



Knowledge Matters

Skills and Learning for Canadians

Canada's Innovation Strategy

Selected Excerpts

A Call to Action

“Knowledge Matters: Skills and Learning for Canadians is intended to act as a catalyst for discussion on skills and learning. It invites all Canadians to work together to develop a common understanding of the challenges we face, articulate a shared vision of where we want to go, and create a plan of action to get us there...”

“Countries that succeed in the 21st century will be those with citizens who are creative, adaptable and skilled. Our people - their skills, talents, knowledge and creativity - are the key to our future success ...”

“Knowledge Matters; Skills and Learning for Canadians, outlines the skills and learning challenges that Canada faces, proposes national goals and milestones, sets out the Government of Canada's commitments, and challenges us to find a common vision of where we want to go and to develop an action plan that includes us all...”

Why Skills? And Why Now?

“Three key imperatives are driving us to take action:

First, the knowledge-based economy means an ever-increasing demand for a well-educated and skilled workforce in all parts of the economy and in all parts of the country....

Second, there is a looming demographic crunch that means our future labour supply will be inadequate to meet the demands of the economy...

Third, our learning system must be strengthened if we are to meet the skills and labour force demands of the next decades...”

“By 2004, more than 70 percent of all new jobs

created in Canada will require some form of post-secondary education and only 6 percent of new jobs will be held by those who have not finished high school...”

“Canada has strong primary and secondary education systems. Today's generation of young Canadians is the best educated in our history. Yet one in eight young Canadians does not complete high school, and one in four graduates lacks the literacy skills necessary to participate in the knowledge-based economy...”

“Making sure that Canadians have the skills and knowledge required for today's economy and society is a national challenge. The Government of Canada, provincial and territorial governments, business, labour, the voluntary sector, educational institutions, and others all have roles to play. And, ultimately, individuals are responsible for their own learning and development...”

“We need a Canada-wide skills and learning agenda so that:

- our existing workforce has ongoing opportunities to upgrade its skills and acquire new ones.
- our learning system can develop a world-class labour force to meet Canada's current and future skills needs; and
- our supply of skilled workers continues to grow.

The Government of Canada is calling for a renewed effort by all sectors of Canadian society to ensure we meet our skills and learning requirements for the 21st century...”

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Apprentices

“We need to have a serious examination of how to improve apprenticeship programs. There is a shortage of tradespeople in Canada, and it will worsen in the next few years. Canada is not prepared to deal with this issue under our current apprenticeship programming.”(The Conference Board of Canada, Performance and Potential 2000-2001)

How the Government of Canada Could Contribute...

“*Encourage Canadians to Look to Skilled Trades for Employment.* The Government of Canada will discuss with partners possible means of encouraging more Canadians to consider working in the skilled trades...”

“For Canadians to have the skills they need to participate fully in society, and to secure Canada's position as a leader in the world economy further action is required by all. We need a Canada-wide skills and learning agenda so that: ...our learning system can develop a world-class labour force to meet Canada's current and future skills needs...”

How the Government of Canada Could Contribute...

“Help young Canadians make a successful transition from school to work.

The Government of Canada will examine ways to improve its Youth Employment Strategy to make it more responsive to changing, labour, market conditions, better assist youth facing particular labour market barriers, and help youth develop their skills to make successful school-to-work transitions...”

We Can and Must Do More Together

“The January 2001 Speech from the Throne recognized that no one government or organization can build a skilled workforce on its own. It must be a national effort. The Government of Canada made a commitment to work with provinces, territories and other partners to ensure that all Canadians can achieve their skills and learning goals...”

Meeting these challenges is not about a short-term "fix" or a series of one-time initiatives. It is about a commitment to action by Canadians and their governments, beginning now and continuing over the medium and long term, to build together the future we all want, for ourselves and for our children...”

“Canada is already facing structural skills shortages in a range of occupations, such as nursing, engineering and management. The Canadian Federation of Independent Business reported in late 2000 that up to 300,000 jobs were vacant because of a lack of suitable skilled workers...Canada needs to take action now to make sure we have the supply of skilled labour we will need in the future... challenges need to be addressed at every level of our learning system to ensure Canadians can realize their aspirations and succeed as well-educated, highly-skilled individuals...”

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the full report at:***

<http://jeunesse.gc.ca/>

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