

For Immediate Release

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT INVESTS \$28.5 MILLION IN PATHWAYS TO EDUCATION FOR THE FUTURE OF ONTARIO YOUTH

(TORONTO) June 27 – Today, The Honourable John Milloy, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, together with The Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario announced a \$28.5 million investment over three years in Pathways to Education Canada. The funding provided by the Ontario government in the 2011 Budget – Turning the Corner enables thousands of current and new Pathways students to benefit from the program in low-income communities in Ontario.

“The success of thousands of Ontario students underscores the importance of Pathways to Education,” said John Milloy, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities. “Pathways has been remarkably successful in helping more Ontario students go on in school to college, university or apprenticeship.”

Over the past four years, the Ontario Government has invested more than \$19 million in Pathways to Education. Thanks to funding such as this, approximately 80 per cent of Pathway’s graduates are making the transition into colleges and universities and of these the vast majority are the first in their families to go on to postsecondary education.

“The Government of Ontario has demonstrated a real commitment to the future of our students by investing early on in the Pathways to Education program, which is reinforced by today’s announcement,” said David Hughes, President and Chief Executive Officer of Pathways to Education Canada. “Their support has enabled Pathways to replicate its successful model, which has drawn attention from across Canada and abroad for its innovative solutions to reducing high school dropout rates, increasing access to post-secondary and ultimately to unlocking the full potential of our youth.”

Today also marks the 10th anniversary of Pathways to Education's Regent Park program. Since the Pathways program started in Regent Park, the dropout rate has decreased by more than 70 per cent, while students going on to college and university has increased by 300 per cent. Following this announcement, three additional Pathways to Education graduation ceremonies will take place this week – the first graduation ceremonies of the second generation Pathways sites in, Lawrence Heights, Kitchener and Rexdale. These second generation Pathways sites, including Ottawa, whose first graduation ceremony was earlier this month, started in September, 2007 with funding help from the Ontario government.

This provincial funding represents the next step in Pathways *Graduation Nation* initiative, a five-year plan to make Canada a country where all youth have an equal opportunity to graduate and make the often difficult transition to post-secondary education or training.

The Pathways to Education program offers a comprehensive, results-focused methodology that sets it apart from other programs in its holistic approach to improving the opportunities of participating students. Pathways provides academic tutoring, group and career-oriented mentoring, student advocacy and financial assistance, including transit tickets or meal vouchers, as well as academic scholarships for post-secondary studies.

About Pathways to Education Canada – www.pathwaystoeducation.ca

Pathways to Education Canada is a charitable organization that helps youth in low-income communities graduate from high school and successfully transition into post-secondary education or training. Pathways addresses systemic barriers to education by providing leadership, expertise and a community-based program proven to lower dropout rates. Founded in 2001, Pathways operates in eleven communities across Canada, with programs in Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and Manitoba.

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