

For Immediate Release

**FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INVESTS \$20 MILLION IN PATHWAYS TO EDUCATION
HELPING MAKE CANADA A GRADUATION NATION**

(TORONTO) March 3 – Today, Prime Minister Stephen Harper, alongside The Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, and Senator Don Meredith, announced a \$20 million investment over four years in Pathways to Education Canada. The funding will allow Pathways to expand across Canada, helping thousands of additional youth in low-income communities access the support they need to achieve academic success.

“Pathways to Education and the federal government are united in our effort to put Canada on the world stage as a nation that is successfully addressing the high school drop-out rate issue,” said David Hughes, president and chief executive officer of Pathways to Education Canada. “With the support of the federal government, Pathways will continue to expand across Canada, helping thousands of students graduate high school and achieve their full potential.”

The federal funding will allow Pathways to take the next steps in its *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. Pathways will use the investment to help establish and sustain high-performing programs in up to 20 high-need communities by 2016, supporting more than 10,000 students when these programs are at full capacity.

Thanks to the support of the federal government, Pathways will be able to take a leap towards its goal of making access to education a priority issue for all Canadians, but achieving this vision entirely will require a significant investment from additional partners.

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 removes 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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