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Institutions Should Work More Closely With Business
to Produce Highly-Skilled People Needed to Sustain and
Improve Canada's Economy**

*Nine in ten (91%) Say Practical Training More Important in Getting Laid
Off Workers Back on the Job than Theoretical Education*

Public Release Date: Thursday, January 22, 2008, 12:00pm EST



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Toronto, ON – As the federal government continues its consultations on the budget, a majority (54%) of Canadians ‘strongly agree’ (95% total) that ‘educational institutions need to work more closely with business to produce the highly-skilled people needed to sustain and improve Canada’s economy’. Furthermore, most (91%) ‘agree’ (44% strongly/47% somewhat) that ‘practical skills training is more important in getting laid-off workers back on the job than theoretical education’.

The poll, conducted on behalf of Polytechnics Canada, also revealed that nine in ten (86%) ‘agree’ (28% strongly/58% somewhat) that ‘small businesses in Canada need increased public investment in research and development to meet current economic challenges’.

Moreover, two in three (66%) ‘agree’ (20% strongly/47% somewhat) that ‘Canada is falling behind other countries when it comes to competitiveness and innovation’, and most (86%) ‘agree’ (32% strongly/53% somewhat) ‘the government needs to invest more money on applied research in order to be competitive internationally’ in order to fix this problem.



Similarly, nine in ten (90%) 'agree' (43% strongly/48% somewhat) that 'the government needs to do more to equip people with the technical and technological skills needed to succeed in today's global marketplace', and that we 'need to do more to take advantage of scientific and technological discoveries' (93% agree, 42% strongly/51% somewhat).

Generally speaking, most 'agree' (41% strongly/51% somewhat) that 'Canada needs more entrepreneurs, innovators, and inventors who can transform knowledge into marketable products and processes' and that 'training and educating people is as important, or more important, as building infrastructure' (94% total, 47% strongly/47% somewhat).

These are the findings of a poll conducted on behalf of Polytechnics Canada from January 12 to 19, 2009. This online survey of 1043 Canadian adults was conducted via the Ipsos I-Say Online Panel, Ipsos Reid's national online panel. The results of these polls are based on a sample where quota sampling and weighting are employed to balance demographics and ensure that the sample's composition reflects that of the actual Canadian population according to Census data. Quota samples with weighting from the Ipsos online panel provide results that are intended to approximate a probability sample. Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online polls, however, an unweighted probability sample of this size, with a 100% response rate, would have an estimated margin of error of +/- 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, had the entire adult population of Canada been polled.

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- 3 -

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