Canadian Colleges for a Resilient Recovery | Les Collèges canadiens pour une relance économique résiliente

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**Written Submission to
House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance for the Pre-Budget
Consultations in Advance of the 2022 Federal Budget**

Canadian Colleges for a Resilient Recovery

August 2021

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

That the Government of Canada seek to ensure workers enjoy the full benefits of the recovery from COVID-19 by ensuring collaboration between governments, educators and employers on projects that will create and maintain good jobs, are good for the environment, are inclusive, and address socio-economic inequality.

Recommendation 2

That the government of Canada commit to work with the Canadian Colleges for a Resilient Recovery to train up to 50,000 Canadians across the country to develop the specialized skills needed to work in high-growth sectors of the low-carbon economy.

Recommendation 3

That the Government of Canada provide funding for training and skills programs at Colleges, Cégeps, institutions, and polytechnics in the form of tuition support, curricula development, indigenous and youth support programs and direct funding support to the Canadian Colleges for a Resilient Recovery in Budget 2022.

INTRODUCTION:

Canadian Colleges for a Resilient Recovery (C2R2) is pleased to provide its recommendation for the 2022 Federal Budget.

CANADIAN COLLEGES FOR A RESILIENT RECOVERY

C2R2 is a group of climate-action leading colleges, Cégeps, institutions, and polytechnics from across Canada who have joined forces to educate a post-pandemic workforce to support a new climate-focused economic recovery. C2R2 works in a special affiliation with Colleges and Institutes Canada (CICan) with a shared commitment to environmental sustainability and resilient recovery.

C2R2 is a coalition of 15 CICan members who have come together to spearhead initiatives for training, applied research and demonstration sites to drive skills development for the green economy. Through shared membership and collaboration, CICan and C2R2 can jointly promote and position the sector as key players in Canada's resilient economic recovery. C2R2's members are demonstrated leaders in sustainability and climate change. The colleges share transferable and scalable responses to support a resilient recovery.

C2R2 champions projects across Canada to:

- support a recovery that delivers good jobs,
- positively impact for the environment, and
- address socio-economic inequality.

C2R2 was formed in direct response to the 5 bold actions and 22 recommendations of the Task Force for a Resilient Recovery. A resilient recovery is one that "delivers good jobs, is positive for the environment, and addresses inequality."

As noted by Ron McKerlie, President of Mohawk College and Chair of Canadian Colleges for a Resilient Recovery:

"Mohawk College believes that the time to ensure a resilient recovery to a low carbon, circular and socially inclusive economy in Canada is now. Never before has there been such an important moment for our country to invest wisely for future generations. We believe a strategic response from the Canadian College sector can bridge the skills gap that would otherwise seriously slow or hinder the recovery we wish to see."

OVERVIEW

In its September 2020 Speech from the Throne, the Federal government committed to making "the largest investment in Canadian history in training for workers." That investment would be a crucial part of the ambitious Federal goal to create over one million jobs in order to restore employment to pre-pandemic levels.

To meet its commitment, the Government must focus on rebuilding by positioning Canadians for the jobs and sectors of the future. This starts with an investment in green skills training and retraining. It also needs to identify partners that can maximize the impact of Federal spending on workforce training. Specifically, in order for a generational investment in training to have a deep and lasting effect on skilling workers – especially indigenous peoples and young Canadians looking to succeed in a changing economy – it needs to partner with and fund inclusive programs that prepare workers for the green, sustainability-focussed jobs of today and the future.

Government partners in skills training also need to be able to collaborate with local employers to understand their current and future needs, as new technologies are developed and implemented.

Workers must be the cornerstone for building a stronger and more resilient economy in the aftermath of COVID-19. To ensure that workers enjoy the full benefits of the recovery from COVID-19, governments, educators, and employers need to collaborate on projects that will create and maintain good jobs, are good for the environment, are inclusive, and address socio-economic inequality.

> **Recommendation 1: That the Government of Canada seek to ensure workers enjoy the full benefits of the recovery from COVID-19 by ensuring collaboration between governments, educators and employers on projects that will create and maintain good jobs, are good for the environment, are inclusive, and address socio-economic inequality.**

PARTNERS IN TRAINING AND SUSTAINABLE JOB CREATION

The needs for sustainable job creation will vary across the country. Much of the work will be in existing but growing sectors such as energy efficiency, green buildings, clean energy and clean technology. But, in addition, nascent sectors will also need a serious investment in skills. Thus, from developing brand new curriculum for people entering the emerging hydrogen sector in Alberta to offering programs to update workers' skills for the growing electric vehicle manufacturing industry in Ontario, the strategic opportunities for Canada are highly significant.

Canadian Colleges for a Resilient Recovery (C2R2) is a partnership of leading institutions across Canada that is prepared to develop and deliver solutions at scale. C2R2members are

uniquely positioned to enhance, develop and implement nationally replicable and scalable training programs to ensure that workers are skilled for the green jobs of today and the future. That is why the *Task Force for a Resilient Recovery* called for C2R2 to be a key partner in a $1.25 billion Federal investment in workforce development for energy efficiency and climate resiliency.[1]

C2R2 members understand that, to fully capture the benefits of jobs created through such investments, we need to constantly communicate and collaborate with employers to identify where new job opportunities exist and then build diverse programs to train workers for those jobs.

C2R2 members believe that, within three years and with proper Federal funding, we can train up to 50,000 Canadians across the country to develop the specialized skills needed to work in high-growth sectors of the low-carbon economy.

Achieving this goal will be done via a focus on:

- o **Curriculum:** Rapidly implementing and scaling curriculum initiatives focused on training workers for a resilient recovery (including but not limited to low carbon solutions, health and wellness, creative arts, technology, and infrastructure).
- o **Demonstration Projects**: Championing 'resilient recovery demonstration projects' in line with the recommendations of the *Task Force for a Resilient Recovery* to demonstrate innovative techniques to significantly reduce the cost, time, and customer disruption of sustainable projects
- o **Research:** Championing 'resilient recovery applied research projects' in line with the recommendations of the *Task Force for a Resilient Recovery* and other related Federal initiatives

> **Recommendation 2:** That the Government of Canada commit to work with the Canadian Colleges for a Resilient Recovery train up to 50,000 Canadians across the country to develop the specialized skills needed to work in high-growth sectors of the low-carbon economy.

Budget 2022

It has been calculated that $2.33 billion of the $54.4 billion identified by the *Task Force for a Resilient Recovery* could usefully and productively be deployed within the Canadian College sector for training capacity building, training and training support in addition to training-related demonstration projects (leveraging Provincial, Territorial, Municipal and private sector investments) and recovery-related applied R&D (also involving leverageable investments).

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[1] Recommendation 1.3 Task Force for a Resilient Recovery, https://www.recoverytaskforce.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/TFRR-Final-Report_EN.pdf

Building upon its support for training and job creation in Budget 2021, in Budget 2022, the Federal government should provide a clear indication of its intent to meet its aggressive job creation goals through an investment in:

- o Tuition support for students seeking training at a cost of $1 billion over 5 years
- o Development of a National Curricula as outlined in C2R2's draft National Curriculum Development Proposal to ensure rapid national open access and scalable curriculum developments at a cost of $75 million over 5 years;[2]
- o Support for Indigenous and Youth programs and ensure equitable access and the reduction of barriers defined through a lens of equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) at a cost of $25 million over 5 years,
- o Support for applied research focused on supporting industry development, testing and scaling of energy efficiency and green-house gas reduction technologies at a cost of $15 million over 5 years,
- o Direct support to C2R2 to support its overall coordination of curriculum, research, work experiences, EDI programs and supports and for training capacity building, training and training support of $10 million.

To ensure job creation benefits are able to drive a sustainable economic recovery, C2R2 further calls on the federal government to ensure funding is made available to eligible organizations and institutions to develop training curricula and programming in Budget 2022.

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[2] In support of this goal C2R2 submitted three proposals to the ESDC Sectoral Initiatives Program. One of these will deliver : i) A collaborative model for harnessing expertise across the college, cégep, polytechnic and institute sector and developing shared curriculum in up to ten sectors (to include ESDC's nominated eight sectors: agriculture and food processing; construction; information and communication technology; health; manufacturing; natural resources and environment; tourism and hospitality; transportation; plus clean technology and creative industries); ii) Commissioning joint national curriculum development activities across the sectors informed by industry sector groups and other stakeholders with a strong focus on inclusion of previously disadvantaged groups; iii) Identifying opportunities for technology-enhanced learning, work-integrated learning and the use of Open Educational Resources; iv) Identifying requirements for the development of open access learning objects for each sector to be commissioned, created and curated as required; and v) Recommending new National Curricula to be supported by Federal, Provincial and Territorial investments and which will feature on a National Registry.

Recommendation 3: That the Government of Canada provide funding for training and skills programs at Colleges, Cégeps, institutions, and polytechnics in the form of tuition support, curricula development, indigenous and youth support programs and direct funding support to the Canadian Colleges for a Resilient Recovery in Budget 2022.