

## Collective Calls to Action

The “Building a Collaborative Approach to Walking & Wheeling Skills Training in Schools” project has highlighted a strong desire amongst stakeholders to work together to strengthen both new and existing programs. There are five collective calls to action coming out of this work:

1. **Secure sustainable funding:** Find opportunities to work together to secure multi-year funding from government or corporate donors. This is especially relevant with the recent federal commitment to active transportation through the National Active Transportation Strategy and Fund. Provincial strategies and municipal master plans that call for an increase in walking and wheeling skills training should also include a corresponding budget line to support that training.
2. **Collaborate on instructor recruitment, training, and retention:** This was identified as a universal challenge for organizations. There was a strong interest amongst organizations to work together and share instructor training materials.
  - a. With proper funding, the opportunity exists to collaborate on a national instructor training model, similar to the League Cycling Instructor model run by the League of American Bicyclists in the United States;
  - b. Organizations were also keen to collaborate and develop training materials for instructors around anti-racism, anti-oppression, equitable engagement, and cultural awareness training.
3. **Support for ongoing knowledge exchange:** Existing delivery organizations expressed an interest in facilitated, ongoing knowledge exchange opportunities to share best practices, resources, challenges, etc. They identified that it is a challenge to find time to connect and maintain these relationships without a clear venue and dedicated support for doing so and without someone taking the lead to initiate regular online gatherings.
  - a. In addition to sharing curriculum and instructor training materials, resources such as promotional materials, registration platforms, insurance, etc. can also be shared.

4. **Increase parent engagement:** Parent engagement was highlighted as critical and sending report cards home can be a helpful way of letting parents know which walking & wheeling skills their children have learned. Resourcing constraints have made this challenging, with only three current programs regularly sending home detailed report cards. There is an opportunity to coordinate and share materials that are sent home to parents about skills training courses.
5. **Explore collaborative evaluation opportunities:** Program evaluation tactics, when used, vary widely across existing programs and have not clearly quantified the impact of programs on participants. Evaluation has been flagged as a challenge for several reasons, including limited resources and ethics constraints around working with children and youth. Organizations across Canada should seek to address these barriers collectively and collaborate on an evaluation strategy, which could include partnering with an academic institution.

Please refer to the full project report available at [ontarioactiveschooltravel.ca](http://ontarioactiveschooltravel.ca) for more information.