



2005 Federal Budget and Canada's Colleges and Institutes

Based on the Association's initial analysis of the 2005 Federal Budget, of particular note and importance to the college and institute system are the federal commitments to invest in and support the following:

- a **workplace skills strategy** with particular attention paid to
 - strengthening apprenticeship
 - creating a **Workplace Partners Panel**
 - **Aboriginal Canadian participation in apprenticeship programs**
 - **leveraging support from workplace partners** on a project-specific basis to design and test **skills development pilot projects that are innovative, demand-driven and targeting to the currently employed**
- **post-secondary scholarships for Aboriginal Canadians**
- **Aboriginal communities** with a focus on children, youth and family
- **enhanced settlement and integration programs** to help newcomers to Canada become fully contributing members of the workforce more quickly
- **additional funding** over five years to the **three federal research councils**
- **additional funding to meet the indirect costs of federally-supported research for hospitals and post-secondary institutions**
- **new approach to international aid** to better deal with diverse international commitments
- **adjustments to student financial assistance programs** to extend the eligibility for loan forgiveness under the Canada Student Loans program
- **early learning** and **childcare** initiatives
- the creation of a **National Seniors Secretariat**
- increase **human resource capacity in the healthcare field**
- additional funding for **literacy and essential skills**
- **a sustainable environment and sustainable communities**
- **regional and sectoral development** (i.e. ACOA, WD, FedNor, CEDQ, CFO)

The Association is encouraged at the increasing synergy between the priorities identified by our membership and those of the federal government, with several key points identified in the budget being of immediate relevance. Advocacy necessitates a constantly shifting strategy to re-shape, re-examine and re-focus messaging, presence and vision. Budget 2005 reflects progress on the ACCC advocacy front with continued and targeted lobbying efforts required in the months ahead.