

Data Collection Committee Annual Report – 2025/26

Submitted by: Evan Cortens, Chair

Date: June 3, 2026

Committee Membership

- Evan Cortens, Mount Royal University (Chair; on medical leave August 2025 – April 2026)
- Lisa Rochman, MacEwan University (Acting Chair, August 2025 – April 2026)
- Amber Fitz-Gerald, University of Regina
- Biba Fakhouri, Université de Montréal
- Jessica Della-Latta, Queen's University
- Miranda Angus, University of Victoria (New Member)
- Terumi Taylor, University of Calgary (New Member)
- Christie Schultz, University of Regina (Interim Liaison to CAUCE Executive)

Executive Summary

The Data Collection Committee (DCC) completed a highly successful second year, marked by significant growth in survey participation, the introduction of critical new tracking metrics, and robust institutional collaboration. Despite a leadership transition due to the Chair's medical leave, the committee maintained full momentum under the exceptional leadership of Acting Chair Lisa Rochman.

Key Activities & Accomplishments

1. Administration of the 2025 Annual Survey

- High Engagement: The 2025 annual survey was administered to 50 member institutions from October 8 to December 1, 2025.
- Strong Participation: A total of 44 member institutions completed the survey, resulting in an exceptional 88% response rate.
- Data Analysis: Academica Group compiled and analyzed the data, merging it with historical data from past cycles to deliver a comprehensive final report on January 19, 2026.

2. Implementation of New Enrolment & Policy Metrics

- Unique Learners Tracking: In response to evolving sector needs, a new metric was successfully introduced to capture unique learner headcounts alongside traditional registration numbers.
- Federal Policy Impact Analysis: The survey captured critical data on how changes to international student policies (e.g., Provincial Attestation Letters, IRCC updates, visa approval rates) affected continuing education units. Notably, 59% of responding institutions that offer international programming reported an immediate decline in international registrations.

3. Survey Standardization & Tool Development

- At its committee meeting on April 24, 2026, the DCC initiated a deep review of the 2026 long survey to build upon prior data-clarification efforts.
- The committee began designing an optional-adoption, standardized post-program feedback survey template to track student success metrics uniformly across CAUCE institutions. Exemplar resources were generously contributed by the University of Alberta, Mount Royal University, University of Manitoba, and the University of Calgary to aid this initiative.

4. Sector Advocacy & Knowledge Mobilization

The findings of the 2025 survey were presented at the CAUCE National Conference in Halifax in May 2026. The presentation was co-led by Lisa Rochman, Evan Cortens, Terumi Taylor, and Julie Peters from Academica Group.

2025 Survey Highlights at a Glance

The following table summarizes the key volume and breadth metrics reported by participating CAUCE institutions for the 2024/25 reporting year:

Metric Category	Total Reported	Sample Size (n)	Key Context & Trends
Total Registrations	576,733	n=40	Significantly higher than all previous years, reflecting broader institutional reporting.
Career & Workforce Programming Registrations Not Reported to Govt.	289,290	n=33	Registrations focused specifically on career development.
Unique Learners	300,435	n=26	Highlights the hidden impact of CE units not captured in standard public data.
Unique Courses Offered	227,091	n=32	First year capturing this metric; baseline data established.
Course Sections Offered	9,529	n=35	Lower per-institution course distribution compared to 2024.
Total Instructional Hours	18,696	n=30	Represents the total scale of distinct offerings delivered.
	2,703,067	n=21	Overall volume increased, though mean hours per institution fell.

Note on Data Limitations: Several institutions reported systemic challenges in tracking unique learner counts and self-reported demographic data due to fragmented IT systems or disparate software definitions. The DCC will continue to address these structural barriers in upcoming survey iterations.

Looking Ahead to 2026/27

With the formal return of Evan Cortens as Chair at the May conference, the DCC is well-positioned for the upcoming year.

Future priorities include:

- Refining and finalizing the standardized student outcome/feedback survey themes over the coming months via asynchronous committee work.
- Continuing to clarify key survey terminology (such as courses "reported to the government") to improve reporting consistency across provinces.
- Strengthening collaboration with partner organizations to tell a unified story of the scope and socioeconomic impact of university continuing education in Canada.

Respectfully submitted,
Evan Cortens, Chair
Data Collection Committee, CAUCE