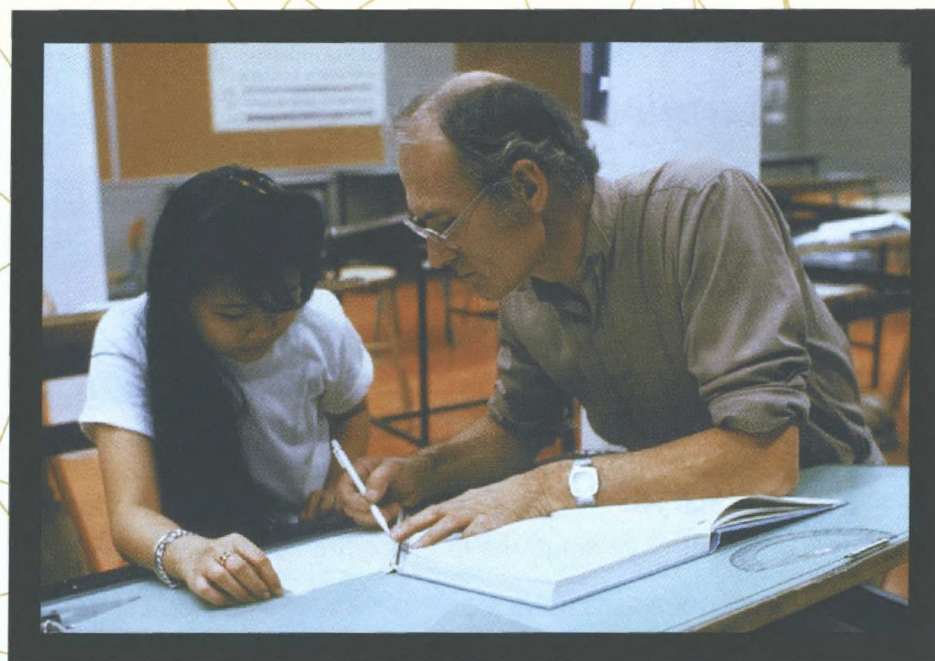




In the new knowledge-based economy, a highly educated and trained workforce is one of the most important resources in making a country competitive. Canada has gained international respect and admiration for the excellence of its educational system. Successful graduates from Canadian universities and colleges are now providing leadership in many governments and businesses around the world.

Canadians have always placed a premium on education and demand first-rate schools. They spend more per capita on their education system than any other country in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD): 7.1 per cent of gross domestic product compared to an average of 6.1 per cent in other OECD countries.

Many Canadian universities – such as British Columbia, Alberta, Queen's, Toronto, McGill, Laval, Montreal and Dalhousie – are widely known and respected around the world. While perhaps not as well known, comparable programs are offered at dozens of other Canadian universities such as Simon Fraser, Lethbridge, Calgary, Western Ontario, Concordia and St. Mary's. Two great strengths of the Canadian university system are the consistent level of quality at all schools and instruction in both the English and French languages.

**CANADA SPENDS
MORE PER CAPITA
ON ITS EDUCATION
SYSTEM THAN
ANY OTHER
COUNTRY IN THE
ORGANIZATION
FOR ECONOMIC
COOPERATION AND
DEVELOPMENT.**

Canada's community colleges, which offer training toward specific careers, complement the country's university system. Often their training is technical and provides hands-on experience. Many Canadian students are now combining university degrees with college degrees to ensure that they obtain the highest level of academic qualifications and specific training in a targeted job sector.

Learning is a lifetime occupation in Canada. Many Canadians pursue continuing education courses to upgrade their qualifications, acquire new professional skills and keep pace with changes in technology and with new theories and practices in the work place. Canadian educational institutions and corporations have designed courses specifically to meet the needs of a rapidly changing workforce.

Canadian educational institutions attract many foreign students. In 1994-95, there were 59,200 international students at the post-secondary level in Canada: 22,500 at the college and trade school level and 36,700 at the university level. These students have discovered that one advantage of studying in Canada is the superb quality of second-language and foreign-language training available across the country.

International students who have studied in Canada speak glowingly of the country's safe and clean surroundings, its high quality of education, and the friendly welcome they receive from Canadians. Most overseas students who come to Canada are also happy that the weather is not as severe as they anticipated. Even in winter, Canada is no colder than the northern United States.

Canada also offers low fees for international students. A 1995 study conducted by IDF Education Australia Ltd. showed that Canadian universities offer lower tuition rates for international students than do universities in the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand, while maintaining an excellent quality of education. The median fee for a Master of Arts, for instance, was listed as US\$5,546 for Canada, compared to US\$7,844 for Australia, US\$7,852 for New Zealand, US\$8,082 for the American public system, and US\$15,534 for American private universities.

