



MEDIA RELEASE

Association of Canadian Community Colleges

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Colleges Applaud Premiers' Demand for Increased Post-Secondary Funding

Ottawa, August 15, 2005 - Colleges and Institutes of Technology across Canada strongly support the Premiers' demand that the federal government immediately restore \$2.2 billion in post-secondary education funding and their recognition of the importance of higher education and skills training as key to Canada's competitiveness in today's global economy.

"We have repeatedly called on the Federal Government to restore post-secondary funding to the level of the mid 90's, and applaud the Premiers' recognition of higher education as being key to making Canada one of the most innovative and skilled countries in the world," said Gerald Brown, President of the Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC). "Investing in post-secondary education is investing in Canadians and in Canada's future," added Mr. Brown.

With 900 campuses and over two million full- and part-time students, Canada's more than 150 colleges, institutes of technology, university colleges and cégeps are widely accessible and well placed to provide skills training and upgrading to the nation's current and future workforce. Colleges and institutes have the flexibility, capacity and mandate to work strategically with a variety of partners to ensure that Canada has a healthy, vibrant and progressive economy.

"We are encouraged that the Premiers are taking action and look forward to participating in the Summit on Post-Secondary Education and Skills in November. We have long advocated the importance of a pan-Canadian skills agenda and believe that this will be an important opportunity to position our colleges and institutes as key players in developing Canada's competitive edge," said Gerald Brown.

The Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC) is the national and international voice of over 150 colleges and institutes. For more information on ACCC, visit www.accc.ca.

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