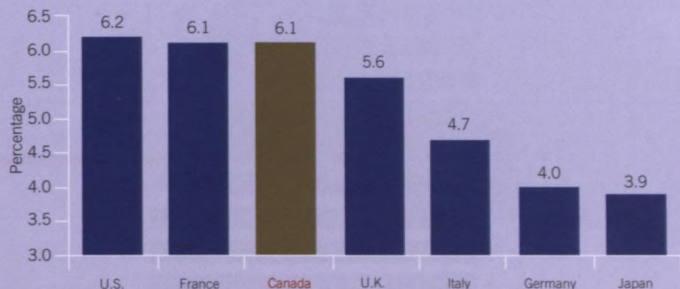


... Canada ranks third among G7 countries with respect to the share of GDP that is invested in public education.



SHARE OF GDP INVESTED IN PUBLIC EDUCATION, AMONG G7 COUNTRIES

Source: IMD. World Competitiveness Yearbook 2008.

ENHANCING CANADIANS' SKILLS

Over the last decade, Canada has undertaken several initiatives to improve the number of Canadians employed in skilled trades across the country. Changing demographics and economics have resulted in shortages of skilled labour in certain parts of the country, presenting a challenge to maintaining productivity and economic growth.

To meet these labour shortages, which were common in many industrialized countries, the Canadian government has put in place key initiatives to begin addressing this challenge. The Apprenticeship Job Creation Tax Credit encourages employers to hire new apprentices, and the Apprenticeship Incentive Grant encourages young people to pursue careers in skilled trades.

To build on these measures and further respond to skilled labour shortages, Budget 2009 also provided \$40 million a year to launch the Apprenticeship Completion Grant. Apprentices who complete their certifications in skilled trades will be entitled to receive a taxable grant of \$2,000. This grant provides an additional incentive for Canadians to finish their training and launch rewarding careers in the skilled trades. It is expected that this program alone will benefit an estimated 20,000 apprentices each year.

NEW MEASURES TO INTEGRATE NEW CANADIANS INTO THE LABOUR MARKET

To better respond to its labour-market needs, the Canadian government has announced new measures that will improve its immigration system's capacity and flexibility in order to accelerate the processing of skilled immigrants. Besides establishing immigration regulations that focus on education and skills, the government has formed the Foreign Credentials Referral Office. This new agency has one objective—to attract talented people to Canada and expedite the foreign assessment and recognition process.

Budget 2009 provides \$50 million over the next two years to support the work of the Foreign Credentials Referral Office and Canada's Foreign Credential Recognition program. This additional funding will support the efforts of both federal and provincial governments in the development of a common approach to foreign credential assessment and ensure that immigrants are better integrated into the Canadian labour force.

“Waterloo is a special relationship for us. Most years, we hire more students out of Waterloo than any university in the world, typically fifty or more.”

*Bill Gates,
Chairman,
Microsoft Corporation*