

Learning to Earning | Higher Education and the Changing Job Market Session Summary

**Civic Ballroom
Sheraton Centre Toronto
123 Queen Street West, Toronto, M5H 2M9**

Thanks to Ian Hartlen and Adrian Philp, recent graduates from the Master of Public Policy Program at the University of Toronto, for their work in summarizing the conference.

Day Two | Friday, November 2, 2012

Closing Plenary | What does the future hold?

Facilitator: James Bradshaw, Globe and Mail

Watson Scott Swail, Educational Policy Institute

Swail frames the problem as “a higher ed arms race” – the chief question being, how much is enough? We mean this not just in terms of the needs of the individual but also for society, and ultimately, globally.

The conversation needs to be between labour, business, industry and education, but this is not happening. The result is lots of degrees for not enough jobs. Higher education, whether we like it or not, is vocational, so we need to start having this conversation.

Janet Ecker, Toronto Financial Services Alliance

The provincial government needs to get education right – not only for vocational reasons but for democracy as well. We need both jobs skills and citizenship to thrive.

We can do this with more collaboration across our institutions, and by partnering with those abroad. We need to get more foreign students here, and more Canadian students there. Canada is having its time under the sun, especially in the financial services, so the jobs in other countries that used to attract top talent are no longer there, and we need to get those folks here to challenge us.

We continue to have a great debate over how much this is all going to cost, but we should be asking: are we getting what we need? Looking at available data is important moving forward, but once we get the data, are we willing to respond to it?