



## **OREWIN Applauds the Province's Transformational Investment in Ontario's Post-Secondary Institutions**

**Cornwall – February 12, 2026** – Today, the Government of Ontario announced a major investment of \$6.4 billion in Ontario's postsecondary institutions, including an increase of \$284 million over four years in funding that will support small, northern and rural colleges. OREWIN applauds the Government of Ontario for this investment, which will have a significant impact on OREWIN colleges, their communities and the local industries that rely on them.

Ontario's small, northern and rural colleges serve as the primary and often only training providers in their communities. With a mandate to deliver on local labour market needs, OREWIN colleges deliver critical skilling and re-skilling programs that support regional industries and workforce development. Delivering education and training in small, northern and rural communities comes with unseen costs due to smaller populations and dispersed geographies, where even high-demand, mission-critical programs may enroll fewer students.

OREWIN colleges work closely with municipalities and local industries to sustain and adapt programming to meet community needs. Cost pressures impact the feasibility of offering certain programs, including those that are essential to local communities such as skilled trades and health care.

The Government of Ontario's increase to the small, northern and rural grant will directly support the resiliency of OREWIN colleges and their communities. It will enable OREWIN colleges to train career-ready workers that are essential to Ontario's economy, while ensuring that community-sustaining industries can rely on a strong pipeline of locally trained talent. Strengthening small, northern and rural colleges will, in turn, strengthen local communities, industries, and the provincial economy.

OREWIN applauds the Government of Ontario for this major investment and looks forward to continuing a strong partnership with the province to Protect Ontario by strengthening small, northern and rural communities.

### **About OREWIN**

In the face of economic uncertainty, the Ontario Regional Economic & Workforce Innovation Network (OREWIN) harnesses the strengths of our member colleges to promote and protect our workers, our communities, our industry partners, and Ontario's role as Canada's economic engine.

Member colleges include Cambrian College, Canadore College, Collège Boréal, Collège La Cité, Confederation College, Fleming College, Lambton College, Loyalist College, Northern College, St. Lawrence College, and Sault College.

OREWIN colleges will continue to work collaboratively with Colleges Ontario and all our college partners, while continuing to advance solutions for our local workers, communities, and businesses.

**Media Inquiries**

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