to OELC's spring programs. Specifically directed toward supporting students from rural communities, this funding helps cover registration and travel costs—ensuring that no student misses out on the chance to develop their leadership potential due to financial constraints.

These students bring valuable perspectives shaped by their unique lived experiences. When they are part of the OELC community, everyone benefits. Their voices enrich discussions, deepen understanding, and foster a broader sense of belonging among all participants. By helping to ensure that rural youth are represented and empowered, the McCall MacBain Foundation is helping to build a more inclusive and connected generation of Ontario leaders.

This past year at Camp Couchiching, the impact was clear. Students who had never travelled far from home found themselves immersed in a supportive and inspiring environment. They formed lasting friendships, discovered new strengths, and returned to their communities with increased confidence, purpose, and pride.

We are deeply grateful to the McCall MacBain Foundation for their vision and commitment to youth leadership. Their investment in equity, education, and opportunity is helping to shape not just individual lives—but the future of leadership across Ontario.

Highlights of 2024

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Camp Couchiching for another incredible year of partnership. Their beautiful venue continues to provide the perfect backdrop for leadership development, reflection, and connection. More than just a location, Camp Couchiching is a true collaborator—supportive, flexible, and deeply committed to creating a welcoming environment for all. We are grateful for their ongoing partnership and the vital role they play in helping us deliver memorable and meaningful experiences to Ontario's young leaders.



"OELC gives students something truly special—a space where they're seen, heard, and empowered to lead. Every year, I see students come back more confident, more thoughtful, and ready to make a difference in our school community. The impact lasts far beyond the campfire and classroom—it shapes who they are becoming."

— Ms. J. Thompson, Grade 8 Teacher

Over 25 schools; 1,400+ students

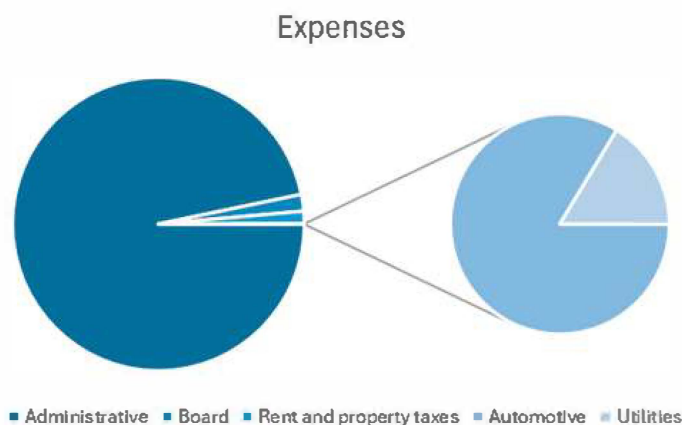
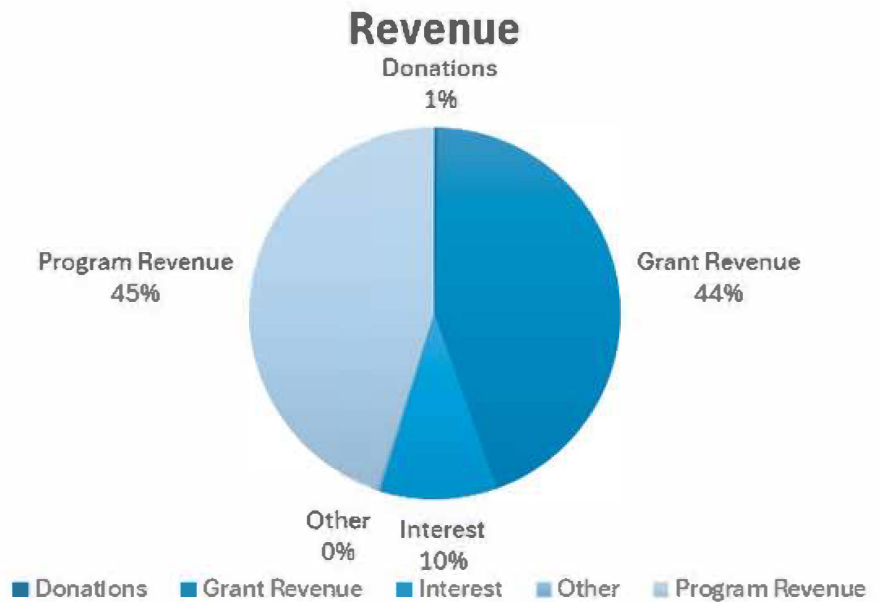
In 2024, over 1,400 students from over 25 schools across Ontario participated in OELC programs. From small rural communities to larger urban centres, we were proud to welcome young leaders from every corner of the province—each bringing unique perspectives, energy, and a shared passion for making a difference.

Improving Accessibility

In 2024, we continued to improve accessibility across our programs and onsite experiences to better support the diverse needs of our students—culturally, intellectually, and physically. From enhanced program content to more inclusive facilities and supports, we are committed to creating spaces where every student feels welcomed, respected, and able to thrive as a leader.

Financial Snapshot

Donations: \$440
Grant revenue: \$50,000
Interest: \$11,537
Other: \$284
Program Revenue: \$51,058
Net revenue: \$113,319



Administrative (salaries, insurance, marketing, overhead): \$237,978
Board (insurance): \$4,517
Rent & property taxes: \$3,376
Automotive: \$123
Utilities: \$24

Excess operating expenses over revenue: \$132,699
Net assets: \$334,185