



CONFEDERATION COLLEGE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

BOARD REPORT

MEETING TYPE:	Board	REPORT NUMBER:	14-2026
MEETING DATE:	January 14, 2026	DATE PREPARED:	December 16, 2025
SUBJECT:	Compliance with Strengthening Accountability and Student Supports Act (2024)		

MOTION:

THAT with respect to Board Report No. 14-2026, presented to the Board of Governors on January 14, 2026, relative to compliance with the *Strengthening Accountability and Student Supports Act (2024)*, the Minister’s Student Mental Health Directive (2024), and the requirements of the Mental Health Action Plan (MHAP) Transfer Payment, be approved.

PURPOSE:

To receive information confirming compliance with the *Strengthening Accountability and Student Supports Act (2024)*, the Minister’s Student Mental Health Directive (2024), and the requirements of the Mental Health Action Plan (MHAP) Transfer Payment Agreement.

BACKGROUND:

In May 2024, the Strengthening Accountability and Student Supports Act amended the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities Act, requiring all publicly assisted colleges to:

- Maintain a Student Mental Health Policy that clearly outlines all programs, supports, services, crisis pathways, accommodations, and referral options.
- Ensure the policy is centrally accessible to students through a unified digital platform.
- Report annually to the Board of Governors on implementation and progress.
- Review the policy at least once every five years.

The Minister’s Student Mental Health Directive (September 2024) further requires institutions to:

- Demonstrate student-centered communication approaches,
- Conduct meaningful consultations with students, employees, and Indigenous communities,
- Document referral pathways to internal and external supports,
- Collect and report data related to student mental health, service utilization, and access barriers.

The MHAP Transfer Payment Agreement (2024–27) supports implementation of these requirements and establishes monitoring and reporting obligations, including:

- Development and enhancement of the Student Mental Health Policy,
- Establishment of a centralized platform,

- Administration of the CCWS survey,
- Tracking specific performance indicators,
- Submission of annual, mid-year, and final reports to the Ministry.

DISCUSSION:

The College remains compliant with all provisions of the legislation, Directive, and Mental Health Action Plan Agreement. This includes implementation of a comprehensive Student Mental Health Policy, establishment of a centralized platform for student access, fulfillment of annual reporting timelines, completion of required consultations, administration planning for the Canadian Campus Wellbeing survey, and adherence to all financial and ethical obligations.

1. Student Mental Health Policy Implementation

The College has implemented a comprehensive, publicly available Student Mental Health Policy that:

- Is housed on a centralized, student-facing digital platform, easily discoverable through the College website and mobile navigation.
- Clearly describes supports delivered by Student Counselling, Accessibility Services, Crisis System Navigator, Student Success Advisors, Health Centre, Pride Centre, Indigenous Student Services, and community partners.
- Outlines crisis response pathways, including internal crisis team activation, coordination with community agencies, and Indigenous culturally specific supports.
- Ensures policy accessibility with plain-language formatting, alternative formats, and multilingual support as required under the TPA.

2. Student Awareness & Communications Strategy

In compliance with Directive requirements, the College has implemented a strategic communications plan to raise student awareness of supports through:

- Orientation programming (StartSmart, classroom visits, cohort briefings)
- Website banners and mental-health navigation links
- Digital signage across campuses and regional sites
- Integration within Student Success Advisor appointments, and peripheral mental health practitioners
- Targeted outreach for priority groups (Indigenous students, international students, rural learners)
- Social media, portal posts, posters, seminars (Culture Talks), integrated hard copy documents (student planners, calendars, handbooks)

This ensures the Board can confirm that students are appropriately informed of supports, consistent with legislative obligations.

3. Consultation Requirements

The development and enhancement of the Policy included meaningful consultations with:

- Domestic, Indigenous, and international students
- Faculty and staff across academic divisions
- Apiwin staff, and Indigenous Student Advisors
- Crisis Response System Navigator
- External mental health and community health partners

Consultation feedback was incorporated into priority actions, including improved referral clarity, trauma-informed language, and strengthened service pathways.

4. Pathways and Partnerships for Mental Health Supports

The Directive requires institutions to document partnerships that extend supports beyond campus capacity. Confederation College maintains active collaboration with:

- Ontario Health Team: Noojmawing Sookatagaing
- Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre
- St. Joseph's Care Group
- Indigenous health partners and Elders
- Regional crisis response teams
- Local counselling, housing, and harm-reduction services

These partnerships are now embedded into documented pathways within centralized platform.

5. CCWS Survey Administration (Winter 2026)

The College will administer the Canadian Campus Wellbeing Survey (CCWS) by March 2026, following which included:

- REB approval,
- Privacy and data security requirements,
- Inclusion across all campuses and regional learning sites,
- Alignment with student outreach and incentives to ensure representative participation.

Results and institutional analysis will be presented to the Board as required under the Transfer Payment Agreement.

6. Data Collection, Metrics, and Performance Indicators

The College has established systems to collect and monitor:

- Website analytics capturing visits to the centralized platform,
- Engagement metrics across Student Success services,

- Early Alert referrals and pathways to care
- Crisis and risk-management trends,
- Accessibility and counselling utilization patterns.

These indicators will support the Year 2 and Year 3 MHAP reporting requirements and guide continuous improvement.

7. Financial Accountability & Use of Funds

All expenditures align with eligible spending categories defined in the MHAP TPA, including:

- Staffing and research for policy development,
- Consultation activities,
- Data management and analysis.

Administrative expenditures remain within the 10% cap and the College has not used funds for ineligible purposes (e.g., travel, capital expenses, unrelated professional development).

8. Ethical, Accessible, and Culturally Safe Treatment of Students

Building on Confederation's Student Success model, the College ensures:

- Trauma-informed, culturally grounded supports (Indigenous cultural counselling, Elders, ceremonies)
- Person-centred counselling approaches
- Accessibility accommodations through mental-health focused strategies
- Crisis response coordinated across internal and external partners
- Protection of student privacy consistent with FIPPA/PHIPA and institutional policy

No practices have occurred that would compromise student rights or the College's obligations.

In the future, instead of a separate report, a recommendation will be brought forward to the Governance Committee to amend EL-2 – Treatment of Students, Employees, Volunteers, Clients and Visitors policy in order to provide evidence of compliance of the *Strengthening Accountability and Student Supports Act (2024)* in the annual monitoring report to the board.

ENDS:

This report aligns with the Board's Institutional Excellence End, ensuring Confederation College operates ethically, responsibly, and in compliance with all provincial statutes, directives, and agreements—supporting a safe, inclusive, and accountable learning environment for all students.

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FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no financial implications with this report.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS:

There are no staffing implications with this report.

STUDENT IMPLICATIONS:

There are no student implications with this report.

RECOMMENDATION:

Based on the evidence above, Confederation College has not caused or knowingly permitted any violation of provincial legislation, directives, or funding requirements related to student mental health and is in compliance with the *Strengthening Accountability and Student Supports Act (2024)*. Therefore, it is recommended that this report be approved.

ATTACHMENTS:

None.

PREPARED BY: Darcy McWhirter, Director, Student Success
REVIEWED BY: Michelle Salo, President
SUBMITTED BY: Michelle Salo, President