

The Impacts of the Virtual Learning Strategy:

Investing in Ontario's Virtual Learning Future

The first round of the Virtual Learning Strategy (VLS) invested in the advancement of digital content, capacity, fluency, and delivery for virtual and hybrid learning across the province's postsecondary institutions.

The Virtual Learning Strategy is built on three key pillars:



Being the future



Being a lifelong
learner

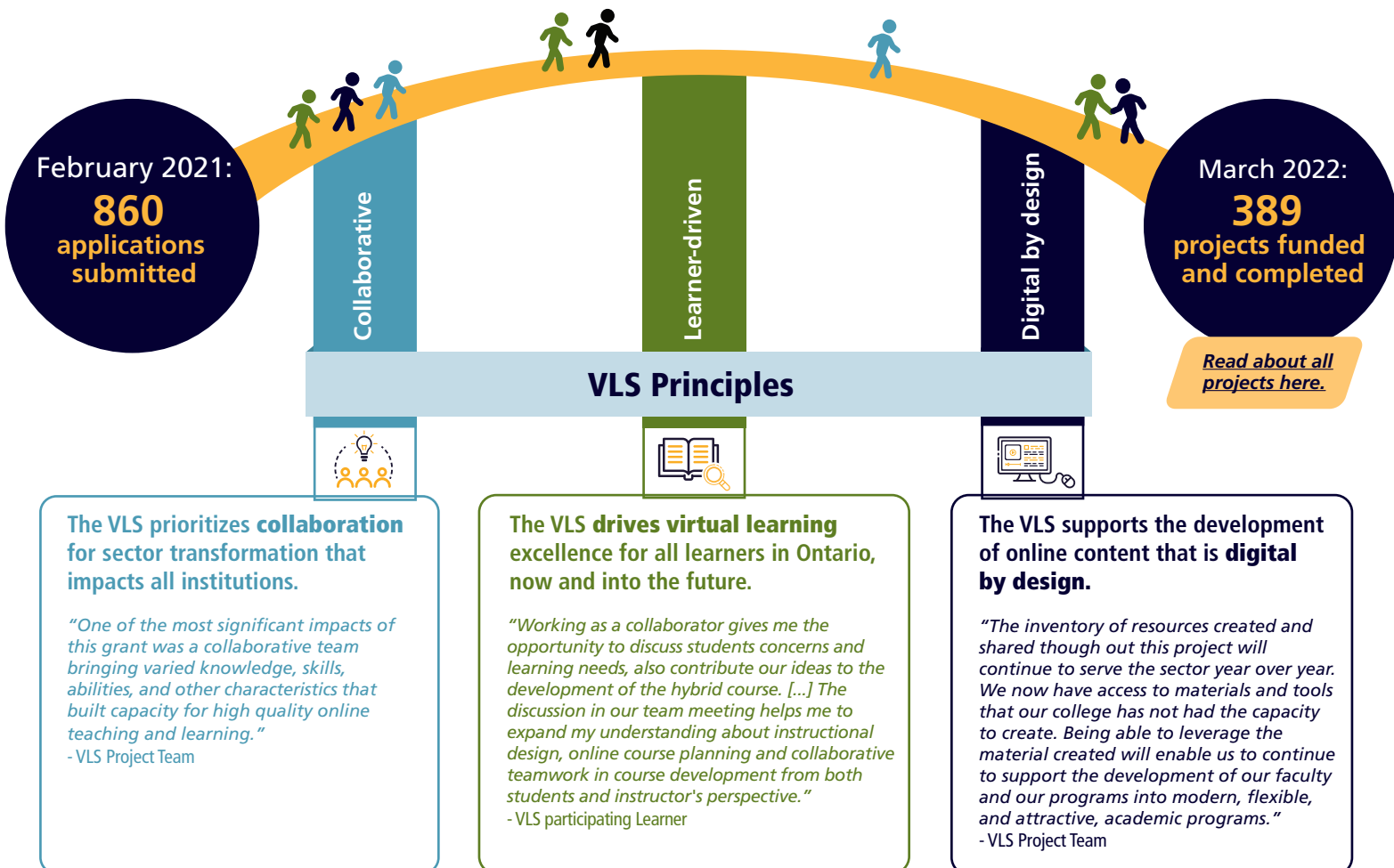


Being a global
leader

VLS Results at a Glance

100% Ontario postsecondary sector engagement

✓ 9 Indigenous Institutes ✓ 22 Colleges ✓ 24 Universities [Learn more about participating institutions here.](#)



VLS Accomplishments

The following section explores the outcomes of the Virtual Learning Strategy (VLS) through a breakdown of results per tranche. The findings presented were collected from VLS project teams via the fourth quarterly report (Q4) and additional research activities.

Digital Content

312
projects
completed

The Digital Content tranche promoted member institutions' achievement of excellence in virtual teaching and learning through the development, adaptation and adoption of educational materials for virtual environments. This tranche promoted the design and development of online, innovative content and collaborative practices that fostered understanding of how digital content serves pedagogy for all Ontario learners.

Items Available in the VLS Collection

Virtual Educational Resources
(e.g. textbooks)



Simulations, Serious Games,
XR Experiences



Online Courses, Programs,
Micro-credentials



■ Available Globally ■ Available to Ontario Educators and Learners

The VLS collection will be available in Spring 2022 to eligible Ontario educators and learners either through the [Ontario Commons Licenses](#) or worldwide access through an open license. Please visit the [VLS Collection here](#).

VLS Tranche

Digital Delivery

14
projects
completed

The Digital Delivery-Demonstration Projects tranche was designed to support member institutions partnering with Ontario educational technology companies to test technologies and provide support for wider market distribution. Technologies were prototypes ready for demonstration (TRL 7 or greater) in an Ontario Indigenous Institute, college, or university.

As reported by project teams, VLS educators and learners said that the technologies were:

- Engaging and immersive
- Unique and customizable
- Easy to use and navigate
- Interactive

...and that they:

- Improved the learning experience
- Saved time
- Enhanced learner engagement
- Enabled different modalities
- Enabled futures thinking

3500+ learners involved in testing and evaluating technology

100+ educators involved in testing and evaluating technology

22 Ontario colleges and universities engaging in VLS Digital Delivery projects as either lead institution or collaborators

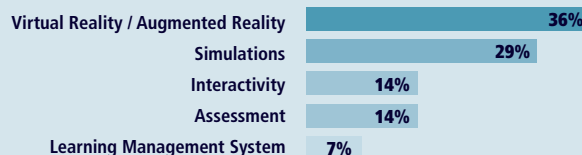


100%
of Delivery projects collaborated with Ontario EdTech companies

12 industry partners engaging in VLS Digital Delivery projects

- Affinity Learning
- Ametros Learning Inc
- Cya.Live
- D2L
- Kritik
- LightBoard Depot
- ForThinkInc
- MasterpieceVR
- NextTech AR
- Rogers Communications
- Sandbox Inc.
- UP360

Project types



30
projects
completed

The Digital Capacity-Targeted Supports tranche was designed to support member institutions to achieve excellence in virtual teaching and learning. A key factor in the Digital Capacity Targeted Supports tranche was to promote equity in the postsecondary sector to deliver high quality online learning by providing funding to institutions with demonstrated need for additional support.

Digital Capacity - Targeted Supports

SUPPORTED		ACROSS	
4,700+ educators	81,000+ learners	6,000+ courses	590+ programs
<p>ENGAGING EDUCATORS through coaching, workshops, online hubs, & conferences</p> <p>Enhancing PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT</p>	<p>Enabling COLLABORATION</p> <p>Designing for and supporting implementation of HYBRID, HYFLEX, AND ONLINE DELIVERY</p> <p>Supporting COPYRIGHT, LICENSING, AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY</p>	<p>Redesigning LEARNER ENGAGEMENT for online and hybrid environments</p> <p>Advancing EQUITY, DIVERSITY, ACCESSIBILITY, INCLUSION, DECOLONIZATION, AND INDIGENIZATION</p>	<p>DIGITAL CONTENT development, updating, and revision</p> <p>Creating and curating OPEN DIGITAL RESOURCES</p> <p>INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN to enhance the online learning experience</p> <p>MULTIMEDIA development and integration in teaching and learning</p> <p>EDTECH review and implementation</p> <p>Developing AUTHENTIC ASSESSMENTS</p>
		<p>GUIDELINES AND FRAMEWORKS for quality hybrid and online teaching and learning</p> <p>Advancing ONLINE AND HYBRID PROGRAMMING</p>	

3
projects
completed

The Digital Capacity-Collaborative tranche that was designed to build collaborative supports, services, and initiatives that drive sector-wide capacity in support of virtual learning. The intent of this tranche was to help Ontario postsecondary institutions work together to co-create a future of learning that enables greater cooperation, collaboration, and equity.

Wraparound Supports



2 VLS Project Teams created modular toolkits and resources to help learners develop personal, academic, career, and community resilience skills.

These flexible and varied resources are intended to support faculty as they grow students' capacity for resiliency, while balancing the capacity of instructors to implement these new tools. Both resources will be available to Ontario educators and learners, and one will be available globally.

International Marketing



The cross-sectoral International Marketing project has laid the foundation to enhance the international market potential for Ontario postsecondary institutions.

This was realized through extensive research and consultation that informed the creation of specific tools and strategies for international recruitment.

30
projects
completed

The Digital Fluency tranche was designed to support the design and development of a series of province-wide courses for continued professional learning across Ontario that improved teaching and learning in a virtual environment. The Digital Fluency supported provided key supports to faculty and students to effectively teach and learn online.



48

supports and resources were created for educators and learners to enhance digital fluency.

Items Available in the VLS Collection

Available to Ontario Educators and Learners

10

Available Globally

38

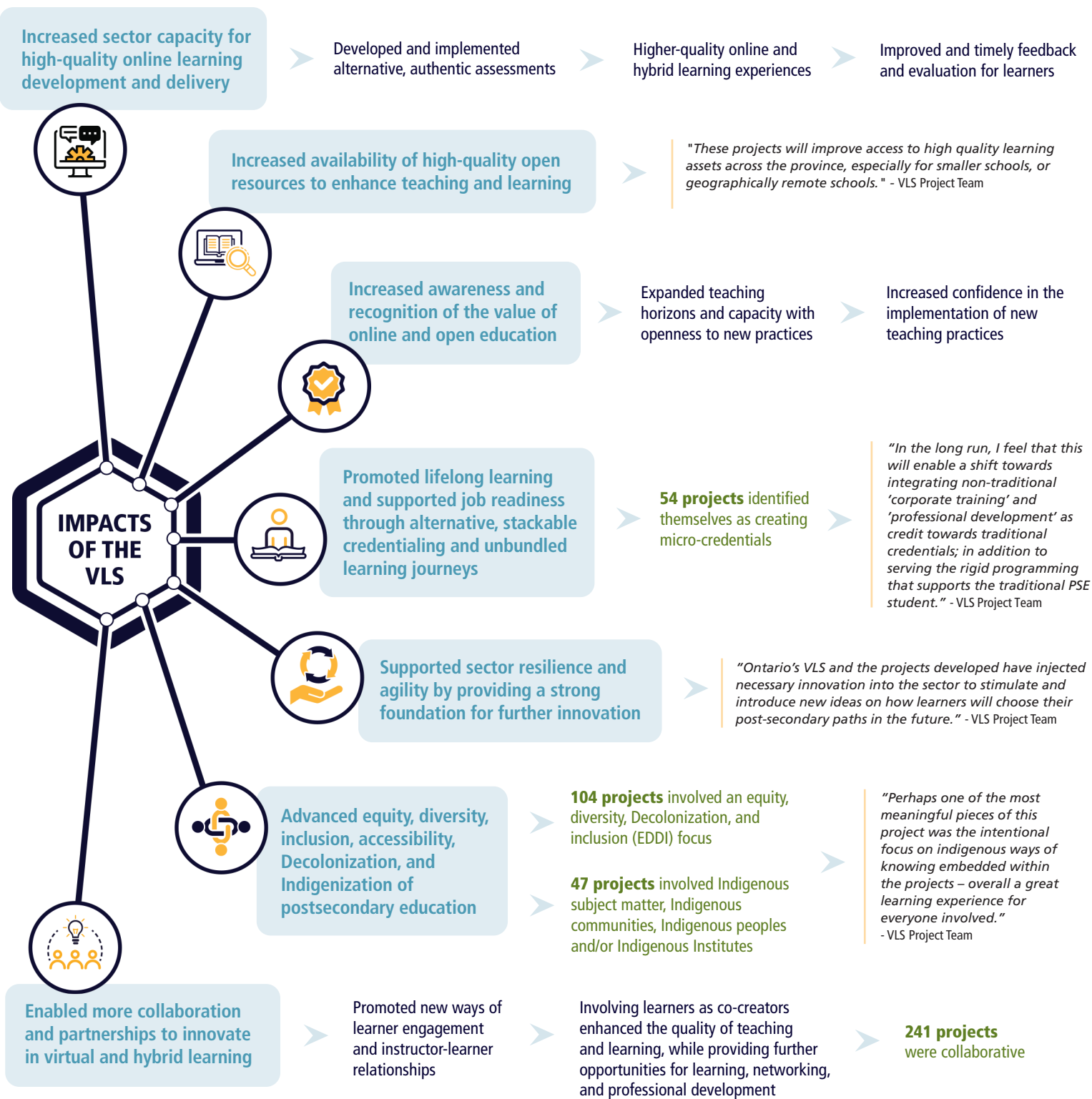
VLS Tranche

Digital Capacity - Collaborative

Digital Fluency

Impacts of the VLS

VLS project teams were asked a series of qualitative questions related to their project and its anticipated impacts across the sector. Open-ended responses were analyzed using an inductive thematic analysis. Project elements were also reviewed for their relation or relevance to particular focuses, for example; projects building micro-credentials or projects with a particular subject matter. Major themes and aggregate quantitative findings were triangulated and are presented together in the diagram below to share an evidence-informed narrative about how the VLS has impacted the postsecondary sector.



The first round of the VLS was only possible thanks to the outstanding participation and contribution of Ontario's postsecondary education sector. eCampusOntario extends its gratitude to each Indigenous Institute, college, and university for co-creating our provincial digital-by-design postsecondary education.

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.

This report is the fifth in a series of five Virtual Learning Strategy (VLS) **Focus Reports** that tell data-driven stories about the VLS investment. VLS Focus Reports are accompanied by a series of five **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

● Focus Report ● Foresight Report



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