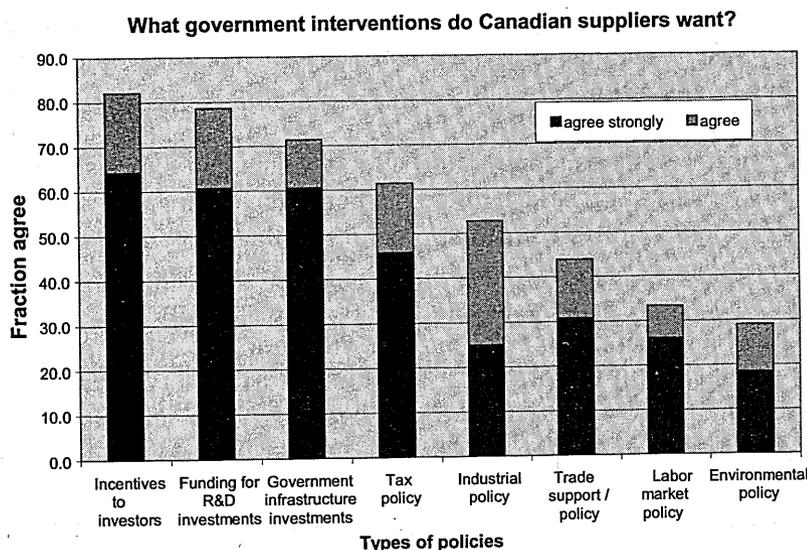


nical education carries some support, 57% of firms, but reducing immigration restrictions on young skilled workers is not seen as a solution to the industry's shortage of skilled trades people.

In Figure 5-1, we group the average support of different initiatives by policy area. For example, investment incentives for domestic firms and FDI are grouped together. Support for R&D and funding for Technology Partnership type programs are grouped under innovation policies. The pattern that appears is quite striking. Given that only a single policy would be assigned a different priority when we use strong support instead of total support, we will use total support numbers in the discussion⁷¹.

Figure 5-1 Ranking of interventions by policy area



Investment support of different sorts is by far the preferred form of government intervention. More than 80% of firms think it would be a good idea for Canada to provide direct investment incentives; the level of support is only slightly higher for incen-

⁷¹ While 52.8% of firms support some form of industrial policy, only 25.0% finds these very useful. Limit attention to firms that strongly support a policy, industrial policy would become second least importance.