

MISSISSAUGA, Ontario Nov. 8, 2007 - Mr. Michael L. Wallace , Member of Parliament for Burlington, on behalf of the Honourable Monte Solberg, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development Canada (HRSDC), joined Canadian Printing Industries Sector Council (CPISC) today to release The Report on Education and Training for Printing and Graphic Communications . His presence underlined the government's ongoing commitment to help meet the human resource needs of Canada's vital printing and graphic communications industry.

A picture has emerged of the education and training available to the industry and how it matches current needs. The report documents the urgent need for improved training and skills development in the printing industry. Based on surveys of printing companies, suppliers of printing equipment, unions and education and training institutions across Canada, the report confirms that there is a gap between existing education programs and the needs of the printing industry.

"Through this report, the printing industry has said loud and clear that the formal training offered by education and training institutions meets the needs of one very important aspect of the printing process, and that is pre-press," says Duncan Brown, Co-Chair of CPISC. "What we now need to focus on is how to provide accessible up-to-date technical training for press operators and finishing technicians across Canada."

The report shows that there are opportunities for educators and industry to work together to develop programs that will not only attract young people, but that can also be used to retrain or to upgrade the training of existing workers. "The printing industry has embraced new information-based technologies as a way to remain competitive in a global marketplace," says Jeff Ekstein, Co-Chair of CPISC. "It should be attracting many of our brightest high school graduates, but it is not."

CPISC will use the insights from this report to look more closely at the sector's training needs. "This report is an important first step in our ability to fully understand the training needs of the printing industry, and will provide valuable direction as we work together with manufacturers, suppliers and educators to adjust existing training programs or implement new options for training," says Marie Eveline, Executive Director of CPISC.

The Canadian Printing Industries Sector Council, funded by the Government of Canada's Sector Council Program, is a not-for-profit organization responsible for the human resources strategy for the printing and graphic communications sector.

-30-

For further information:

Marie Eveline, Executive Director, office: (613) 688-0293, ext. 2; cell: (613)884-9998

Duncan Brown, Co-Chair, (613) 230-5200, ext. 281

Jeff Ekstein, Co-Chair, (905) 660-1515, ext 224