

## Notes to 2007 Federal Budget

March 19, 2007 - In this afternoon's federal budget, we were pleased to see that our advocacy efforts calling for increased funding to transfer payments for post-secondary education were heard and acted upon, as were our consistent efforts to link applied research and commercialization and colleges and institutes in the minds of policy-makers.

Of particular note to our members is the Federal Government's commitment to:

- Starting in 2007-08, the government will put the Canada Social Transfer payments on an equal per capita cash basis to support post-secondary education, social assistance and social services equally in all provinces. It will increase the Canada Social Transfer by \$800 million for post-secondary education in 2008-09, and by three percent per year afterwards. Canada Social Transfer funding for post-secondary education will rise to \$3.2 billion in 2008-09, a 40 percent increase over seven years.
- New investment of \$500 million per year to address the gap in labour market programming support for those who do not currently qualify for training under the Employment Insurance program and to encourage employers to provide more training to their workers.
- A \$48 million investment over the next five years in the College and Community Innovation Pilot Program, administered by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, to make it a permanent program, able to support up to 25 college-industry partnerships.
- \$100 million for the Apprenticeship Incentive Grant to support apprentices who have completed the first and second year of their apprenticeship in a Red Seal Program and \$200 million for the Apprenticeship Job Creation Tax Credit to encourage employers to hire new apprentices.
- \$340 million for the Aboriginal Human Resource Development Strategy which assists Aboriginal people to prepare for, find and keep jobs, and \$26 million this year for the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership initiative (with an additional \$105 million over five years).
- Business-led Networks of Centres of Excellence will strengthen links between post-secondary institutions and the private sector in order to enhance the commercialization of Canadian ideas and knowledge.
- \$510 million to the Canada Foundation for Innovation to undertake another major competition before 2010. This will support the modernization of research

infrastructure at Canadian colleges, universities, research hospitals and other non-profit research institutions.

- Review and modernization of Canada Student Loans Program and student financial assistance in cooperation with stakeholders
- Providing \$2 million over the next two years to launch a new international education marketing campaign for international student recruitment, with priority to Brazil, China and India.
- \$310 million for the Youth Employment Strategy which helps young people, particularly those facing barriers to employment, gain the skills, work experience and abilities they need to make a successful transition to the workplace.
- Confirming commitment to double international assistance by 2010-11 from 2001-02 levels. This will bring Canada's total international assistance to \$4.1 billion in 2007-08 and \$4.4 billion in 2008-09.
- An additional \$342 million on top of the \$1.3 billion in Budget 2006 for programs and services such as language instruction and employment-related support to help immigrants participate in the workforce as quickly as possible.