

# Introduction

## Background

The *Employment Profile* of Ontario college graduates summarizes the employment experiences of 2002–2003 graduates approximately six months after their graduation.

The Profile contains data gathered through the Key Performance Indicator (KPI) initiative, an innovative partnership between the ministry and the college sector. Graduates and their employers provide valuable feedback to colleges about their programs and services, and colleges are able to clearly demonstrate their achievements in responding to clients' needs. The satisfaction of graduates and employers with college programs is included in this report.

## Scope

This report covers graduates of ministry-approved postsecondary certificate and diploma programs, who graduated in either August 2002, December 2002, or April 2003 from Ontario's colleges of applied arts and technology. A complete list of colleges can be found in the Ontario Colleges section detailing the Career Centres (page 9).

The employers' names were provided by graduates who consented to their employers being interviewed.

Graduates were interviewed about their college programs and their experiences since leaving the college. Employers were asked their opinions on the graduates' overall college preparation for the workplace jobs being performed by the graduates.

## Methodology

The data published in this report are based on a census survey of graduates conducted six months after graduation. The survey of graduates' employers was conducted shortly after the completion of each graduate survey. An attempt was made to contact every graduate and employer. The overall response rate for graduates was 74 per cent, and 75 per cent for employers where consent to interview was given by the graduate.

The information was collected under the authority of the *Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities Act*, and is used by the colleges for statistical purposes, and by the ministry to produce this annual employment profile of graduates.