

CCSAI BOARD BRIEF

Full Board Meeting Recap: August 25, 2026

Hey Centennial! Your Board of Directors met on August 25 for a full board meeting, and it was a big one: a clean audit, a major building fix, and a full set of new election rules ahead of the year. Here's the recap:

Your Money, Independently Checked

Every year, an independent auditor reviews CCSAI's finances. This year, BDO issued a clean audit opinion for 2025–26, consistent with previous years, with no issues found in how revenue is recorded, how restricted funds are managed, or in CCSAI's internal controls. The board approved the audited financial statements unanimously.

The audit also gave an honest picture of the year:

- **Lower enrollment meant lower revenue.** Student fees dropped with enrollment, and CCSAI closed the fiscal year with a net deficit of roughly \$1 million.
- **Costs came down too.** Expenses trended downward, and a large share of this year's legal costs were one-time and aren't expected to recur.
- **The association is steady.** CCSAI hasn't drawn on its line of credit, and cash reserves remain sufficient to meet its obligations.

What's in it for you: Proof that the fees you pay are tracked, protected, and independently reviewed — and you get a clear view of the financial realities that your board is planning around.

Cooler (and Warmer) Buildings Ahead

If you've ever sweated through a hot day in the Student Centre or the Athletic & Wellness Centre (AWC), this one's for you. The heating and cooling rooftop units in both buildings are 26 to 30+ years old, and replacement parts aren't even manufactured anymore. Breakdowns have caused outages, safety concerns in hot weather, and temporary closures of services like legal services and the food bank.

The board approved \$923,229.96 to replace the remaining three units. Two were already replaced last summer. The funding comes from existing building and reserve funds set aside for exactly this kind of work — not from a new fee. A few more details:

- Installation is expected by May/June 2027, ahead of convocation season.
- Replacing all three units at once avoids two to three weeks of closures per unit.
- In the meantime, temporary fans and heaters will keep spaces usable.
- CCSAI is pursuing government rebates of up to 50%, which would lower the final cost.

What's in it for you: Reliable heating and cooling in the spaces you use every day, and fewer surprise closures of the services you count on.

New Rules for Elections and Referendums

Your board approved a full package of governance updates that shape how student leaders are chosen and how you can have a direct say:

- **Elections (Policy 3.01):** To run, you'll need 20 signatures from actively enrolled students or an endorsement from a professor, faculty chair, adviser, or coach. Campaigns have fair spending limits and can't use association resources, and there's a clear appeals and sanctions process.
- **Referendums (By-law amendment + Policy 3.03):** The board can now hold referendums, which let every student vote directly on an important question with a simple yes or no. Questions must be clear and unbiased, you'll get at least 20 business days' notice before voting opens, and campaigns must be accessible and free of misleading information.
- **Vote of Confidence (Policy 3.02):** The panel that ratifies board leadership has expanded to 13 voting members, which include board, committee and executive team members, as well as students-at-large. A single candidate now needs at least two-thirds support, and results can only be appealed for procedural errors.
- **Meet your Elections Coordinator:** The board ratified Harry Nasiry as the 2026–27 Elections Coordinator. Harry brings experience from clubs, peer leadership, and co-op roles, and will oversee elections and referendum results.

What's in it for you: Clearer, fairer rules for who represents you, and a formal way for your voice to decide big questions directly.

The Indigenous Student Union Is Official

By-law No. 2 is approved. This by-law formally establishes the Indigenous Student Union (ISU) at CCSAI, setting out its membership, council, and governance structure so it stays independent and continues regardless of future leadership changes. It was developed with Indigenous legal experts, and ISU space updates are already underway at Progress Campus. Alongside this, board and executive team members completed the first Indigenous Competency Certificate program, with more cohorts coming this fall and winter.

What's in it for you: A permanent, self-governed home and voice for Indigenous students, protected in CCSAI's by-laws.

Better Services For You

Several student services got upgrades over the summer:

- **Alumo Health Plan:** The domestic student health plan has been rebranded, and claims are moving to a new provider, Catalyst, with a new app, real-time coverage checks, and an upgraded website.
- **Free HIV testing:** Through an expanded partnership with I'm Positive, free HIV

- **Downsview updates:** CCSAI now has its own space in Room 104, with expanded services and a co-op student on site five days a week. Through the Hope Zone partnership, the campus is also getting weekly basketball drop-ins and tournaments.
- **Campus upgrades:** LED lighting throughout the AWC, bidets in several washrooms (funded through the Transforming the Future Committee), changing tables in men's and family washrooms, updated sensors on accessible entrances, and gender-neutral signage coming to single-use washrooms at Ashtonbee.

What's in it for you: More money back, easier health coverage, and more comfortable, accessible spaces across campus.

Also at This Meeting

- **Leadership update.** Executive Director Christina Farow presented her final report before going on leave, returning in April 2027. Ajané Adams steps in as Interim Executive Director, and Wasiimah Joomun has joined CCSAI as the new Governance Associate.
- **A packed start to the year.** The summer Patio Party drew more than 290 students (a second food order was needed on the day!), and Fall Welcome Month brought an Argos game on September 11, campus road shows, and Cenchella on September 25. And on October 3, CCSAI joined the Black Student Collective at the Association of Black Canadians Gala.
- **Advocacy on the move.** Members of the executive team met with federal MPs Michael Coteau and Roman Baber, and CCSAI hosted a municipal town hall with city council candidates on October 6.
- **New partnerships.** Work is underway on a "Creative Collective" for creative arts students moving from Story Arts Centre to Progress Campus, and on a possible joint winter event with student leaders from other colleges.
- **A wellness space in the works.** The TTF Committee gave preliminary approval to turn an AWC space into a relaxation area with massage chairs, pending an operational review.
- **From the College.** Discounted Zipcar and BikeShare Toronto memberships are available to students, with a new BikeShare station at Progress Campus. And a 24/7 AI-powered voice assistant now answers calls at the College call centre.
- **Bylaw update.** The board amended the by-laws so that the Board Communications Officer is eligible to be appointed President, consistent with the rest of the executive team.

Stay Tuned!

Your CCSAI Board of Directors is here to represent your voice, support your experience, and advocate for the issues that matter most to you. Questions about anything in this brief? Reach out anytime.