

Ontario Leadership Strategy: Fall 2009 **Next Steps in Research-Based Design and Implementation**

The Ontario Leadership Strategy (OLS) is a comprehensive plan of action designed to attract passionate and skilled people as school and system leaders and help principals/vice-principals develop into the best possible instructional leaders. It was launched by the Premier and Minister of Education in Fall 2008 and is being phased in over the next few years.

The Ministry is committed to ensuring that the design and implementation of the OLS is informed by leading-edge research that supports student achievement and well-being. To this end, the Ministry of Education is pleased to let you know that Dr. Kenneth Leithwood, Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy at the University of Toronto's Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), has been identified as the Researcher to advise on the OLS*.

Professor Leithwood will support the implementation of the OLS and help to ensure its international comparability by providing the Ministry with regular updates about current leadership research across selected jurisdictions. His work will continue to ensure that the OLS practices are evidence-based and linked with the work of leading researchers in the education sector. Dr. Leithwood will help to assess impacts of the OLS and will support refinement and strengthening of strategies as we move forward to support ongoing development of school and system leaders.

This work will be undertaken in accordance with the collaborative principles of the OLS. The strategy involves a broad spectrum of partners including school boards; associations representing principals, supervisory officers, directors of education, and trustees; the Institute for Education Leadership; teacher federations; the Ontario College of Teachers; academic experts, and the Ministry of Education, as well as other ministries and sectors. The strategy will evolve through consultations with key partners, ongoing research, and the input of our research advisor.

Kenneth Leithwood, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, has won research awards from the Canadian Education Association, the Canadian Educational Research Association, and the University Council for Educational Administration.

Dr. Leithwood was a senior author, along with Michael Fullan and Nancy Watson, of the Atkinson Foundation-sponsored study 'The Schools We Need: A New Blueprint for Ontario', published in 2003. He is also a frequently cited scholar in leading academic journals of education, such as the *Educational Administration Quarterly*.

Within Canada, he has worked on school leadership and student achievement issues with stakeholders in Ontario, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. Internationally, his consulting projects have included assignments with the Greater New Orleans School Leadership Center, the State of Connecticut, and England (as an external evaluator for the country's *National Literacy and Numeracy Strategies*).

The Ministry of Education looks forward to working with Dr. Leithwood and our education partners to foster leadership of the highest possible quality in schools and school boards across the province.

* Dr. Leithwood was identified as the research advisor for the Ontario Leadership Strategy through a competitive Request for Proposals process.