



Looking West
2004

SK FACT SHEET

Post-Secondary Education

May 2004

Skilled labour is clearly a priority to Saskatchewan respondents: seven in ten (72.6%) Saskatchewan respondents feel ensuring skilled labour is a high priority for long-term provincial prosperity and quality of life, and another two in ten (21.2%) state it is a medium priority. Only one in twenty states ensuring skilled labour is a low priority (4.1%) or not a priority (1.5%). Yet while skilled labour is widely seen as a high priority, there is somewhat lower support for improving post-secondary education: five in ten (53.1%) Saskatchewan respondents feel it is a high priority, and over one-third (35.7%) feel it is a medium priority. One in ten feels it is either a low priority (8.3%) or not a priority (2.4%).

One possible explanation for this gap is that Saskatchewan respondents 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 one third (33.6%) of Saskatchewan respondents feel that post-secondary graduates are well-prepared for the job market, while the majority (53.7%) feels that graduates are only somewhat prepared. Less than one in ten feels that post-secondary graduates are either not well prepared (7.4%) or not at all prepared (2.7%).



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