



**SuperBuild Update: Public-Private Partnerships  
in Ontario's Colleges and Universities**

**CUPE National Research Branch  
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# **SuperBuild Update: Public-Private Partnerships in Ontario's Colleges and Universities**

## **Competing for the Construction dollars**

The Ontario government announced its SuperBuild Infrastructure projects in Ontario's colleges and universities with great fanfare in February of 2000. 35 projects were chosen from the many submitted. These were for new construction. Later in the spring of 2000, the government chose 24 other projects for the renovation of existing buildings. The government argues that their 'targetting' of infrastructure projects is an efficient way to spend public money.

Universities are not evaluated only on the basis of the individual projects they submit. Through a competition, post-secondary institutions must prove they have created more space for students by increasing the use of buildings during the evening and in the summer; creating co-op programs, distance education and partnerships between colleges and universities.<sup>1</sup>

In September 2002, the government announced two new projects. In December 2002, the Ontario Government asked Ontario's colleges and universities to submit a new round of SuperBuild proposals. The deadline was January 27, 2003.

## **What is SuperBuild?**

As described by the Ontario Government:

The Ontario SuperBuild Corporation works together with public and private sector partners to set priorities and create innovative capital investment, privatization, and commercialization proposals to respond to our province's growing infrastructure needs.<sup>2</sup>

While the Ontario government committed just over \$981 million to infrastructure projects in Ontario's colleges and universities, this represents less than half of what is required for these projects to be completed. Communities and institutions applying for funding must demonstrate they have commitments from other public and private sector funders.

As described by CUPE, these infrastructure projects are just another example of public-private partnerships, or P3s. Public subsidies for corporate profits - What a partnership!

## **New Announcements 2002**

The Fall 2002 announcement of SuperBuild funds for post-secondary institutions in Ontario was largely a non-event. In fact, as outlined in the Tables that follow, the government used the opportunity to re-announce funds that had been already committed.

The government talks about its increased contribution to new buildings and upkeep of our colleges and universities. But it keeps reannouncing the same money!! Yes, there was an increase in funds between 2000 and 2002: *Private and other public funders increased their investment in post-secondary education infrastructure by 50 percent!*

The Ontario government made only two new commitments. First of all, the government needed to rectify a serious error in judgement that had underfunded construction at the University of Ottawa. Even by SuperBuild standards, the University of Ottawa didn't get its share, receiving only \$7 million in the 2000 round of SuperBuild funds. The Fall 2002 announcement committed \$30 million to the building of a new Biosciences complex at the University of Ottawa. \$29 million is expected from private money and other public sources.

This commitment, however, still does not solve the problem of underfunding at the University of Ottawa. In total, SuperBuild funds will provide *half* of the funding required for spaces for 2,680 additional students at the University of Ottawa. The University expects 5000 additional students to enrol in coming years.<sup>3</sup>

There was a second new component in the September 2002 announcement. The Conservative government announced it would open a new institution called the University of Ontario Institute of Technology. This institution will be governed by a board that will run Durham College as well. SuperBuild committed \$60 million to the development of the first phase of the project. No private funds have been announced yet, but we fully expect to hear a lot more about privatization and post-secondary education through this new institute. The Institute is expected to provide spaces for 2,870 students eventually.

## SuperBuild Infrastructure Projects: Reannouncement 2002

<b>Table 1: SuperBuild funds (\$ millions)</b>			
	<b>Announced 2000</b>	<b>Re-announced 2002</b>	<b>Increase \$millions</b>
Central Region	164.63	164.63	0
Eastern Region	188.50	218.50	30.0
Greater Toronto Area	379.87	439.87	60.0
Northern Region	58.61	58.61	0
Southwestern Region	99.76	99.76	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>891.37</b>	<b>981.37</b>	<b>90.0</b>

Source: SuperBuild Infrastructure Projects – Colleges and Universities – 2000  
[www.edu.gov.on.ca/superbuild/english/summary/summary2000.html](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/superbuild/english/summary/summary2000.html);  
 SuperBuild Infrastructure Projects – Colleges and Universities – 2002  
[www.edu.gov.on.ca/superbuild/english/summary/summary2002.html](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/superbuild/english/summary/summary2002.html)

<b>Table 2: Private and other public funds (\$ millions)</b>				
	<b>Announced 2000</b>	<b>Re-announced 2002</b>	<b>Increase \$millions</b>	<b>% Increase</b>
Central Region	140.69	250.40	109.71	80.0
Eastern Region	173.00	249.97	76.97	44.5
Greater Toronto Area	380.33	568.75	188.42	49.5
Northern Region	38.45	57.60	19.15	49.8
Southwestern Region	85.44	107.59	22.15	25.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>817.91</b>	<b>1,234.31</b>	<b>416.40</b>	<b>49.9</b>

Source: SuperBuild Infrastructure Projects – Colleges and Universities – 2000  
[www.edu.gov.on.ca/superbuild/english/summary/summary2000.html](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/superbuild/english/summary/summary2000.html);  
 SuperBuild Infrastructure Projects – Colleges and Universities – 2002  
[www.edu.gov.on.ca/superbuild/english/summary/summary2002.html](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/superbuild/english/summary/summary2002.html)

<b>Table 3: Net New Student Spaces</b>			
	<b>Announced 2000</b>	<b>Re-announced 2002</b>	<b>Numerical Increase</b>
Central Region	17,682	17,743	61
Eastern Region	14,216	15,727	1,511
Greater Toronto Area	29,036	30,329	1,293
Northern Region	3,838	4,144	306
Southwestern Region	8,307	8,307	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>73,079</b>	<b>76,250</b>	<b>3,171</b>

Source: SuperBuild Infrastructure Projects – Colleges and Universities – 2000  
[www.edu.gov.on.ca/superbuild/english/summary/summary2000.html](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/superbuild/english/summary/summary2000.html);

Source: SuperBuild Infrastructure Projects – Colleges and Universities – 2002  
[www.edu.gov.on.ca/superbuild/english/summary/summary2002.html](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/superbuild/english/summary/summary2002.html)

### **CUPE members and SuperBuild: What’s our view?**

CUPE members are in an excellent position to evaluate the real story behind SuperBuild at Ontario’s post-secondary institutions. Here below are the bare facts of the matter. But our experiences and knowledge of the workplace tell a much deeper story.

Who are the private funders? What kinds of gains have we made at the bargaining table to ensure the care of these buildings will not be contracted out? What is it like to teach students in a movie theatre instead of a classroom? What are the ways private capital is moving into our work days? How have we resisted this? How are public funds subsidizing corporate profits? What has happened to our workload? Who is cutting corners?

Let’s tell our side of the story!

## CENTRAL REGION

University – Project Title	New student Spaces 2002	SuperBuild Funds \$millions 2002	Private and other Public funds \$millions 2000	Private and other Public funds \$millions 2002
<b>Brock University</b> – New Academic Complex. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed</li> </ul>	1,700	15.57	9.90	13.51
<b>Georgian College and York University</b> – Collaborative Programming	1,151	7.20	3.0	2.91
<b>McMaster</b> - Business and Arts Expansion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AIC Business Building. Completed.</li> <li>• Information Technology Building. November 2003</li> </ul>	1,146	4.04	2.21	9.80
<b>McMaster</b> – Sciences, Health Science and Engineering Rehabilitation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arthur Bourns Bldg. Completed July 2002</li> <li>• Centre for Learning and Discovery. Summer 2004</li> <li>• Hamilton Hall renovation. Fall 2003</li> </ul>	1,653	8.53	19.76	41.69
<b>University of Guelph</b> - Science Complex and Classroom cluster <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New multi-storey science building</li> <li>• Lecture theatre and classrooms</li> <li>• Renovations to Axelrod buildings. Fall 2003</li> </ul>	3,608	45.00	39.80	113.00
<b>University of Waterloo</b> - Multi-facility Expansion	2,600	31.21	26.77	30.23
<b>Wilfrid Laurier University</b> - Northwest Campus Renewal and expansion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Library renovation. Completed</li> <li>• Schlegel Centre for Entrepreneurial Studies. Completed</li> </ul>	900	6.30	5.97	10.67

## EASTERN REGION

University – Project Title	New student Spaces 2002	SuperBuild Funds \$millions 2002	Private and other Public funds \$millions 2000	Private and other Public funds \$millions 2002
<b>Carleton University and Algonquin College</b> - Joint Undergraduate Degree program in Information Technology	550	11.34	5.50	6.75
<b>Carleton University</b> - Expansion and Renovation of labs and classrooms	4,400	28.66	34.79	40.30
<b>Queen's University</b> - New Chemistry Building and School of Business renovation	1,250	39.96	50.16	58.10
<b>Queen's University</b> - Integrated Learning Centre	400	10.80	12.00	13.20
<b>Trent University and Sir Sandford Fleming College</b> - Co-operative Ventures- infrastructure	215	2.81	0.53	0.30
<b>Trent University</b> - Faculty of Arts and Sciences Academic Facilities	1,080	26.23	6.87	6.87
<b>University of Ottawa</b> - School of Information Tech and Engineering Building • Opened September 2002	980	4.50	26.43	43.32
<b>University of Ottawa</b> - Health Sciences Addition and Conversion of space • Opened March, 2001	200	2.57	2.86	3.91
<b>University of Ottawa</b> - Biosciences Complex • Opening Fall 2003	1,500	30	—	29.0

## GREATER TORONTO AREA

University – Project Title	New student Spaces 2002	SuperBuild Funds \$millions 2002	Private and other Public funds \$millions 2000	Private and other Public funds \$millions 2002
<b>Ryerson University</b> - Centre for Graphic Communications Management	400	4.15	6.00	7.71
<b>Ryerson University</b> - Centre for Computing and Engineering	2,400	31.50	30.00	33.50
<b>Ryerson University and George Brown College</b> - Centre for Studies in Community Health	1,075	13.38	6.37	7.86
<b>University of Toronto (Miss) and Sheridan College</b> - Facilities for the Program in Communication, Culture and IT	1,200	27.30	11.13	21.87
<b>University of Toronto</b> - Health Science Complex	568	28.80	88.11	146.84
<b>University of Toronto</b> - Bahen Centre for Information Technology	1,668	24.03	61.44	84.78
<b>York University and Seneca College</b> - Technology Enhanced Learning Building	4,000	46.99	24.57	41.31
<b>York University</b> - Schulich School of Business/ Faculty of Education	2,054	30.49	27.72	43.73

## NORTHERN REGION

University – Project Title	New student Spaces 2002	SuperBuild Funds \$millions 2002	Private and other Public funds \$millions 2000	Private and other Public funds \$millions 2002
<b>Lakehead University</b> - Advanced Technology and Academic Centre • Completed spring, 2002	1,487	13.38	17.45	27.63
<b>Laurentian University</b> - Brenda Wallace Reading Room and Computer Centre • Completed 2001	75	0.61	0.66	0.81

## SOUTHWESTERN REGION

University – Project Title	New student Spaces 2002	SuperBuild Funds \$millions 2002	Private and other Public funds \$millions 2000	Private and other Public funds \$millions 2002
<b>University of Western Ontario - Accessibility and Quality Project</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural Sciences Centre. 700 seat stadium-style classroom. Completed Spring 2001</li> <li>• Advanced Technology Centre. Opening January 2003</li> <li>• North Campus Building. Opening December 2003</li> <li>• South Valley Building. Opening May 2004</li> </ul>	3,400	40.50	41.00	50.20
<b>University of Western Ontario and Fanshawe College - Communication, Information and Multimedia Studies</b>	155	4.32	0.48	0.48
<b>University of Windsor – Multimedia Learning Centre and Dramatic Art Project</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health Education and Learning Centre. Summer 2003</li> <li>• Dramatic Arts Facility. Opening June 2003</li> <li>• Upgrades to classrooms and labs</li> </ul>	1,000	10.66	11.29	18.20
<b>University of Windsor and St. Clair College - Integrated Engineering and Technology Learning Program</b>	206	2.96	2.96	2.96

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/superbuild/english/background/index.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/superbuild/english/background/index.html>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.uottawa.ca/services/markcom/news/2002/020716-e.html>