



## **In Conversation**

*In Conversation* is a series of papers developed to support school leaders across Ontario. The papers contain thought-provoking and stimulating ideas on the strategic and topical issues that matter most to Ontario's principals and vice-principals. We sincerely hope that they provide a powerful springboard for the deep professional dialogue and learning that we need – both as individuals and as a community of leaders – to move the system forward and achieve our goals.

Leadership is a complex and demanding task. And we have set the bar high in Ontario. Reaching our three key goals – improving student achievement, closing the achievement gaps and building public confidence – will require the very best each of us has to offer.

At the same time, we have the opportunity to leave a legacy, and to effect profound change for the students, parents, communities and the society we serve. While every member of the educational community has an important role to play, school leaders have a uniquely powerful opportunity as high-leverage influencers, champions and supporters of improvement, change and excellence.

Working within a culture of inquiry will be key to realizing the full potential of the principalship. None of us – whether we're principals or deputy ministers – can do it alone. Nor can we afford to simply accept what's written on the page. We need to continually question the status quo, deepen our understanding and share our insights with staff, colleagues and the broad leadership community which we are a part of.

Leadership is a growing, living and evolving thing. We are confident that these papers will open a collegial dialogue. One in which your insights and challenging questions will build understanding as we raise the bar and close the achievement gap. Engage in these ideas, examine them, challenge them and share them with colleagues. Then **share your comments with us** – we look forward to hearing them.

Engaging school leaders means that we all benefit from your insights and capabilities. Together we can create the finest education system in the world.