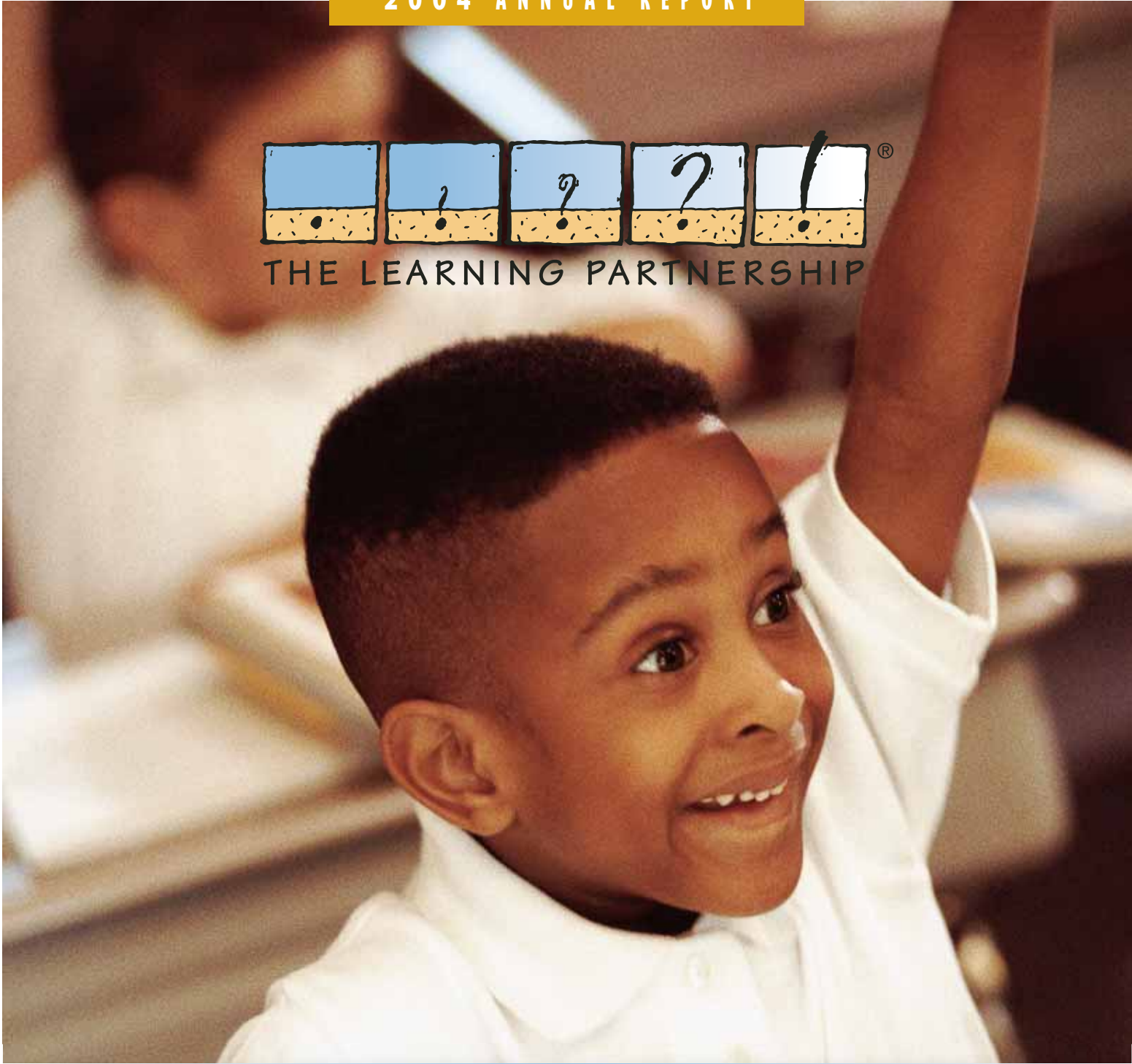




THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP



CHAMPIONS OF PUBLIC EDUCATION ACROSS CANADA





CHAMPIONS OF PUBLIC EDUCATION ACROSS CANADA

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

## *The Choices We Make*

**S**trolling along the edge of the sea, a man catches sight of a young woman who appears to be engaged in a ritual dance. She stoops down, then straightens to her full height, casting her arm out in an arc. Drawing closer, he sees that the beach around her is littered with starfish and she is throwing them one by one into the sea. He lightly mocks her: "There are stranded starfish as far as the eye can see, for miles up the beach. What difference can saving a few of them possibly make?" Smiling, she bends down and once more tosses a starfish out over the water, saying, "It certainly makes a difference to this one."

And so it is with The Learning Partnership. Looking out across the "beach" of public education, we see a long list of issues and needs from which we must choose in order that we might try to make a difference. Each year, "one by one," we do just that; we make choices, develop plans and allocate resources to support new initiatives while sustaining others. In the past year alone, The Learning Partnership did make a difference for more than 740,000 students and teachers across Canada.

Were it otherwise, would not the Annual Progress Report on Public Education, Teacher eLearning, Canada's Outstanding Principals™ and the Welcome to Kindergarten programs, to name but a few, still be on the "beach" with all the other "starfish"? With up to 30 per cent of our students at risk of dropping out of school, we cannot do less and, really, we must figure out how we can do more in 2005 and beyond.

We again gratefully acknowledge the professionalism and commitment of our staff, the longstanding support of our many friends and sponsors and the unwavering dedication of our President and CEO Veronica Lacey and the members of our Board of Directors. Without their efforts, we most likely would not even have a "beach"!



Peter T. McInenly, Q.C.  
Chair, Board of Directors



## *Our Vision*

*A strong public education system valued by all Canadians and recognized as the cornerstone of a civil, prosperous and democratic society.*

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

## *Our Mission*

*To champion a strong public education system through innovative programs, credible research, policy initiatives and public dialogue.*



**2004** was a year of positive engagement for The Learning Partnership as we entered our second decade. Ten years of championing public education in Canada has given us the experience and standing to delve deeper into more issues of importance.

During two summits in 2004, we brought together more than 500 people to talk about education governance. As Bernard Shapiro, Principal and Vice Chancellor Emeritus, Faculty of Education, McGill University, put it so eloquently, “Good governance is, naturally, scarcely noticeable, but bad governance not only grates our sensibility, it also stifles and suffocates initiative, thereby undermining the enormous public investment in education.”

We took that on in our deliberations. Reflecting our own partnership approach, key stakeholders from business, labour, non-profit organizations, education and government were asked for their views. They whole-heartedly joined in and took a hard look at the system and how it can be made better. The paper, *Future Directions in Education Governance: Reflections of the Summits 2004*, is serving as a catalyst for further discussions in many arenas across the country.

Our latest Progress Report on the Quality of Public Education in Canada focused on students at risk of failing high school. That paper too is spurring discourse on the factors that influence risk and local initiatives that have sought to reduce that risk. While many of our programs have contributed over the years to keeping young people in school, these policy discussions will help to facilitate a fuller understanding among more Canadians of the nature of the problem and its effect on the greater public good.

Our flagship program, Take Our Kids to Work™ celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2004, having become an expected part of the school year for many grade 9 teachers and students across Canada. Although the premise has not changed over the years, the focus and supports around the program have. As an organization, we have worked with parents, students, teachers and employers to ensure the program remains relevant and serves those who have come to depend on it.

With representatives now in Ottawa, Montreal and Calgary, we are ensuring better access to the wealth of resources we have to offer and providing another means of tapping community interest in public education. In 2005, we will continue building partnerships across the country including expanding the Technology Innovation Awards: The Faces of Innovation to accept nominations from across Canada.

Our engaging programs, our significant policy work and our outreach to Canada’s diverse communities individually have a significant impact and are valuable in their own right. Taken together, they are a force of positive change and help ensure the continuation of a strong public education system in Canada. We sincerely thank our friends and supporters who join us in this important national effort.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Veronica Lacey".

Veronica Lacey  
President and Chief Executive Officer

# FUNDING

The Learning Partnership realized approximately \$3.4 million in cash and donations in kind in 2004, through a range of fundraising activities. The total revenue is represented by \$2,244,609 of project funding and \$1,145,579 contributions to the operating fund.

Overall, funding was derived from the corporate sector (\$1,524,752 at 45%); government grants (\$1,113,099 at 33%);

schools, school boards and educational institutions (\$422,882 at 13%); foundations (\$225,000 at 7%) as well as other sources such as community contributions and interest income (\$104,455 at 3%).

Non-cash support, or gifts in kind, of \$152,424 are included in corporate revenue above.

If you would like a copy of the audited financial statements, please call The Learning Partnership at 416-481-0799.

## Project Funding Sources

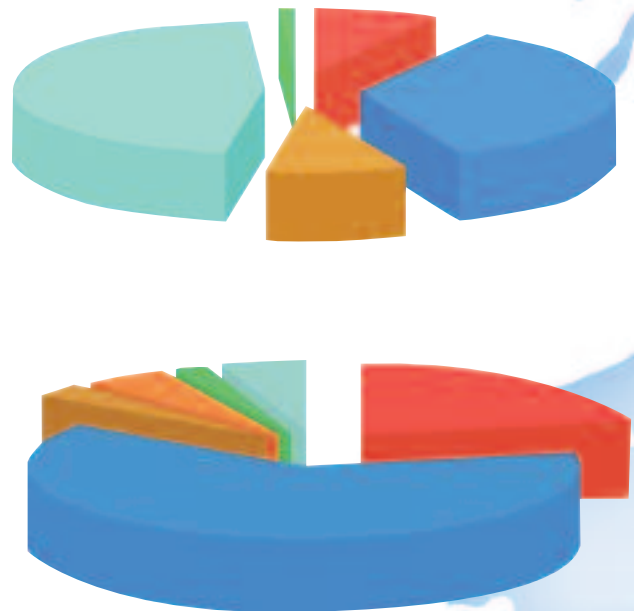
■ Educational Institutions	171,031	8%
■ Corporate	801,902	35%
■ Foundations	195,000	9%
■ Government	1,056,499	47%
■ Community	18,190	1%
■ Other	1,987	0%
	<b>2,244,609</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Operating Funding Sources

■ Educational Institutions	251,850	22%
■ Corporate	722,850	63%
■ Foundations	30,000	3%
■ Government	56,600	5%
■ Community	23,644	2%
■ Other	60,634	5%
	<b>1,145,578</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Total

Educational Institutions	422,881	12%
Corporate	1,524,752	45%
Foundations	225,000	7%
Government	1,113,099	33%
Community	41,834	1%
Other	62,621	2%
	<b>3,390,187</b>	<b>100%</b>



# POLICY & RESEARCH



## *Policy and Research at TLP*

TLP's Policy and Research Department strengthens the organization's role as the national voice for public education in the areas of educational research and policy development and enhances the awareness of Canadians regarding public education issues.

## *The Policy and Research Advisory Council*

The Policy and Research Advisory Council translates the success of the partnership concept to policies that can help improve public education on a national scale. Co-chaired by Don Drummond, Chief Economist for TD Bank, and Jane Gaskell, Dean of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, the Council's 32 members represent all facets of the education community including parents, academia, business, labour and education.

Through this non-partisan forum, members voice their goals and policy recommendations and provide advice on major education issues. The Council pursues its goals through summits, conferences, roundtables, research studies and publications.

## *Governance Summits*

TLP held two consultative Summits on Education Governance in Ontario in 2004. More than 500 people, including leaders of education, government, business, labour and non-profit organizations from across Canada provided wide-ranging views on governance. Summit I marked the first time that Ontario's community of education stakeholders had assembled on such a scale to identify critical issues and next steps toward a more effective governance of education. The second summit was held to address practical solutions.

The paper *Future Directions in Education Governance: Reflections of the Summits 2004* outlines the perspectives

of the many participants as well as the guidance of a steering committee of 30 education stakeholders. It identifies important issues and provides a framework for improving education governance in the province. The paper concludes that good governance is essential in order to sustain a strong public education system and it makes recommendations for improvement. Among them are a call for greater responsibility among educators and a stronger focus on student achievement. In circulation across Canada, the paper stresses the importance of local decision-making and the need to create conditions for innovation that keep pace with the global knowledge economy.

## *Progress Report on the Quality of Public Education in Canada*

*Students at Risk* is the subject of TLP's second *Progress Report on the Quality of Public Education in Canada*. Based on a research paper prepared for TLP by Dr. Ben Levin, an international authority on the subject and now Ontario's Deputy Minister of Education, the report focuses on the phenomenon of students at risk of failing high school with an aim to facilitating greater understanding among Canadians of the nature of the problem. It outlines the factors that influence risk and identifies school and community initiatives that have sought to reduce risk. The report concludes with a series of recommendations for educators and the community at large, suggesting that with a sustained, concerted effort, progress in this area is possible.

The report has been distributed to more than 10,000 education, business and political leaders and parents throughout the country.

## *National Roundtable on Students at Risk*

TLP, together with the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada, organized a *National Roundtable on Students at*

## 10,000 *parents, educators, business and political leaders*

Risk for senior policy decision-makers from across Canada. The one-day event was designed to involve discussion on the factors associated with students at risk and on the policies instrumental in addressing the issue. The **National Roundtable on Students at Risk** was held at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education with a culminating dinner hosted by RBC Financial Group in January 2005. A summary report will be published and distributed by TLP.

### *A Day with John Abbott*

World-renowned educator and researcher John Abbott was the keynote speaker at a special day hosted by TLP and the Halton District School Board in the fall. The Hon. Margaret N. McCain, Dr. Fraser Mustard, Charlie Coffey, Barry O'Connor and Leona Woods also spoke. Participants included more than 300 people from social service agencies, the child-care sector, education, government and the business community.



John Abbott, President of The 21st Century Learning Initiative, addressed new understandings about the brain, human intelligence and human memory in his goal to improve human learning. He challenged current structures of school-

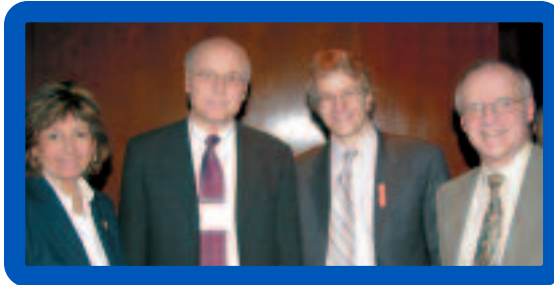
ing by charting a dynamic community role and by extending the learning agenda beyond the walls of the school in support of student learning.

### *Breakfast with John Abbott*

The Learning Partnership and RBC Financial Group hosted a breakfast with world-renowned educator John Abbott on October 8, 2004. Guests included Canadian Senator Marilyn Trenholme Counsell; Dennis Cochrane, Deputy Minister of Education, Nova Scotia; Isabel Bassett, President of TV

Ontario; Dr. Brendan J. Croskery, Chief Superintendent of Schools, Calgary Board of Education; Liz Sandals, MPP, Ontario Guelph-Wellington and other leaders from the business and education communities.

## *Special Events*



### *A Welcome to Ben Levin*

Ben Levin, Ontario's new Deputy Minister of Education, received a warm welcome at a reception hosted by The Learning Partnership and TD Bank Financial Group on December 13, 2004. Guests included The Honourable Gerard Kennedy, Ontario Minister of Education; The Honourable Monte Kwinter, Ontario Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services; Claude Lajeunesse, President, Ryerson University; Claude Lamoureux, President & CEO, Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan; Paul Cappon President & CEO, Canadian Council on Learning; Rick Miner, President, Seneca College; Richard DiCerni, Corporate Secretary & Sr. VP, Ontario Power Generation as well as many directors of education, college, university and business leaders.

# PROGRAMS

In 2004 The Learning Partnership's programs were grouped into four areas:

- Literacy and Youth
- Youth and Career Development
- Science, Mathematics and Technology Education
- Leadership and Management Capacity in Educational Institutions

## Literacy and Youth

### *Welcome to Kindergarten*

The Learning Partnership's Welcome to Kindergarten program was launched in 2004. It was developed to provide pre-school children with the resources and experiences to begin their formal education with a foundation in literacy/numeracy nurtured in their homes.

*30 schools in 5 Toronto-area boards implemented the program in 2004 providing support for 1,200 children and their families.*

In the spring before starting kindergarten, three and four-year-old children are given preparatory resources and experiences to position them for school success and lifelong learning. Parents/caregivers are invited to attend a workshop at their neighbourhood school where they receive early literacy/numeracy resources as part of a kindergarten welcome bag and learn activities for using the resources with their children.

Building on this year's success, the program is to be expanded to involve more school boards and several community partners such as the Ontario Early Years Centres, public health, and public libraries.

### *Turning Points Essay Contest*

Turning Points is an integrative learning process that provides opportunities for students in Grades 7-12 to think, read

and write about their fundamental values. A process of self-reflection and dialogue with teachers and peers leads to writing a narrative essay in which students organize their thoughts about the principles that guide their lives. Students are encouraged to submit their essays for formal evaluation, recognition and publication. Volunteers from education and business communities use specific criteria to judge the essays.

In 2004, approximately 7,400 students from 55 schools submitted essays.

The Turning Points program hosts a one-day conference for students and teachers to reflect on how they make good decisions in a world with so many options. How do they confidently align their choices with their personal, family and societal values? Where do they begin in their quest for self-understanding? This conference included an inspiring lecture by Jim Hayhurst Sr. and his son, Jim Jr., of The Right Mountain, members of the 1988 Canadian Everest Expedition. Their story created an inspired setting for discussions on values, success and the importance of self-understanding.

### *Creative Arts Learning Partnership*

The Creative Arts Learning Partnership successfully concluded its initial three years of programming in 2004. It provided an excellent opportunity for teachers of Grades 4-6 to build experience and confidence in the arts through behind-the-scenes workshops and attendance at public visual or performing arts events. During three sessions with a participating arts organization, such as the Canadian Opera Company, the National Ballet of Canada, and the Art Gallery of Ontario, teachers considered curriculum expectations and acquired a basis for meeting those expectations through first-hand experience. The program assisted teachers in gaining an understanding of the importance of the arts in improving student success.

Research results attest to the outstanding success of the program. Participation grew from 120 teachers in the first year to 245 by year three. Teachers' comments were overwhelmingly positive and a frequently reported benefit was the opportunity to





740,000 *students*  
1.5 million *parents*

meet and share with other teachers. Almost all participants said that the program consolidated their belief in the importance of the arts to the well-being and development of children.

## Youth and Career Development

### *Take Our Kids to Work™*

Take Our Kids to Work™ (TOKW) celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2004 with the theme “Ten years and growing. Make one day mean more.” This national flagship program continues to have a positive impact on students, parents and the community. Over the past decade, more than 1.5 million grade 9 students and tens of thousands of workplaces in every province and territory have participated in the day.

*In 2004, Take Our Kids to Work™ alumni shared their stories of the program's influence. Among them was Claire Wing who spent a day at the CBC 10 years ago and was bitten by the entertainment bug. Today Claire works in Audience Relations for Rick Mercer's Monday Report.*

Take Our Kids to Work™ links the world of education to the world of work, so that young people can make more informed choices as they proceed through school. It provides an opportunity for grade 9 students across Canada to explore different career paths, view different workplace roles and responsibilities, and engage in meaningful dialogue with their parents and other working adults. Students learn about their rights and responsibilities at work and are encouraged to understand the link between education and their futures.

Feedback surveys were developed in 2004. These surveys and the results are posted on the TOKW bilingual website [www.takeourkidstowork.ca](http://www.takeourkidstowork.ca) and [www.invitonsnosjeunesau travail.ca](http://www.invitonsnosjeunesau travail.ca).

### *Entrepreneurial Adventure*

The Entrepreneurial Adventure program is an experiential learning opportunity for all participants – students (K-9), teachers and business partner volunteers. Participants become truly entrepreneurial in the process – thinking creatively, exploring possibilities, experimenting, communicating, collaborating and realizing their dreams through the creation of their ventures.

As students implement ventures, they develop an appreciation for knowledge and information. Students are challenged to explore community needs and problems and community partners are engaged with students. Entrepreneurial Adventure merges insight with experience as students not only witness and examine but also participate and accomplish tasks and goals. The National Student Innovation Awards recognize innovative, entrepreneurial achievements of participants in the program.

Three hundred students representing more than 2,400 involved in the program presented their ventures at the annual Entrepreneurial Adventure Program Showcase held at First Canadian Place in Toronto in June 2004. Since its inception in 1995, more than 8,500 students and 290 schools have participated. In 2005, the Showcase will be held in Toronto, Calgary and Ottawa.

### *Change Your Future*

In 2004, Change Your Future (CYF) celebrated seven years as the most sought after partnership initiative between schools, school boards, the Ontario Ministry of Education, the community and The Learning Partnership. CYF is carefully designed to provide racially diverse at-risk students, who may have strong potential of leaving school early, with year-long program and experiential support intervention. By



*“Kids are amazingly good at entrepreneurial thinking; no matter what barriers they face they can blossom when given the freedom to make decisions as a team. I also learned that today's young teachers are an inspiration and that parental involvement makes or breaks a kid's education.”*

*Entrepreneurial Adventure business partner*

# PROGRAMS

working in concert with, and as supplement to, other in-school programs, CYF has been effective in enhancing the academic, personal and social skills of young at-risk adolescents (grades 7-10) so they stay in school and complete their diploma requirements. The program is delivered by professionally trained youth counsellors who are assigned to each CYF identified school 1.5 days per week for the duration of the school year.

Students participate in many curriculum-related activities including job shadowing, a study/mentoring program in association with the University of Toronto, leadership residential spring camp, opportunities for greater involvement in the school and local community, cultural awareness and appreciation in diversity, and career and job readiness workshops. For the 2004/05 school year, 240 students from 12 GTA area schools composed the student roster.

Researchers found the program to be of great benefit to at-risk students, their families, and educators in the schools they attend. Findings show the program helps youth develop positive attitudes about school, strengthens self-awareness and goal-setting, and builds essential interpersonal and lifelong learning skills. Since 1997 *Change Your Future* has provided opportunities for success to 3,000 students.

## *Passport to Prosperity*

*Passport to Prosperity* is an exciting initiative for secondary school students in which employers offer a full range of career exploration opportunities to give students exposure to the world of work and help them make better-informed career choices. Students learn about work options and workplace expectations through career talks, job shadowing, work experience, workplace tours, mentorship, co-operative education and apprenticeship placements. Employers participate in educating and training future workers, and teachers have access to the curriculum support they need. There are now 23 Steering Committee volunteers, 1,600 participating employers and 5,300 work experience opportunities available on the

*Passport to Prosperity* website, [www.class2careers.com](http://www.class2careers.com), which can be accessed by teachers, students, parents and employers.

A 25-minute virtual workplace tour focusing on careers in the hospitality industry debuted on the TLP website in 2004 and GTA secondary school principals were sent a videotape of the tour along with a teacher curriculum package for classroom use.

## *WOW! Words on Work – Women’s Speakers Bureau*

*WOW! Words on Work* continues to grow as a valued national online career resource for teachers and young women. During 2004, more than 300,000 website hits were recorded as teachers and students accessed speaker information or listened to archived *WOW!casts*. The interactive webcast provides students with the opportunity to hear directly from women about their own career explorations, challenges and achievements.

The Learning Partnership hosted its fifth *WOW!cast* in 2004 in partnership with IBM. Moderated by the CBC’s Suhana Meharchand, the theme was *Women in Technology Related Careers*. Four women, two from IBM Canada, shared their technology related career journeys, education, aspirations and insights with students at Markham’s St. Augustine CHS and an online audience of thousands from across the country.

## *All Ontario Learns*

The Learning Partnership, in collaboration with the Toronto District School Board, Toronto Catholic District School Board, Seneca College and Humber College, is providing the leadership and management for a new pilot project to help with the transition from secondary school to college.

The pilot is the result of two years of discussion and planning with TLP’s college and university partners and supports the Ontario government’s education agenda, *Learning to 18 Strategy*. The goal is to support school board Student Success Action Plans to increase the number of students who are



15,500 teachers  
61 school boards

successful in making the transition from secondary school to college.

## Science, Mathematics and Technology

### *I<sup>3</sup> – Investigate! Invent! Innovate!*

I<sup>3</sup> – Investigate! Invent! Innovate! is an integrated science and technology program for elementary school students in grades 7 and 8. The goal of I<sup>3</sup> is to instill passion in all students for learning about science, mathematics and technology and to foster the entrepreneurial spirit from within.

*Inventions included a putter for right and left handed golfers, the edible “Candie Candle”, the “G-Town Extendable Shoe” for accommodating growing feet and “Chop Sticks for Beginners.”*

I<sup>3</sup> was fully operational in 2004 with the completion of three pilots. In the Investigate phase, students learn the principles of science and technology. Moving to the Invent phase, they use newly-learned principles to invent a product or process for which they perceive a need. In the Innovate phase of the program, they learn about bringing a new product or service to market. More than 1,200 students from 18 schools in seven boards showcased their inventions to the public in May 2004. “Awesome” is a word used by both students and teachers to describe the experience.

### *The Round Table on Technology*

The Round Table on Technology (RTT) began as a Community Learning Network pilot project in October 2001. The Learning Partnership’s vision was to recruit and engage a strategic network of private and public sector stakeholders

who share the common goal of the intelligent use of technology to transform the classroom experience for today’s students. The RTT now boasts more than 60 member organizations. It has been described as a think tank, a program incubator and a forum. Activities in 2004 included: the Technology Innovation Awards; IT Mentorship of K-12 classroom teachers by post-secondary co-op IT students; a conference on Sustainable Technology Innovation; the Teacher eLearning Project; and a series of Breakfast Speakers Meetings.

### *Teacher eLearning*

Teacher eLearning is an online professional development research demonstration project to enhance the confidence and classroom teaching skills of grades 6/7/8 teachers. Teachers collaborate online to design inquiry-based classroom learning experiences; try out those approaches in the classroom; capture what works and what could be improved and then share those experiences with their colleagues in order to evolve best classroom practice. The program had several major milestones in 2004, including the successful conclusion of the math course (in which over 70 teachers participated) and a program report detailing the course’s outcomes and research findings. The report has been distributed widely and received enthusiastic acclaim as an important contribution to eLearning research. Also in 2004, a second course was developed for teachers of science and technology. This new course integrates the course material into each sponsoring school board’s own delivery platform, thereby enhancing sustainability potential while showcasing the model’s adaptability across various systems. It was launched in September for more than 60 participants.



### *Technology Innovation Awards: The Faces of Innovation*

The Learning Partnership established the Technology Innovation Awards to recognize the achievements of educators at publicly funded schools (K-12), colleges and universi-

1,800 schools  
1,800 volunteers  
80,000 workplaces



ties whose innovative approach has been instrumental in building modern learning environments for students. The Awards focus on projects that address a variety of areas including professional development, knowledge transfer, organizational learning, the needs of special education students and blended learning environments.

The 2004 Technology Innovation Awards event was hosted by Humber College in June. The day included an afternoon of professional development where award recipients from elementary schools, secondary schools, universities, colleges, and school boards demonstrated their innovative projects and shared best practices. Over 200 representatives attended an evening Awards Dinner from education, government and the corporate sector. In the words of one of the winners, "The Learning Partnership has a heart for improving education and student success. I was honoured to be recognized as a contributor to those goals." Another participant noted "It was a wonderful experience at last year's Technology Innovation Awards day at Humber College to see so many first-hand examples of how technology can help create communities of engaged learners." Details about the award recipients are posted on the TLP website at [www.thelearningpartnership.ca](http://www.thelearningpartnership.ca).

In 2005, the Technology Innovation Awards will be expanded to accept nominations from across Canada.

## Leadership and Management Capacity in Educational Institutions

### *Canada's Outstanding Principals™*

The Learning Partnership and the Canadian Association of Principals collaborated in 2004 to develop this new partner-

ship to recognize the unique and crucial contribution that principals of public schools make to the community and to ensuring quality education for Canada's young people.

Nominations were invited from every province and territory and selection was based on representation by population. A National Selection Committee composed of distinguished Canadians from the private sector, along with community and education leaders, selected 28 recipients through the use of a comprehensive and detailed rubric.

*Over 320 people attended the Gala Awards Dinner, which celebrated the accomplishments of the 28 winners from across Canada for the inaugural Canada's Outstanding Principals Awards.*

The Learning Partnership brought these outstanding principals together in February 2005 for a four-day national Executive Management Training Program at the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management.

This colloquium provided a leadership forum for senior executives from the private and public sector to share lessons of management experience with their education system compatriots.

Over the course of 2005, the award-winning principals will carry on reflective dialogue with each other on a continuing basis through the use of a dedicated, moderated Internet technology communication mechanism. This group of exceptional leaders from across the country will form the basis for an ongoing Forum on Education Leadership.

# DONORS

## Annual Giving

### *Corporate & Foundation*

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### **Gifts in Kind**

McMillan Binch LLP

## Program Sponsors

### *Literacy and Youth*

#### *Welcome to Kindergarten*

TD Bank Financial Group

### **Gifts in Kind**

Scholastic Canada Inc.  
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### *Turning Points Essay Contest*

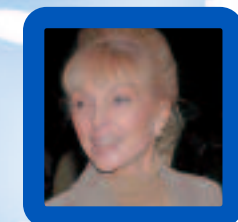
Anonymous

### *Creative Arts Learning Partnership*

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### **Gifts in Kind**

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# DONORS



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## *Change Your Future*

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Toronto District School Board  
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York Catholic District School Board

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## *Passport To Prosperity*

Ontario Ministry of Education

## *WOW! Words On Work – Women's Speakers Bureau*

Manulife Financial Corporation

### **Gift in Kind**

The Manufacturers Life Insurance Co.

## *All Ontario Learns*

Ontario Ministry of Education

## *Science, Math and Technology F – Investigate! Invent! Innovate!*

Imperial Oil Foundation  
Ontario Ministry of Economic  
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## *Round Table on Technology (RTT)*

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Brant Haldimand Norfolk CDSB  
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Peel District School Board  
Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District  
School Board  
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 Microsoft Canada Co.  
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# TRIBUTE DINNER

**T**he Learning Partnership hosted the sixth Annual Tribute Dinner May 6, 2004 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. More than 1,200 guests attended including leaders in education, government, business and the community.

*“The idea of people of contrasting backgrounds and good will forming effective partnerships to address important public issues has always been an attractive one for me. So it is especially exciting to see that idea realized in the form of The Learning Partnership and the cause of public education.”*

*Tony Comper, Chairman and CEO, BMO Financial Group and 2004 Tribute Dinner Honouree*

Honoured that evening for their dedication, generosity and commitment to making the Canadian public education system one of the best in the world were: Tony Comper, Chairman and CEO, BMO Financial Group; Martha C. Piper, President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of British Columbia; and Courtney Pratt, President and CEO, Stelco Inc. Special Honouree was Gordon Cressy, President of the Canadian Tire Foundation for Families, and the founder of The Learning Partnership's national signature program Take Our Kids to Work™.

Louis V. Gerstner Jr. delivered the keynote address. Mr. Gerstner is a former Chairman of the Board of IBM Corporation and Founder and Chairman of The Teaching Commission in the United States. The Honourable Margaret Norrie McCain, former Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick, and John Hunkin, President & CEO of the CIBC group of companies, acted as Masters of Ceremonies. Chair of the 2004 Tribute Dinner was Connie Roveto, President of Cirenity Management.

The celebratory evening included a Student Showcase plus musical and dance performances by students from Toronto area schools.



*“The schools have to deliver on their promise: that a system of free public education will prepare each child to earn a decent living, function as a responsible citizen, and make a meaningful contribution to the health of our society... the changes that must take place can't be expressed in a sound bite. And, no, they won't be revealed to us in decrees from Washington or Ottawa. This is up to us. All of us. And if we pretend we can leave it to someone else to fix – then we've made a conscious decision that threatens our economic strength, political stability, and the future of our sons and daughters. It's exactly that clear cut.”*

*Louis V. Gerstner Jr., former Chairman of the Board of IBM Corporation, and Founder and Chairman of The Teaching Commission in the United States and 2004 Tribute Dinner Keynote Speaker*



1,200 guests  
\$571,800 raised

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### *Photographs*

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The Honourable Bob Rae, former Ontario Premier and Advisor to the Premier and Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities on postsecondary education; John Stunt, Executive Director, Ontario Catholic Trustees Association

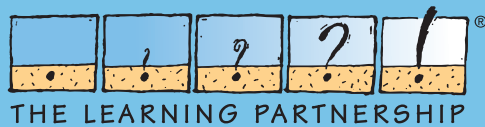
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Bottom: Isabel Bassett, President of TV Ontario

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Middle: Senator Marilyn Trenholme Counsell; Liz Sandals, MPP Ontario Guelph-Wellington, John Abbott, President, The 21st Century Learning Initiative  
Bottom: The Honourable Mary Anne Chambers, Ontario Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities and The Honourable William (Bill) Davis, former Premier of Ontario

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Top: J. Robert Pritchard, President and Chief Executive Officer, Torstar Corporation and student  
Bottom: Louis V. Gerstner Jr. and student



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