

GRADUATION NATION

Pathways
to Education

“I am living proof that this program works. Whatever barriers you have at home or school, Pathways can help you overcome them.”

Calvin Cheng, Pathways Alumnus
Pictured far right.



WHO'S GOT YOUR BACK?

Chances are, if you've been successful in life, somewhere along your path there has been a person who believed in you – someone who shared their knowledge, guided you with a key decision, helped hone your skills, or served as an inspiration for what you could achieve.

But what if no one like that existed in your life? Or in the lives of anyone you knew?

This is the reality for tens of thousands of youth in Canada's low-income neighbourhoods. Lacking sufficient financial means, support at home, positive role models, and opportunities to grow, many drop out of high school. It's a decision that costs them their education and future earning potential. Taken collectively, it costs their community by ingraining a culture of low expectations. Nationally, it costs us by reducing the employment pool and tax base, and by putting an enormous strain on public expenditures.

Thankfully, it doesn't have to be this way.

Pathways to Education is helping to make Canada the Graduation Nation with a program proven to lower dropout rates. Our \$170 million initiative – \$70 million of which will come from private donations – will bring our program to more sites, more provinces, and more students. We'll leverage our knowledge, expertise, and partnerships to make high school graduation a national priority and reality.

We've seen what happens when we challenge youth to succeed: they rise to the occasion. Now we hope that you will too. Your support will ground our kids in the knowledge that we believe in them. Invest in their dreams. Unlock their potential. And you will transform an entire nation through the power of education.





**THE
PROBLEM
IS BIG
AND IT
IS REAL.**

WHERE YOU LIVE SHOULDN'T DETERMINE YOUR SUCCESS IN SCHOOL

But in many cases, it does. Youth from low-income families are far more likely to drop out of high school.

IN MANY COMMUNITIES
ACROSS THE COUNTRY,
THE HIGH SCHOOL
DROPOUT RATE
SOARS AS HIGH
AS 50, 60, AND EVEN

70%

CANADA'S AVERAGE PROVINCIAL
HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT RATES,
RANGE BETWEEN 20-30%.
IN OUR MOST AFFLUENT
COMMUNITIES DROPOUT
RATES ARE AS LOW AS

10%

THIS 'ACHIEVEMENT GAP' COSTS US ALL

Research confirms that high school dropouts are twice as likely to be unemployed, tend to commit more crime, have higher incidence of illness and drug use, and tend to rely more on social assistance.

\$307 BILLION

the estimated collective lifetime loss of earning potential of high school dropouts in Canada

\$623 BILLION

the estimated collective costs of health care over a lifetime for high school dropouts in Canada

"We should ask ourselves why, in a country as prosperous as Canada, we have such outrageous high school dropout rates in so many communities. Pathways has shown that by tackling this problem head-on, we can reduce poverty and create an expectation of success."

Carolyn Acker, Founder, Pathways to Education

“IT’S A PROGRAM THAT HELPS KIDS SEE GREAT THINGS...IN THEMSELVES.”

Jason Creed, Student Parent Support Worker, Pathways Regent Park



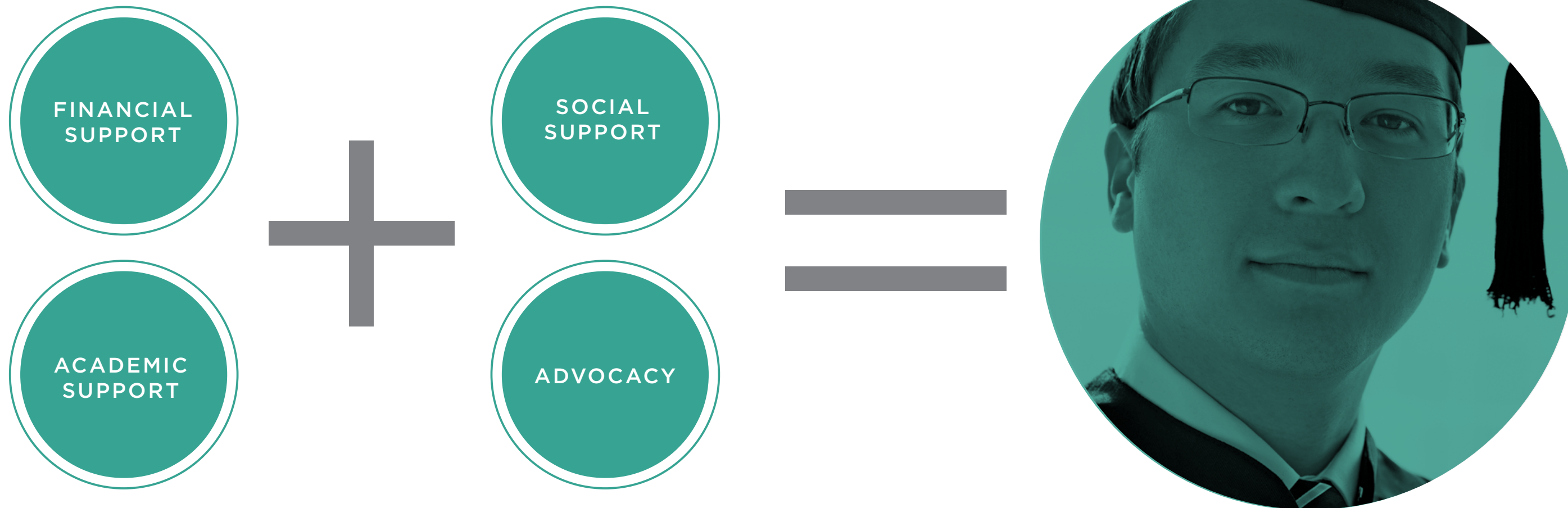
Working alongside the school system, the Pathways to Education program makes a multi-year commitment to youth and their families. Through a force of volunteers, the program delivers after-school tutoring, mentoring, and financial assistance to overcome the barriers that can stand in the way of education.

Each student is partnered with a support worker – part counsellor, advocate, confidante, social worker, and mediator – who motivates and guides students and their families, brings insight that can’t be found on report cards, and holds students accountable to the contract they sign in order to participate in the program.

*“Prior to Pathways, kids in my community were doing what people expected us to do – join a gang, sell drugs or have kids of our own. We quit school because we told ourselves ‘we can’t get help with homework at home... we don’t have money to get to school...no one in my family has gone to university.’ **Then Pathways stepped in. They were coming up with solutions faster than any of us could come up with excuses.** There was no choice except to do what no one expected – believe in ourselves, believe in our abilities, and believe that, with hard work, our dream to become whatever we choose can come true.”*

Humayan Khan, Pathways graduate, 2006,
Ted Rogers School of Business graduate, 2010

HOW IT ADDS UP.



“The Pathways program gives kids from low-income communities access to the supports and opportunities that build confidence and hope, and that ultimately change the course of their lives.”

Jim Meekison, Board Member and Donor, Pathways to Education



IT'S AN IDEA WITH PROVEN IMPACT.

2X

High school graduation rates among participants in our program have more than doubled.

↑

300%

In our first neighbourhood, Toronto's Regent Park, dropout rates have declined by more than 70% and the rate of students going on to college or university has increased by 300%. Students in successive generations of sites are on track to meet or exceed this performance.

\$

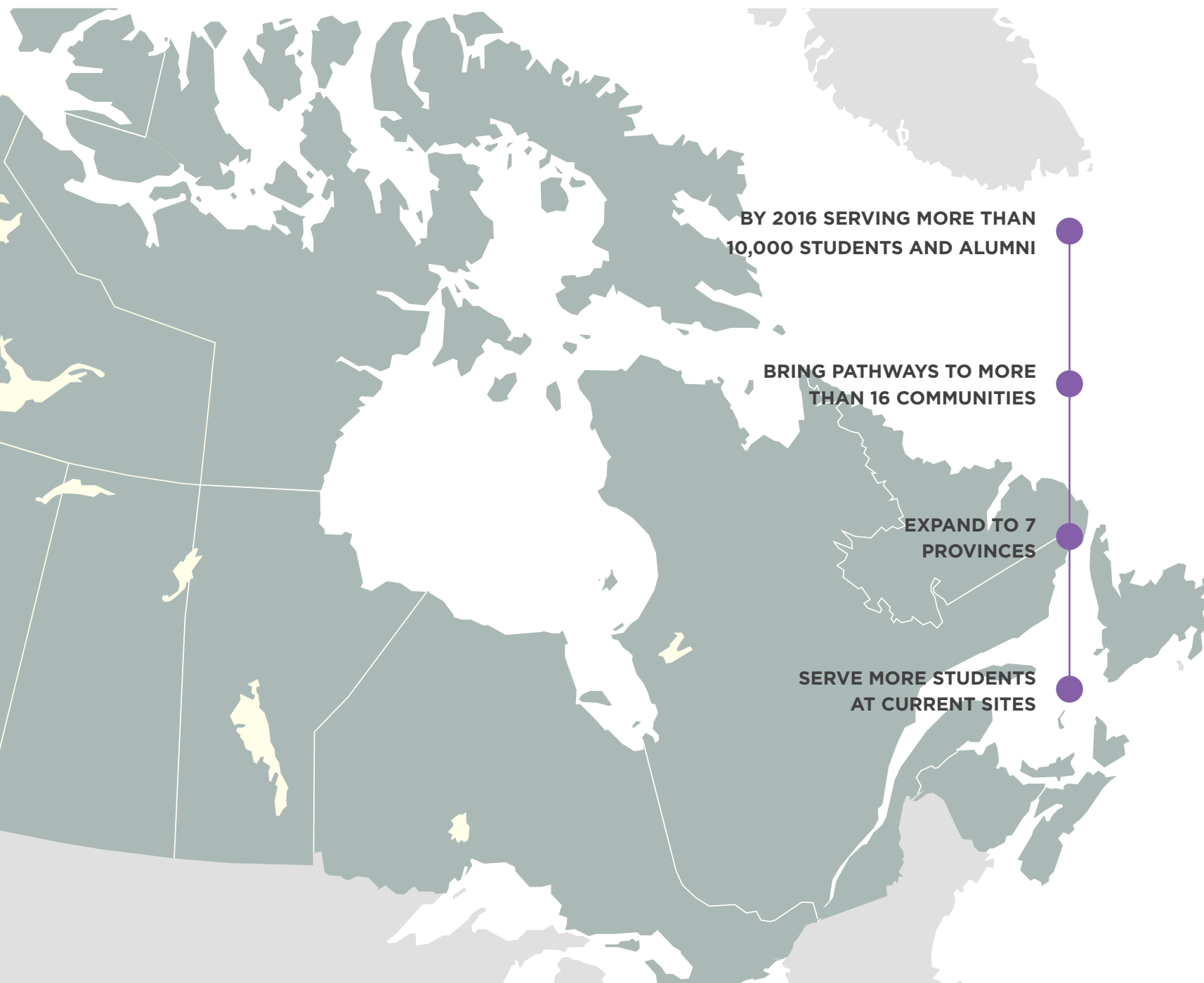
1=24

A Boston Consulting Group study found that every \$1 invested in Pathways generates a \$24 return to society by ensuring youth have the education that decreases social costs and increases our tax base. A Pathways graduate generates a cumulative lifetime benefit to society of \$600,000.

“Pathways is getting results. This program succeeds where others have failed, because it engages the community. It was created by individuals with a vision.”

Prime Minister Stephen Harper, at a press conference announcing \$20 million in government funding for Pathways to Education, March 3, 2011

BUILDING A GRADUATION NATION.



“An investment in Pathways is an investment in a more prosperous and humane Canada.”

Sam Duboc, Chair and donor, Pathways to Education

We’ve got an idea that’s bold and a solution that works. But pulling it all together will take your help.

Our \$170 million initiative to help make Canada the Graduation Nation is a five-year plan aimed at closing the achievement gap in Canada’s low-income communities and making high school completion a national priority.

Our efforts will bring Pathways to more than 16 sites in at least 7 provinces, serving more students in the places where we’re already a success. By 2016, more than 10,000 students and alumni will springboard to a better future.

Your generosity will support this growth and provide financial assistance for students in high school, create scholarships toward university or college tuition, and help us put into place the crucial staff who bridge each student with home, school, and community.

We will also ensure that we maintain our outstanding results as we expand. Training for front-line staff, upgrades to performance management systems, development of online data collection and analysis tools, and enhanced program elements will underpin excellence in all that we do.

Leveraging 10 years of on-the-ground expertise, Pathways will assist organizations in communities we can’t serve

directly to instigate similar change in their neighbourhoods. An expanded focus on research, knowledge transfer, policy development, and strategic partnerships will help us mobilize broader populations to take action on an issue that threatens to derail Canada’s future.

“The business community must take the necessary steps to help combat high school dropout rates and ensure the next generation is properly prepared to run our businesses. Our support will help Pathways reach more Quebec students and help ensure a promising future for our province.”

Jacynthe Côté, Chief Executive Officer, Rio Tinto Alcan, which has contributed \$13.2 million to establish three new Pathways sites in Quebec.

“We have an opportunity to transform the future for generations of Canadians and set our nation apart on the global stage. Join our bold vision to ensure that all of our youth have the best chance possible to fulfill their potential.”

David Hughes, President and CEO, Pathways to Education Canada



“PATHWAYS WAS A FRIEND WHO HELD ME ACCOUNTABLE.”

Shequita Thompson recalls a time before Pathways, when all she had ever experienced was home and school. Born in Guyana, Shequita credits Pathways for helping her integrate into her new community and for providing opportunities she never would have accessed. Through its Steps to Education program, she completed a first year Sociology course at the University of Toronto, while in grade 11. Pathways also introduced her to a debating group at the University, where she learned that she loved to argue. “Law became my focus,” she says, “but procrastination was my biggest downfall.” Through Pathways, she completed a time management workshop and, with the help of her Student Parent Support Worker, she learned to overcome moments of doubt and stick to a practical plan to achieve her goals. “My success was not only important to me, it was important to Pathways,” she explains. “Their trust in me made a huge difference in my life.” Poised to graduate with an Honours BA in Women’s Studies and Sociology, Shequita plans to enter law school to become a child and youth advocate. “Pathways is now a rite of passage in my community,” says Shequita. “It has brought us all together around a unified goal and instilled in each of us the desire to give back.”

“PATHWAYS HELPED ME GET MY ACT TOGETHER.”

“When I started Pathways, I was only doing the bare minimum in tutoring and mentoring,” admits Calvin Cheng. “Both of my parents worked for minimum wage, so the financial support was really key.” The turning point came in grade 10 when Calvin decided he wanted to become a paramedic. “My guidance counsellor at school told me I didn’t have the marks needed and suggested I should drop down from the academic stream I was in.” Determined to succeed, Calvin started attending tutoring more often and developed a great connection with a tutor who consistently helped him with chemistry and math and who listened to his stories about his challenges at school. “Though my marks got better, they still weren’t good enough,” he notes. After an extra year of high school and several resume-building experiences arranged through Pathways, Calvin achieved his ambition. “They never gave up on me,” he adds. “They found me a joint degree program in Paramedicine offered by the University of Toronto and Centennial College that I never heard of, and they helped me apply for a scholarship that is covering my full tuition.” Now finishing his third year, Calvin says, “I’m living proof that this program works. Whatever barriers you have at home or school, Pathways can help you overcome them.”



“PATHWAYS SHOWED ME THAT THERE IS A WHOLE WORLD OUT THERE WHERE I COULD MOVE UP THE LADDER.”

Having moved to Canada at the age of 15, after the death of her mother in Zimbabwe, Nothabo Ncube never imagined that one day, she’d be accepted to medical school. With a father who worked many long hours to support his family, Nothabo credits Pathways for the tutoring support, which helped her to complete her homework, and the financial support which made her undergraduate studies possible. Nothabo is “forever grateful” for the internship opportunities Pathways arranged, in the cardiovascular unit at St. Michael’s Hospital, and as a research assistant in her local Community Health Centre, both of which confirmed her desire to enter family medicine. Now a tutor for current students in the Pathways program, Nothabo is happiest when her students come back to tell her they got a perfect score on an assignment she helped them with. “Pathways has touched all aspects of my life,” she says. “They helped me find myself as a person and pushed me to succeed. The program taught me that if I worked hard, I could go out in the world with the skills and attitude needed to be a shining star.”



WHAT ROLE WILL YOU PLAY IN MAKING CANADA A GRADUATION NATION?

With your help, we can break convention and make Canada a nation in which all youth have an equal opportunity to graduate from high school and build the foundation for their future success.

Our knowledge and proven results tell us that we're on the right track. We've witnessed the passion that our students bring to learning and that our volunteers bring when acting as mentors and role models. We've confirmed the commitment of government partners, corporate donors, new local service delivery agencies, and provincial school boards. Now we need you to do your part.

Help us tap the inherent potential that lies dormant in far too many people in our society. With your support, we can translate their dreams into achievement. Our youth and our country will be stronger for your investment.

JOIN US IN BUILDING A GRADUATION NATION