

ESSENTIAL SKILLS FAST FACTS



CANADIANS AND PROFICIENCY IN ESSENTIAL SKILLS

- Canadians 16-24 years of age ranked below average in numeracy and literacy compared to their peers in 23 other countries and regions (OECD, 2012)
- 42% of Canadians score within the Level 1 and 2 range on the IALS.
- Canadian students ranked 8th and 10th in math and science respectively among OECD nations
- A lower proportion of Canadians are at a 4 or 5 essential skills complexity level and a higher proportion is at level 1 or below (PIACC)
- Provincial/Territorial findings at the Secondary level are not positive. For example in Ontario, Grade 9 students in Applied Math are only functioning at 47% of the provincial standard (EQAO, Grade 9 assessment)
- 48% of all adult Canadians fall below the high-school equivalency (level 3) on the literacy scale (PIAAC)
- 2/5 of employed Canadians fall below high-school levels for literacy and numeracy skills
- In Canada, about 28% of your earnings is directly related to your Essential Skills

THE IMPORTANCE OF ESSENTIAL SKILLS TO INDUSTRY

- Technology is advancing at a rapid pace which leaves little room for secondary level education to catch up with the demands of PSE or industry.
- 74% of Canadian employers consider essential skills strategically relevant to their business. Emphasis to date has been on training and re-training in the workplace. There is a need to bridge the gap between the classroom and the workplace.
- Research has indicated that a 5 point gain in essential skills scores would increase the GDP by 1.5% which equates to 22.5 billion dollars a year. (IALS)
- Enhanced essential skills prepare employees for managerial and technological changes in the workplace, and position the company for greater competitiveness.

ESSENTIAL SKILLS AND THE WORKPLACE

- Employers report that graduates are coming to their workplace with only 30% of the skills needed for the job
- Essential Skills are linked to better performance, which then leads to better quality work, productivity, and retention.

AFTER EMBEDDING ESSENTIAL SKILLS TRAINING INTO THE WORKPLACE...

- 65% of employers saw increased productivity
- 80% of employers saw better quality of work
- 75% of employers saw better use of new technology
- 70% of employers saw an increase in staff retention
- 66% of employers saw a decrease in errors

ESSENTIAL SKILLS AND THE TRADES

- With proficiency in Essential Skills you will understand and remember concepts introduced in technical training.
- The level of Essential Skills required for most trades is as high or higher than it is for many office jobs.
- Apprentices with the Essential Skills they need for their Trade are 8 times more likely to pass their technical exams

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