



Association of Canadian Community Colleges

Canada's Colleges and Institutes and the Conservative Party Platform



February 2006

THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY PLATFORM SAYS:	COLLEGES AND INSTITUTES ARE:
<p>STAND UP FOR OPPORTUNITY</p> <p>BUILDING OPPORTUNITY IN TRADES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ skilled trades are crucial for Canada's economic future but companies can't find enough skilled workers. ▶ Canada has a shortage of 20,000 skilled tradespeople, which is expected to rise to 50,000 by 2010. ▶ many young Canadians find themselves stuck in low-paying work and are either not encouraged to consider the trades or unable to do so because of financial barriers. ▶ Canada needs a made-in-Canada plan to open doors for young people and end the unfair tax treatment of tradespeople. <p>The plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ implement a \$1,000 Apprenticeship Incentive Grant to help new apprentices cover the high costs of tools, boots and accessories. ▶ implement a Tools Tax Deduction of up to \$500 for existing tradespeople. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ the largest suppliers of post-secondary and adult education and training. With 1.5 million full- and part-time students and with campuses and learning centres in over 900 communities, they provide learning opportunities in all regions of Canada. ✓ the prime delivery agents for the in-school component of apprenticeship and thus work closely with the provincial/territorial apprenticeship boards for the delivery of both pre-trades and apprenticeship programs. ✓ offering a large variety of skills development models to meet the demands of employers and the workforce. Large-, small- and medium-sized enterprises recognize their local college or institute as a provider of high-quality training. ✓ involved in leading partnerships with labour unions, government departments, municipalities, business and industry to develop and deliver customized training solutions. Among the many advantages of these programs are the flexibility they offer employers and employees, their link to practice, the immediate transfer to the workplace, recognition of learning and cost effectiveness. ✓ delivering programs which respond to current economic, skills and learning requirements. At the core of a college/institute are business/industry linkages and employability skills training which are the economic basics required for Canada's prosperity.

<p>THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY PLATFORM SAYS:</p>	<p>STAND UP FOR OPPORTUNITY</p> <p>INVESTING IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ increased promotion of basic and applied research, especially in science and technology, is an essential component of Canada's future economic well being. ▶ it is unacceptable that Canada's expenditure on research and development, at 1.9 percent of GDP, is below all other G-8 countries and well below the OECD average of 2.3 percent. <p>The plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ invest an additional \$500 million over the next five years supporting university-based research through the national granting councils, including the indirect costs of research.
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<p>COLLEGES AND INSTITUTES ARE:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ the primary post-secondary institutions directly advancing technology transfer and diffusion. Colleges and institutes provide the skills, the incubating environment, and the knowledge to generate and bring ideas to fruition. ✓ are in the business of filling gaps in knowledge and the application of skills and technology, and providing solutions. Inherently applied, college and institute applied research, development and technology diffusion focus on market needs or market pull, technology transfer, new processes and prototypes, all with sound applications to economic development. ✓ developing prototypes, testing and analysing products and processes, developing marketing strategies, developing and incubating new businesses and providing industry access to expert staff, new technologies and equipment. ✓ key players in a new NSERC pilot program - the College and Community Innovation Pilot Program - which aims to increase the capacity of colleges and institutes to support innovation at the community and/or regional level to spur innovation and economic growth. ✓ important players in the innovation agenda and will continue to advocate through ACCC, their national organization, for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) recognition of colleges' and institutes' role in research, in particular their pivotal role in the application and commercialization of new knowledge; b) creation of a Research Development and Commercialization Support Fund dedicated for colleges and institutes and their partners, and; c) targeted funding for colleges and institutes to support their research and development activities with federal granting councils.
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<p>THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY PLATFORM SAYS:</p>	<p>STAND UP FOR OPPORTUNITY</p> <p>PROMOTING CANADA'S REGIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ we must encourage economic development in all regions of Canada and create job opportunities for all Canadians, regardless of where they live. ▶ regional development policies are an important part of any comprehensive strategy to assist the regions of Canada to meet the opportunities of the new global economy, and a Conservative government will make them more effective. <p>The plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ support regional development agencies, like ACOA, WED, FEDNOR, and CED-Q, and maintain their current funding levels. ▶ develop together with Northerners, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, a northern vision to guide economic, social and environmental progress in the region.
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<p>COLLEGES AND INSTITUTES ARE:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ catalyst for increasing economic and educational opportunities in their communities and act as partners or agents for local innovative community development. ✓ are anchors to local community innovation by complementing the economic and environmental assets for communities to develop local strategies. ✓ accessible, flexible and responsive and use mechanisms such as Industry Program Advisory Committees to determine and forecast skills needs based on local and national labour market trends and industry demands. They help to ensure that local employers have the talent pool they require and that the community can adapt to changing economic demands. ✓ are well-positioned to increase Aboriginal peoples' access to post-secondary education given their extensive reach in urban, rural and remote communities and their collaborative relationships with Aboriginal communities and organizations. ✓ developing pilot rural knowledge cluster models to address community capacity-building needs within rural communities or regions. ✓ working in collaboration with their regional development agencies to ensure that together they respond to the human resources challenges that the regions face as they move towards a more innovative economy. ✓ often the only post-secondary presence in many Canadian communities.
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<p>THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY PLATFORM SAYS:</p>	<p>STAND UP FOR OPPORTUNITY</p> <p>SUPPORTING CANADA'S TRADITIONAL INDUSTRIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ it is time for a government that focus on the needs of communities that depend on farming, lumber, mining, and fishing - sectors vital to ensuring Canadian prosperity. ▶ it will stand up for workers in traditional industries - agriculture, forestry, mining and fisheries. <p>The plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ commit to adding an additional \$500 million to farm support programs. ▶ will support displaced forestry workers. ▶ invest more in fisheries science and research.
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<p>COLLEGES AND INSTITUTES ARE:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ key educators and trainers of farmers, workers and agri-business entrepreneurs, seasonal workers, fishers, miners and forestry workers. ✓ active participants in National Sector Councils and Affinity Groups to address significant skills gaps in various sectors including farming, forestry, petroleum, mining and the fisheries sector. ✓ working with ACCC, their national organization, in collaboration with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) to promote the role of agriculture-based colleges and institutes in delivering "Agriculture Policy Framework Related Skills" providing beginner farmers with the necessary skills, knowledge, tools and risk management opportunities to be successful farm operators. ✓ developing applied research and technology transfer technologies which will lead to improved sustainability of global fish resources. ✓ working with the Rural Secretariat to design and implement rural knowledge clusters models. These models contribute to rural community capacity building and rural development by supporting community and regional economic diversification initiatives through knowledge transfer, skills upgrading and applied research and commercialization support in three rural regions of Canada: Northern Ontario (College Boréal and the "Value-Added Forest Products Cluster Model"), the Annapolis Valley in Nova Scotia (Nova Scotia Community College and the "Geomatics Innovation Cluster Model"), and the East Kootenay Region (College of the Rockies and the "Tourism Knowledge Cluster Model"). ✓ hosting annual national ACCC Symposia on Serving Canada's Rural and Remote Communities which provide opportunities to share experiences, network and identify advocacy issues related to over 60 rural and remote colleges.
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<p>THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY PLATFORM SAYS:</p>	<p>COLLEGES AND INSTITUTES ARE:</p>
<p>STAND UP FOR SECURITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ it must act decisively to ensure that all Canadians - particularly the most vulnerable members of society - can live in safe, healthy communities. <p>SERIOUS CRIME MUST MEAN SERIOUS TIME</p> <p>The plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ ensure federal corrections officers have the tools and training they require to do their job as peace officers. ▶ adopt, in collaboration with the provinces, a national strategy to fight organized crime, including the creation of a joint national task force on security. <p>MORE POLICE ON THE STREET</p> <p>The plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ invest \$100 million per year of new federal money on criminal justice priorities, including working with the provinces and municipalities to hire more police, as well as victim assistance and youth crime prevention programs. <p>YOUTH AT RISK</p> <p>The plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ work with provinces, municipalities and community leaders in areas threatened by gun and gang violence to support programs which reach out to young people. ▶ direct \$50 million in funding into community-based, educational, sporting, cultural, and vocational opportunities for young people at risk. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ delivering, in partnership with provincial police associations, a broad range of training programs ranging from Police Technology, Police & Security, Public Safety, Law Enforcement Training, Aboriginal Police Studies, Investigation and Enforcement Skills. ✓ training professionals who work with adult and youth offenders in institutional and community settings. ✓ are community-based and respond to the learning needs of their communities. For example, Vancouver Community College, in partnership with the Vancouver General Managers Hotel Association and Covenant House, developed the Stars 4 Success Program which deals with the issues of street youth, and at the same time developed a labour pool addressing the skills shortage in the hospitality sector.

<p>THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY PLATFORM SAYS:</p>	<p>STAND UP FOR FAMILIES</p> <p>BETTER HEALTH CARE FOR CANADIANS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ it is committed to ensuring that all Canadians have timely, quality health care services regardless of their ability to pay. <p>The plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ work with the provinces and territories to increase the numbers of, and expand educational programs for doctors, nurses, and other health professionals
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<p>COLLEGES AND INSTITUTES ARE:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ providing the education and training in the majority of health occupations. ✓ providing professional and paraprofessional programs which complement the professional programs provided by the university sector. ✓ addressing, through the Deans of College and Institute Allied Health Programs, human resource challenges, currency of curriculum, accreditation processes and attraction of individuals into health related careers. ✓ working with sector councils to address skills shortages in the health sector.
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THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY PLATFORM SAYS:	
COLLEGES AND INSTITUTES ARE:	

STAND UP FOR FAMILIES
SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES WITH STUDENTS

- ▶ the rising cost of post-secondary education puts a heavy load on Canadian students and their families.
- The plan:**
- ▶ invest \$100 million per year in measures to improve support for post-secondary students, including the enhancement of the Canada Student Loans Program.
- ▶ work with the provinces to increase family income thresholds for student loan eligibility.
- ▶ exempt the first \$10,000 of student scholarship or bursary income from taxation.
- ▶ provide students or their parents with a federal tax credit on spending up to \$500 per year on textbooks.
- ▶ in cooperation with the provinces, remove post-secondary education funding from the Canada Social Transfer and create an independent Canada Education and Training Transfer to ensure that there is dedicated funding for post-secondary education and training.

- ✓ major players in terms of accessibility and affordability. College grads get jobs and form a large, productive part of the workforce.
- ✓ examining the breadth and depth of student debt/financial need, including the impact on inter-generational debt and other social programs.
- ✓ strong supporters of a new Learner Support System which is based on the principles of universality, responsibility, portability, simplicity, rationality and flexibility.
- ✓ advocating through ACCC, their national organization, and with other national organizations representing elements of the post-secondary education community for the separation of post-secondary funding from the Canada Social Transfer and for the creation of a Post-Secondary Education Transfer.

<p>THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY PLATFORM SAYS:</p>	<p>STAND UP FOR OUR COMMUNITIES</p> <p>A CLEANER, HEALTHIER ENVIRONMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ it will implement a “made-in-Canada” plan focused on ensuring future generations enjoy clean air, clean water, clean land, and clean energy here in Canada. <p>The plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ address the issue of greenhouse gas emissions, such as carbon dioxide (CO₂), with a made-in-Canada plan, emphasizing new technologies, developed in concert with the provinces and in coordination with other industrial countries. ▶ ensure water quality by addressing environmental issues such as the need for aquifer mapping, protection of the Great Lake basin, banning interbasin water transfers, imposing substantial penalties for illegal bilge oil dumping, and ensuring adequate watershed management methods to ensure water quality and quantity.
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<p>COLLEGES AND INSTITUTES ARE:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ at the forefront of adopting and implementing a wide range of green power and green heat options. ✓ delivering a broad range of energy training services for energy consumers. ✓ innovators in developing and implementing commercial applications of new and existing technologies in the renewable energy sector. ✓ working with Natural Resources Canada and primary industries to develop a national strategy which will respond to the training needs of individuals and businesses in the Renewable Energy sector such as wind, solar, earth and biomass. ✓ members of the Environmental Citizenship Program which aims to establish a network of colleges and institutes offering environmental citizenship programs as a component of their community-based educational mandate. ✓ delivering leading-edge technology programs in watershed restoration, watershed management, water and waste water, water quality, land and water management, etc.
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<p>THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY PLATFORM SAYS:</p>	<p>STAND UP FOR OUR COMMUNITIES</p> <p>AN IMMIGRANT PLAN THAT WORKS FOR CANADA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ it will stand up for a fair and sensible immigration plan that works for Canada. <p>The plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ create a Canadian Agency for Assessment and Recognition of Credentials, to provide pre-assessment of international credentials and experience. ▶ work with the provinces and professional associations to ensure foreign-trained professionals meet Canadian standards while getting properly trained professionals working in Canada quickly.
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<p>COLLEGES AND INSTITUTES ARE:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ well positioned to facilitate the integration of immigrants given the role of these institutions in providing learning opportunities for 900 communities across the country. ✓ the primary providers of bridging programs to accelerate the integration of immigrants into the labour force. ✓ collaborative partners of immigrant- and refugee-serving agencies and governments in the provision of assessment, language, settlement, workforce bridging and workplace upgrading programs for new Canadians. ✓ working closely with regulatory bodies to provide bridging programs for foreign-trained professionals, be they in health professions such as nursing or in the engineering and engineering technology fields. ✓ through ACCC, their national organization, and with funding from Human Resources and Social Development Canada: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) developing a model for the creation of immigrant integration centres in colleges in Canada that can provide comprehensive and specialized programs and services related to specific occupations or sectors to immigrants; and, b) developing and implementing pilot initiatives in China, India and the Philippines on a diverse range of programs and services aimed at assisting newly-approved skilled immigrants to Canada starting at their country of origin and continuing after landing in Canada.
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<p>THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY PLATFORM SAYS:</p>	<p>STAND UP FOR OUR COMMUNITIES</p> <p>OPPORTUNITY AND RESPECT FOR ABORIGINALS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ life for Canada's aboriginals keeps getting worse and that it's time for a new approach. <p>The plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ accept the targets agreed upon at the recent Meeting of First Ministers and National Aboriginal Leaders and work with first ministers and national aboriginal leaders on achieving these targets.
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<p>COLLEGES AND INSTITUTES ARE:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ committed to increasing Aboriginal learners' access to post-secondary education and labour market participation, as well as contribute to Aboriginal community development. ✓ providing different types of education and training programs intended to meet the diverse needs of Aboriginal learners whether they are high school leavers, adult learners or recent high school graduates. ✓ offering trades and apprenticeship programs specifically for Aboriginal students or have Aboriginal students enrolled in their regular trades and apprenticeship programs. ✓ seeking Aboriginal peoples' input into institutional planning processes and programs and curriculum development through Aboriginal representation on college/institute boards, Aboriginal involvement in program advisory committees and partnerships between mainstream and Aboriginal institutions for program development. ✓ developing extensive partnerships with Aboriginal governments and organizations, industry, provincial, territorial, municipal and federal governments. ✓ represented on the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Council of Canada.
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