

Co-creating and implementing a community charter to enhance the international student experience

Brampton City Council

February 08 , 2023

Sheridan

The system is broken ...

Nova Scotia

Cape Breton University responds to concerns over international student enrolment



CANADA

No-shows, dropouts and asylum requests — these 10 schools have Canada's highest rates of 'non-compliance' among international students

Evergreen College in Brampton, renamed Eastview College in 2021, and the Academy of Learning College in Toronto topped the list, both scoring 95 per cent.

Toronto

Foreign students say they 'have no choice' but to work more than their permits allow



Students speak out after Jobandeep Singh Sandhu was told he would be deported

Talia Ricci - CBC News - Posted: Jun 10, 2019 4:00 AM ET | Last Updated: June 10, 2019



Abhishek Hastir was recently interviewed in a documentary about challenges when they come to Canada. (Talia Ricci/CBC)

Is Canada's international student system ethical? Or exploitive?

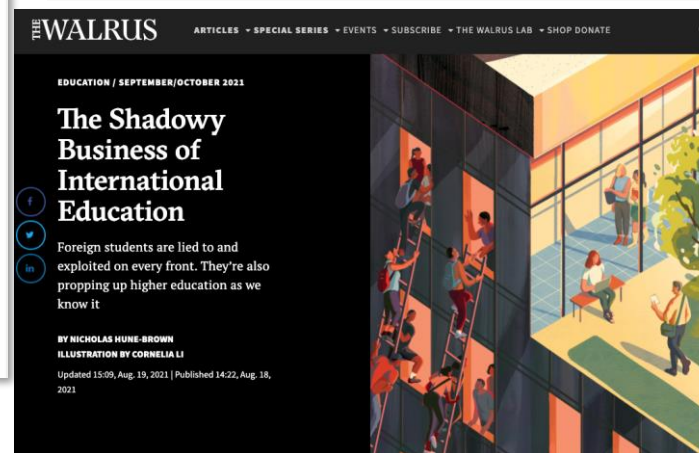
BY THE BIG STORY
Posted Sep 9, 2021 5:15 am PDT



International students are being exploited in Peel and they're dying, say advocates



By Alexandra Heck Reporter
Sat., Sept. 11, 2021 | 3 min. read | Set Brampton as My Local news



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 Muttu, Chief Executive Officer, Punjabi Community Health Services
- Dr. Janet Morrison, President & Vice-Chancellor, Sheridan College
- Rowena Santos, Councillor, City of Brampton
- 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 (currently Executive Director, TMU Medical School)
- 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

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

A Four-Step Process

Over a period of six months, our roundtable met five times



**Define the
Problem**



**Build on what
we know**



**Identify
solutions**



**Plan a summit
and draft a
charter**

Summit: Quick Stats



Diverse and active participation

259
Delegates
in-person
+
600
online each day

61 panelists
17 moderators
27 notetakers

Students from
10 nationalities
& at all stages of the journey

NGOs, school boards,
media, entrepreneurs,
citizens, advocacy groups,
community agencies

26 colleges*
11 universities*
5 private colleges*

*students, administrators,
professors



**Engaging forum
for discussion**

18
sessions
+ working lunches
+ networking
opportunities

Discussions about
finances, housing,
employment, health and
wellbeing, academics,
culture, racism

Panels with
ALL levels
of government

Media stories in
Brampton Guardian,
OMNI Television,
RedFM,
Toronto Star

20
testimonials from
our Speakers' corner

Presentations on international charters (UK, Australia, New Zealand) and multi-stakeholder partnerships to provide a seamless student experience (EduNova, World University Refugee Services, United Way)

Here's what we heard



False expectations

Pressure from family

Financial stress

Harmful stereotypes

Hesitancy to seek help

Exploitation

Racism and isolation

Gaps and silos

Systemic barriers

Lack of culturally sensitive support

Brampton Community Charter

01

Guiding Principles



02

Goals & Actions



03

Accountability
Measures



Guiding Principles

Appreciate that international student experiences are complex, multifaceted, distinctive, and as heterogeneous as the students themselves.

Respect that international students contribute diverse perspectives that enrich the learning experience for all students and are not competing with domestic students for postsecondary spaces.

Recognize the distinct stressors, atypical obstacles and macro and micro level factors that influence the lives of international students.

Acknowledge the need to view the international student experience holistically beginning from when a student considers studying in Canada to beyond graduation.

Define the international student experience to encompass physical, mental, social, cultural, financial, and academic well-being, which includes immigration, employment, housing, health, racism, food security, language and belonging.

Respond through multi-stakeholder engagement to fill the gaps and bridge the silos that challenge a smooth and seamless international student experience.

Goals and Actions

1. Ethical recruitment standards and practices
2. Academic and wrap-around supports for learners
3. Safe and affordable housing and financial stability
4. Legal and reliable work
5. Well-defined and transparent pathways to citizenship for international students

Accountability Measures

Invest in regular data collection from signatories to encourage consistency in data governance and data sharing. Develop systematic reporting of international student profiles in Brampton and Peel Region.

Embed the implementation, monitoring and accountability of this charter within existing structures.

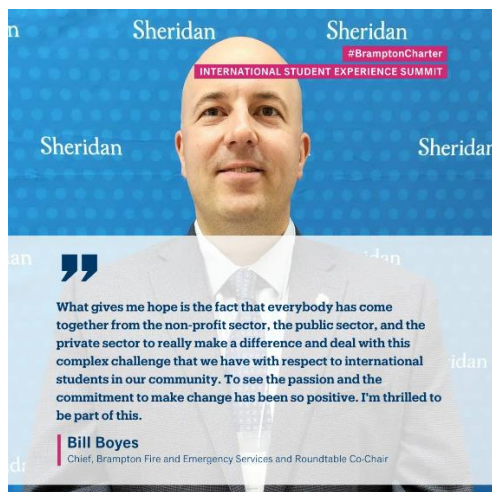
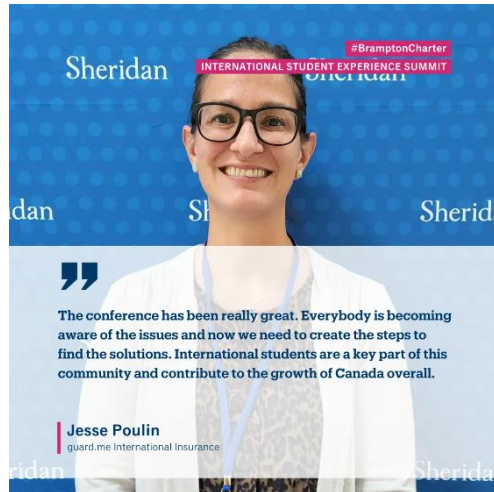
Develop a self-reporting system for signatories to share the investment, implementation, and monitoring of progress toward the calls to action annually.

Introduce recognition measures to celebrate, reinforce and share best practice models.

Commit to promoting continued conversations, fostering constructive dialogue, and advancing mutual learning by sharing insights, good practices, and data-driven reporting on the implementation of the Charter by all signatories. Sharing is envisioned through summits, workshops, and other efforts to strengthen inter-institutional communities of practice.

Publish the Charter and associated links on the websites of all signatories.

The Brampton Charter is unique



- grass roots
- community-focused
- collective impact
- education-immigration nexus
- changes in structures and systems
- advocacy
- road map and action plan
- Built to withstand future shifts
- Based on summit presentations and discussions

How can you help?



- **Co-host town-halls in your wards
– 5 events across Brampton**
- **Endorse the charter**
- **Partner in advocacy and
accountability**



**Help promote online engagement
process.**

Thank you

Sheridan