

## **Conference Report**

### **Intro to OSV – Ontario Student Voices**

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Reviewed by Alex Oestreicher

**Date:** May 23rd – May 27th, 2025

**Location:** Toronto, Ontario

**Attended by:** Alex Oestreicher & Rajveer Singh

### **Purpose of the Conference**

The Intro to OSV Conference helped our team gain a deeper understanding of Ontario Student Voices—its structure, purpose, and impact. It was designed to equip delegates with the knowledge and tools needed to thrive as student leaders throughout the year. Key priorities were discussed and voted on, and the AGM (Annual General Meeting) was held. The conference also offered opportunities to build connections with leaders from across the province.

### **Sessions/Presentations Attended**

#### **1. AGM – Presented by Alex**

The AGM was a key moment in the conference, where delegates were presented with financial updates and a board report. We had the opportunity to vote on advocacy priorities for the upcoming year and determine the host of the next policy conference. It was also a great space for incoming delegates to engage and interact. This session helped reinforce our understanding of the organization's operational and governance structure.

#### **2. Advocacy Speed Dating – Presented by Olami**

This was one of the most engaging sessions. In short bursts, we exchanged ideas and discussed issues faced by students across Ontario with leaders from various SAs. It allowed us to hear diverse challenges and strategies and gave us a broader view of advocacy work being done provincially. This session enhanced our ability to ideate quickly and collaborate meaningfully.

#### **3. Roundtable Discussions –**

We had in-depth conversations with student leaders about services, affordability, and advocacy strategies. This session was particularly helpful in learning from what other student associations are doing and sparked ideas we can bring back to CSI to improve our offerings and programs.

#### **4. De-escalation & Self-Care Training –**

This session focused on how to respond to students in challenging situations while emphasizing the importance of self-care. We reflected on how to maintain balance in leadership roles and took away strategies that work for managing stress, time, and energy.

#### **5. Gala –**

The Gala was a celebration of the year's work and the dedication of student leaders. We had the chance to connect with MPP Mike Shriner and MPP Peggy Sattler, both of whom

were open and supportive. The event also featured an inspiring talk by Yasir Khan, CEO of *Speak Like a CEO*, on effective public speaking.

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### **Benefit to CSI / What We Want to Bring Back to Campus**

Attending the Intro to OSV Conference gave us more than just insight—it gave us direction. We're coming back to CSI with a renewed sense of purpose and a toolkit full of ideas that will directly benefit our student body.

Here's what we're bringing back to campus for you:

- **A Stronger Voice for You** – At OSV, we connected with student leaders from across Ontario to talk about the issues that matter—like tuition, housing, mental health, and access to education. We made sure Conestoga students were part of those conversations. That means your concerns are now part of a bigger, province-wide advocacy effort. We're not just speaking up—we're being heard.
- **New Tools to Improve Student Life** - We learned how other student associations are tackling challenges like affordability, student services, and academic support. We're bringing those ideas back to CSI to improve what we offer you—whether that's better support programs, more accessible services, or new ways to get involved.
- **Support That Actually Supports You** - One of the most impactful sessions was about de-escalation and self-care. We learned how to better support students in tough situations and how to take care of ourselves so we can show up for you. That means when you need help, we'll be more prepared to listen, respond, and guide you to the right resources.
- **Real Connections That Open Doors** - We built relationships with student leaders, MPPs, and advocacy organizations that can help us launch new initiatives and amplify your voice. These connections mean more opportunities for collaboration, more resources, and more ways for you to get involved in shaping your student experience.
- **A Clearer Vision for CSI** - This conference helped us see where CSI fits in the bigger picture of student advocacy in Ontario. We're coming back with a clearer sense of purpose and a stronger commitment to making CSI more impactful, more inclusive, and more student driven.