

## Summary of Findings: Ipsos Reid Poll on Post-Secondary Education Issues

*The Federation of Post-Secondary Educators had a series of questions fielded by Ipsos Reid as part of the BC Reid Express in July 2006. The sample size was 800. The margin of error is 3.5%.*

British Columbians are very concerned about access and affordability issues in our public post-secondary education system.

- **62%** agree that tuition fees at BC's colleges, universities and training institutes are too high. This same question has been asked in previous polls. In 2003, **43.8%** said tuitions were too high. In 2005, the number climbed to **55%**.
- **70%** agree that high tuition fees are preventing young people from getting the degrees and diplomas they need to get ahead.
- **74%** agree that many young people can't get the courses or programs they need to complete their post-secondary education.
- **74%** think that students in colleges, universities and other post-secondary institutions are taking on an unfair burden of debt to pay for their education.
- **81%** agree that student debt is making it harder for students to complete post-secondary education and training.

British Columbians think that the provincial government needs to do more to ensure that post-secondary education is more affordable and accessible for all.

- **90%** agree that one of the best ways to solve BC's current skills shortage is for the provincial government to invest more in public colleges, universities and training institutes.
- **80%** support the idea of reducing tuition fees
- **84%** think that the provincial government should increase public funding to post-secondary institutions to support more course options and higher enrolments.
- **87%** support an increase in student grants.