

Given the related interests of the federal and provincial governments in various aspects of the post-secondary education sector, and given the interconnections between that sector and various other dimensions of government policy, the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada believes it is important to establish a set of principles to govern interactions between the two orders of government in the post-secondary area.

- Principle 1: The provincial and federal governments recognize the significant role to be played by post-secondary education in furthering economic and social development.
- Principle 2: In keeping with their respective constitutional responsibilities, it is desirable for the federal and provincial orders of government to work harmoniously and congruently toward maintaining and developing the highest quality of education and training opportunities for Canadians.
- Principle 3: The harmony and congruency between objectives and programs of the two orders of government will be achieved only through concrete and meaningful consultation and cooperation.
- Principle 4: Both orders of government must work together, in keeping with their respective constitutional responsibilities, to ensure the provision of adequate resources so as to allow the post-secondary education and manpower training systems to adapt to a changing environment and to continue to prepare Canadians for full participation in society.

Appearing before the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance on May 15, 1986, the Honourable Benoît Bouchard, then the Secretary of State, said that "there are no simple answers to the basic questions of how we ensure the health of post-secondary education and what form the federal support will take."¹⁰ Mr. Bouchard noted that the federal role "must be one that allows federal and provincial governments to work together to ensure that higher education and research flourish throughout Canada,"¹¹ and that the real issue with respect to federal support "is to redefine the federal presence in a way that balances respect for provincial responsibilities with a need to reflect the importance of post-secondary education to Canada as a whole."¹²

¹⁰ *Proceedings of the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance*, First Session, Thirty-third Parliament, 1984-85-86, Issue No. 50, p. 6. (Hereafter referred to as *Proceedings*.)

¹¹ *Ibid.*, p. 10.

¹² *Ibid.*, p. 11.