



NEWS RELEASE

TechCanada National Roundtable to Address Canada's Emerging Technical Skills Shortage

On Tuesday, February 27, 2007, senior government, industry, educational and association leaders will initiate an important dialog on Canada's skills shortage at an inaugural national *TechCanada* Roundtable meeting at the Government Conference Centre in Ottawa. Organized by the Canadian Council of Technicians and Technologists (CCTT), the Roundtable will explore innovative approaches through which increased numbers of Canadians can be encouraged to seek careers in technology.

According to CCTT Executive Director, Yaro Zajac, Canada is facing critical shortages in its skilled workforce that will have significant economic consequences if not addressed. "Canada is in the midst of a national productivity crisis," says Zajac, "a crisis characterized by the thousands upon thousands of technical positions that remain unfilled in a diversity of industries ranging from biotechnology to construction, to oil and gas, to mining and even a resurging IT sector." The TechCanada Roundtable will seek to define an action plan for increasing Canada's skilled workforce.

Organizations represented by the Roundtable's 40-plus distinguished participants include: the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT); BIO Talent Canada; Human Resources and Skills Development Canada; The Alliance of Sector Councils, The Assembly of First Nations; Transport Canada; Telus; OCRI TalentWorks; Industry Canada; Hydro One; Polytechnics Canada; The Canada Career Consortium; Public Works and Government Services Canada; The British Columbia Ministry of Forests; the Ontario Technology Project and many more. The Roundtable opens with a keynote by Mr. Josh Blair, Senior Vice-President, TELUS Corporation.

About The Canadian Council of Technicians and Technologists:

CCTT is national organization representing 10 provincial associations who grant and maintain the certification of individual technicians and technologists. More than 49,000 members of CCTT's provincial associations rely on CCTT as their national advocate on issues such as pan-Canadian technology benchmarks, national and international mobility, and national accreditation of technology programs. CCTT establishes and maintains national competency benchmarks for certifying members with a 'quality seal of approval' in 14 applied science and engineering technology disciplines including: bioscience, building, chemical, civil, electrical, electronics, forestry, geomatics, industrial, information technology, instrumentation, mechanical, mining, and petroleum. For further information on the Canadian Council of Technicians and Technologists visit our website at www.cctt.ca.

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