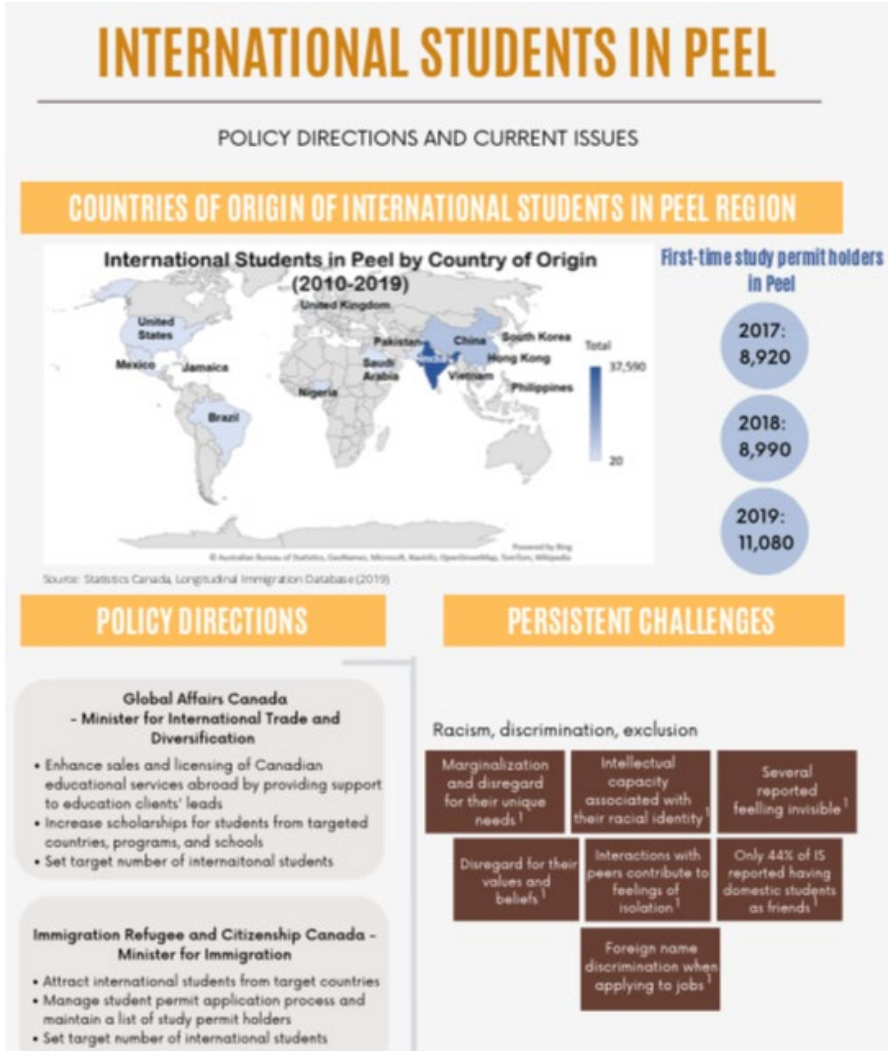
International Student Roundtable and Summit

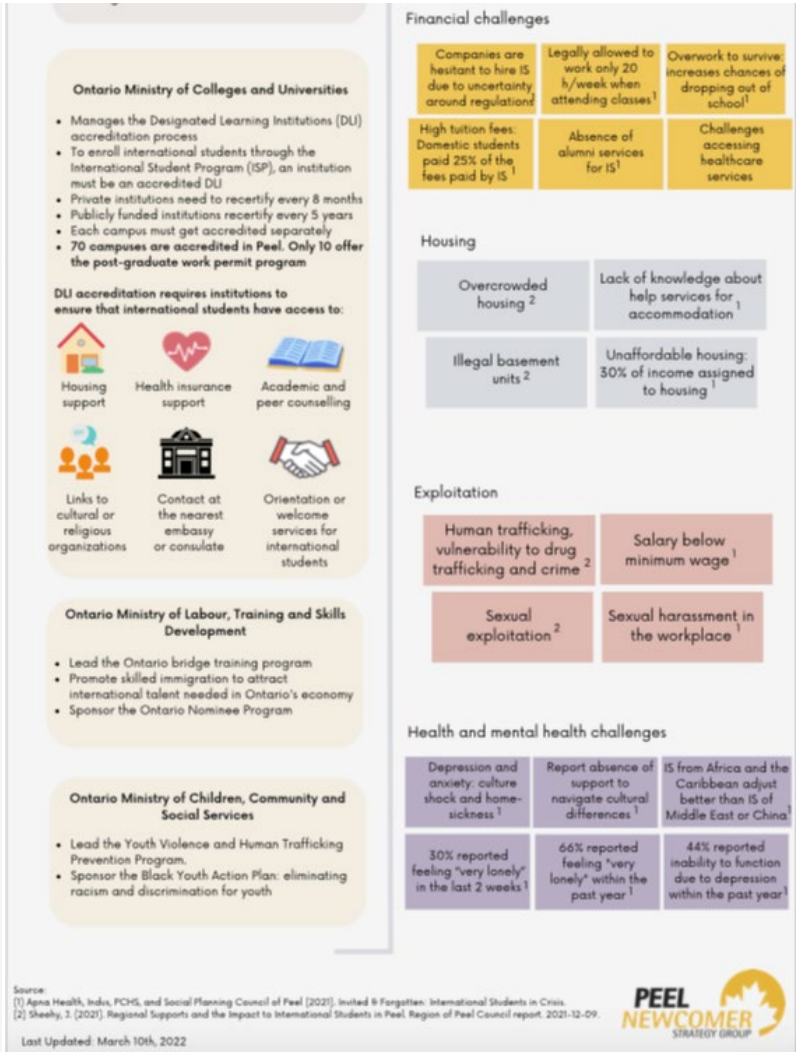
Update for Committee of Council, City of Brampton

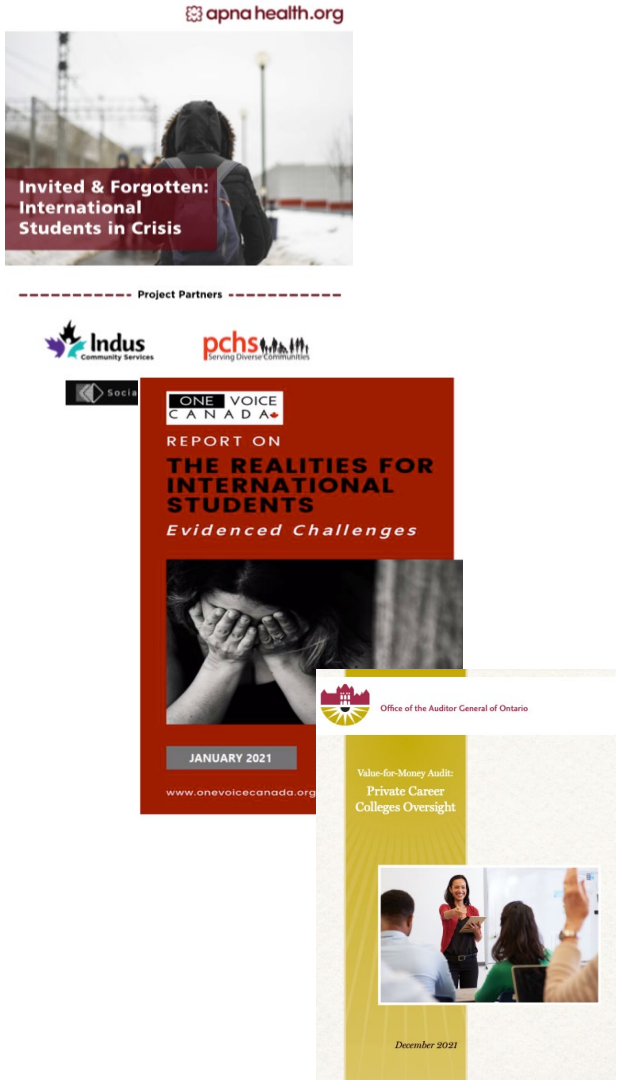
June 22, 2022

Sheridan

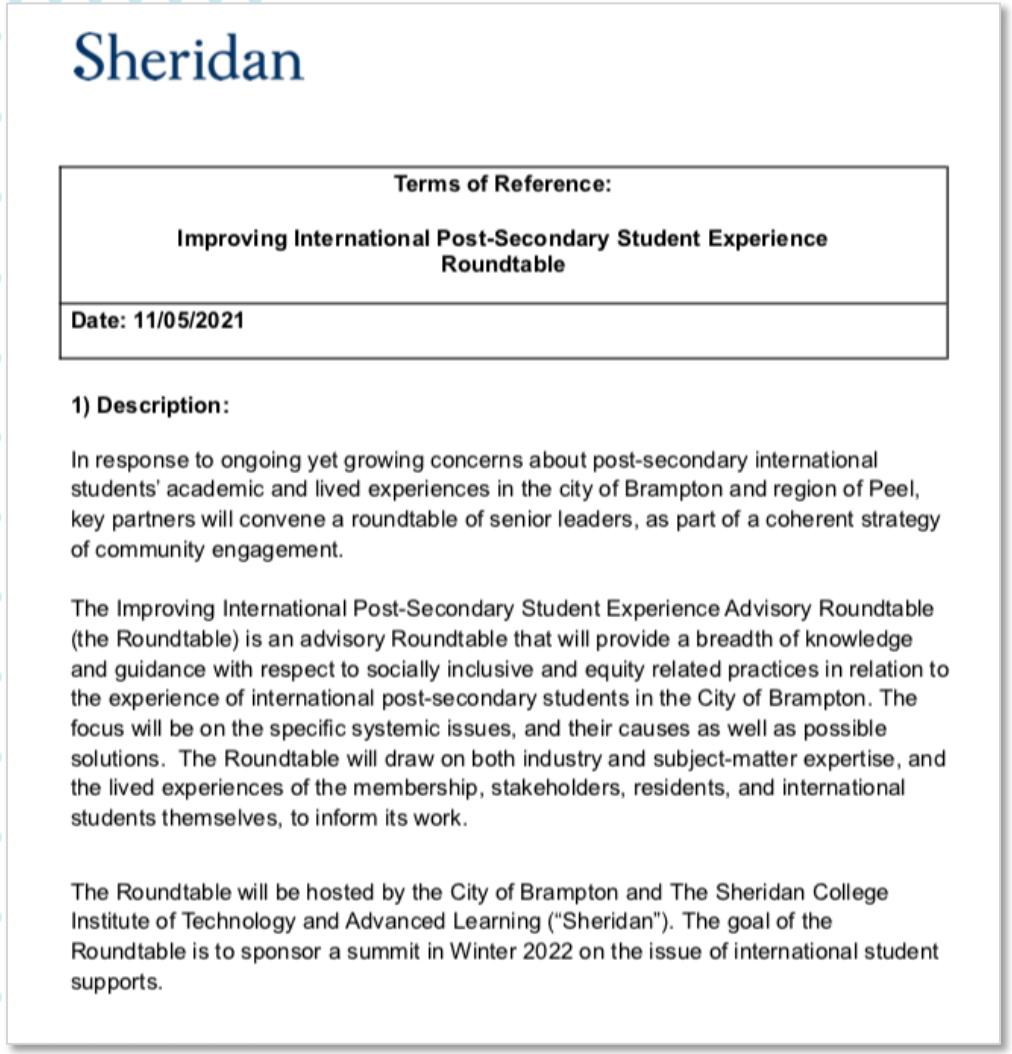
The system is broken … and it's causing harm







Making Brampton the best practice leader for the international student experience



Sheridan

Terms of Reference:

Improving International Post-Secondary Student Experience Roundtable

Date: 11/05/2021

1) Description:

In response to ongoing yet growing concerns about post-secondary international students' academic and lived experiences in the city of Brampton and region of Peel, key partners will convene a roundtable of senior leaders, as part of a coherent strategy of community engagement.

The Improving International Post-Secondary Student Experience Advisory Roundtable (the Roundtable) is an advisory Roundtable that will provide a breadth of knowledge and guidance with respect to socially inclusive and equity related practices in relation to the experience of international post-secondary students in the City of Brampton. The focus will be on the specific systemic issues, and their causes as well as possible solutions. The Roundtable will draw on both industry and subject-matter expertise, and the lived experiences of the membership, stakeholders, residents, and international students themselves, to inform its work.

The Roundtable will be hosted by the City of Brampton and The Sheridan College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning ("Sheridan"). The goal of the Roundtable is to sponsor a summit in Winter 2022 on the issue of international student supports.

Co-chairs

- Gurpreet Malhotra, CEO, Indus Community Services
- Bill Boyes, Fire Chief, City of Brampton

Members at large

- Baldev Mutta, Chief Executive Officer, Punjabi Community Health Services
- Dr. Janet Morrison, President & Vice-Chancellor, Sheridan College
- Janice Sheehy, Commissioner, Region of Peel
- Dr. Kate Bingham, Acting Medical Officer of Health, Region of Peel
- Chief Nishan Duraiappah, Peel Regional Police
- Dr. Rardi van Heest, Vice President Medical Affairs, Research & Academics, William Osler Health System
- Sharanjeet Kaur, Former Director, Executive Projects and Operations, William Osler Health System
- Todd Letts, CEO, Brampton Board of Trade
- Jaspreet Kaur Bal, Ontario Vice President, World Sikh Organization
- Sinthusha Panchalingam, Clinical Director, Canadian Mental Health Association, Peel Dufferin
- Jaspreet Singh, Founder, International Students' Association
- Dr. Amira El Masri, Director, Centre for Global Education and Internationalization, Sheridan College

Secretariat

- Jaskaran Sandhu, Principal, State Strategy
- Rajan Sandhu, VP Strategic Alignment and General Counsel, Sheridan College
- Christine Szustaczek, VP External Relations, Sheridan College
- Nauman Khan, AVP Government Relations, Sheridan College
- Keera Smiechowicz, Executive Assistant, Sheridan College



Collective Impact

Five conditions for success:

1. Common Agenda
2. Shared measurement systems
3. Mutually reinforcing activities
4. Continuous Communication
5. Backbone support organizations

A Four-Step Process

Over the past six months, our roundtable has met five times



Define the Problem



Build on what we know



Identify solutions



Plan a summit and draft a charter

Step #1

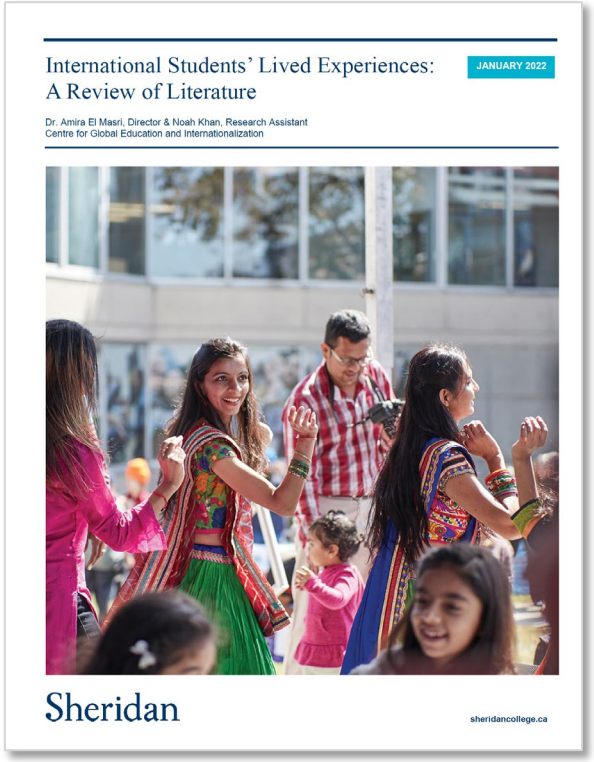


Define the Problem

- Mental health, substance use, and suicides
- High barriers for student health and wellbeing
- International students lack personal safety nets, and access to government ones either by design or unintentionally
- Exploitation by immigration consultants, employers, landlords, and others
- Ensuring private sector players providing international students with quality services
- Precarious living and working conditions
- Lack of a holistic approach (pre-arrival to post graduation) between all levels of government, educational institutions, local community, and employers
- Insufficient or inaccessible culturally appropriate resources
- Financial support pressures (e.g. medication, rent, tuition), income support and work-integrated learning
- High post-secondary tuitions and lack of resources for students
- Barriers to permanent resident status
- Accountability

Step #2

Build on what we know



Report Highlights

- Government policy positions international education as a pipeline to immigration resulting in a steady increase of students since the mid-2000s, with Ontario being the largest beneficiary.
- Many students embark on this journey as a pathway to a post-graduate work permit and permanent residency with colleges receiving much of the enrolment as their programs are strongly tied to labour markets.
- Peel Region is home to 80 postsecondary campuses that are considered Designated Learning Institutions (DLIs) that can enrol international learners, however only 13 of these DLIs offer programs that enable international students to be eligible for a post-graduate work permit.
- Little or no data is publicly available about the practices and enrolments of private career colleges.
- Many international students face issues of affordability and possible exploitation by multiple actors and they may lack understanding of their rights and responsibilities.

Based on these findings, a key recommendation of the report is increased collaboration between all community stakeholders who touch the lives of international students along their journey, from pre-arrival to Canadian citizenship.

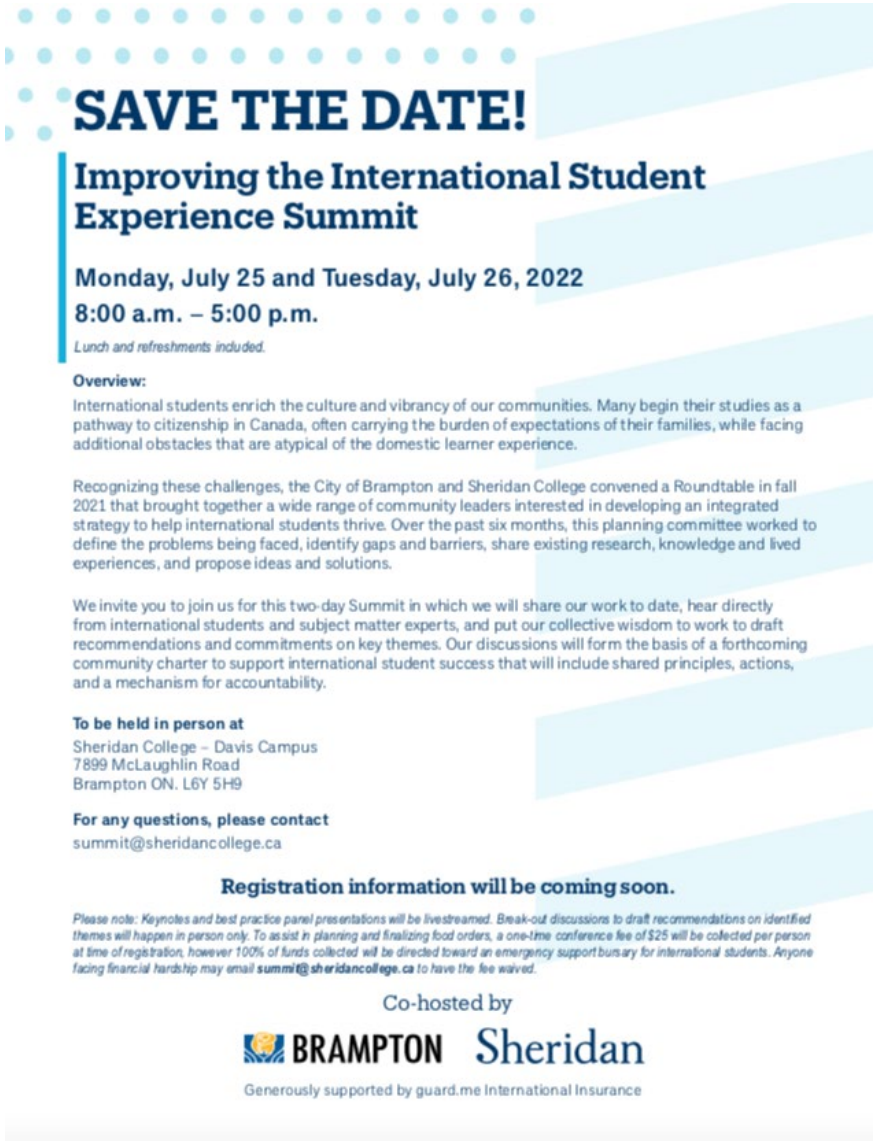
Step #3

Identify Solutions

Pre-arrival	During studies in Canada	Transition to labour market
Transparency on cost of living and fee structures	Housing	Settlement services (federal support for students and their family members)
Regulation/oversight of agents and recruiters	Integration of support services (one stop model)	Immigration – permanent residency policy and program review
Sharing verification process and quality standards	Academic support	Increasing 20 hr/week work cap
Pre-departure orientations and formal onboarding	Financial support	Networking and mentorship programs
Early discussion about post-graduate work permits and immigration matters	Mentorship, community and cultural programming	Opportunity to apply for federal summer jobs
	Health insurance	Career counselling
	Data sharing and reporting - Quantify number of international learners living in Brampton	Job fairs and support to help local employers hire international students
	Regulation, accountability and quality standards for private colleges	Education on employment rights and responsibilities

Step #4

Plan a summit and draft a charter



SAVE THE DATE!

Improving the International Student Experience Summit

Monday, July 25 and Tuesday, July 26, 2022
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Lunch and refreshments included.

Overview:

International students enrich the culture and vibrancy of our communities. Many begin their studies as a pathway to citizenship in Canada, often carrying the burden of expectations of their families, while facing additional obstacles that are atypical of the domestic learner experience.

Recognizing these challenges, the City of Brampton and Sheridan College convened a Roundtable in fall 2021 that brought together a wide range of community leaders interested in developing an integrated strategy to help international students thrive. Over the past six months, this planning committee worked to define the problems being faced, identify gaps and barriers, share existing research, knowledge and lived experiences, and propose ideas and solutions.

We invite you to join us for this two-day Summit in which we will share our work to date, hear directly from international students and subject matter experts, and put our collective wisdom to work to draft recommendations and commitments on key themes. Our discussions will form the basis of a forthcoming community charter to support international student success that will include shared principles, actions, and a mechanism for accountability.

To be held in person at
Sheridan College – Davis Campus
7899 McLaughlin Road
Brampton ON. L6Y 5H9

For any questions, please contact
summit@sheridancollege.ca

Registration information will be coming soon.

Please note: Keynotes and best practice panel presentations will be livestreamed. Break-out discussions to draft recommendations on identified themes will happen in person only. To assist in planning and finalizing food orders, a one-time conference fee of $25 will be collected per person at time of registration, however 100% of funds collected will be directed toward an emergency support bursary for international students. Anyone facing financial hardship may email ***summit@sheridancollege.ca*** *to have the fee waived.*

Co-hosted by

BRAMPTON Sheridan

Generously supported by guard.me International Insurance

Features

- Workshops - draft target commitments and define suggested solutions
- Best practice presentations/case studies
- Keynote – international students
- Action focused with call to action
- Lasting with clear actions and owners
- Accountability for actions
- Desired outcomes
- Create Brampton International Education Charter
- Research studies (abstracts/displays)
- Federal and provincial representatives/decision-makers must participate
- Profile those who are doing it right
- Key milestones for all to achieve and a timeline

Summit Facilitator



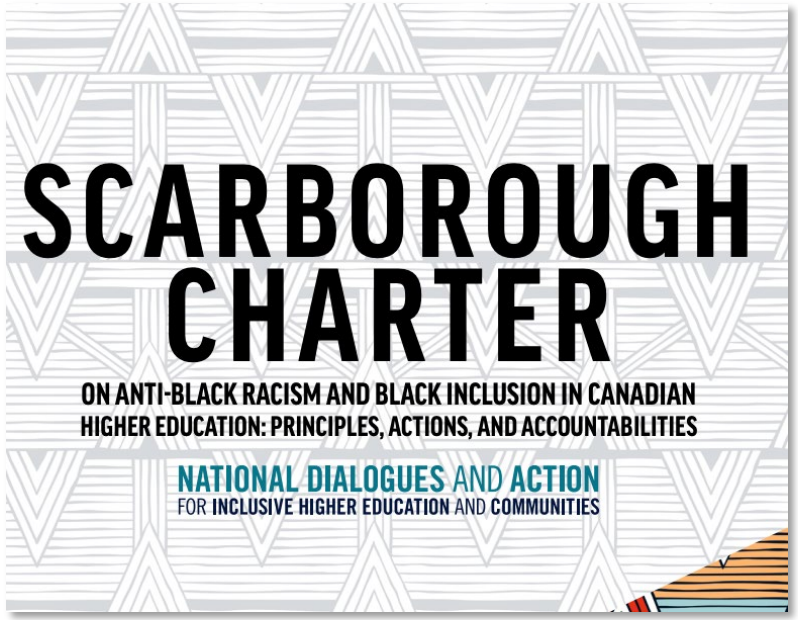
Roopa Desai Trilokekar

Associate Professor, Post-Secondary Education

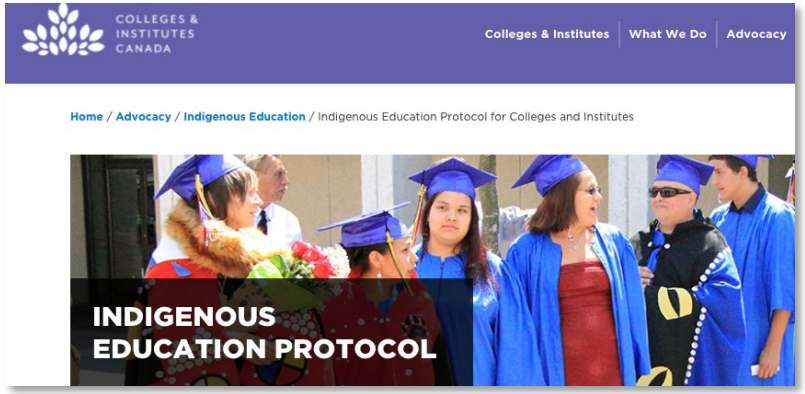
Faculty of Education, York University

- 20 years of experience as an international student advisor
- International education administrator in 3 countries
- Over $500K in federal and provincial funding for research to impact policy and practice
- Part of the International Student Advisory Group of the Peel Newcomer Strategy Group

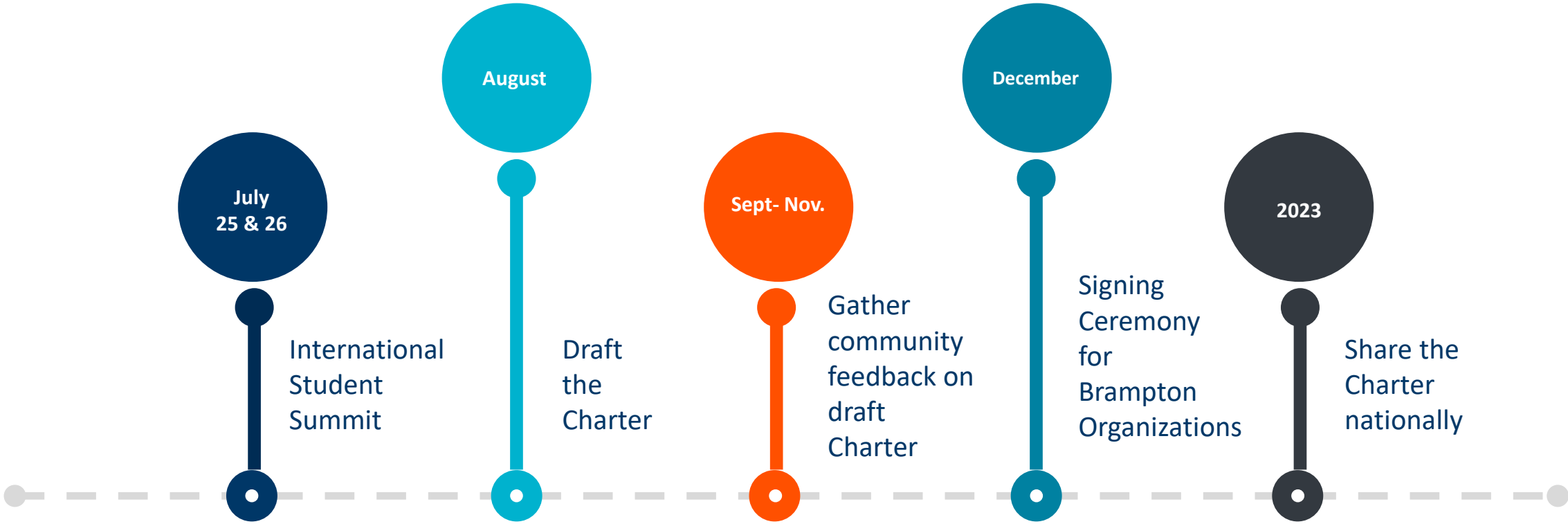
Desired Outcome:
Create the Brampton Charter for the International student experience







Next Steps


July
25 & 26
International Student Summit
August
Draft the Charter
Sept- Nov.
Gather community feedback on draft Charter
December
Signing Ceremony for Brampton Organizations
2023
Share the Charter nationally