

Federal jobs top student wish lists

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Canadian students rank the federal government at the top of their list of companies they would like to work for after graduation, followed by popular corporations such as Google, Apple, Microsoft and Facebook, a report released yesterday shows.

The study compiled by employee recruitment companies Brainstorm Strategy and DECODE looked at more than 27,000 university and college students across Canada and their thoughts on what makes a great employer and companies where they would like to make careers.

The government of Canada and provincial governments ranked first and second, with non-profit organizations such as Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children, the Canadian Cancer Society, Big Brothers Big Sisters and the David Suzuki Foundation making the Top 25.

A "desire for job security, work-life balance and meaningful careers coupled with a changing demographic means a whole new ball game for Canadian employers," the researchers said in their report.

"Giving new graduates what they are looking for in an employer -- good income, work-life balance, secure employment, creativity and innovation in their careers -- forms the greatest challenge facing employers who are also faced with an impending labour shortage," it said.

But students also had a positive outlook on the economy and their job prospects, as concern about these issues decreased from 62 per cent last year to 56 per cent this year and results also showed students wanted job security and the opportunity to spend their whole career with one company.

However, a recent report from the Conference Board of Canada suggested the Canadian public service could shrink in the Ottawa region by as many as 6,200 jobs next year.

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