Access to Post-Secondary Education in Canada

Friday, May 31, 2002 – Canada's success in the global knowledge-based economy of the future depends on building our social and human capital – our social infrastructure and our productive capacity. It also depends on our commitment as individuals to life-long learning and the means to pursue it.

Not surprisingly, issues around learning, skills, and education in a knowledge-based economy rank high on the national agenda. Many of the jobs that offer reasonable earnings and employment prospects today go to individuals who have some form of post-secondary education (PSE). That raises questions about access to PSE. Just how accessible is it?

What has been the trend in PSE participation? Are some individuals less likely to pursue a post-secondary education than others? What factors discourage participation? What steps can we take to help individuals overcome barriers to participation?

Last month in Ottawa, CPRN hosted a conference on the subject on behalf of the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation. Entitled *Access to Post-secondary Education: Facts and Gaps*, the conference addressed two key sets of questions:

1) What is the state of knowledge regarding participation in, and access to, PSE and,
2) What gaps exist in the knowledge base that could most usefully be addressed by new research?

Presentations by experts in a variety of fields helped animate discussions by conference participants on a range of issues. Eleven of those presentations are now available on our Web site, along with the Conference agenda. Click here to access them.

A summary of the conference proceedings will be available soon.

For more information on The Millenium Scholarship Foundation, click here

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