

# A Workforce that Delivers to Foreign Investors

*Canada's workforce is highly educated and motivated to achieve excellence. Underpinning Canada's skilled workforce is a culture of learning that begins with publicly-funded early childhood education programs. Canada also has a flexible tertiary education system that focuses not only on university education, but also on technical trades.*



CANADA'S HIGHLY SKILLED AND multi-cultural workforce is one of the main reasons cited by global corporations when asked why they choose Canada over other jurisdictions. By any measure, Canada excels in developing a skilled workforce:

- Canada ranks fourth among member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) for its high school completion rates (86.6% of working-age Canadians have a high school diploma).<sup>1</sup>
- Canada ranks first in the OECD for its college completion rates (23.7% of working-age Canadians have graduated from college).<sup>2</sup>
- Canada ranks seventh in the OECD and second in the G7 for its university completion rates (24.6% of working-age Canadians have a university degree).<sup>3</sup>

All of these rankings are complemented by the world-class engineering and management education available in

Canada. The WEF ranks Canada second in a 133-country study on the quality of management schools.<sup>4</sup> And Canada leads the G7 in terms of the availability of qualified engineers in its workforce, according to the IMD.

And that's not all. Canada is a multi-cultural country, and its workforce is reflective of that. One in every five Canadians has a mother tongue other than English or French. That is close to 6.5 million people. Both Asian and European languages are spoken extensively in Canada.

This diversity is an asset to foreign investors. Businesses looking for global skillsets, will find Canada's ethnically diverse workforce very familiar with different business cultures. This is important in sectors such as financial services and business process outsourcing, where foreign investors wanting a global reach have already taken advantage of this Canadian asset, establishing successful operations that service global markets.

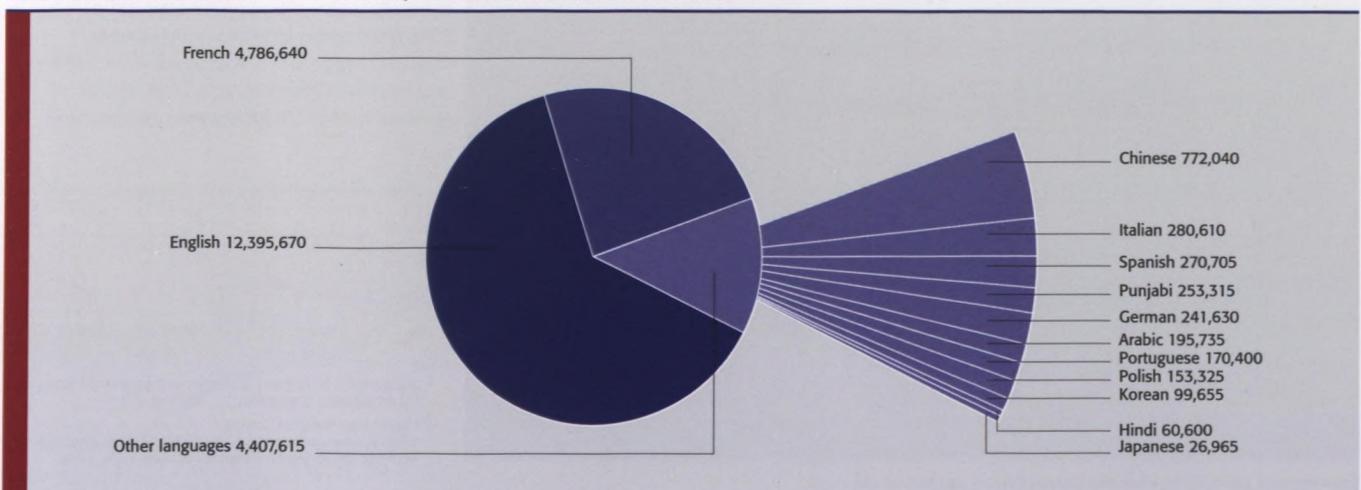
<sup>1</sup> OECD, *Education at a Glance 2009*.

<sup>2</sup> OECD, *Education at a Glance 2009*.

<sup>3</sup> OECD, *Education at a Glance 2009*.

<sup>4</sup> World Economic Forum, *Global Competitiveness Report 2009 - 2010*

**CANADA'S WORKFORCE BY MOTHER TONGUE, NUMBER OF WORKING-AGE PEOPLE**



Source: Statistics Canada. *Census 2006*.