



Looking *West*
2004

MB FACT SHEET

Post-Secondary Education

May 2004

Skilled labour is clearly a priority to Manitobans: almost seven in ten (67.9%) Manitobans feel ensuring skilled labour is a high priority for long-term provincial prosperity and quality of life, and another quarter (26.7%) state it is a medium priority. Only one in twenty states ensuring skilled labour is a low priority (4.1%) or not a priority (0.5%). Yet while skilled labour is widely seen as a high priority, there is somewhat lower support for improving post-secondary education: five in ten (53.4%) Manitobans feel it is a high priority, and over one-third (35.9%) feel it is a medium priority. One in ten feels it is either a low priority (8.1%) or not a priority (1.5%).

One possible explanation for this gap is that Manitobans 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 (23.9%) of Manitobans feel that post-secondary graduates are well-prepared for the job market, while almost six in ten (59.0%) feel that graduates are only somewhat prepared. Over one in ten feel that post-secondary graduates are either not well prepared (9.9%) or not at all prepared (2.3%).



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