



**Looking** *West*  
2004

# AB FACT SHEET

## Post-Secondary Education

May 2004

Skilled labour is clearly a priority to Albertans: seven in ten (69.7%) Albertans feel ensuring skilled labour is a high priority for long-term provincial prosperity and quality of life, and another quarter (24.5%) state it is a medium priority. Only one in twenty states ensuring skilled labour is a low priority (4.5%) or not a priority (0.9%). Yet while skilled labour is widely seen as a high priority, there is somewhat lower support for improving post-secondary education: six in ten (61.6%) Albertans feel it is a high priority, and three in ten (30.4%) feel it is a medium priority. Less than one in ten feels it is either a low priority (6.4%) or not a priority (1.2%).

One possible explanation for this gap is that Albertans feel that their post-secondary system is doing a good enough job, and therefore needs little improvement. Looking West 2004 respondents were asked, "I would now like you to think about [province]'s job market and labour needs over the next five years. To what extent are graduates from [province]'s universities, colleges and trade schools prepared for the job market? Graduates are well-prepared for the job market; Graduates are somewhat prepared for the job market; Graduates are not well-prepared for the job market; Graduates are not at all prepared for the job market."

Almost three in ten (27.2%) Albertans feel that post-secondary graduates are well-prepared for the job market, while the majority (54.8%) feels that graduates are only somewhat prepared. Less than two in ten feel that post-secondary graduates are either not well prepared (11.1%) or not at all prepared (2.8%).



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