

Published Results-based Plan 2006/07

**Ministry of Training,
Colleges and Universities**

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Overview Statement

The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities is committed to building the best workforce in North America to ensure a competitive advantage in the knowledge economy by creating accessible, affordable and high-quality learning opportunities and systems with enhanced accountability.

The ministry is achieving that goal by:

- Transforming Ontario's postsecondary education system to ensure students have access to an affordable, accountable, high-quality system that is sustainable for future generations; and
- Transforming the training and employment system to ensure Ontarians have seamless one-stop access to excellent client service that increases opportunities for skilled jobs in today's rapidly changing workplace.

Postsecondary Education

TCU provides policy and program direction and financial support to postsecondary institutions in Ontario in support of the government's social and economic policy objectives with the goal of providing opportunities for excellent, accountable, relevant and accessible postsecondary education.

The Postsecondary Education program includes operation of the Ontario Student Assistance Program, administering transfer payments to colleges and universities, developing policies and programs related to funding, governance, and programs at colleges and universities, regulating the colleges and private career colleges, and facilitating expansion of private degree-granting activity and college applied degree programs through recommendations of the Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board.

As part of its commitment to government priorities, TCU works with other Ministries on several key priorities.

Health Strategy

- TCU works closely with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to ensure the province has the health-care professionals it needs.

Learning to 18

- TCU works closely with the Ministry of Education on the Learning to 18 Strategy to create an education advantage for the province of Ontario by giving young people the opportunity to develop the skills that they need to succeed.

Research Agenda

- TCU works with the Ministry of Research and Innovation to support research initiatives at universities.

Access Strategy

- TCU works on the government's coordinated access strategy with several ministries including the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration and the Ministry of Education to improve postsecondary opportunities for traditionally underrepresented groups.

One-Stop Training and Employment

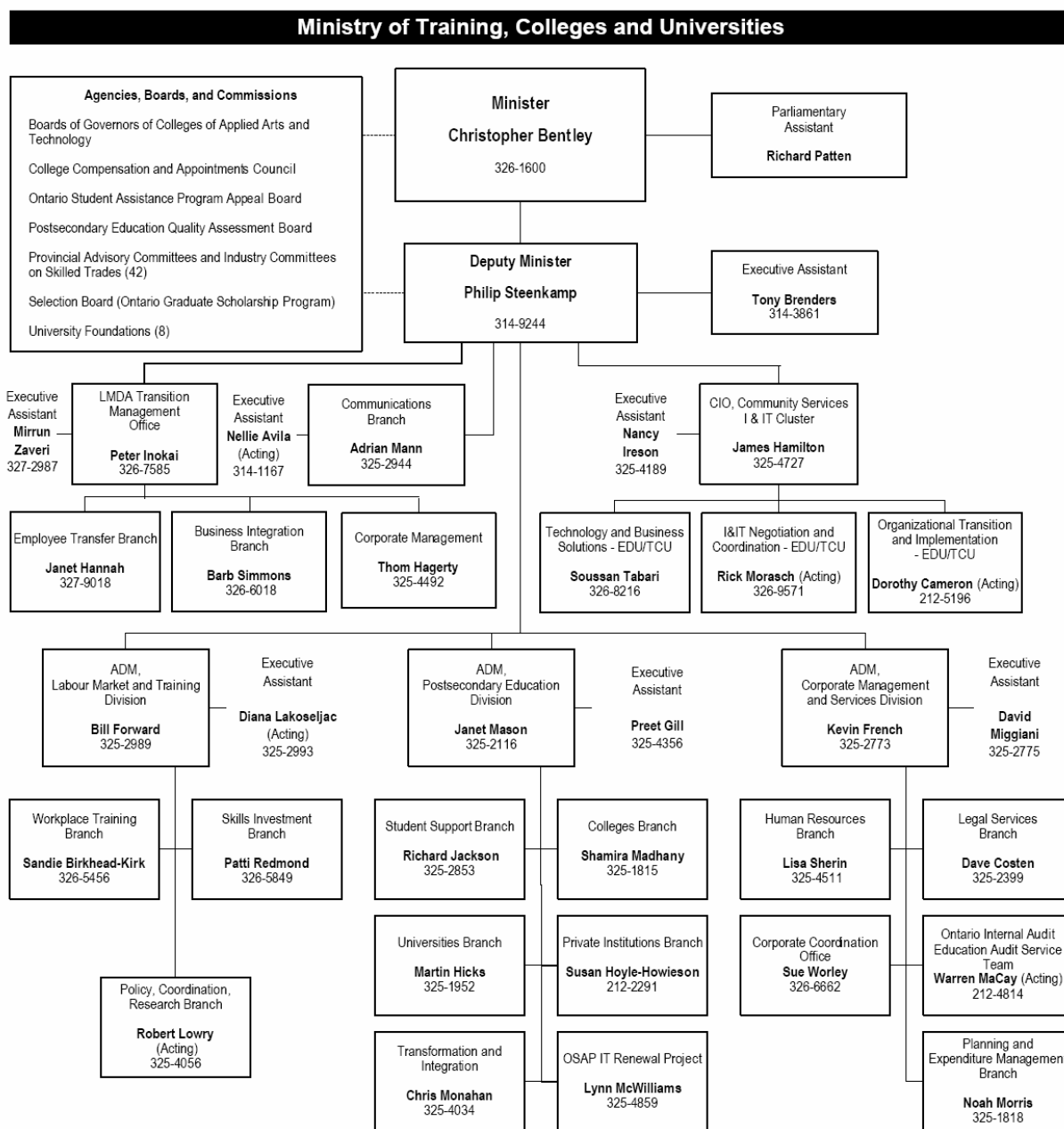
TCU focuses on increasing the quality and quantity of skilled labour in Ontario and supports the key government priority of increased job creation. Through its training and employment programs, TCU supports delivery of programs and services and works with employers, labour, training providers and other stakeholders to support a growing and flexible apprenticeship program to help people enter the skilled trades.

The ministry also encourages employers to hire summer students, prepares unemployed Ontarians to enter the workforce through higher skill training and employment services and provides literacy and basic skills upgrading to assist entry or re-entry into the workforce. It provides adjustment services to companies and communities experiencing significant economic downturns.

TCU also provides labour market information and policy, planning, research and evaluation leadership on labour market and training matters.

TCU is implementing a One-stop Training and Employment System to improve labour market outcomes for apprentices, immigrants, and unemployed individuals in transition from school to work. The ministry is also implementing the Labour Market Development Agreement and Labour Market Partnership Agreement with the federal government to integrate and improve client services.

Ministry Organization Chart



April 10, 2006

Legislation

Acts

Apprenticeship and Certification Act, 1998, S.O. 1998, c.22

Colleges Collective Bargaining Act, R.S.O. 1990. c.C. 15

Higher Education Quality Council Act, 2005, S.O. 2005, c.28, Sched G

Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.M.19

Ontario College of Applied Arts and Technology Act, 2002, S.O. 2002, c. 8, Sched. F

Ontario College of Art & Design Act, 2002, S.O. 2002, c. 8, Sched. E

Post-secondary Education Choice and Excellence Act, 2000, S.O. 2000, c. 36

Private Career Colleges Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P. 26

Trades Qualification and Apprenticeship Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.T.17

University Expropriation Powers Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. U.3.

University Foundations Act, 1992, S.O. 1992, c.22.

University of Ontario Institute of Technology Act, 2002, S.O. 2002, c. 8, Sched. O

Note:

1. The list does not include unconsolidated university Acts and private Acts, which may be relevant to the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities; nor does it include Acts that are purely amending Acts.

AGENCIES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS (ABCs)

Agencies, Boards and Commissions	2006-07 Expense Estimates	2006-07 Revenue Estimates	2005-06 Interim Actuals	2005-06 Revenue Interim Actuals
The College Compensation and Appointments Council	658,600	0	594,500	0
Ontario Student Assistance Appeal Board	21,879	0	15,616	0
Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board	700,000	170,000	481,431	95,000
Provincial Advisory Committees (and Industry Committees) on Skilled Trades	850,000	0	837,400	0
Selection Board (Ontario Graduate Scholarship Program)	8,500	0	7,300	0

The College Compensation and Appointments Council is responsible for collective bargaining, Board appointments and other duties as may be assigned to it by the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities.

The Ontario Student Assistance Appeal Board receives appeals from OSAP applicants and makes recommendations to the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities on their eligibility for financial aid from the Ontario Student Assistance Program.

The Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board makes recommendations to the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities on applications to offer degree programs from new and existing private Ontario degree-granting institutions, out-of-province institutions, Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology and all others not authorized to award degrees by an Ontario statute.

Provincial Advisory Committees (and Industry Committees) provide advice and recommendations to the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities concerning apprenticeship programs and the qualifications required for trades and other occupations.

Selection Board (Ontario Graduate Scholarship Program) provides advice and recommendations to the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities concerning the policies and administration of the Ontario Graduate Scholarship program and selects successful candidates for funding under the program.

PUBLISHED RESULTS-BASED PLAN 2006/07

POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

The multi-year \$6.2 billion Reaching Higher Plan will continue to deliver three commitments: higher quality education; more access to colleges and universities; and better accountability for the government's investments.

Higher Quality Education

- Increased operating grants for universities and colleges will improve the quality of the student learning experience through more student interaction with faculty and enhanced student support services. New funding includes the Quality Improvement Fund, which is awarded on the principle that every dollar invested will result in improvements to quality.
- Increased first year undergraduate medical spaces, the community based nursing pilot program, and the improvement of the clinical experience of students in health sciences programs will strengthen health care professions, a key component of the Reaching Higher Plan.
- The creation of the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario (HEQCO) will support improved quality in the sector, access to postsecondary education and accountability of institutions. The ministry will work with all postsecondary education stakeholders to ensure that students in Ontario receive the quality education they deserve and the Council will ensure continued improvement of the postsecondary education system.
- The Facilities Renewal Program will allocate \$40 million to colleges and universities to help institutions repair and maintain facilities.
- The ministry will invest \$1 million to better market Ontario's postsecondary education expertise to the world and help meet the global demand for higher education. This will establish connections and strengthen relationships around the world to enrich Ontario's economy for the future.

More Access

- As announced in the 2006 Budget, the ministry will be creating about 75,000 new spaces for students.
- Further enhancements to loans and grants in 2006-07 which will benefit 145,000 students.
- The number of students qualifying for up front grants in 2006-07 will be increased to 60,000 (up from approximately 32,000 in 2005-06) by increasing the income threshold from about \$35,000 to \$75,000 (for a family with two children).
- Annual repayable debt will continue to be limited to \$7,000 per year through the Ontario Student Opportunity Grant.
- Book and supply allowances will be increased in 2006-07 for the first time since the mid-1980s, benefiting 138,000 students.
- College and university operating grants will be increased by \$736 million in 2006-07 over base funding in 2004-05; and graduate education will continue to expand, through \$70 million in funding, growing to \$220 million annually by 2009-10, resulting in 14,000 new spaces.
- The ministry has worked in partnership with key stakeholders to develop a tuition fee framework that is student-focused, that is sustainable from the perspectives of all –students, government, colleges and universities – and that reflects the principles and values of the government’s *Reaching Higher* Plan.
- The ministry will continue to invest \$50 million each year through the Ontario Trust for Student Support to make postsecondary education more affordable and accessible.
- The ministry will develop new initiatives and outreach to offer expanded opportunities for Aboriginals, Francophones, persons with disabilities and “first generation” students. For the first time, support will be available to students from families that have no history of university or college education so they can make informed choices about pursuing a university or college education.
- The School-College-Work Initiative aims to reduce Ontario’s unacceptably high dropout rate and give high school students the ability to succeed in their destination of choice – whether that means a workplace with training, apprenticeship, college or university.
- An additional \$10 million in funding will allow the ministry to work with northern and rural colleges to ensure their students receive the highest quality education.

Better Accountability

- The ministry will sign multi-year plans with all institutions. Plans will be developed with colleges and universities to ensure accountability for government investments. A new funding framework will allow long term planning, ensure better performance and accountability within the postsecondary education sector.
- In addition to improving quality, the creation of the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario (HEQCO) will support improved access to postsecondary education and the accountability of institutions.
- The passage of a new Private Career Colleges (PCC) Act will provide more protection for students. Changes to the PCC Act will protect students against financial loss, ensure their training can continue and provide more confidence that their training will prepare them for the workplace.

ONE STOP TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

The 2006 Budget introduced a government-wide Jobs and Skills Renewal Strategy which is building opportunity through effective and relevant skills training and employment services. TCU supports the strategy through:

- Measures to provide skills training services through a one-stop window, making it easier for people to find the services they need.
- The Labour Market Development Agreement and Labour Market Partnership Agreement signed with the federal government in November 2005.

The One-Stop Training and Employment System will provide Ontarians with an integrated training and employment service that links them to the services they need, right in their communities. It will also help ensure seamless referrals from provincially funded programs and federal services.

By 2007-2008, 26,000 young people will enter apprenticeship programs annually.

A further expansion of the Co-op Diploma Apprenticeship Program will be made in 2006.

An annual investment in community-based agencies and colleges delivering Job Connect and the Literacy and Basic Skills Program ensures a well-educated and trained workforce which provides the economy with a clear competitive advantage.

The Minister's Apprenticeship Employer Awards will recognize contributions to the apprenticeship training system.

LABOUR MARKET DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT (LMDA)

The Canada-Ontario LMDA is an Agreement to transfer federal training and employment programs to Ontario, and it is the same as LMDAs negotiated with most other provinces, including Quebec.

Under the Canada-Ontario LMDA, Ontario will receive about \$525 million annually to provide employment programs and an additional \$57 million annually for staff salaries and administration. The federal government has also committed to provide \$25 million in one-time funding for Ontario to develop information systems to support the transferred programs.

Federal programs for youth and Aboriginal peoples, funded through the Consolidated Revenue Fund and pan-Canadian activities under Employment Insurance (EI) Part II, remain with the federal government.

On January 1, 2007, Federal employees and programs are transferring to Ontario.

CANADA-ONTARIO LABOUR MARKET PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (LMPA)

The Canada-Ontario Labour Market Partnership Agreement is a six-year Agreement to 2010-11, which could be renewed by mutual agreement of the two governments.

Under the Canada-Ontario LMPA, each government will administer initiatives under six priority areas for investment: (1) Expand and Enhance Apprenticeship; (2) Labour Market Integration of Recent Immigrants; (3) Literacy and Essential Skills; (4) Workplace Skills Development, (5) Aboriginal peoples; and (6) Assistance to others facing labour market barriers.

Details of the Canada-Ontario LMPA

The Canada-Ontario LMPA will provide for new funding by the federal government to be spent in Ontario, growing to \$314 million annually in 2009-10.

The federal government has agreed to transfer 50% of this funding to Ontario to administer (i.e., growing to \$157 million in 2009-10 and in 2010-11). The other 50% (i.e., growing to \$157M in 2009-10 and in 2010-11) will be spent in Ontario by the federal government on the six priorities.

SUPPORTING GOVERNMENT KEY COMMITMENTS, PRIORITIES AND RESULTS

In 2006-2007, TCU will continue an agenda in support of the government priorities of Strong People, Strong Economy; Better Health; and Success for Students.

Strong People, Strong Economy

- The ministry will continue to implement a One-Stop Training and Employment System to deliver better job skills training and apprenticeship services for Ontarians. As part of its one-stop system, the ministry is:
 - Increasing the number of apprentices by providing access to services that increase the number of skilled immigrants working in their trade or profession.
 - Targeting an increase in the number of new registrants in apprenticeship programs. Supporting initiatives include apprenticeship scholarships, employer signing bonuses and the Apprenticeship Training Tax Credit.
- On November 23, 2005, the ministry signed an historic deal with the federal government regarding a Labour Market Development Agreement (LMDA) and a Labour Market Partnership Agreement (LMPA) for Ontario. The LMDA will integrate federal programs and services into Ontario's one-stop system. The LMPA will allow the province to add to its range of training and employment programs and serve a broader range of clients.

Better Health

- The ministry supports the priority of Better Health by providing facilities to train more and better quality doctors, nurses and other health care providers. TCU continues to expand undergraduate medical and international medical graduate positions, support the new Northern Ontario School of Medicine and expand enrolment in nursing programs.

Success for Students

- TCU is working toward a more co-ordinated and collaborative postsecondary education system. The enhanced system will feature a more sustainable funding framework, including increased operating grants, tuition and student assistance.
- The ministry will continue to enhance accessibility and affordability to postsecondary education through improved access to student loans through eligibility reforms.
- TCU will provide funding to stabilize colleges, particularly smaller rural and northern colleges.

- The Co-op Diploma program provides new academic upgrading to students who have left high school and expands access to employment programs.

TCU contributes to government priorities through initiatives which support targeted results. Postsecondary programs have produced a 10% increase in enrolment from 2003-2004, with an estimated 479,359 students enrolled in postsecondary education for 2006-2007.

Apprenticeship programs help build a strong economy by investing in skills for the future. The number of new apprenticeship registrations is increasing by 23% during the same period to an estimated 23,500 for 2006-2007.

The Job Connect Program is maintaining a high success rate with an estimated 80% of participants obtaining employment or going on to further education or training. The Literacy and Basic Skills Program continues to reach higher with an estimated 70% of participants obtaining employment or going on to further education or training, an increase of 10% over 2003-2004.

The Ministry key strategies of Reaching Higher and One-Stop Training and Employment all contribute to the targeted increase in education and skills and a greater participation in postsecondary education and skills training.

Performance Measures

Reaching Higher

- Increase postsecondary education enrolment by creating about 75,000 new spaces for students.

One-Stop Training and Employment System

- Increase the number of new apprenticeship registration by 7,000 to a total of 26,000 annually in 2007-08
- 80% of employment program clients obtain employment or go on to further education or training
- Increase the percentage of literacy program clients obtaining employment or going on to further education or training to 70% by 2006-07

MINISTRY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Table 1: Ministry Planned Expenditures 2006/07

	Ministry Planned Expenditures (\$M) 2006/07
Operating	5,232.42
Capital	40.00

Note: Amounts include Statutory Appropriations.

Table 2: Ministry Planned Expenditures by Program Name 2006/07

Program Name	Ministry Planned Expenditures (\$M)
Ministry Administration	10.96
Postsecondary Education	4,639.74
One-Stop Training and Employment	621.71

APPENDIX I

PUBLISHED RESULTS-BASED PLAN 2005/06

POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

The multi-year \$6.2 billion Reaching Higher Plan announced in the 2005 Provincial Budget will promote a strong, competitive economy based on a highly skilled work force resulting in individual prosperity and world-class outcomes. Results will be achieved by three key components: higher quality education; more access to colleges and universities; and better accountability for the government's investments.

The cumulative increase in provincial spending for postsecondary education will total \$6.2 billion over the 2004-05 funding base by 2009-10, including:

- \$1.5 billion in new investments in student financial assistance
- \$4.3 billion in new investments to colleges and universities; and
- \$0.4 billion in new investments in other initiatives, including training and apprenticeships

By 2009-10 the government will be providing an additional \$1.2 billion in operating grants to colleges and universities, or 35 per cent more than the base in 2004-05. In 2005-06 colleges will receive \$1.1 billion in total operating grants (including funding for Collaborative Nursing). Universities will receive \$2.6 billion in total operating grants.

The ministry's initiatives for 2005-2006 include:

More Access

- Ontario will invest up to \$192 million in improvements to student assistance in 2005-06, growing up to \$358 million by 2009-10 to promote access and opportunity for low and middle-income students.
- The Budget announced several 2005-06 enhancements in student aid. Not only will students be able to access more loan funding, they will be able to do this without an increase in their annual maximum repayable debt. The Ontario Student Opportunity Grant program will continue to limit students' annual repayable debt to \$7,000 per academic year.
- In 2005-06, graduate students are benefiting from the new Ontario Graduate Fellowships. The Budget announced that the province created \$100 million in endowments at Ontario universities to fund these fellowships.

- The *Reaching Higher* Plan aims to increase participation of underrepresented groups, including aboriginal, disabled and first-generation students, as well as Francophones.
- In 2005-06 there was an investment of \$10.2 million which will grow to \$55 million in 2009-10 to assist colleges and universities with outreach and support to Francophones, Aboriginal Peoples, persons with disabilities, and first generation students (those who are the first in their families to undertake postsecondary education).
- The ministry is providing increased funding of \$75 million in 2005-06 to support enrolment growth in colleges (\$9.6 million) and universities (\$65.4 million).
- The *Reaching Higher* Plan includes a massive expansion of graduate education with an investment of \$220 million annually by 2009-10 to expand graduate education by 14,000.
- The 2005 Budget announced \$95 million by 2009-10 to support Ontario's postsecondary institutions in the delivery of high-quality health sciences programs, including the expansion of the number of spaces at medical schools by 15 per cent.
- In order to increase the supply of nursing faculty the Nursing Faculty Fund was introduced in the 2005 Budget. The fund will grow to \$4 million in 2007-08 and future years to expand enrolments in graduate nursing.

Higher Quality Education

- The ministry is providing more than \$211 million in 2005-06 to Ontario colleges and universities through the new Quality Improvement Fund. Colleges will receive \$87.3 million and Universities, \$124.2 million.
- TCU is providing \$10 million more in 2005-06, growing to \$20 million more by 2007-08 on an annual basis to support small, northern and rural colleges. This is to recognize the special challenges faced by Ontario's colleges, particularly those in northern and rural areas to ensure access to high-quality programs.
- The 2005 Budget announced that the Ontario government is investing an additional \$5 million by 2009-10 to assist in the internationalization of Ontario's postsecondary education system and to ensure that Ontario remains competitive in an increasingly globalized environment.
- The Ontario government is also providing new funding totalling \$200 million over the next five years to help reverse the deterioration of postsecondary infrastructure.

Better Accountability

- TCU will work with college and university partners in 2005-06 to develop a new common funding framework for 2006-07 to ensure predictable and stable funding that is fairly distributed and which achieves the results Ontarians want for an accessible, high-quality postsecondary system.
- Bilateral performance agreements will be negotiated with colleges and universities to improve accountability. Interim Accountability Agreements (IAAs) are being put into place for 2005-06 as a bridge to multi-year agreements for future years.

LABOUR MARKET AND TRAINING

- TCU is committed to increasing the number of apprenticeship registrations by 7,000 to a total of 26,000 annually in 2007-08.
- The apprenticeship initiatives announced in the 2005 Ontario Budget build on the significant investments that the government previously announced in the 2004 Ontario Budget for apprenticeship training. This includes:
 - \$95 million for the Apprenticeship Training Tax Credit;
 - \$11.7 million annually by 2006-07 to support more apprenticeships; and
 - \$4.5 million annually by 2005-06 to provide 1,500 Apprenticeship Scholarships and Employer Signing Bonuses.
- The new One-Stop Training and Employment System will help ensure this increase in registrations by providing a clear pathway into apprenticeship, increasing the focus on employer outreach and recruitment, as well as improving apprenticeship completion rates.
- In 2005-06 the ministry will work to sign the historic Labour Market Development and Labour Market Partnership Agreements with the federal government. Together, these two agreements will allow the ministry to integrate labour market programs in Ontario and expand programs to provide more training, apprenticeship and labour market services.
- Under the Apprenticeship Enhancement Fund Program (AEF), the ministry will award \$10 million to community colleges in 2005-06: \$3 million assigned through a direct funding formula reflecting the number of apprentices trained at each community college, and \$7 million allocated through a competitive process.
- In 2005-06, \$8.3 million is allocated for the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP), and 20,500 student placements are projected.
- The 2005 Ontario Budget announced \$15 million annually by 2007-08 to expand academic upgrading options for those who left high school early but want to now pursue the skilled trades. This initiative is expected to assist 6,000 people.

SUPPORTING GOVERNMENT KEY COMMITMENTS, PRIORITIES AND RESULTS

Under the Reaching Higher plan, which was unveiled in the 2005 Budget, the government will invest an additional \$6.2 billion in Ontario's universities, colleges and training programs over the next five years. This historic, multi-year investment in postsecondary education – the most significant in 40 years – represents a 39 per cent increase compared to the 2004-05 funding base. With the Reaching Higher plan, the people of Ontario will see improved access and higher quality in postsecondary education, and colleges and universities will be held accountable for accomplishing these objectives.

The key components of the plan support the government's priority of **Success for Students** through:

- Providing \$358 million in new investment in student financial assistance by 2009-10, which is more than double the base funding provided in 2004-05;
- Significantly increasing enrolments in colleges and universities;
- Increasing faculty at colleges and universities to accommodate higher enrolment and improve student success;
- Working with postsecondary institutions to ensure that the student experience is enhanced; and
- Improving pathways for students and increasing collaboration between Ontario colleges and universities.

Additionally, the government priority of **Better Health** is supported by an investment of \$95 million in new funding to increase the number of new, first-year medical education spaces by 15 per cent, and improve the quality of medical education and pilot a new, community-based nursing education program in northern Ontario.

Support for the priority of **Strong People, Strong Economy** features initiatives which will:

- Increase the number of apprenticeship registrations by 7,000 to a total of 26,000 annually in 2007-08.
- Implement a new strategy to attract more international students and encourage study abroad for Ontario students.

TCU contributes to government priorities through initiatives which support targeted results. Postsecondary programs have produced almost a 7 per cent increase in enrolment from 2003-2004, with an estimated 462,602 students enrolled in postsecondary education for 2005-06.

Apprenticeship programs help build a strong economy by investing in skills for the future. The number of new apprenticeship registrations increased by 10 per cent during the same period to an estimated 21,100 for 2005-2006.

The Job Connect Program is maintaining a high success rate with an estimated 80 per cent of participants obtaining employment or going on to further education or training. The Literacy and Basic Skills Program continues to reach higher with an estimated 65 per cent of participants obtaining employment or going on to further education or training, an increase of 5 per cent over 2003-2004.

Key strategies such as Reaching Higher, One Stop Training and Employment and Job Connect all contribute to the targeted increase in education and skills and a greater participation in postsecondary education and skills training.

Ministry Planned Expenditures 2005/06

	Ministry Planned Expenditures (\$M) 2005/06
Operating	4,781
Capital	135

Note: Amounts include Statutory Appropriations and Consolidations

Ministry Planned Expenditures by Program Name 2005/06

Program Name	Ministry Planned Expenditures (\$M)
Ministry Administration	11
Postsecondary Education	4,422
Training and Employment	483

2004/05 ANNUAL REPORT

In 2004-05, TCU embarked on a transformational agenda in support of the government priorities, *Strong People, Strong Economy; Better Health; and Success for Students*.

POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

In the 2004 Budget, the government announced that the Hon. Bob Rae would review the postsecondary education system and provide recommendations to develop a more co-ordinated, collaborative and differentiated system. The review recommended a sustainable funding framework, including operating grants, tuition and student assistance in support of the newly designed system, and delivered a final report in February.

While the review was conducted, TCU enhanced accessibility and affordability to postsecondary education. The ministry improved access to student loans for more than 50,000 students through eligibility reforms that improved the provincial student assistance programs. The Budget also announced a \$20 million enhancement to expand accessibility to student financial assistance.

The ministry provided \$25 million in one-time funding to stabilize colleges, particularly smaller rural and northern colleges, and \$20 million to update technology and equipment in colleges.

The ministry worked with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care on a Health Human Resources strategy to support the priority of *Better Health* by aiming to train more and better quality doctors, nurses and other health-care providers. TCU expanded undergraduate medical and international medical graduate positions, supported the new Northern Ontario School of Medicine, expanded enrolment in nursing programs and created a Nursing Faculty Fund to support additional students in PhD nursing programs.

In 2004-05, TCU conducted a review of the Private Career Colleges Act with stakeholders. The act had not been updated for 30 years.

LABOUR MARKET AND TRAINING

To transform the training and employment system, TCU designed a One-Stop Training and Employment System to improve labour market outcomes of Ontarians, and increased the number of apprentices by providing access to services that increase the number of skilled immigrants working in their trade or profession.

The 2004 Budget announced several initiatives to increase the number of new entrants into apprenticeship programs by 7,000 to reach a total of 26,000 annually by 2007-08. The initiatives included an apprenticeship scholarship for high school leavers who return to complete high school and enter apprenticeships and a signing bonus for employers who hire them. Also, an Apprenticeship Training Tax Credit was implemented to encourage more employers to hire and train apprentices in skilled trades.

TCU also worked to grow apprenticeship through implementing a Co-op Diploma program, providing new academic upgrading to high school leavers and expanding access to employment programs.

The 2004 Budget committed to invest \$9.5 million, growing to \$12.5 million annually by 2005-06, to work with professional regulatory bodies to increase access and improve information on employment opportunities and requirements for internationally trained individuals.

The ministry committed to release an annual report on its progress on removing barriers for the internationally trained and launched a review of independent appeals processes.

TCU continued to work with stakeholders to reduce barriers facing the internationally trained by developing new bridging projects and other initiatives such as employment services, academic credential assessment services, and enhanced language training and assessment.

Ministry Expenditures	
	Ministry Actual Expenditures (\$M) 2004/05
Operating	4,247
Capital	417
Staff Strength (as of March 31, 2005)	677.74

Note: Amounts include Statutory Appropriations