

## Research Note 1: Postsecondary Education Attainment and Participation in Ontario

By: Ken Norrie and Sylvia Lin, HEQCO

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In the first of a series of Research Notes, Dr. Ken Norrie and Sylvia Lin address the confusion regarding Ontario's performance in postsecondary education compared to its future requirements in human capital. They find that Ontario is entering the next decade with a relatively favourable supply of educated human capital already in place. Ontario leads all provinces in terms of aggregate educational attainment, and ranks favourably with OECD nations.

Using Youth in Transition Survey data the authors conclude that it is reasonable to expect that 70 per cent of Ontarians aged 20 to 24 in 2006 will earn at least one credential in postsecondary education.

### About the Authors

Ken Norrie is currently the Vice-President, Research for the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario. Most recently he served as provost and vice president, academic at McMaster University, where he is also professor of economics. He has held various academic postings across Canada including the University of Alberta as professor and associate dean of arts (social sciences), chair of the economics department and dean of arts. Dr. Norrie was also a visiting associate professor at Queen's University, and was seconded to the Royal Commission on the Economic Union and Development Prospects for Canada (the Macdonald Commission).

Dr. Norrie was also Clifford Clark Visiting Economist at the Department of Finance, Government of Canada, and editor of *Canadian Public Policy/Analyse de Politique* between 1986 and 1990, and has served on the editorial boards of *Canadian Journal of Economics*, *Canadian Journal of Regional Science*, *Prairie Forum* and *National History*. Dr. Norrie earned an Honours degree in economics from the University of Saskatchewan in 1967, an M.Phil. from Yale University in 1969 and a Ph.D. from Yale in 1971.

Sylvia Lin is a Research Analyst with the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario, and she came to HEQCO after graduating from McMaster University with a master's degree in Economics. She also has a Bachelor's degree in Journalism, and practiced as a journalist for several newspapers and news agencies.