

# Priorities

of Canada's Colleges, Institutes,  
CEGEPs and Polytechnics

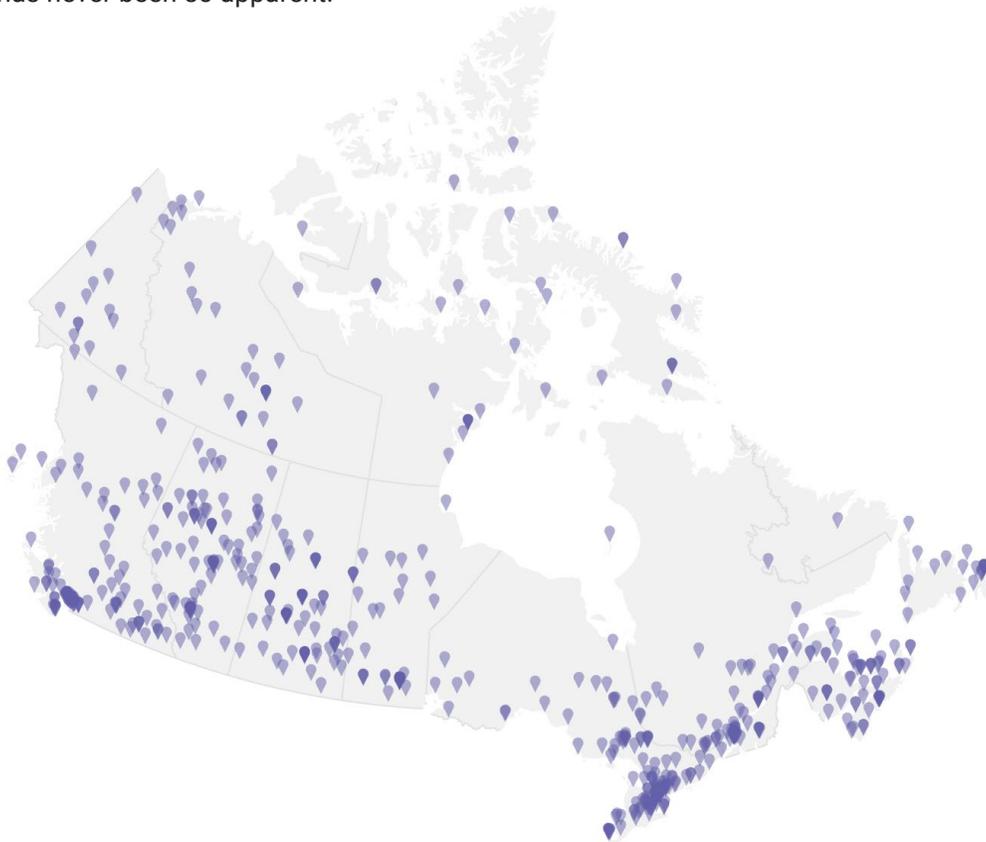


COLLEGES &  
INSTITUTES  
CANADA

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Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Canada's colleges and institutes have contributed to building resilience, facilitating recovery and advancing reconciliation. The integral role that they play at the heart of their communities has never been so apparent.

Over **95%** of Canadians  
live within **50 km** of  
a college or institute.



They now stand ready to support efforts to build resilience and foster inclusive social and economic development by increasing access to skills training for vulnerable Canadians, improving SME and community innovation, advancing reconciliation, and driving to a net zero economy.



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# How to leverage the potential of colleges and institutes to drive economic recovery, build resilient communities, advance reconciliation and achieve net zero emissions



## Supporting a recovery-ready workforce

**Recommendation 1:** Increase employment opportunities and address skills shortages by accelerating reskilling and upskilling through an investment of **\$40M** to develop national micro-credentials for key labour market sectors and support industries that will serve Canada's economic, social and environmental leadership.

**Recommendation 2:** Strengthen Canada's technical/trades training capacity by investing **\$50M** to develop over 1,000 shared online resources for college technical/trades programs available on a national collaborative platform.

**Recommendation 3:** Boost Canada's talent pool through the development and implementation of permanent residency streams for international students graduating from colleges and equip colleges to improve labour market outcomes of international students by providing additional support throughout their transition to Canada.

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## Mobilizing for inclusive innovation

**Recommendation 4:** Accelerate recovery, growth and competitiveness by expanding participation in Canada's research and development ecosystem through an additional and permanent investment of **\$40M** per year in college applied research capacity and the delivery of innovation solutions.

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## Advancing reconciliation

**Recommendation 5:** Deliver on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action, including those directed to postsecondary institutions by supporting the development of:

- Indigenous language revitalization and diploma/degree programs in Indigenous languages in partnership with Indigenous institutions and communities;
  - Open Educational Resources to train all students, faculty and staff on the history of Indigenous peoples and the legacy of residential schools, Indigenous rights, legal and health issues;
  - Skills-based training for all students, faculty and staff in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.
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## Building net zero, inclusive and digitally accessible infrastructure

**Recommendation 6:** Support a green and inclusive recovery by ensuring that college physical and digital infrastructure is included within the scope of national infrastructure investments and contributing up to:

- **\$5B** to make college campuses more sustainable, accessible, advance innovation and improve learning spaces for Indigenous students; and
  - **\$1.4B** to upgrade colleges' digital infrastructure, technology and cybersecurity systems; integrate simulation and virtual/augmented reality in hands-on courses; provide digital support services for student success.
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## Accelerating a green recovery in Canada and globally

**Recommendation 7:** Accelerate sustainability initiatives at colleges and in communities by investing **\$100M** over **5 years** in a new network of **50** College Sustainability Centres across Canada to leverage college assets including campus infrastructure, industry, and community partnerships to meet Canada's net zero goals.

**Recommendation 8:** Increase Canada's commitment to international development to support skills training and applied research for the transition to a net zero world.