ORION

2016 Annual Snapshot

15 Years of Empowering Innovation

Since 2001, ORION has been a champion for Ontario's researchers, educators and innovators. Over the past 15 years, we've facilitated new discoveries and learning by connecting institutions and regions, enabling collaboration, forging partnerships, and providing our community with the digital tools they need to make the world a better place.

2016 was an especially big year for us. As we celebrate our 15th anniversary, we look forward to a new era. We enter 2017 with a new President and CEO, a new office, a new look, and a renewed commitment to empowering Ontario's innovation community.

Why We Do What We Do	Letter From the President		Letter From the Chair	Board Members	Evolution of A Network	Our Community
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Why We Do What We Do

OUR MISSION

ORION is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to **empowering** Ontario researchers, educators and innovators. We **facilitate** ground-breaking discoveries and cutting edge education by **connecting institutions and regions** across the province, providing them with the digital tools and expertise they need, and **advocating** on their behalf.

OUR VISION

ORION seeks to enable and support Ontario innovators in their efforts to make the world a better place.

Acting as a **champion** for the innovation community, ORION offers the **c**ritical infrastructure necessary for collaboration, providing researchers, educators and innovators with the **tools and connections** they need in order to make pioneering discoveries and provide cutting edge education.

As a not-for-profit organization, our primary focus is the ground-breaking work of our community — and how we can help make it happen.

Together, we're all partners in making Ontario a global leader in innovation.



Letter From the President

2016 was an exciting year for ORION: a year of transformation and renewal. There is something truly invigorating about undertaking a renovation, building on good bones to arrive at something even better. That was our mission in 2016: building on the successes of the last 15 years and unleashing our full potential with a fresh approach. It's been a thrilling time to join the company as the new President and CEO.

Since I've come on board, I've been meeting with members of our community; they've shared their desire to have ORION play a more active role as a champion for Ontario's innovators. Embracing that vision, we enter 2017 with a refreshed brand that reflects a refreshed purpose.

In the months to come:

- We'll improve our product offerings and our service delivery, making the benefits of ORION more valuable than ever before, providing researchers, educators and innovators with the digital tools they need to make Ontario a global leader in innovation.
- We'll expand the reach of our digital community — from big cities to remote and rural towns — bringing the benefits of ORION to even more Ontarians and empowering even more innovators as we all join forces to build a bright future for the province.
- We'll keep actively engaged with our community, meeting regularly with our newly formed Advisory Groups to ensure that we're always responding to the needs of Ontario's researchers, educators and innovators.

 We'll renew our focus on collaboration and advocacy, using our unique position to facilitate new partnerships and to help make innovation possible by supporting those who do groundbreaking work.

In the years to come, we'll continue to grow and to build, listening to the members of our community, incorporating their feedback and suggestions as we strengthen our network and our services. ORION will always be looking for fresh insight and ideas about the role we can play in the innovation community, and how we can best empower Ontario's innovators as we all work together to make the world a better place.

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Alfonso Licata President and CEO, ORION

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Letter From the Chair

ORION was born to serve an ambitious vision: to support research and education through a vast network connecting innovators across the province. Since our inception, we've worked with government and many other partners to build something that is so much more; ORION has become Ontario's digital community for research and education.

It is inspiring to witness the vital work
Ontario's researchers, educators and innovators
are able to do when they're given the digital
support they need. The dedicated and talented
team at ORION has been with them every
step of the way, listening to their suggestions,
finding solutions to their problems and
empowering them to keep our province on
the cutting edge of the knowledge economy.

With more than two million users, nearly 100 connected institutions and a sharp rise in intra-ORION traffic, it's clear that our organization is helping to unlock the potential of collaboration like never before.

I'm delighted to see ORION enter a new era. The timing couldn't be better; the CRTC's recent declaration of broadband as a basic service for all Canadians underlines the importance of connectivity.

In the years to come, the part our organization plays in the future of Ontario will be more vital than ever before: facilitating collaboration in this increasingly digital world. Our team will expand their leading role, helping to advocate on behalf of our community, ensuring their needs and opportunities are

understood, and working with them to bring digital solutions to the under-served so that everyone in Ontario is able to contribute to an innovative future.

Anne Sado

President, George Brown College

Board Members

CHAIR



Anne Sado President, George Brown College

EXECUTIVE



Adrienne Down Coulson General Manager, Canada and Russia, Ebates, Inc.



Alex GiosaPresident and CEO, Alcatel-Lucent
Canada



Dr. Sara DiamondPresident, OCAD University



Jeff Grieve
Executive Director, Western
University; Executive Director,
LARG*net



David Drury General Manager, Global Technology Services, IBM Canada Limited



Karen Grose, PhDVice President, Digital Learning,
TVO



Jim Garner Office of Advancement and Strategy, Upper Canada College



Alfonso LicataPresident and CEO, ORION

Evolution of A Network

Our network has grown by leaps and bounds over the last 15 years. ORION now connects nearly twice as many institutions as we did in 2001.



Our Community



UNIVERSITIES

Algoma University, Sault Ste. Marie Brock University, St. Catharines Carleton University, Ottawa Lakehead University, Thunder Bay Laurentian University, Sudbury McMaster University, Hamilton Nipissing University, North Bay OCAD University, Toronto Queen's University, Kingston Royal Military College of Canada, Kingston Ryerson University, Toronto Trent University, Peterborough University of Guelph, Guelph University of Ontario Institute of Technology, Oshawa University of Ottawa, Ottawa

University of Ottawa, Ottawa
University of Toronto, Toronto
University of Waterloo, Waterloo
University of Windsor, Windsor
Western University, London
Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo
York University, Toronto



COLLEGES

Cambrian College, Sudbury Centennial College, Toronto Collège Boréal, Sudbury Conestoga College, Kitchener-Waterloo Confederation College, Thunder Bay Durham College, Oshawa Fanshawe College, London Fleming College, Peterborough George Brown College, Toronto Georgian College, Barrie Humber College, Toronto Lambton College, Sarnia Loyalist College, Belleville Mohawk College, Hamilton Niagara College, Welland Northern College, Timmins Sault College, Sault Ste. Marie Seneca College, Toronto Sheridan College, Oakville St. Clair College, Windsor St. Lawrence College, Kingston



TEACHING HOSPITALS / MEDICAL RESEARCH

Baycrest Health Sciences, Toronto
Centre for Addiction & Mental Health (CAMH),
Toronto

The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto
Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences, Toronto
London Health Sciences Centre, London
The Michener Institute of Education at UHN,
Toronto

Northern Ontario School of Medicine, Sudbury-Thunder Bay Ontario Institute for Cancer Research, Toronto Ontario Telemedicine Network, Toronto Public Health Ontario, Toronto Southlake Regional Health Centre, Newmarket St. Joseph's Health Care, London Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, Toronto University Health Network, Toronto

Our Community



SCHOOL BOARDS

Algoma District School Board, Sault Ste. Marie Algonquin & Lakeshore Catholic District School Board, Napanee

Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board, Brantford

Conseil scolaire catholique Providence, Windsor District School Board of Niagara, St. Catharines Greater Essex County District School Board, Windsor

Hastings & Prince Edward District School Board, Belleville

Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board, Peterborough

Keewatin-Patricia District School Board, Dryden Lakefield College School, Lakefield Lakehead District School Board, Thunder Bay Lambton Kent District School Board, Chatham Limestone District School Board, Kingston London District Catholic School Board, London Near North District School Board, North Bay Niagara Catholic District School Board, Welland Northwest Catholic District School Board, Fort Frances

Peterborough, Victoria, Northumberland & Clarington Catholic District School Board, Peterborough

Provincial Schools Branch, Ministry of Education
Rainbow District School Board, Sudbury
Rainy River District School Board, Fort Frances
Simcoe County District School Board, Midhurst
Simcoe Muskoka Catholic School Board, Barrie
St. Clair Catholic District School Board, Wallaceburg
Superior North Catholic School Board, Terrace Bay
Thames Valley District School Board, London
Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board,
Thunder Bay

Toronto District School Board, Toronto
Waterloo Catholic District School Board, Kitchener
Waterloo Region District School Board, Waterloo
Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board,
Windsor

York Region District School Board, Aurora



HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING PROJECTS & FACILITIES

Centre for Advanced Computing — at four member institutions

HPC4Health — at the Hospital for Sick Children and GTAnet

SHARCNET (Shared Hierarchical Academic Research Computing Network) — at 18 participating institutions

SciNet — at the University of Toronto and five affiliated research hospitals and institutions



RESEARCH, CULTURAL & EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

Bureau of Food Surveillance & Science Integration (Health Canada), Ottawa

Canadian Research Data Centre Network (CRDCN), Statistics Canada, Hamilton

Compass for Success, York Region

Contact North | Contact Nord, Sudbury-Thunder Bay Defense Research & Development Canada, Toronto

Hamilton Public Library, Hamilton

Innovation Park at Queen's University, Kingston Laboratory for Foodborne Zoonoses (Public Health

Agency of Canada), Guelph

MaRS Discovery District, Toronto

National Research Council, London

Natural Resources Canada, Ottawa

Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics, Waterloo

Robarts Research Institute, London

Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto

SNOLAB, Sudbury

Groupe Média TFO, Toronto

TVO. Toronto



REGIONAL AREA NETWORK (RAN)

GTAnet, Toronto

London & Region Global Network (LARG*net),
London

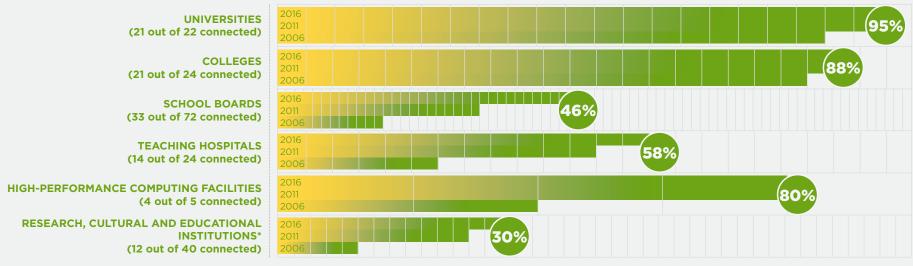
Windsor-Essex Development Network (WEDnet),
Windsor

Facts & Figures

Building Connections

CONNECTED INSTITUTIONS OVER TIME

67% growth in the number of connected institutions since 2006



Data as of 2016.

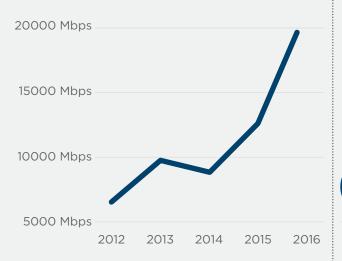
^{*}Includes provincial and some federal museums, science centres and metropolitan libraries

Facts & Figures

Enabling Collaboration

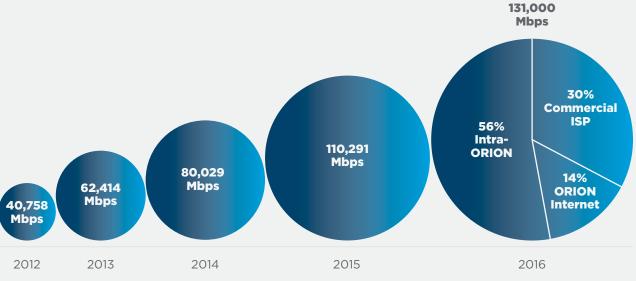
TOTAL ORION COMMUNITY COLLABORATION TRAFFIC

Traffic up 55% over 2015



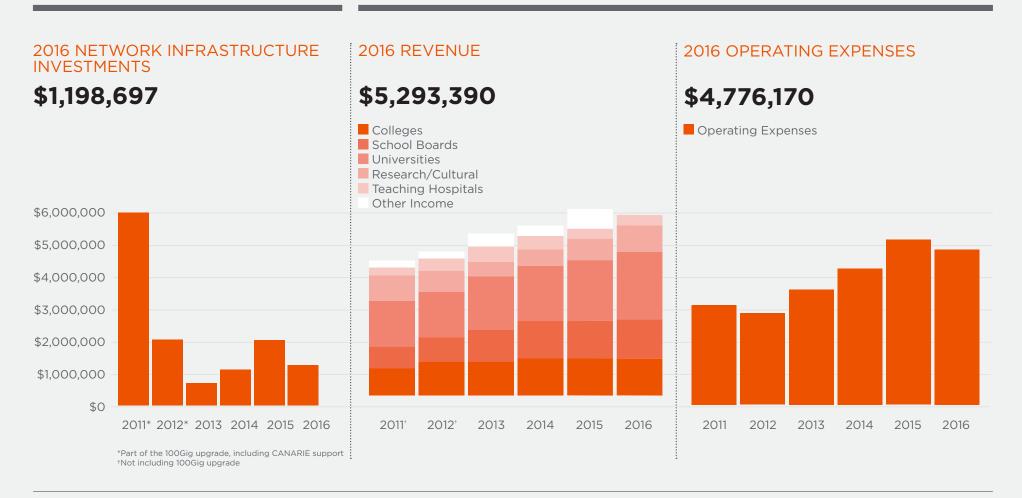
BANDWIDTH UTILIZATION OVER TIME

221% increase in network capacity utilization since 2012



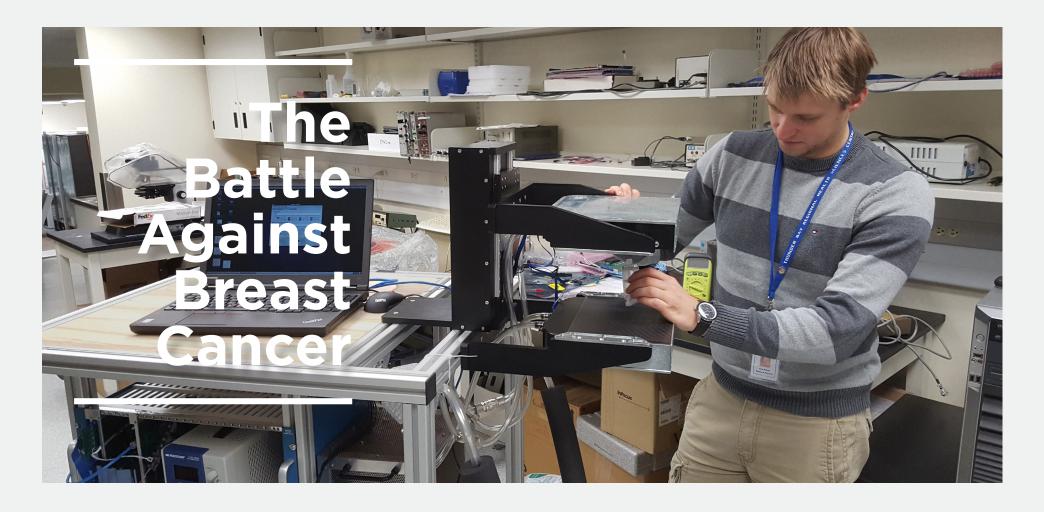
Facts & Figures

Getting Results



Empowering Innovators

At ORION, innovation comes first. As a not-for-profit organization, we're focused on outcomes, not just the bottom line. Whether it's ground-breaking researchers sharing huge amounts of data or students using technology to learn, it's all about making Ontario — and the world — a better place.



Dr. Alla Reznik is putting Northern Ontario on the cutting edge of medical innovation, helping to find new ways to combat breast cancer with digital support from ORION. akehead University is one of the most remote universities in Ontario, but even here in Thunder Bay, on the rugged northern shores of Lake Superior, ORION is helping to empower innovation. Dr. Alla Reznik is an associate professor of physics at Lakehead, a Canada Research Chair in Physics of Molecular Imaging and the winner of a 2016 ORION Leadership Award. She has been hard at work contributing to the development of an innovative imaging method for the detection of breast cancer, helping to save lives and put Thunder Bay on the cutting edge of medicine.

The Battle Against Breast Cancer



Dr. Alla Reznik
Associate Professor of Physics,
Lakehead University;
Canada Research Chair in Physics
of Molecular Imaging

Current mammography technology detects breast cancer by using X-rays to identify malignant masses. But it has several drawbacks: it can be difficult to image dense breasts and distinguish between malignant masses and benign ones. "As a result," Dr. Reznik points out, "mammography produces a large number of false-positive findings that trigger unnecessary biopsies, stress and anxiety for millions of women every year."

The alternative method Dr. Reznik has been working on is called Positron Emission Mammography (PEM). It solves those problems by using molecular imaging to identify increased glucose metabolism in malignant tissues. "In other words," Dr. Reznik explains, "PEM distinguishes cancerous cells from normal cells based on their different biological properties."

PEM is able to identify small masses even in dense breasts, and it doesn't require the painful breast compression mammography does — which means more women will be willing to get tested, more cancerous masses will be detected and more lives will be saved.

It also means a boost for the economy of Thunder Bay. Dr. Reznik's research has led to the creation of a new company, Radialis Medical, which will create jobs in the local innovation sector and has the potential to attract investors to the region.

As Dr. Vivianne Freitas, a radiologist at the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre involved with the project, explains, PEM brings enormous benefits to Northern Ontario. "The development of PEM in our region means that we will be a pioneer, having a superior and modern technology — and the population will have the possibility of increased early cancer detection, giving them a better chance to be cured."

The development of PEM has relied on interdisciplinary collaboration — and on digital support from ORION. The innovative

project is only possible thanks to the work of highly trained scientists and engineers from Lakehead, advanced technology from the Thunder Bay Regional Health Research Institute and access to SHARCNET's advanced research computing facilities through the ORION network.

Once PEM devices are in wide use, SHARCNET's high-performance computing capabilities may also be used to process tumour images for diagnosis in real-time.

Thanks to Dr. Reznik, women all over Ontario — and the world — can look forward to a healthier future. It's one more way ORION is empowering Ontario's innovators wherever they are found.



Ontario's libraries are about more than just books. With ORION's help, they're transforming into creative community hubs wired for the digital world.

he Hamilton Public Library (HPL) is more than a traditional library. That much becomes clear when you begin to explore the Central Branch. If you head upstairs, all the way up to the fourth floor, past the books and the study carrels, you'll find yourself in the space called The Circuit 4.0. We call it "the future of libraries."

The Circuit 4.0 has transformed the fourth floor into a vibrant scene of digital creativity and learning. Here, you might find customers attending a workshop on how to use a 3D printer,

The Future of Libraries



Sherry Fahim
Director of Digital Technology
& Creations,
Hamilton Public Library

or a local band recording their latest song. Filmmakers can use HD cameras, a green screen and editing software to make a movie. Others might attend a session on how to use computer programs like Microsoft Office, or spend a day learning about electronics, coding and logic.

"The Library is a hub for creative engagement," the HPL's Director of Digital Technology & Creations, Sherry Fahim, explains. "And we use the ORION network as our backbone. Having access to fast, reliable broadband enables the creativity."

The ORION network gives the Library the quality connection it needs to provide the people of Hamilton access to the latest digital technologies — all without fear of bottlenecks, no matter how busy the Library gets.

You can see the impact it has not only in the innovative ways individual customers use the space, but also in the Library's partnerships with other organizations including Mohawk College. Mohawk City School facilitates

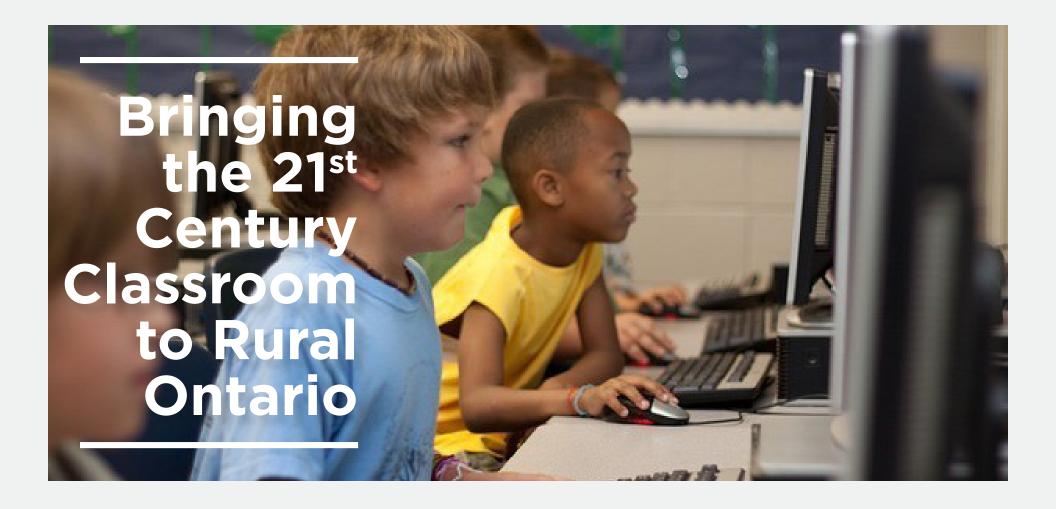
alternative training equivalent to college credits — offered free of charge at HPL thanks to support from the Ontario government.

Mohawk delivers a weekly Digital Photojournalism course at The Circuit 4.0, connecting to HPL's facilities through the ORION network. "Partnerships like this will play a vital role in the future of libraries," Fahim explains, "helping to ensure HPL is a place of discovery, creativity and learning for the whole community." In 2017, the program is expanding to offer even more free courses at the Library, which will help level the playing field when it comes to accessing post-secondary education. Troubled youth and adults who might not otherwise pursue a post-secondary education are given the potential for a bright future and a chance to participate and contribute to a diverse Ontario workforce.

Thanks to organizations like HPL and to leaders like Fahim, libraries are becoming more than just places to check out books.

And they're not alone. All over Ontario, spaces that used to be reserved for one primary purpose — like libraries, museums and schools — are being transformed into zones of innovation and collaboration. The provincial government has prioritized a "community hubs strategy" as they seek to encourage and enable innovation across Ontario. The Circuit 4.0 is a perfect example of what's possible and how ORION is helping to empower this transformation.

The result is a stronger community and a stronger province. The Library provides equal access to the cutting edge technologies of the 21st century, allowing anyone in Hamilton to learn, create and collaborate. Thanks to initiatives like The Circuit 4.0, every citizen, no matter who they are, is given the opportunity to contribute to making Ontario a more vibrant and successful province.



Thanks to ORION and Edsby, educators, students and parents can stay connected and informed 24 hours a day, seven days a week — no matter where they are.

he Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board (KPRDSB) covers 7,000 square kilometres. It stretches from the shores of Lake Ontario all the way up into the rugged northern reaches of the Kawartha Lakes. Its schools can be found everywhere from the busy downtown streets of Peterborough to rustic dirt roads surrounded by farmer's fields. But wherever the board's teachers, students and parents find themselves, they know they can count on cutting edge technology.

Bringing the 21st Century Classroom to Rural Ontario



Scott JohnsonVice Principal, Clarke High
School, Kawartha Pine Ridge
District School Board

The KPRDSB is on the ORION network. And thanks to ORION, schools across the board are able to connect directly into Edsby's learning management system.

Clarke High School is one of those rural schools; it's on Highway 115 outside the small community of Newcastle. Vice Principal Scott Johnson is seeing the difference access to innovative technology can make in the lives of his students. "In my opinion," he says, "Edsby has the potential to be a key component for true modern learning to take place in our schools."

Edsby is a cloud-based platform that acts as a digital portal for teachers, students and parents. It provides one convenient place for everyone to find the information they need: whether it's teachers logging in to send parents a message, students collaborating with classmates on a project or parents tracking their child's progress. It's private, mobile-friendly and available 24 hours a day.

"Having Edsby provides tremendous advantages in accessibility and user friend-liness," Johnson explains. "The advantage of everything being in one place cannot be overstated. As an app, it allows me to have a wealth of relevant information available at all times. When situations arise, at any time of the day or night, I am confident that I can make informed decisions in the best interests of the students and the school."

ORION helped to forge the partnership, bringing Edsby and the KPRDSB together. It's exactly the kind of valuable connection we're here to make. And ORION makes using Edsby easy. School boards are able to access the platform through their usual, reliable, private ORION connection. They don't have to pay any extra transit costs or use public internet bandwidth.

"ORION is giving Ontario boards a robust and reliable way to use the system," says Edsby's Vice President of Marketing, Dallas Kachan. "Its high performance, costeffective gateway is giving teachers and students a faster and more consistent way to enjoy Edsby's features."

That means educators and students — no matter where they are — can benefit from cutting edge technology. Instead of wrestling with paperwork, teachers can focus on providing the best possible education. Students find themselves excited to learn, equipping themselves with the digital skills they'll need to participate fully as citizens and contribute to a diverse and innovative workforce. It's just one more way ORION empowers those who help make Ontario a better place.

Advisory Groups

Advisory Groups play a vital role at ORION. They represent Ontario's diverse innovation community, sharing insights, concerns and new ideas. By working together with them, we're able to ensure that we're always responding to the needs of researchers, educators and innovators. In other words, they empower us to empower innovation.

UNIVERSITY GROUP

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As CIO of Laurentian, I know firsthand the rich opportunities a small university has to offer, such as diversity in research and flexibility in customizing undergraduate and graduate degrees, all while enjoying state-of-the-art facilities and technology.

ORION understands that the needs of bigger, urban universities are inherently different from the needs of smaller, rural universities like Laurentian. ORION is attentive to the concerns and interests of university educators and students — no matter how remote the school might be."



Luc RoyChief Information Officer
Laurentian University

COLLEGE GROUP

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As Chair of OCCCIO, the community and collaboration of IT leaders in Ontario colleges is of utmost importance. Together, our priority is to strategically and effectively lead information technology support for Ontario colleges. Technology is an integral part of transformational change in higher education, and we must strive to ensure that technology is strategically integrated to support college teaching, learning and business functions.

In ORION, I see a kindred spirit that values the community of technology leaders who support the growth and development of Ontario's learners and educators. Their expertise in advanced technology solutions is a significant contribution to Ontario's research and education community."



Lisa GrothierChair, Ontario College Council of
Chief Information Officers (OCCCIO)
CIO, St. Lawrence College

Advisory Groups

SCHOOL BOARD GROUP

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As Manager of Information and Communication Technology at Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board, I know what happens when you have the right technology in a school. Educators and students engage in online and peer-to-peer learning through collaborative, virtual environments. All of this helps equip our students for the future.

ORION is our partner in making this happen. We're working together to connect our school board to others across Ontario, to international resources and to reliable, private, powerful technology. Together, we will bring the 21st century classroom to our students and educators."



Scott MorrowManager of Information and
Communication Technology,
Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District
School Board

LIBRARY GROUP

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Ontario's public libraries connect their communities to e-resources, multi-media programs, and digital content creation. It is crucial for libraries to have a robust digital infrastructure. ORION can help libraries meet these goals. The Ontario Library Association is working with ORION to facilitate digital discovery in communities across Ontario."



Shelagh PattersonExecutive Director
Ontario Library Association

Every year, ORION hosts gatherings, webinars and activities full of information valuable to our community — just one more way we empower innovation.

diTHINK **MAY 26**

ORION teamed up with Compute Ontario to present a joint conference, exploring how technology-enabled citizens are changing institutions and to envision the impact this growing wave of innovation could have on the way we learn, work and play. diTHINK was about digital independence, empowering the digital individual, and democratizing innovation for the future growth of Ontario's knowledge economy.







TECH SEMINAR: SECURITY MARCH 10

IT and network professionals came together for a seminar exploring IT security hot topics, including the enterprise immune system, campus security, data breaches in Canada and the evolution of secure networks.









Events

NEBULA WEBINARS

ORION invited our Nebula cloud service partners to present a series of educational webinars on a variety of critical technology topics:

Hosted Video Solutions - Resolve Collaboration
Protect Against DDoS & DNS Outages - Canadian
Internet Registration Authority (CIRA)
Uncover the Opportunities, Threats & Trends in the
Changing IT Security Landscape - Spyders
Disaster Recovery When Disaster Strikes Stage2Data
All-in-One Learning Management for Ontario
Schools - Edsby

SPONSORSHIPS & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

In 2016, ORION was also proud to sponsor the following events and speaking engagements, bringing the innovation community together to share the knowledge and expertise that help to make Ontario a global leader:

HIGHER EDUCATION

(OUCC)

Higher Education Summit
Lambton College Annual Mobile Summit
Ontario College Council of Chief Information
Officers (OCCCIO)
Ontario Universities Computing Conference





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7th Annual Canadian EdTech Leadership Summit CONNECT 2016 ECCODE AGM ECNO Conference 6th Annual Education Technology Summit Hour of Code – District School Board Niagara

Les Tablettistes
OASBO 73rd Annual Conference and Education
Industry Show

Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers' Association AGM

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Arctic Broadband Summit BCNET 2016

CANARIE National Summit

CANHEIT/HPCS

AMCTO

Canadian Association of Research Administrators (CARA)

DataCentre Dynamics

Indspire National Gathering for Indigenous Education MISA Ontario Annual Conference

Mobile Healthcare Summit

Ontario Education Research Symposium

York Region Broadband and Innovation Summit

Supporting 15 Yearsof Empowering Innovation

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I want to thank ORION for 15 years of connecting people, ideas and data across Ontario. Research, education and innovation are crucial to our plan to build Ontario up for everyone, and ORION continues to play a leading role. By forging partnerships and connections across Ontario and around the world, ORION makes collaboration and innovation possible."



Premier of Ontario Kathleen Wynne

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For the past 15 years, ORION has been a trusted partner to Ontario's researchers, educators and innovators — facilitating collaboration, supporting advanced computing and big data, and promoting science literacy and learning. They help to empower the scientific discoveries and disruptive new technologies that give our province a competitive advantage in today's global economy."



The Honourable Reza Moridi Minister of Research, Innovation and Science

Supporting 15 Years of Empowering Innovation

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Open participation through digital technology by cultural and civic organizations, in schools, colleges and universities, and among researchers and learners is crucial to Ontario's future. ORION is helping to create that future by supporting digital inclusion, and by enabling communities and public institutions to share critical data and information more quickly, easily and securely — empowering Ontarians to work together to solve the complex challenges of the 21st century."



The Honourable Deborah Matthews Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development, Minister Responsible for Digital Government 66

ORION is uniquely positioned to empower innovation wherever innovators are found — from the major cities of Southern Ontario to the rural regions of the North.

ORION helps facilitate the growth of a diverse, highly skilled workforce by allowing everyone to contribute their unique skills to our innovation-driven economy."



The Honourable Brad Duguid Minister of Economic Development and Growth

ORION is a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering Ontario researchers, educators and innovators. We foster a community of more than two million users at more than a hundred universities, colleges, hospitals and research institutions, as well as a majority of the school boards in the province. We enable ground-breaking discoveries and cutting-edge education by connecting institutions and regions through our network, facilitating collaboration, and providing our community with the digital tools and expert support they need to make the world a better place.



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