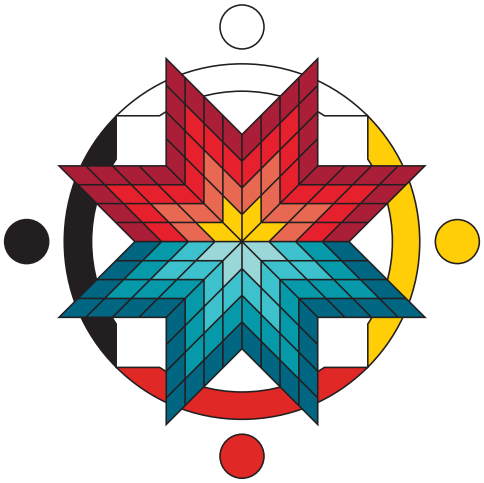


Annual Report 2025-2026

Approved by the George Brown Polytechnic Board of Governors, June 3, 2026

Submitted to the Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security, July 31, 2026

GEORGE BROWN
YOUR TOMORROW
POLYTECHNIC



Land Acknowledgment

George Brown Polytechnic is located on the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and other Indigenous peoples who have lived here over time. We are grateful to share this land as treaty people who learn, work, and live in the community with each other.



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Message from the President and Chair

This Annual Report reflects on a year of meaningful transition for George Brown Polytechnic. We continued to respond to significant challenges affecting the post-secondary education sector, including enrolment pressures and evolving federal immigration policy. Like many institutions, George Brown took steps to strengthen our financial sustainability, improve our operational effectiveness, and align our resources with current realities.

We recognize the impact of these decisions on people and are committed to moving forward with purpose. As part of this evolution, in October 2025, George Brown formally changed our name to George Brown Polytechnic. We've long held the polytechnic designation and changing our name signals our desire to build on our polytechnic identity. It also positions us strongly for the future as we are preparing to launch Strategy 2030.

Throughout the year, we made progress across priorities that matter to Ontario's economy and to the communities we serve. We advanced the renewal of our programming through work on a new Academic Plan and marked an important milestone with the launch of our first applied master's degree, the Master of Construction Management.

We also strengthened partnerships that expand opportunities for learners and respond to workforce needs. New collaborations with Niagara College and the University of Toronto opened the door to future pathways and joint programming. We became the first educational institution in Canada to implement ChatGPT Education, expanding access to artificial intelligence tools for employees and students. We continued to invest in spaces that support community sustainability. Limberlost Place advanced from construction to active use, welcoming its first cohort of students in Fall 2025.

Equity, reconciliation, accessibility, and belonging remained central to our work. The launch of our first People Plan established a multi-year roadmap to strengthen the employee experience and recognition as one of Canada's Best Diversity Employers affirmed the progress being made across the institution. Last summer, George Brown became the first college to host the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, welcoming thousands of scholars, partners, and community members to Toronto.

The achievements outlined in this report are the result of the dedication of George Brown's students, employees, alumni, donors, partners, and governors. We are grateful for their contributions during a year of both challenge and progress.



Dr. Gervan Fearon,
President



Roger Grochmal,
Board Chair



George Brown Polytechnic – Strategy and Vision

Our Mission, Vision, Mandate, Priorities and Strategy

Strategic Plan

As Strategy 2026 comes to a close, we reflect on a plan designed to prioritize growth and impact. While significant changes to IRCC policies altered the environment in which it was delivered, the strategy remained an important anchor in helping us respond, adapt, and build resilience.

Looking ahead, we are preparing to launch Strategy 2030 in the coming year. This next strategy will chart a new course, sharpening our polytechnic position to meet learner needs and industry realities. Centred on our Academic Plan, Strategy 2030 will be informed by a comprehensive listening campaign now underway.

Mission

We turn learning into opportunity.

Mandate

"To offer a comprehensive program of career-oriented, post-secondary education and training to assist individuals in finding and keeping employment, to meet the needs of employers and the changing work environment and to support the economic and social development of [their] local and diverse communities."

Source: Ontario College of Applied Arts and Technology Act, 2002

Vision

To be a polytechnic renowned for its inclusion, excellence, relevance, impact, and leadership.

Priorities

- Attract and Engage Diverse Learners
- Innovative Academic and Research Initiatives
- Connections that Build and Contribute to the Future
- Environmental Sustainability
- Foundation of Equity
- Financial Sustainability

Our Values

Our values inform how we teach, learn, work, and research. They represent the essence of our polytechnic community and what we strive to achieve.

They are more than aspirational; they are practical tools that will help inform our actions and decision-making. Feedback from our community shaped the development of the latest version of our values. During a listening campaign, we heard from 1,200 students and 800 employees.

Employees expressed a need for stronger connections between our values and their daily work. Our values now include example behaviours — ways employees can implement them in their activities and interactions.



Learners and Learning

- We prioritize the needs, successes, and well-being of our learners.
- We embrace innovation and curiosity to discover potential.



Equity and Belonging

- We foster a culture of inclusion and respect.
- We honour Indigenous knowledge and practices.
- We advance anti-racism, anti-oppression, and accessibility.



Collaboration and Community

- We create supportive and co-operative spaces.
- We listen to and learn from each other.



Accountability

- We take responsibility for our decisions.
- We act with integrity, respect, and compassion.



Sustainability

- We strive to ensure that the social, environmental, and economic impacts of our actions benefit future generations.



2025-2026 Business Plan Updates

During 2025–26, George Brown advanced institutional priorities and delivered progress across key areas that also support Ontario's broader objectives for economic growth and workforce development. At the same time, the polytechnic continued to navigate significant external pressures—including federal policy changes affecting international students—which contributed to enrolment declines across the sector and required disciplined planning and timely operational responses.

Against this backdrop, George Brown focused on strengthening its impact for learners, employers, and communities through major milestones such as the transition to George Brown Polytechnic, continued academic renewal and program evolution, sustainable campus development, and strengthened equity and belonging. The report also highlights steps taken to enhance financial sustainability and accountability. Throughout the priorities below, we highlight a subset of select accomplishments rather than an exhaustive list of contributions.



Priority #1

Enhancing the Competitiveness and Productivity of Business and Effectiveness of Organizations

In October 2025, George Brown officially rebranded as George Brown Polytechnic, reinforcing its long standing role as one of Ontario's Institutes of Technology and Advanced Learning (ITAL) since 2002 and member of Polytechnics Canada since its inception in 2003 and formalizing its commitment to industry-aligned education and applied research. The polytechnic designation enhances the institution's ability to respond to evolving labour market needs through a strengthened and diversified mix of certificates, diplomas, degrees, and graduate-level credentials.

Building on this foundation, George Brown began work on a new Academic Plan in 2025–26 that will be launched in 2026-27 to guide academic renewal and ensure continued agility in program design and delivery. The development of the Academic Plan aligns with leadership renewal in the academic portfolio, including the appointment of Dr. Hassun Malik as Provost, who joined the institution in January 2026. The new Academic Plan is expected to launch in the upcoming fiscal year.

From May 30 to June 6, 2025, George Brown became the first college to host the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, Canada's largest and longest-standing scholarly gathering. Hosting the ninety-fourth edition of Congress brought together more than 7,500 participants and 48 scholarly associations from across Canada and internationally, solidifying George Brown's position as a research-active institution and highlighting its commitment to inclusive teaching and learning. Congress at George Brown engaged faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community partners, showcasing the breadth of academic and applied scholarship at the institution to a new audience of post-secondary constituents and community members. The event also contributed significantly to the local economy, generating an estimated $3 million in economic activity through attendee expenditures, and reinforcing George Brown's role as a key contributor to community and economic development.



Priority #2

Enhancing the Skills, Talent, Capacity, and Productivity of the Workforce

The transition to George Brown Polytechnic further reinforces the institution's emphasis on industry-driven programs and market-aligned applied research. By deepening collaboration with industry partners and focusing on programs shaped by employer needs, George Brown continues to enhance student outcomes and its broader economic impact. Academic planning and renewal efforts prioritize experiential and work-integrated learning models that reflect real-world practice, ensuring graduates are equipped with both technical expertise and essential human skills required in rapidly changing labour markets.

George Brown advanced its commitment to credential innovation in 2025–26 through the launch of its first applied master's degree, the Master of Construction Management program, publicly announced in October 2025. This milestone reflects a strategic evolution in program offerings and demonstrates George Brown Polytechnic's growing capacity to deliver advanced, industry-driven education. The applied master's program signals an expanded polytechnic program mix that integrates graduate-level study alongside certificates, diplomas, and degrees, strengthening learner pathways and supporting workforce readiness in high-demand sectors.

In January 2026, George Brown and Niagara College formalized a strategic collaboration designed to reshape how the two institutions deliver post-secondary education.
This agreement establishes a framework spanning academic programming, student supports, applied research, administrative efficiencies, and shared knowledge, and marks a departure from traditional institutional silos. Central to this agreement is enhanced student mobility between Toronto and Niagara. Then in March 2026, we signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the University of Toronto to explore joint program development in STEM, healthcare, education, trades, and other priority areas. Over the next 18 months, we will update existing transfer pathways and explore joint programming.

In 2025, George Brown became the first educational institution in Canada to implement ChatGPT Education, expanding access to AI tools and accelerating innovation for both employees and students. This initiative led to the launch of the AI Innovation Challenge, which featured more than 40 AI projects and experiments at George Brown's first AI Showcase in March 2026. Featured projects included AI for Sustainability Analytics, a "George" AI Career Assistant, AI to support complex multi-campus scheduling, and an AI-integrated digital marketing course in which students used AI tools throughout their project work, strengthening applied AI literacy and producing real-world deliverables.

In 2025–26, with support from the Ontario Government's College Equipment Renewal Fund (CERF), George Brown upgraded technology in more than 90 learning spaces across all campuses. Improvements included classroom AV technologies, computer labs, and collaboration tools that enhanced the student experience, engagement, and learning outcomes.





Priority #3

Contributing to the Vibrancy and Development of Communities

In 2025–26, George Brown strengthened the infrastructure and digital systems that connect students, employees, alumni, and partners by continuing work on its website redesign, aligned with the broader transition to George Brown Polytechnic. The formal public announcement of the polytechnic name change in October 2025 initiated a phased approach to updating the institution's name, look, and community-facing communications—supporting clearer engagement with learners, employers, and partners and reinforcing George Brown's role in serving communities through career-ready, industry-informed, applied education.

Over the same period, George Brown advanced community vibrancy and sustainable development through continued sustainability planning and by activating high-impact, visible initiatives tied to campus development and operations. The polytechnic's landmark mass-timber facility, Limberlost Place, reached substantial performance in April 2025 and transitioned toward readiness activities ahead of occupancy. In September 2025, more than 500 students in the School of Architectural Studies began classes at the Waterfront Campus in Limberlost Place, using the building itself as a living example of sustainable design and innovation in practice.

In 2025/26, students helped deliver more than 3,000 meals through surplus food recovery initiatives. More than 250 students participated directly in sustainability-focused projects, and AI-enabled recycling assistants at Limberlost Place supported waste education through more than 10,000 user interactions. Energy audits, real-time monitoring, and AI-based modelling are also improving performance, including identifying operational changes that generated $27,000 in annualized electricity savings at 200 King Street East. Student leadership and engagement also grew, with 58 Sustainability Ambassadors and nearly 400 students contributing input to sustainability planning.

Facilities and Sustainability also completed its Facility Accessibility Design Standards, a comprehensive built-environment accessibility framework guiding the design and construction of all space.

In addition, George Brown maintained our Gold Organic Campus certification (since 2023) and achieved Fair Trade Campus designation (in 2025), demonstrating continued progress toward sustainability embedded in institutional operations and community impact.



Priority #4

Foundation of Equity: Building a Culture of Equity, Reconciliation, and Belonging

George Brown advanced its "Foundation of Equity" commitments by strengthening the internal culture and systems that underpin equity, reconciliation, and belonging. A key milestone was the launch of the institution's first People Plan (2025–2030), which sets a multi-year roadmap to enhance the employee experience through four priorities: Enriched Employee Experience, Great Leaders, Well being, Belonging and Community, and Service Elevated, Technology Empowered. The plan explicitly embeds Equity and Belonging as a core value—committing to inclusion and respect, honouring Indigenous knowledge and practices, and advancing anti-racism, anti-oppression, and accessibility—supporting safer, more inclusive learning and working environments.

This internal culture work was reinforced by external recognition. In February 2026, George Brown Polytechnic was named one of Canada's Best Diversity Employers for 2026, reflecting institution-wide efforts to strengthen equity, diversity, inclusion, and Indigenization (EDII) practices and organizational culture. The announcement highlighted coordinated EDII efforts led through the Office of Anti-Racism, Equity and Human Rights Services (OAREHRS), including an Employment Systems Review examining employment practices and culture, and an Inclusive Hiring Toolkit designed to support a recruitment process free of bias. Together, these achievements demonstrate progress in embedding equity and belonging into how the institution leads, makes decisions, and supports its community, strengthening the foundation for continued student-focused supports and evidence-informed interventions.



Priority #5

Financial Sustainability, Efficiency, and Accountability

In 2025-26, George Brown advanced financial sustainability and accountability by taking mitigation steps in response to sector-wide fiscal pressures, including making difficult decisions to better align the workforce with current enrolment realities. We acknowledge the potential for equity impacts arising from recent workforce mitigation and are committed to working thoughtfully to understand and address them. In parallel, the polytechnic participated in a third-party Efficiency and Accountability review, designed to identify opportunities to strengthen long-term financial resilience. This external review helped the institution identify practical options to reduce costs and/or increase revenues while maintaining service to learners.

George Brown also advanced an institutional realignment of its academic structure to improve operational effectiveness. The updated model aligns academic leadership and accountabilities across the institution. The restructuring also included renaming the Centre for Continuous Learning to the Centre for Continuous Learning and Professional Studies, reflecting an expanded mandate and renewed focus on corporate training and customized solutions for industry and community partners.

George Brown launched its Information & Technology (I&T) Strategic Plan, providing a clear, multi-year roadmap to modernize digital services and strengthen institutional effectiveness. The plan is anchored by six strategic priorities focused on creating a more unified student experience; modernizing HR and Finance systems to improve the employee experience; enabling flexible teaching and learning; strengthening the institutional data foundation; accelerating responsible AI adoption; and optimizing IT operations and security. Together, these priorities advance the vision of a digitally-unified George Brown.

In early 2026, George Brown developed and launched its first agentic AI tool to support call centre staff with routine student inquiries. The system autonomously drafts responses using a curated knowledge base of more than 600 staff-developed articles, provides 24/7 service to students, escalates cases to support staff when requested or when no suitable answer is found, and automatically closes resolved cases. It was deployed using George Brown's AI readiness framework to help ensure responsible, secure, and well-monitored AI use in line with the new Enhancing Digital Security and Trust Act. To date, the system has resolved more than 2,000 routine inquiries, freeing staff to focus on more complex student needs.

Subsidiaries and Representation

Foundation

The George Brown Foundation, established in 1984, is a separately-incorporated registered charity that serves as the primary fundraising vehicle for George Brown Polytechnic. The Foundation is guided by a volunteer Board of Directors who support the polytechnic's mandate of increasing access to education by raising funds to support student success through scholarships, bursaries, and awards.

Together with the polytechnic, we work to advance George Brown's commitment to excellence in teaching, applied learning and innovation, as well as its commitment to access, diversity and mutual respect. Together with our donors, we work to ensure that no student is denied a post-secondary education at George Brown Polytechnic because of financial constraints.

Mission and Mandate

George Brown Polytechnic is dedicated to providing the highest possible calibre of education to its students and to making its programs accessible to all. The Foundation helps the polytechnic achieve this goal by raising money to support student success through scholarships and bursaries as well as through larger initiatives that strengthen the polytechnic's ability to offer programs for specific industries and professions.

Our mission is to raise funds for the polytechnic and its students that will:

- Advance the polytechnic's commitment to excellence in teaching, applied learning and innovation.
- Enable George Brown's programs, facilities and services to be best-in-class.
- Enable George Brown to be a key resource in shaping the future of Toronto.
- Help George Brown produce graduates who are the candidates of choice for employers.
- Support George Brown's commitment to access, diversity and mutual respect.
- Enable the polytechnic to achieve its goal that no student is denied a George Brown Polytechnic education because of the financial burden.

2025-2026 Updates

The Foundation experienced strong, unwavering support from donors throughout 2025–2026, enhanced through an extraordinary gift of $10 million from an individual donor. Support for student scholarships, bursaries and emergency funds continued to grow over the course of the year, with additional donations secured for programs and capital projects. Funds raised total $16.3 million on a budget of $6.1 million.

Ensuring funding is in place to support students is integral to the Foundation's work. Over $2.1 million in scholarships and bursaries was raised to provide 1,354 awards this year. In addition, new endowment funds were also established with an average value of $33,400.

The 12th edition of the annual Food Court Social was record-breaking with 700 guests coming together to raise close to $700,000 all in support of students in the Augmented Education program. Many thanks go to our 62 sponsors, along with donors and silent auction bidders who helped to make the evening a great success. We were honoured and pleased to welcome 31 chef and beverage stations, including outdoor grill and food truck offerings, many hosted by our wonderful alumni chefs.

College Council

The George Brown College Council represents the entire polytechnic community and includes representatives from faculty, administrative staff, support staff and students. The mandate of the council is to represent the polytechnic community in providing timely feedback to the President on issues that are of institution-wide significance.

The focus of the George Brown College Council is to:

- Provide timely advice to the President on policies and practices that are of institution-wide significance and related to the polytechnic's stated strategic priorities.
- Communicate regularly with the polytechnic community, bringing issues forward for Council to consider and reporting back on the work of Council.

In fulfilling these responsibilities, College Council establishes annual goals aligned with the polytechnic's strategic priorities as determined by the Board of Governors and the Senior Management Committee. While College Council generally provides an institution-wide perspective on issues of strategic significance, College Council may also consider and advise on operational issues when relevant. Council meets on the third Thursday of each month (September to November and January to June). College Council did not meet in September and October 2025 due to the strike by full-time support staff at Ontario public colleges.

College Council Schedule for 2025-26

Date	Topic	Presenter
November 20, 2025	Past Chair and Chair Elect	Tara Ferguson
	Council Member Introductions	All
	President's Remarks and Q&A	Gervan Fearon
	Polytechnic Overview	Margrit Talpalaru
	Student Housing Policy Update	Daniel Fok
	Closing Remarks	Tara Ferguson
December 10, 2025	Ask the President	Tara Ferguson and Michael Herrera
	Council Seasonal Activity	Vanessa Dunne
	2026 Development Areas	All
	Closing Remarks	Tara Ferguson
January 15, 2026	Introduction: Provost and VPA	Hassun Malik
	President's Remarks and Q&A	Gervan Fearon
	RO Policy Updates	Janene Christiansen and Kristen Boujos
	Polytechnic Toolkit	Maryam McKenzie
	Faculty Development Pathways – Indigenous Pedagogies	Leslie Wexler
	Closing Remarks	Tara Ferguson

Date	Topic	Presenter
February 19, 2026	President's Remarks and Q&A	Leslie Quinlan
	TLX Winter/Spring Programming and Team Updates	Heidi Marsh, Jen Porter, Joanna Friend, Jason Inniss and Leslie Wexler
	Niagara College Partnership and the Ontario Wine Awards	Doris Miculan-Bradley, Michelle Yeung and Arlene Browne
	Closing Remarks	Tara Ferguson
March 19, 2026	President's Remarks and Q&A	Gervan Fearon
	Polytechnic Transformation Update	Margrit Talpalaru
	LLC Policy & Service Updates	Colin Fitzsimons
	Student Recruitment Initiatives	Olena Shklar
	Closing Remarks	Tara Ferguson
April 16, 2026	Senior Leadership Remarks and Q&A	Hassun Malik
	Strategy 2030 Focus Group	Margrit Talpalaru
	Closing Remarks	Tara Ferguson
May 21, 2026	President's Remarks	Gervan Fearon
	Facilities & Sustainability Update	Mary Livera Ranaweera, Hooman Farhangnia, Matthew Archdekin and Vicky Boyd
	Employee Listening Activities	Samantha Johnson and Marija Savic Lopicic
	Closing Remarks	Tara Ferguson

For additional information on the College Council, including the mandate and terms of reference, please visit: College Council

Appendix A Strategic Mandate Agreement Report Back

Read the Strategic Mandate Agreement (SMA3) between Ontario and George Brown College of Applied Arts and Technology to understand its unique role in the province's post-secondary education system: 2020–2025 Strategic Mandate Agreement: George Brown College of Applied Arts and Technology

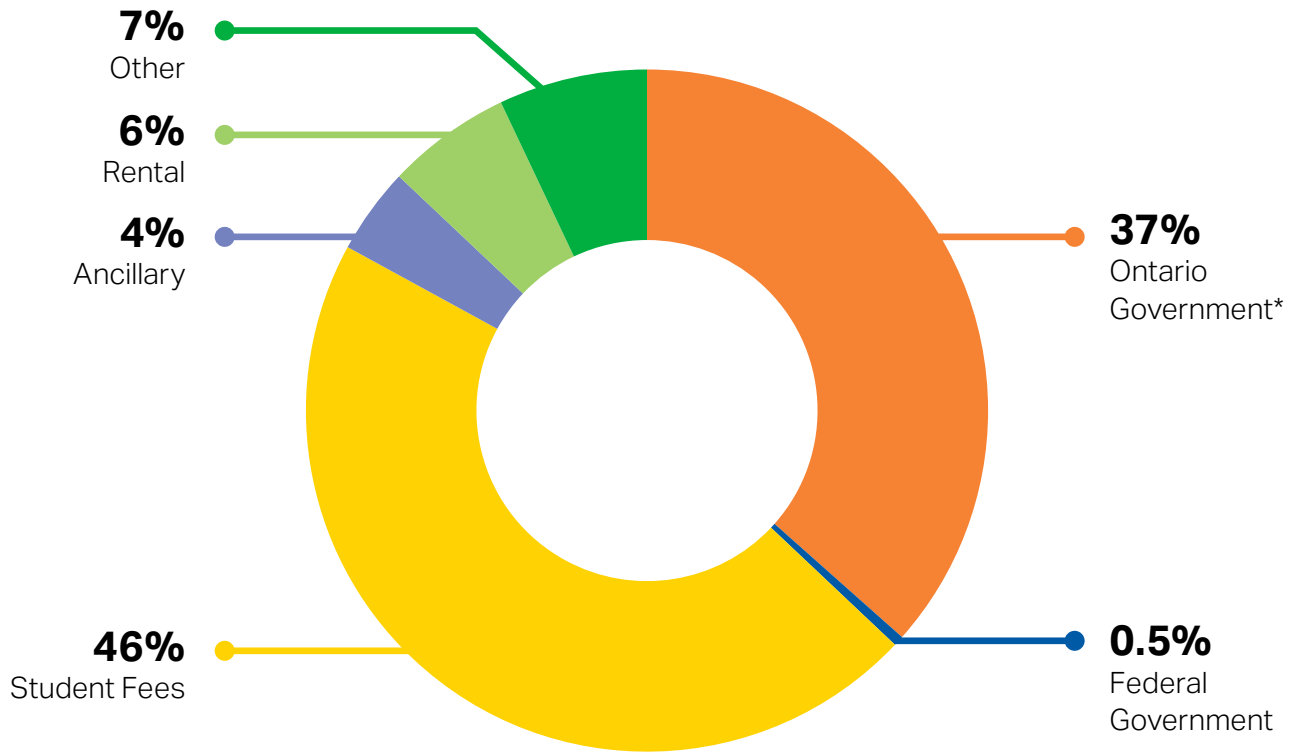
The 2025-26 fiscal year represented year one of the SMA4 agreement, which is not yet available but will be added once released.

Appendix B1
The George Brown College of Arts and Technology Audited Financial Statements

Access the full George Brown Polytechnic Annual Financial Statement 2025–2026.

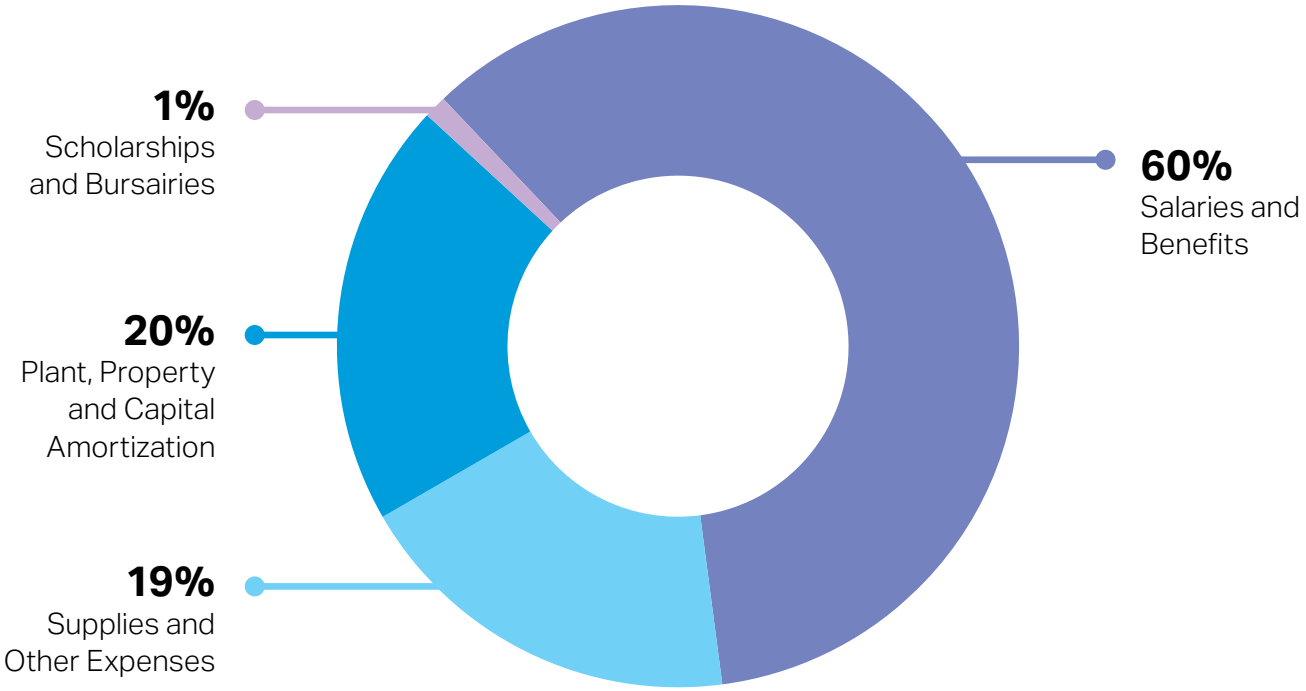
Operating Revenue by Source, 2025–26 - $440 million	
Ontario Government*	161
Federal Government	2
Student Fees	202
Ancillary	18
Rental	26
Other	31
Total	**440**

*Includes the revenue received from Ontario Municipalities



Operating Expenditures by Type, 2025–26 - $474 million

Salaries and Benefits	284
Supplies and Other Expenses	89
Plant, Property and Capital Amortization	96
Scholarships and Bursaries	5
Total	**474**



Appendix B2
The George Brown Polytechnic Foundation Audited Financial Statements

Access the full George Brown Polytechnic Foundation Financial Statement 2026.

Appendix C
KPI Performance Report

The release of George Brown Polytechnic's key performance indicators are pending regulatory approval from the Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence, and Security.

Appendix D
Summary of Advertisement and Marketing Complaints Received

P.O. Box 1015,
Station B, Toronto, ON
M5T 2T9 Canada
416-415-5000
georgebrown.ca

May 5, 2026

In accordance with the Ontario Ministry of Training Colleges & Universities Annual Report requirement, this letter confirms that during Fiscal Year 2025-2026, George Brown received no complaints about its advertising or marketing from any enrolled students or recent graduates.

Should you need to discuss this further please contact me at mmckenzie@georgebrown.ca

Sincerely,

Maryam McKenzie

Maryam McKenzie
Director, Marketing Strategy, PR and Social Media
George Brown Polytechnic

Appendix E
List of Governors

No.	Name	Appointment Date	Term Expiry
1	**Roger Grochmal** Retired CEO, Atlas Care	Nov 2023	Aug 2026
2	**Saeideh Fard** Chief Financial Officer, Introhive	Sept 2023	Aug 2026
3	**Bhavna Duggal** CFO and Principal, The CFO Centre of Canada	Sept 2023	Aug 2026
4	**Rob Gilmour** Vice President, Crestview Strategies	Sept 2024	Aug 2027
5	**Arjun Jasuja** Founder and Chairman, Sigma Group	Sept 2025	Aug 2028
6	**Millan Mulraine** Chief Economist, Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan	Sept 2023	Aug 2026
7	**Lachlan MacQuarrie** Industry Fellow, Intelligent Building LLC	Sept 2024	Aug 2027
8	**Gervan Fearon** President, George Brown Polytechnic (Ex-officio)	-	-
9	**Jon Callegher** Professor, George Brown Polytechnic (Faculty Representative)	Sept 2024	Aug 2027
10	**Jimi Rockley** Coordinator, Digital Learning Environment (Support Staff Representative)	Sept 2024	Aug 2027
11	**Julia Hanigsberg** Retired CEO, Holland Bloorview Hospital	Sept 2025	Aug 2028
12	**Regan Stewart** Chief Operating Officer, Jamieson Wellness	Sept 2025	Aug 2028
13	**Karen Pastakia** Partner, Deloitte	Sept 2025	Aug 2028
14	**Ibrahim Hatia** Construction Management Student, George Brown Polytechnic (Student Representative)	Sept 2025	Aug 2027
15	**Ryan Sargent** Director, College Business Services, George Brown Polytechnic (Administrative Staff Representative)	Sept 2025	Aug 2028
16	**Patrice Barnes** Principal, National Public Affairs	Sept 2025	Aug 2028
17	**Cheryl Stone** Chief Strategy Officer, Nieuport Aviation	April 2026	Aug 2028

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✦ Microsoft Copilot was used as a writing aid to assist with drafting, editing, and synthesizing content. The authors reviewed and validated all analysis, interpretations, and conclusions.