



Looking *West*
2004

BC FACT SHEET

Post-Secondary Education

May 2004

Skilled labour is clearly a priority to British Columbians: seven in ten (72.0%) British Columbians feel ensuring skilled labour is a high priority for long-term provincial prosperity and quality of life, and another two in ten (21.4%) state it is a medium priority. Only one in twenty states ensuring skilled labour is a low priority (4.8%) or not a priority (1.4%). Yet while skilled labour is widely seen as a high priority, there is somewhat lower support for improving post-secondary education: six in ten (59.2%) British Columbians feel it is a high priority, and three in ten (30.5%) feel it is a medium priority. Almost one in ten feel it is either a low priority (8.2%) or not a priority (1.3%).

One possible explanation for this gap is that British Columbians 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."

Two in ten (20.7%) British Columbians feel that post-secondary graduates are well-prepared for the job market, while the majority (55.5%) feels that graduates are only somewhat prepared. Less than two in ten feel that post-secondary graduates are either not well prepared (15.7%) or not at all prepared (3.9%).



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