



## Nobina Robinson

Nobina Robinson has been an advocate and thought leader in post-secondary education and training policy for more than 15 years and has extensive experience in not-for-profit management. She served from 2009 to 2018 as chief executive officer of Polytechnics Canada, the national association that represents Canada's degree-granting polytechnics and colleges. Previously, Nobina worked at Seneca College. She served as a member of the Expert Panel on the Review of Federal Support to Business Research and Development. She was also instrumental in urging the federal government to establish in 2015 the Canada Apprenticeship Loan program. She has been a long-time advocate for the inclusion of college and polytechnic applied research in federal supports for higher education R&D.

Nobina began her federal public service career in 1990. She served as a Canadian foreign service officer, notably as a political officer at the Canadian embassy in Havana from 1994 to 1997. From 1998 to 2002, she was executive director of the Canadian Foundation for the Americas (FOCAL), a policy thinktank working to enhance Canada's relations with the Americas.

Nobina has written numerous media commentaries about Canada's innovation and talent challenges, and opportunities for modernizing Canada's skills and research ecosystems. She serves as chair of the board of Informed Opinions, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to seeking gender balance in media commentary. She has been named executive fellow at the School of Public Policy of the University of Calgary and senior fellow of the C.D. Howe Institute.

She holds a BA from Amherst College, Massachusetts, an MA from Oxford University (where she was a Commonwealth Scholar) and has pursued post-graduate studies at Yale University. For her service to the cause of applied learning, Nobina was awarded an honorary degree in 2018 from Algonquin College.