

Ouality Council

Ontario

## HEQCO: Driving Fundamental Change in Higher Education

Canadian Society for the Study of Higher Education

University of Calgary May 31, 2016

Harvey P. Weingarten President & CEO, HEQCO

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## ONTARIO A LEADER IN LEARNING





The Honourable Bob Rae Advisor to the Premier and the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities

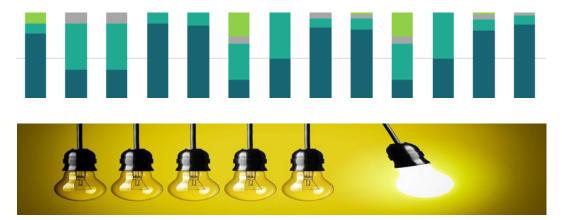


"Establish a Council on Higher Education...to: advise government on how to achieve its learning mission, set targets and measures for improvement, monitor and report on performance and outcomes, co-ordinate research on higher education, and encourage best practices."



**Recommendation 6** 

## **Evidence-based Policy Advice**



Conducting research: experiments, interventions, consortia; international best practice

Engaging leading research and policy organizations



Convening expertise on key issues



Mobilizing knowledge with relevant audiences

## **HEQCO's Key Questions**

### Access

How can we improve access to higher education for groups that are underrepresented?

### Quality

Are Ontario students graduating with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in life and work?

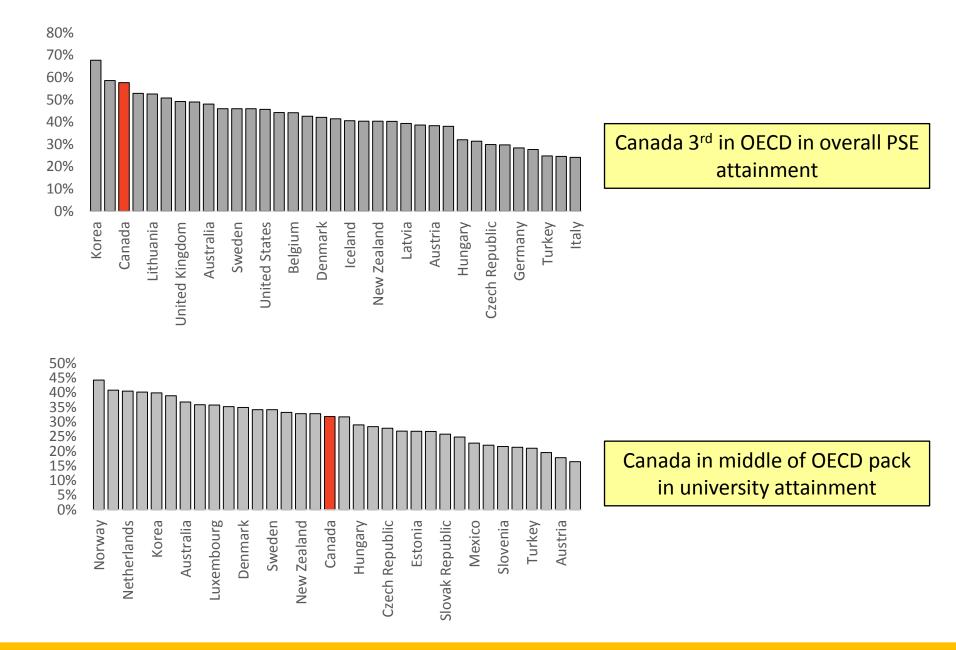
### Accountability/ System design

How can Ontario provide a high-quality postsecondary education in a period of continued growth and diminishing resources?

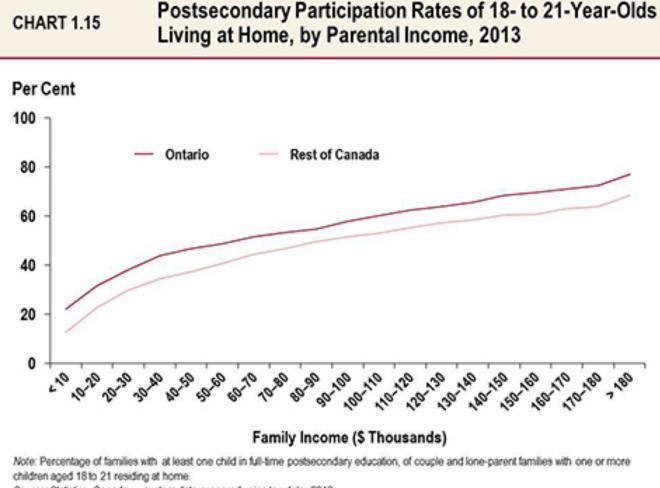








## Not all groups in society participate equally



Source: Statistics Canada - custom data prepared using tax data, 2013.



## Quality



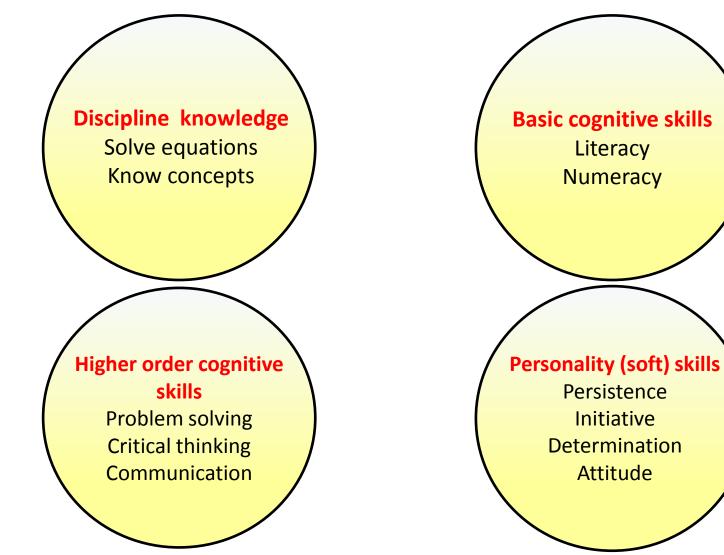
Greater focus on quality Are students learning what they need to succeed in life and work?

> Define what graduates should know and be able to do.

Measure whether the desired knowledge and capacities have been acquired.



### **Classes of skills**





The quality of the university experience is diminishing

## "The current system is not sustainable if quality is to be preserved or enhanced."

Expert Panel Report on the Strategic Mandate Agreement Submissions, 2013.



## It's all about the job





Does postsecondary education adequately prepare students for work?

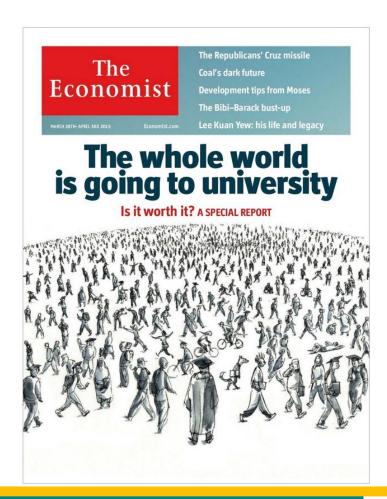
- 72% of educators say yes.
- 45% of graduates say yes.
- 42% of employers say yes.
- 96% of chief academic officers say university does a good job of preparing students for the work force.
- Only 11% of business leaders agree.

M. Mourshed. Education to employment: designing a system that works. McKinsey & Co., 2012.

2014 Survey of Chief Academic Officers & 2013 Gallup Poll.



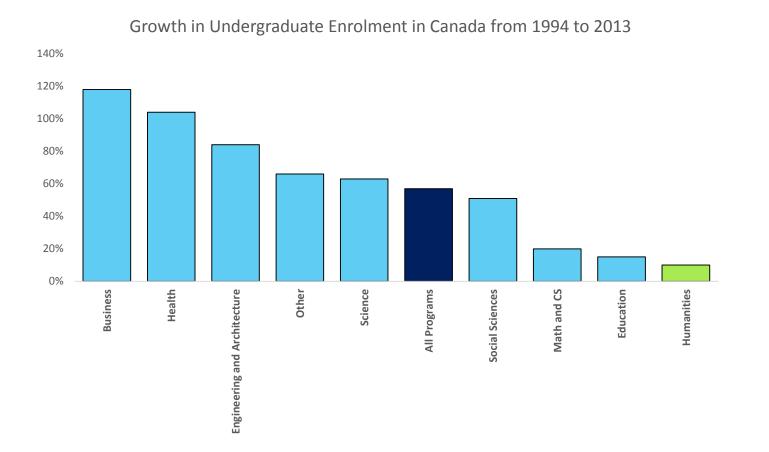
## People are questioning the value of university education



When *The Economist* worries whether university is worth it, you know others are asking the same question.



## Enrolments in professional programs are growing faster than in the liberal arts





Source: Statistics Canada, Postsecondary Student Information System (PSIS) 15

## Arts & humanities enrolments are dropping

Arts applications in Ontario: 2013-2015

Humanities enrolments in USA from 2012-2014

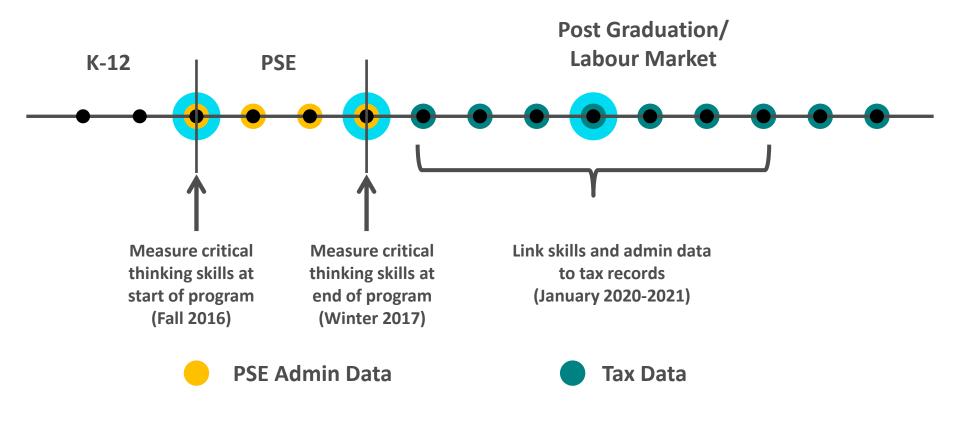
Enrolment changes in Maritime universities last 10 yrs



Architecture & engineering	+29%
Business	+10%
Health	+21%
Humanities	-31%
Physical & life sciences	+6%
Social & behavioural sciences	-6%

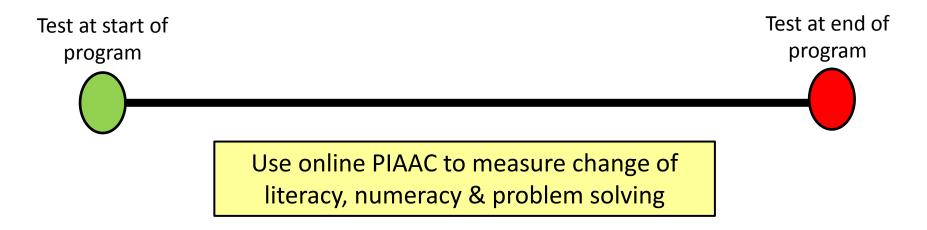


### Do skills developed in PSE predict labour market success? Postsecondary and Workplace Skills Project





## **Essential Adult Skills Inventory**



**15 colleges**: Humber, Seneca, Sheridan, Algonquin, Fanshawe, Centennial, Conestoga, Georgian, St. Lawrence, Fleming, Sault, George Brown [ON]; Holland [PEI]; SAIT, Columbia [AB]

**6 universities:** Ryerson, Laurier, York, Ottawa, Queen's, McMaster [ON]; Quest [BC]



## "Changing a college curriculum is like moving a graveyard--you never know how many friends the dead have until you try to move them!"

Woodrow Wilson, President, Princeton University

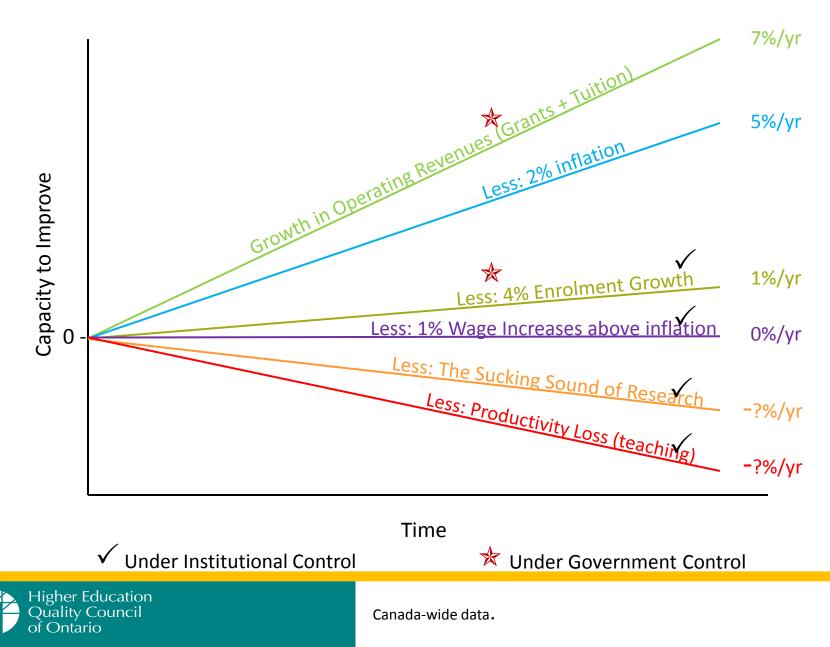




## Accountability/System Design



## The Canadian Funding Bind

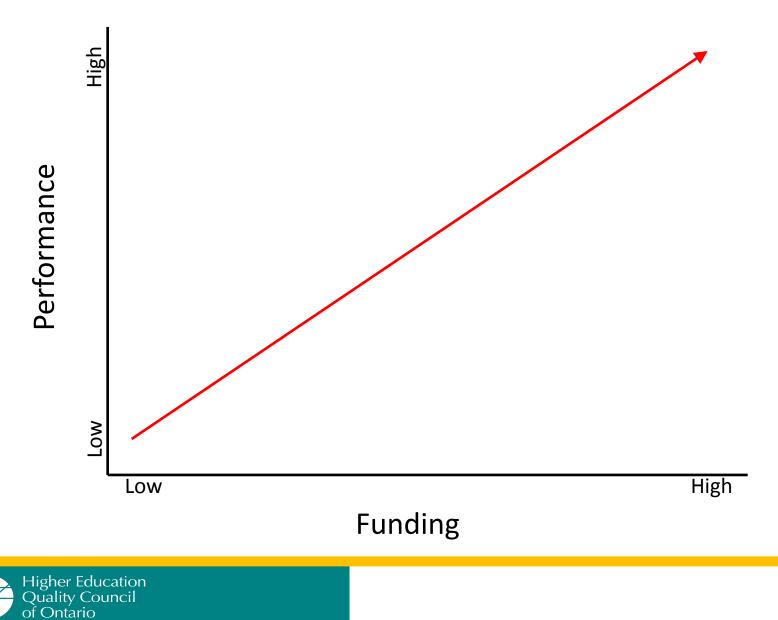


## **Teaching Productivity Losses**

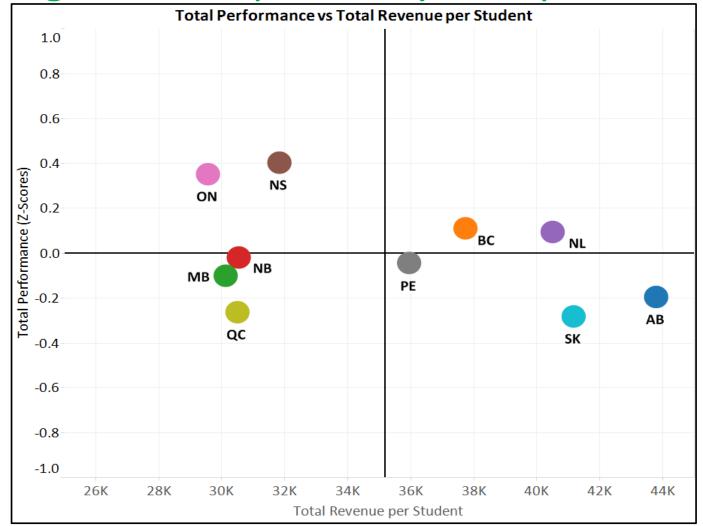
- Reduced teaching loads (3.6 half courses/year).
- 21% faculty get teaching release for administrative purposes.
- 13% of full professors do not teach undergraduates.
- 13% faculty do no research.
- Faculty who do no research teach less than one additional half course relative to research active faculty.
- 19% of faculty do no service work.



## This is what governments are told



## This is what governments know Funding does not predict system performance



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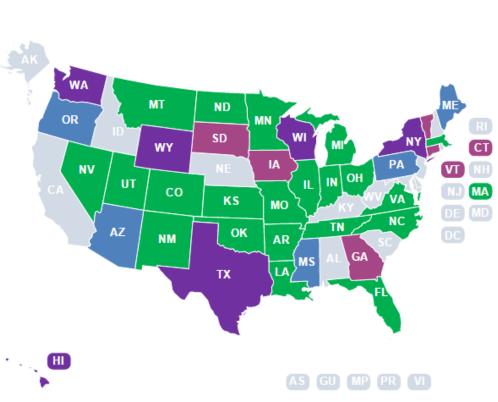
Go to postsecondaryperformance.ca for customized analyses

## Governments want performance-based funding

In place at two-year In place at four-year In place at two-year In transition institutions institutions institutions institutions

"Outcomes-based funding...will not resolve a state's budget problems, but it is an effective tool for clarifying what a state expects from its public postsecondary institutions".

http://publications.sreb.org/2012/Outcomes\_Based\_Funding.pdf



## Governments want more measurement and reporting

"Not everything that counts can be measured. Not everything that can be measured counts."

"What gets measured gets done."



Albert Einstein



Peter Drucker



## Governments want more productivity



Teaching Loads and Research Outputs of Ontario University Faculty Members: Implications for Productivity and Differentiation

Linda Jonker and Martin Hicks Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario (HEQCO) March 11, 2014



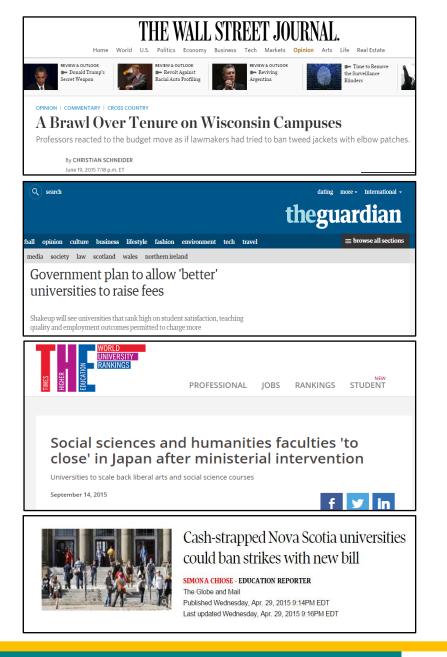
Two areas for productivity increases

- 1. System redesign
- 2. Faculty workload distribution





Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario





Tennessee's outcomes-based college funding model already "changing the way our postsecondary institutions do business," says Haslam

By Richard Locker on Sunday, November 11th, 2012 at 4:00 a.m.

### dailytarheel.com

### Proposal would require UNC professors to teach eight courses a year

HALLIE DEAN | PUBLISHED 03/31/15 12:40AM

### Faculty teaching loads vary across UNC system

At research universities like UNC and N.C. State, faculty often teach fewer courses due to research obligations. Across the UNC system, faculty members teach an average of 3.7 sections each.

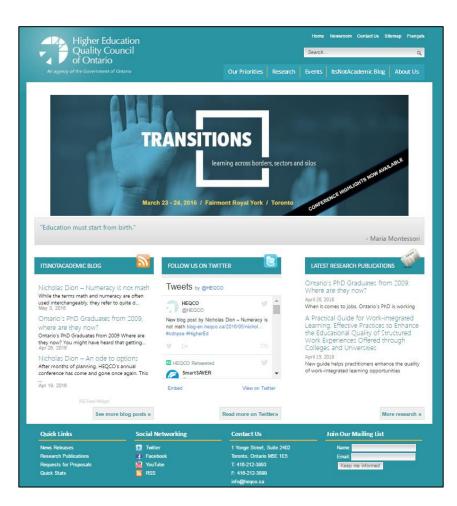


# The Only Person that Likes Change is a Baby with a Dirty Diaper

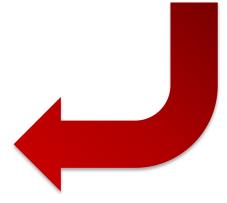




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## **HEQCO Projects Assessing Learning Outcomes**

- Learning Outcomes Assessment Consortium.

   — Critical thinking
- Learning Outcomes Assessment Survey.
- Measurement of resilience.
- Postsecondary and Workplace Skills Project (PAWS).
  - Critical thinking, linked to tax files
- Essential Adult Skills Inventory (EASI).
  - Literacy, numeracy, problem solving acquisition over postsecondary programs



# Strategies being used to meet the challenge

- 1. Governments manage a system, not institutions.
- 2. Clear & transparent accountability and monitoring mechanisms.
- 3. Focus on outcomes, not inputs.
- 4. Greater system differentiation.

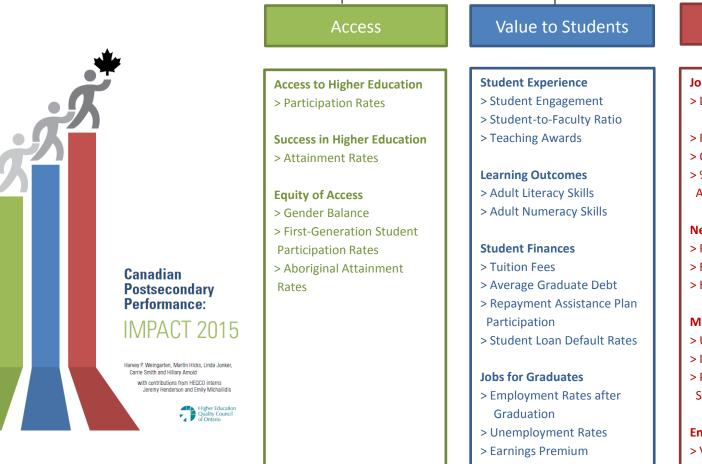


## The government challenge

How to deliver a higher quality education to more students with no more, or even less, money per student?



### **Canadian Postsecondary Performance Index**



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### **Health and Happiness**

- > Life Satisfaction> Physical Health
- > Mental Health
- > Smoking Status

### **Job Creation**

- > Labour Market Participation
- > Related Employment

Value to Society

- > Overqualification Rates
- > % of Population with an Advanced Degree

#### **New Discoveries**

- > Research Funding
- > Research Impact
- > Highly Cited Researchers

### **Magnet for Talent**

- > University Rankings
- > International Enrolment
- > Prestigious Graduate
- Scholarships

#### **Engaged Citizens**

- > Voting
- > Volunteering
- > Donating

## Institutional differentiation



A Report from the Expert Panel to Assess the Strategic Mandate Agreement Submissions

Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario (HEQCO) April 4, 2013





Greater institutional differentiation...maximizes the quality of the overall system by enabling each institution to make an optimal and distinctive contribution to the province's higher education system as a whole."