



# 2021 OSCIA *Resolution #2*



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## **Resolution #2 – Renfrew SCIA – Apprentice-style agricultural programs**

WHEREAS agriculture is an integral part of our economy, and;

WHEREAS there is a significant shortage of skilled agricultural workers, and;

WHEREAS the only formal options for agricultural post-secondary education are either a degree or a diploma.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association explores options of collaborating with other agricultural groups and educators in creating a cluster of apprentice-style programs for post-secondary education to promote more hands-on experience for students.

MOVED BY: Warren Schneckenburger

SECONDED BY: Kelly Armstrong (Renfrew SCIA)

CARRIED

SEND TO: Taylor Selig, Executive Director, AgScape

Cathy Lennon, General Manger, OFA

Portia Macdonald-Dewhirst, Canadian Agriculture Human Resource Council program

RESPONSE FROM: TAYLOR SELIG, PRESIDENT AGSCAPE

*Good afternoon,*

*Thank you so much for sharing Renfrew SCIA's recent resolution. Since our focus is mainly at the secondary and elementary school level that's where we'd best be able to share some suggestions for support.*

*A program that has been around since about 2006 and speaks to the type of specialized education and hands on training shared in the resolution is the Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) Program, <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/morestudentsuccess/shsm.html>. The program provides experiential learning with a specialized focus for students starting in grades 11 and 12 and three key program areas that AgScape has worked to build relationships with are Agriculture, Food Processing, and Environment. The launch of the program is led at the school level by individual educators, so a major support area is in providing educators with tools and knowledge in the area of expertise they are focusing on. These programs can begin the journey to coop or apprenticeship as post-secondary.*

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An area for support in the SHSM programs is in providing opportunities for students to fulfill the experiential components of the program through things like farm or site visits or career workshops. One-way AgScape does this is through our thinkAG Career Competitions that bring industry representatives together with students to share their careers and test students on soft and hard skills in their area. We would love to have OSCIA representatives join for these events if you were interested.

Simply in making connections between particular skill sets and how they can be used in the agriculture sector it opens students' eyes to the diversity of possibilities. As such, we also work with the Ontario School Counsellors' Association to make teachers aware of the opportunities and connections to industry.

I hope this provides a helpful starting point for discussions around the resolution and opportunities for action. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

**Taylor Selig**

Executive Director, AgScape

[905-878-1510 ext. 110](tel:905-878-1510) | [taylor.selig@agscape.ca](mailto:taylor.selig@agscape.ca)

[www.agscape.ca](http://www.agscape.ca)

8560 Tremaine Road, P.O. Box 460, Milton, ON, L9T 4Z1

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RESPONSE FROM: ELLAH BLOIS, RESOURCE SPECIALIST,  
CAREER EDUCATION COUNCIL

To whom it may concern,

My name is Ellah Blois, and I am a Resource Specialist working with the Career Education Council (CEC). I am reaching out today as your organization has previously showed interest in our initiative and I think you would be an excellent addition to our new resource for youths.

The CEC would like to extend an invitation for you to join our newly developed Career Exploration Portal (CEP). This is a resource that was built by CEC which allows students to access career resources virtually. We provide certifications for SHSM students, workshops for those in Grades 9-10, Workplace Tour videos, Career Profile videos, and feature youth employment opportunities.

We believe that your business would be an excellent addition to our portal under any or all of the following: Workplace Tours, Career Profiles, Career Directory. There are 3 main purposes for this partnership that would make the portal advantageous for your business and to the local community. You will have direct access to over 14,000 students in the Guelph-Wellington-Dufferin area to advertise employment opportunities. You will also be able to showcase the importance of your business to the

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*community and give insight on the functions of your specialty. Finally, you will have the capacity to enrich the knowledge of youth on the opportunities in your sector and encourage them to seek out careers in your field.*

*I have attached an information package which provides further details on the CEP, as well as a Youtube link to a video tour of the portal.*

*If you have any questions regarding activation or otherwise relating to the CEC or the CEP, please do not hesitate to contact me so I may set up a zoom meeting. I hope that you will consider taking us up on this offer; thank you for your consideration and I hope to hear from you soon!*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i5vMbB22qVI&list=PLJs-l\\_m1bm275brgd2qYqrMXIwLkxRDGJ&index=3](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i5vMbB22qVI&list=PLJs-l_m1bm275brgd2qYqrMXIwLkxRDGJ&index=3)

*Sincerely,*

*Ellah Blois*

*Resource Specialist - Career Education Council*

*Email: [cec-cep@outlook.com](mailto:cec-cep@outlook.com)*

*Cell: 647-916-0998*

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