



Annual Report

FEBRUARY 2022



REPORTING:
JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2021



CONESTOGA
Connect Life and Learning



Cowan

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* Excerpt from the 2021 Annual Report of the Cowan-Conestoga Partnership



Conestoga is proud of its partnership with The Cowan Foundation and the positive impact it has in facilitating an optimal learning experience for Personal Support Worker (PSW) students. The following messages portray the immense gratitude from Conestoga's leaders and students.

"We are very grateful to The Cowan Foundation for your leadership in the community and your ongoing support for Conestoga. Together, we are making a difference, helping individuals access the education that leads to successful careers and addressing Ontario's urgent need for qualified, passionate health care workers to serve the province's growing population of vulnerable seniors." – Dr. John Tibbits, President, Conestoga College ITAL, December 2021.

"The Cowan Foundation has truly made a big difference for this community and beyond. With the Cowan support, hundreds of new PSW graduates have found jobs in home care, retirement, long-term care homes, or community agencies. Many more are in the process of graduating and will join their colleagues in the near future. Together, they are changing the lives of people and their families, by bringing comfort, care and peace of mind. Thank you, Cowan Foundation, for valuing the importance of PSWs." – Dr. Veronique Boscart, Executive Dean, School of Health & Life Sciences, December 2021.

"In our second year of partnership with The Cowan Foundation, Conestoga has been able to exponentially expand PSW training across Southwestern Ontario. An instrumental component of this success is attributed to Conestoga's ONTARIO Sites for Integrated Training and Experiential learning (ONSITE) model offering flexible program delivery. I am grateful for Cowan's support in funding five PSW ONSITE labs and the opportunity to collaborate with Ms. Mary D'Alton, Executive Director of The Cowan Foundation, on exciting advancements for PSW education." – Alice Knight, Director, Cowan Health Sciences Centre & Partnership, School of Health & Life Sciences, December 2021.

"A measuring tape isn't long enough to measure the gratitude for Cowan." – Mary Seguin, Level 1 PSW student, September 2021.

"The labs for the FAST-Personal Support Worker program were absolutely my favourite part of the program. The theory and videos were very informative, but the hands-on experience in the lab cemented everything I learned. In particular, I really liked the hands-on experience with the sit-to-stand lift and the equipment for vital signs such as the electronic manometer and the pulse oximeter. The labs were an amazing learning space. They had the perfect balance of fun and being highly informative." – Justine Lewis, Level 1 PSW student, September 2021.

Conestoga is tremendously thankful for this opportunity and we look forward to the continued positive and meaningful impact our partnership makes in the community.



In our second year of partnership, Conestoga continues to enhance the quality of seniors care through the development and training of PSWs. The \$5M investment from The Cowan Foundation has paved the way in making this goal become reality through the enhancement of PSW curriculum, simulation, expanded geographic training and education opportunities through ONTario Sites for Integrated Training and Experiential Learning (ONSITE) labs, as well as the individual student supports that remove barriers to education.

Conestoga is a provincial leader in PSW training, with nearly 2,000 PSW students enrolled since August 2020 -- more than any other Ontario college. Our program quality, flexibility and integrated training opportunities have proven to be invaluable in accommodating this unprecedented growth, while also tackling any COVID-19-related challenges. Conestoga's committed team of staff and faculty have played a vital role in ensuring the program meets and exceeds educational standards, giving students the best possible start as they begin their PSW careers.

Recognizing that fair wages and full-time positions are a large component of building a successful and quality PSW workforce, Conestoga continues to advocate for this essential foundation at various levels of government, as well as across the community at large. The paramount responsibility PSWs have in the well-being of seniors and their care partners is, at times, now recognized, and Conestoga is committed to elevating this often overlooked caregiving role.

Over the past year, the Cowan-Conestoga partnership has enabled students to thrive in their education, and gain confidence knowing that they are well prepared to work safely and successfully at the core of health care. The support provided through The Cowan Foundation has been instrumental in our efforts to highlight the importance of quality seniors care.



Measurement of Specific Outcomes Agreement: Deliverables (2021)

DELIVERABLES	Sept. 2020 - Aug. 2021
TECHNOLOGY	
Acquire and implement Virtual Reality platform and technology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual reality platform (Affinity) and related technology (laptops and headsets) purchased to support simulation learning at PSW ONSITE lab locations. 	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affinity platform will be used to build, host and maintain virtual scenarios allowing the ability to easily assign scenarios to students through integration with Conestoga's learning management system. 	✓
Establish and utilize HyFlex simulated space/EMS installation at Kitchener-Doon epicentre <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established a Cowan-funded HyFlex simulation classroom at the Doon campus to provide flexibility for PSW students to attend class either in person or remotely. Synchronous (real-time) learning occurs for remote students with the aid of cameras and video communications software (i.e., Zoom, Microsoft Teams) to capture the live classroom experience. 	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Created an immersive interactive room at Doon to use as a simulation environment, skills lab or practice space for students. Interactive projector-based technology allows the room to resemble any number of stock environments or ones captured by a 360-degree camera. 	✓
PROGRAM DELIVERY	
Develop PSW curriculum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PSW curriculum developed to create the most technologically advanced PSW program of its kind by facilitating experiential learning with the application of knowledge, skills and judgment utilizing lab equipment purchased for Cowan-funded ONSITE lab 	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ONSITE delivery model in effect offering remote simulation learning through state-of-the-art technologies. 	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous evaluation of program delivery to ensure ongoing adaptation to societal changes. 	✓
Purchase and assemble lab equipment for ONSITE labs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enabled program delivery in communities across Ontario through five Cowan-funded PSW ONSITE locations. 	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lab equipment and consumables/instructional supplies purchased and assembled at the Cowan-funded ONSITE labs to support program delivery. 	✓

Measurement of Specific Outcomes Agreement: Deliverables (2021)

PROGRAM DELIVERY continued...

Advance online learning and course development

- Developed Pleasantville Road Neighbourhood as an online, animated, simulated learning tool for the PSW program. The activities are woven throughout the courses and lab activities of the program, allowing students the opportunity to interact with familiar clients as they apply new learning and advance their skillset throughout the program. The Neighbourhood, including the people living there, come alive through various modes of simulation learning and experiences in the program by using:
 - Written case studies;
 - Animated and video-based case studies;
 - Interactive online branching scenarios for students learning at home and attending the Cowan-funded HyFlex classroom on campus;
 - Role play in both in-person and remote labs; and
 - Virtual interactions with simulated participants.



- Continued ongoing Online Learning Centre course development to build accessible, online education and simulation through the Canadian Institute for Seniors Care. To date, Training Specialists have reviewed best practice and evidence-informed research to design six skill videos and animations. Video and animated resources will enhance student learning by connecting knowledge to practice, supporting PSWs to be career-ready upon graduation to provide evidence-informed care to seniors. Resources will be built into lab and theory courses, and will be available for use on mobile devices to facilitate flexible learning opportunities for students.



STUDENT SUPPORTS (2021)

Offer Frances Cowan Entrance Award

- Presented to 473 PSW students



Provide Cowan-branded scrubs

- Provided to 1,807 PSW students



Sponsor CPR/First Aid certification

- Sponsored 373 PSW students



Measurement of Specific Outcomes Agreement: Deliverables (2021)

INNOVATION AND RESEARCH

Establish recruitment campaign to elevate PSW role

- Launched ongoing marketing strategy and digital campaign with a focus on elevating the PSW role, raising awareness and increasing the number of students in the PSW programs at Conestoga in both the full-time (domestic, international and FAST) and Continuing Education streams.



- Digital marketing plan targets specific geographic areas and age groups. Various digital marketing platforms run ad sets to complement the overall digital marketing campaign.



Support workforce training and optimization

- The Canadian Institute for Seniors Care develops innovative education, improves workforce development and strengthens care practices to support seniors and their care partners across Canada. The Institute enhances national collaboration across organizations and industry, promotes evidence-informed practices to improve education and care practices, and establishes a Canada-wide knowledge mobilization network to support workforce development in seniors care.



ADMINISTRATION

Recruit, onboard, and develop Project Team

- Actively engaged project team to drive Donor Agreement Deliverables in the Cowan-Conestoga partnership.



Collaborate with Conestoga's academic administration to streamline process

- Maintained ongoing, effective collaboration with internal stakeholders to streamline process in supporting the specific outcomes in the Cowan-Conestoga partnership.



Specific Outcomes Agreement: Deliverables for Upcoming Year (2022)

DELIVERABLES	Sept. 2021 - Aug. 2022
TECHNOLOGY	
Integrate Virtual Reality learning into PSW curriculum.	✓
Expand use of HyFlex simulated learning in PSW training at the Doon campus epicentre.	✓
PROGRAM DELIVERY	
Enhance PSW curriculum to achieve quality outcomes.	✓
Optimize use of equipment and supplies for Cowan-funded PSW ONSITE labs.	✓
Continue to advance online learning experience to meet the key performance indicators (KPIs).	✓
Evolve academic pathway (PSW to Practical Nurse Bridge).	✓
STUDENT SUPPORTS	
Present Frances Cowan Entrance Award.	✓
Provide Cowan-branded scrubs.	✓
Sponsor CPR/First Aid certification.	✓
INNOVATION AND RESEARCH	
Actively engage in advocating for the PSW program in our community and province.	✓
Support workforce training and optimization.	✓
Expand applied research capacity including PSW program evaluation.	✓
ADMINISTRATION	
Continue to engage Project Team to support specific outcomes of the Cowan-Conestoga partnership.	✓
Optimize Conestoga's academic administration processes to maximize student and program quality.	✓

Successes to Date (August 2020 – December 2021)

- In 2021, Conestoga had the **highest number of PSW students enrolled** in a college PSW program across the province.
- A total of **1,807 PSW students enrolled at Conestoga** since September 2020. All students received Cowan-branded scrubs.
- **A total of 473 PSW students received Cowan supports**, including:
 - The Frances Cowan Entrance Award; and
 - CPR/First Aid training funded by Cowan.
- **Five Cowan-funded ONSITE lab locations** established throughout Ontario.
- **A total of 391 students benefitted** from flexible program delivery in the Cowan-funded ONSITE lab locations.
- **A total of 554 graduates** to date, and **a total of 502 graduates** in February 2022 convocation.

“The reason I’m studying the Personal Support Worker program at Conestoga College is that my father died of Parkinson’s syndrome, and my mother is currently a dementia patient, so I was very interested in Personal Support Workers. When I work as a support worker post-graduation, I will treat clients with sincerity as if I were taking care of my parents. I will try to be a talented and great person who can help students in financial difficulties like Mrs. Cowan and The Cowan Foundation.” – Ellin (HeuiGyeong) Kim, PSW student



Conestoga's PSW Program Overview

With PSWs providing essential care to so many in our communities, it is imperative to empower them with the skills and knowledge to make meaningful differences for those living in long-term care and retirement homes. With this in mind, Conestoga's PSW program is tailored to align with evidence-informed best practices.

As part of Conestoga's continuous program review, the course offering has been adjusted to blend Integrated Client Care (PSW1595) and Supportive Care Practice 2 (PSW1630) into one new course in level 2 of the program. This approach follows the pattern in the first level of the program with a blended theory and lab course, facilitating students' translation of theory into practical approaches at our Cowan Health Sciences Centre at the Doon campus, as well as various ONSITE lab locations throughout Ontario.

Overall, the fundamentals of the program remain the same in that students obtain knowledge and training in a progressive and intentional manner with a significant focus on how to promote a comfortable and safe environment for all clients. Students receive provincially recognized certificates related to these areas of learning (PSW certificate, GPA, CPR/First Aid certificate).

Conestoga's PSW program has three different models of delivery (full-time, part-time and FAST), giving students the flexibility to choose the delivery model that best suits their life and work schedule. In addition, students have the option to attend theory classes in person or remotely via the Cowan HyFlex classroom and the hub-and-spoke models available with ONSITE labs.

PSW Curriculum:

Regular-paced PSW programming (full-time delivery):
8-month duration.

Regular-paced PSW programming (part-time delivery):
10-month duration (evenings/weekends).

FAST delivery:
21-week accelerated (the full PSW program is offered in an intense full-time format, about 30+ hours/week).

PSW ONSITE delivery:
Conestoga's PSW programming within the context of a long-term care home, retirement home, or home care space, integrated with the opportunity to learn from seniors, the care team and family members.



“I have been working in a long-term care home for over a year now and I started long before ever thinking that being a PSW would be for me. After working for a few months, it hit me that I could go to school and keep doing what I love for many years to come. I have never been much of a goal-setter until I started college, honestly. Now I have the next 10 years of my life planned because of the amazing experience this program has given me.” – Kimberly Murphy, PSW student

PSW Program Courses

PSW COURSE	COURSE NAME
LEVEL 1	
PSW1375	Professional Practice (49 hours)
PSW1365	Structure and Function of the Body for Person Centered Care (86 hours)
PSW1315	Supportive Care Theory and Practice (106 hours)
LEVEL 2	
PSW1725	Supportive Care Theory and Practice II (60 hours)
COMM1085	College Reading & Writing Skills (42 hours)
PSW1695	Community and Palliative Care (68 hours)
CDEV1270	Career Readiness for the Personal Support Worker (8 hours)
PSW1685	Professional Care Practice, Community and Long Term Care (100 hours)
PSW1705	Pre-graduate Consolidation (100 hours)



In 2021, funding from The Cowan Foundation supported three objectives in the Canadian Institute for Seniors Care.

For the first objective, we are finalizing six interactive, innovative and accessible e-learning components to support student learning across the PSW program. The series of e-learning components is comprised of animations and short video clips to support theory-to-practice integration aimed at preparing career-ready graduates for care giving in our community. The e-learning components can be utilized for both PSW students and PSWs in the workforce, promoting evidence-informed best practices to enhance seniors care.

For the second objective, we have actively engaged in advocating for PSWs in our community and province through ongoing conversations with our MPPs, the Ministry of Health, stakeholders and partners in our clinical agencies, as well as keeping the PSW portfolio at the forefront of the provincial Heads of Health Sciences and Colleges Ontario meetings. Regular open houses continue to attract both prospective students and employers seeking PSWs. Meaningful discussions have led to the creation of job boards, adaptations to flexible scheduling, and employer sponsored PSW cohorts. Conestoga has a strong media presence in regard to PSW and stakeholders at a provincial level, including media interviews and social media creating positive awareness.

For the third objective, we have expanded our applied research capacity, including a program-wide evaluation of the PSW-FAST program for 2022. Through this initiative, we are evaluating program feasibility, student experiences and accomplishments, as well as challenges, in addition to key performance indicators as well as student satisfaction surveys to identify opportunities for optimization of the program. We are continuing to collect data and are preparing a knowledge dissemination report.

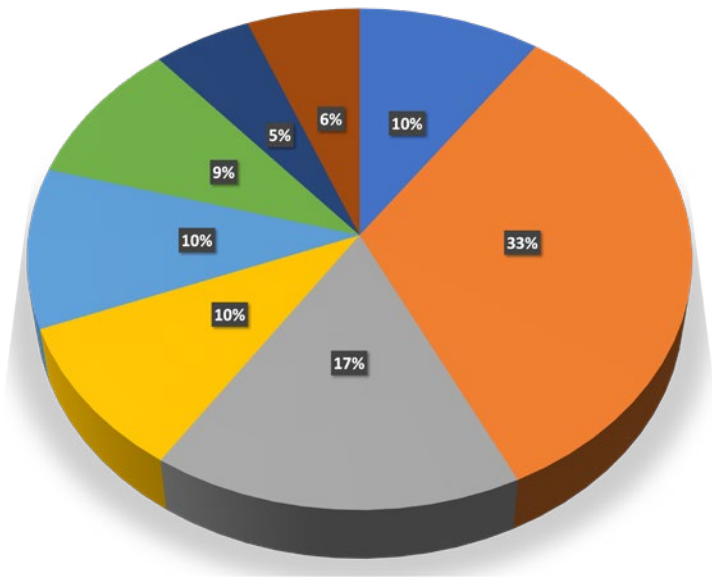
Finally, we have been successful in obtaining support from the Ministry of Health in the Nursing Transformation Fund to strengthen the academic pathway from PSW to Practical Nursing, and we are planning for an expanded student intake in 2022.

We thank The Cowan Foundation for their support.

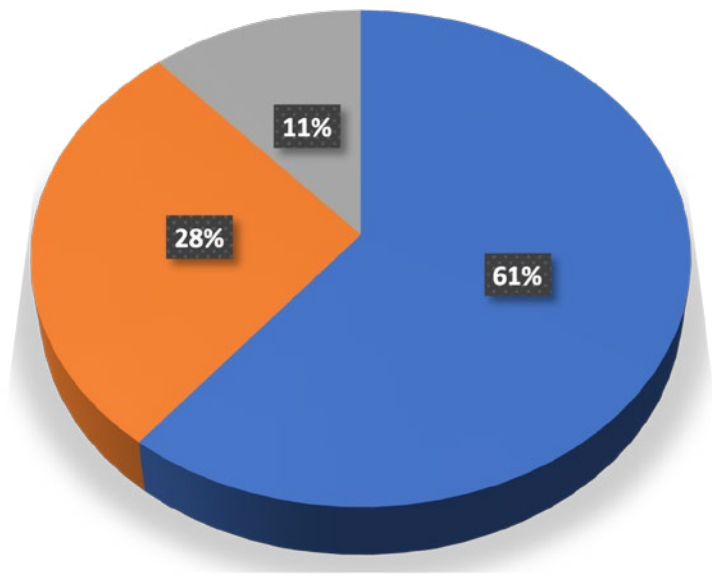
The following represents data from all 2021 PSW program cohorts, including domestic, international, FAST, full-time and part-time students.

Results from PSW Incoming Student Survey (2021)

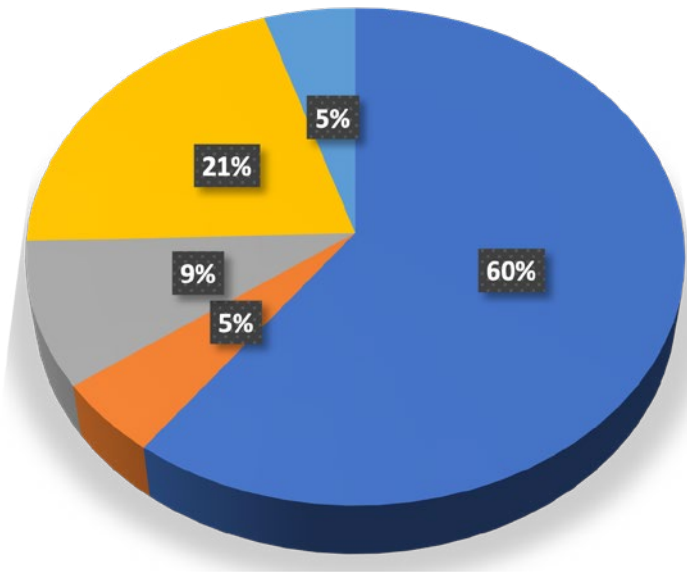
PSW STUDENT AGE (YEARS)		
	19 and under	165
	20-25	561
	26-30	280
	31-35	165
	36-40	175
	41-45	159
	46-50	89
	Over 50	102



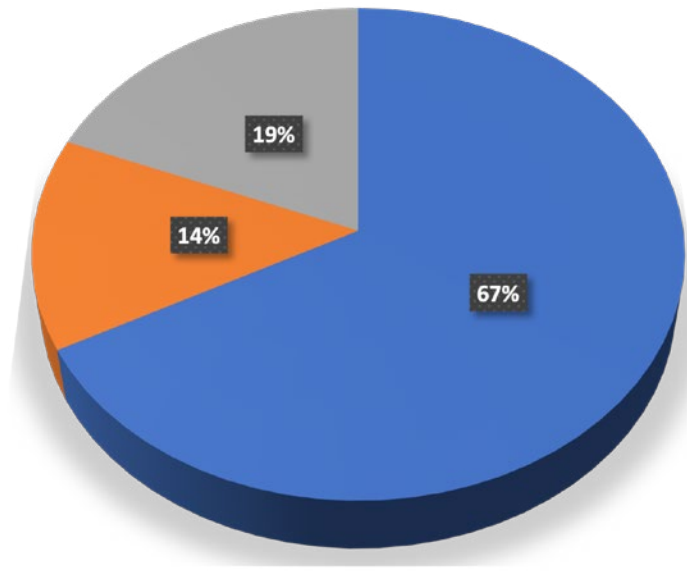
HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION		
	Completed high school	328
	Completed a college program	150
	Completed a university program	62



ACTIVITY PRIOR TO TAKING PSW PROGRAM		
	Working	344
	Completing high school	28
	Completing another program	54
	At home with family	118
	Other	28



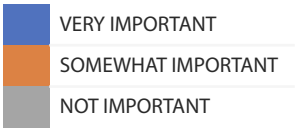
WORK STATUS WHILE TAKING PSW PROGRAM		
	Working part-time	649
	Working full-time	134
	Not working	182



	1171	1015	1189	252	1177	641	884
	457	542	455	142	484	465	526
	139	210	123	1373	106	661	357
Total		1767	1767	1767	1767	1767	1767



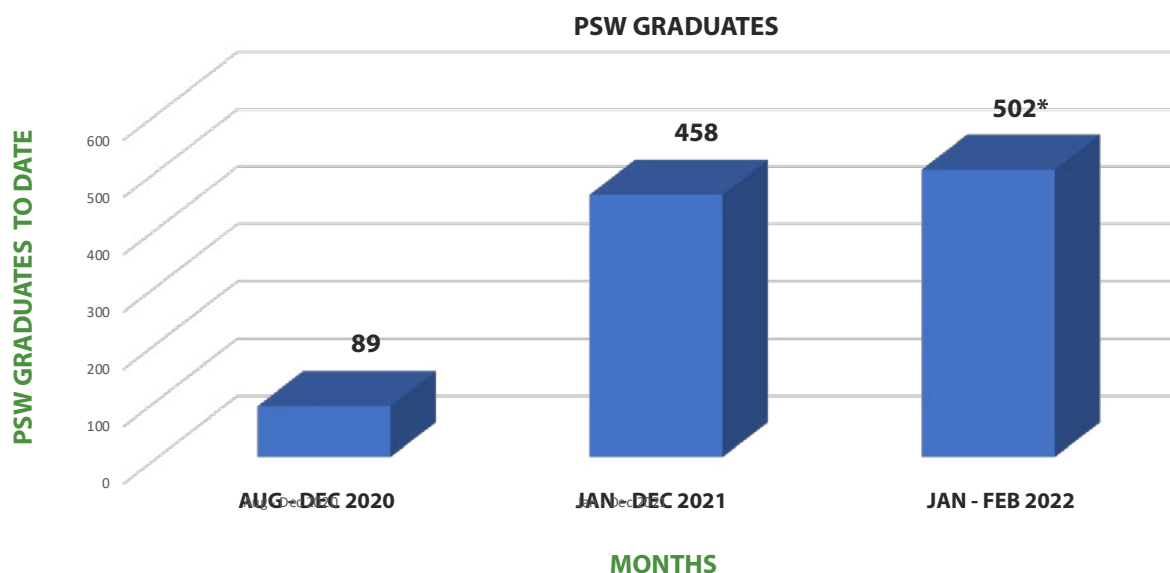
Note: International students are not eligible for OSAP.



PSW Enrolment 2021

STUDENT STATUS							
2021 COHORT	FULL TIME		PART TIME	FAST			TOTAL
	DOMESTIC	INTERNATIONAL	DOMESTIC	FAST	EMPLOYER-SPONSORED	MINISTRY SPONSORED*	
January	70	18	0	0	60	0	148
February	0	0	0	31	80	0	111
March	0	0	0	0	20	0	20
April	0	0	0	0	0	153	153
May	17	31	7	0	4	229	288
June	0	0	0	0	10	378	388
July	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
August	0	0	0	0	0	270	270
September	72	60	0	0	0	0	132
October	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
November	0	0	0	18	19	0	37
December	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

* Note: Ministry funding from January to August 2021.



Total 1,049 graduates August 2020 - February 2022

* 502 students to graduate in February 2022

PSW Student Experience

Beyond the overall program and ONSITE lab support, the student supports funded by The Cowan Foundation, including the Frances Cowan Entrance Award, CPR/First Aid Training and the Cowan-branded scrubs, have had a direct impact on students' professional and personal lives. We are proud to highlight one of these students below.



**Michelle Sawatzky,
PSW Student, Spring 2021 cohort**

Michelle could not be more grateful for the generosity of Mrs. Frances Cowan and The Cowan Foundation. "Thank you for supporting myself and my family on this journey in the past, present, and future. Your generous gift will not be forgotten as I strive to complete the PSW program and decide whether to continue with my health care training or begin serving within the community. Hopefully, I can successfully offer each client and individual a happier day and brighter tomorrow. May your gift come full circle through the role that I play in caring for others."

Michelle Sawatzky joined Conestoga's PSW program as a part-time student in Spring 2021. She has raised two children who both experienced pediatric health challenges over the past several years. Through the experiences with her children and other family members who faced health issues, her desire to help has become a fundamental part of who Michelle is. This became even more clear when her parents recently went through life-threatening illnesses during the pandemic. It was difficult for Michelle, originally from Newfoundland, to be with her family and help care for them.

"In that moment, I knew that I needed to offer people the care and support for their family members that I longed for mine to have," said Michelle. "Never in my entire life would I have ever considered myself capable of such a task."

As daunting as it may have been, she made the decision to pursue a career as a PSW. As Michelle began her studies in Conestoga's PSW program, she was honoured and humbled to receive The Cowan Foundation supports, including the Frances Cowan Entrance Award, CPR/First Aid Training and the uniform kit.

"When I heard that The Cowan Foundation was supporting individuals studying to become certified PSWs, I was reminded just how much of a positive impact Cowan has had on my life. Thank you seems small in comparison to the gifts and opportunities that Cowan has offered my family. We are truly grateful."

Reflecting on her Conestoga experience so far, Michelle said that the best part has been her classmates and instructors. Having classmates from diverse backgrounds has enhanced the learning experience, and the trust, mutual support and overall camaraderie pushes each of them to do better and ask a lot of questions, while depending on the expert knowledge of instructors.

Michelle emphasized that the Cowan "donation has been invested in the hands of very caring and courageous individuals that will make The Cowan Foundation very proud." "Thank you for supporting myself and my family on this journey in the past, present and future," added Michelle. "Your generous gift will not be forgotten as I strive to complete the PSW program and decide whether to continue with my health care training or begin serving within the community. Hopefully, I can successfully offer each client and individual a happier day and brighter tomorrow. May your gift come full circle through the role that I play in caring for others."





The supports offered through The Cowan Foundation’s generous \$5M investment have positively impacted the lives of hundreds of students to date by removing barriers to education, and providing new opportunities for health care workers.

Summary of Students Receiving Cowan Supports
(September 2020 - December 2021)



473

students received the
Frances Cowan
Entrance Award
(valued at \$500/student)



373

students received sponsored
First Aid and CPR certification
(valued at \$140/student)



1,807

students received
Cowan-branded uniforms
(valued at approx. \$74/student)





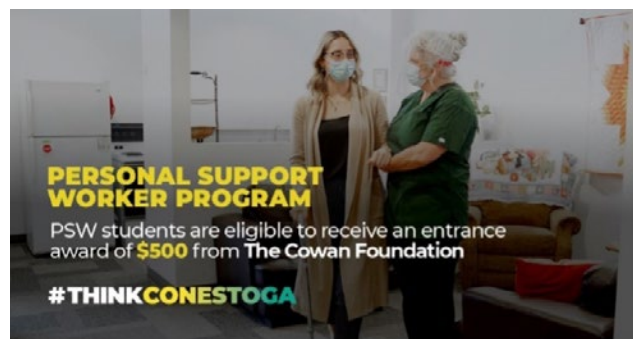
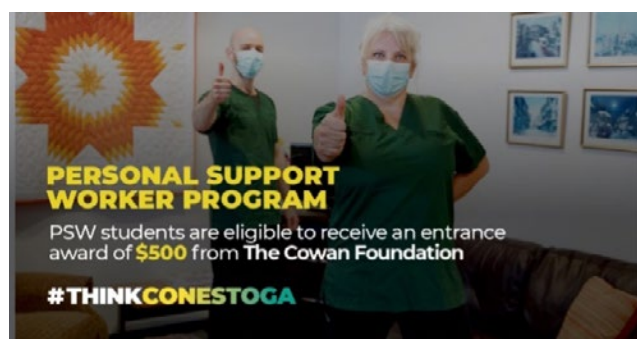
Conestoga continues to build on its comprehensive marketing and recruitment strategy to attract and support prospective PSW students throughout Ontario. The media campaign targets various platforms including Google, Google Display and Facebook/Instagram, and highlights the PSW profession as an essential role at the centre of healthcare. Target audiences include newcomers to Canada, individuals seeking career change, mature and high school students.

PSW-INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM WEBPAGE



DIGITAL AD CAMPAIGN

The images below are featured in the current advertising campaign that launched in September 2021.



Campaign Statistics



PROGRAM WEBPAGE VIEWS TO DATE (November 20, 2020 - December 31, 2021)



Pageviews: The total number of times the webpage is viewed, including repeated views.

Unique pageviews: The number of sessions during which the specified page was viewed at least once (does not include repeated views within the same session).

TOTALS FOR CAMPAIGN TO DATE

CLICKS: Clicks on the ads; **IMPRESSIONS:** Number of times an ad was displayed.



GOOGLE SEARCH

8,288
CLICKS

208,546
IMPRESSIONS



GOOGLE DISPLAY

70,706
CLICKS

17,226,208
IMPRESSIONS



FACEBOOK/INSTAGRAM

37,976
CLICKS

13,179,136
IMPRESSIONS

707,304
PEOPLE REACHED

PSW Awareness Campaign

As part of the ongoing awareness campaign to elevate the role of PSWs, Conestoga actively promotes messaging on various platforms, including social media, the Conestoga website, press releases, meetings with MPPs and other government representatives. Highlighting the importance of PSWs is imperative to changing societal perceptions and awareness. Conestoga will continue to use its voice in these forums to advocate for PSWs.

Totals for 2021 PSW Awareness Campaign

Twitter posts	163
Facebook/Instagram posts	21
Conestoga blog posts (website news & event calendar)	88
MPP meetings	10
Press releases	3
Conestoga internal communications	53





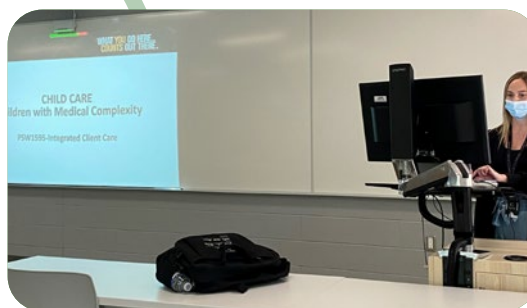
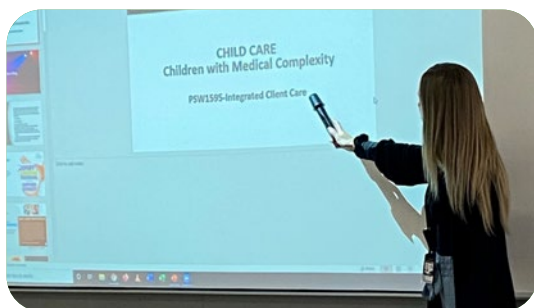
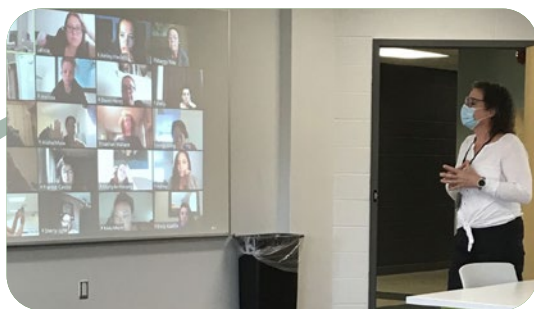
Cowan HyFlex Classroom Update

The Cowan HyFlex classroom, located in room 2E35 at the Doon campus, is the first of its kind at Conestoga and provides invaluable benefits to students and faculty by enhancing PSW learning.

Initially, this HyFlex room was outfitted with one bed and mannequin to support remote simulation to teach students practical caregiving skills that PSWs provide. However, as students returned to in-person learning, the Cowan HyFlex classroom was expanded to include four beds and a full lab of equipment and supplies, providing students additional opportunities to practice their skills in a hands-on learning environment.

The Cowan HyFlex classroom allows PSW students to attend and actively participate in theory classes in person or remotely using video communication software. This synchronous (real-time) learning is made possible with built-in specialized technology including cameras, microphones and speakers which are integrated to work seamlessly with Microsoft Teams or Zoom. The Cowan HyFlex classroom has been essential in elevating the remote learning experience, which will continue to be an important element of theory classes well beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.

For a glimpse into the live HyFlex classroom experience, please view this video: [Video link](#).



Conestoga College’s ONSITE Delivery Model

ONSITE labs have been a pivotal component in Conestoga’s ability to support and expand PSW training across Ontario. During the COVID-19 pandemic, students faced many barriers to education. The implementation of the ONSITE labs and generous support of The Cowan Foundation have allowed Conestoga to increase student access to learning in rural and remote locations, as well as under-served areas. These sites not only bring hands-on learning and training into the communities that our students live in, but also include those communities that are struggling to meet the demand for PSWs in the workforce.

The generous support from The Cowan Foundation has funded five ONSITE labs across Ontario:

Bracebridge	Launched in October 2021
Brantford	Launched in March 2021
Ingersoll/Woodstock	Launched in April 2021
Kitchener - Downtown	Launched in May 2021
Sarnia/Windsor	Launched in May 2021



Images above of various Cowan-funded ONSITE.
Top Row (left): Sarnia/Windsor, Kitchener Downtown, **Bottom Row (left):** Brantford, Bracebridge, **Centre:** Ingersoll



Image above of student practicing client care on task trainer mannequin.

The most recent lab introduced in Bracebridge marked the first time Conestoga was able to expand into Northern Ontario. Historically, this part of Ontario has had great demand for PSWs and is, at times, underserved for education. Cowan's generous support has allowed students, the workforce, and care recipients in Northern Ontario to benefit directly by training PSWs who will be ready to join the workforce.

Each Conestoga PSW ONSITE lab is outfitted with state-of-the-art equipment which mimics long-term care and/or community home care settings. This setup allows students to be immersed in experiential learning from the moment they walk in the door as they consider their surroundings, available equipment, potential space limitations in their environment and how these factors will impact client care. This hands-on training prepares students to care for clients in various environments



Images above show equipment purchased with the generous support of The Cowan Foundation

Each Cowan-funded ONSITE lab is outfitted with the following equipment and supplies, and labelled to indicate it was donated by Cowan:

- Halsa beds with mattresses
- Overbed tables
- Sit-to-stand lift
- Full mechanical/Hoyer lift
- Home care trainers
- Task trainers
- Variety of mobility aids including walkers, canes, crutches and gait belts.

Students develop skills to assist clients requiring specific supports, but also learn how to use the equipment and understand the limitations and benefits assistive equipment can provide in client care. By experiencing this hands-on training, our PSW students are able to confidently care for people with various abilities, while ensuring their safety and comfort.

The in-person PSW ONSITE labs have encouraged students to learn new skills and build on existing knowledge to provide optimal client care. PSW students develop confidence in providing client-centred care with notable improvements in both verbal and nonverbal communication. The ONSITE labs are a critical component of Conestoga's PSW program providing an opportunity to learn and grow under the guidance of highly trained PSW Technologists.



391 Students benefitting from Cowan-funded ONSITE labs.



Thank You

