



**Ontario Council on Articulation and Transfer**  
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## **2014 Student Pathways in Higher Education Conference** **April 28 – 29, 2014**

### **SPEAKING NOTES**

Check against delivery

#### **Conference Opening**

**Dominic Giroux**

**ONCAT Board Co-Chair**

**President and Vice-Chancellor of Laurentian University**

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Good morning everyone.

I'm pleased to welcome you to ONCAT's third annual Student Pathways in Higher Education Conference.

It's great to see so many of you here today.

A number of you have travelled a long way to join us, and are joining us for the third year in a row.

Your continued presence speaks to your passion for student success and your commitment to enhancing student mobility.

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Dominic Giroux, and I'm President and Vice-Chancellor of Laurentian University and Co-Chair of the Ontario Council on Articulation and Transfer's Board of Directors.

This year's conference theme is centred on enhancing engagement, access and opportunities.

Over the next two days, we hope you will have many thoughtful and productive conversations with your colleagues on both the provincial and national levels.

As a member organization, we are pleased to have representation from all 44 publicly-funded postsecondary institutions in Ontario.

Given the work we do in the province, it seems only fitting that this morning our first session allows us to transcend those boundaries and learn more about student mobility across Canada.

Following the interprovincial panel, we'll hear from the Honourable Brad Duguid, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities.

And then break for lunch.

Later this afternoon, we'll hear from Patrick Deane, President and Vice-Chancellor of McMaster University, who will discuss the possibility of a national protocol on articulation and transfer.

And I really hope you'll stay for the reception following his remarks.

The informal conversations you will have with colleagues is at least as important as the conference sessions themselves.

Tomorrow morning, of course, is our ONCAT Annual General Meeting, where we'll be naming our new Board Co-Chair, given that Don's tenure has come to an end.

We hope to see you there so you can help us thank Don for his many contributions as well as welcome the new Co-Chair.

Glenn Vollebregt, President and CEO of St. Lawrence College, has been nominated for this role by his peers at Colleges Ontario.

Following the AGM, we'll hear from Marie-Lison Fougère, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Strategic Policy and Programs Division of the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.

The ADM will highlight the importance of credit transfer as it relates to the government's postsecondary education agenda.

We hope these keynote addresses will enhance the small-group conversations you will have in your concurrent sessions.

Our vision is that, by sharing your approaches and challenges with like-minded peers, you will continue to identify opportunities to work together.

You should all be proud of what you've already accomplished.

Since ONCAT's inception in 2011, the number of transfer pathways on our student website, ONTransfer.ca, has increased from about 300 to more than 650.

Those pathways, which you helped develop, create more than 35,000 student transfer opportunities throughout your postsecondary institutions.

And while that alone is impressive, there's more.

In just the last year you've helped ONCAT launch several firsts for Ontario.

In January, we launched the Course-to-Course Transfer Guide on ONTransfer.ca.

Using the Guide, for the first time in Ontario, students can enter their transcript information and look up which of their completed courses will be accepted for credit by other Ontario institutions.

More than 80,000 course equivalencies are already included in the Guide.

Students can also now find the credit transfer policies and procedures of each of your institutions on ONTransfer.ca.

In other words, credit transfer is becoming easier and more transparent for students.

The preliminary data you've collected tells us that more than 21,500 students transfer every year.

And this is why your work on student mobility is so important.

Your dedication and commitment to collaborating with your colleagues is changing the culture of credit transfer in Ontario.

Your efforts deserve to be recognized.

But there is still more to do.

We've just started the work to identify best practices in credit transfer policies and procedure.

We are also focusing on strengthening pathways for students who transfer between degrees.

These initiatives will build on the foundations of what we've already done and move us closer to creating a made-in-Ontario credit transfer system.

We're hoping that the conversations and connections you make over the course of the conference will inspire and inform your further efforts.

To broaden the discussion, you can also tweet your thoughts to @ONTransfer or use the hashtag "pathways."

As your ideas develop, ONCAT is here to help realize them.

Glenn Craney, ONCAT's Executive Director, is a strong champion of change through collaboration.

I encourage you to connect with him as you move forward so that we can continue to support your initiatives and progress on student mobility.

Thank you.