Access to Post-Secondary Education: More Important Than Ever

Friday, September 27, 2002 – It's no big secret that a person's income is strongly correlated with their level of education. In the emerging knowledge-based economy, with its emphasis on ideas, communication, innovation and life-long learning, education is more important than ever to success.

That all Canadians should have ready access to education, especially higher education, is important to individual well-being, social equity and to the country's ability to compete in the global economy. Of course, education is the source of much more than economic returns, and lack of access can threaten both full citizenship and the full enjoyment of life.

These were some of the assumptions behind a conference last April, organized by CPRN on behalf of the Canada Millenium Scholarship Foundation. The conference, entitled *Access to Post-Secondary Education in Canada: Facts and Gaps*, had three main goals:

- To disclose and discuss current research about incentives and impediments to post-secondary education (PSE);
- To identify the gaps in that knowledge and develop a future research agenda; and,
- To expand the scope of the discussion around issues considered to have an impact on access to PSE – financial, social, cultural and personal.

Presentations by experts in a variety of fields helped animate and inform discussions by participants on these issues (those presentations are already available on our Web site).

A full report on the conference proceedings, ***Access to Post-Secondary Education in Canada: Facts and Gaps***, is now available.

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