

Biography



Nobina Robinson
Former CEO, Polytechnics Canada

Nobina Robinson recently retired as Chief Executive Officer of Polytechnics Canada after over nine years of leadership for the national association that represents the leading Canadian polytechnics and colleges in Canada.

Since her retirement in July 2018, she has been appointed as Executive Fellow of the School of Public Policy of the University of Calgary, and a Senior Fellow of the C.D. Howe Institute.

Mrs. Robinson began her public service career in 1990 when she joined the federal Treasury Board Secretariat as a management trainee. Two years later, she became a Canadian Foreign Service Officer and was posted as a political officer to the Canadian Embassy in Havana, Cuba from 1994 to 1997. From 1998 to 2002, Mrs. Robinson led FOCAL, a policy institute on Canada's relations with the Americas.

Before joining Polytechnics Canada, Mrs. Robinson was the Ottawa-based Senior Government Relations Advisor for Seneca College, responsible for federal advocacy for one of Canada's largest colleges.

As Polytechnics Canada's CEO, Mrs. Robinson successfully advocated for to make federal funding for research inclusive of polytechnic and college and applied research, extending beyond university and post-doctoral research. She was instrumental in urging the federal government to establish the Canada Apprentice Loan program in 2014. Mrs. Robinson's longstanding commitment to inclusive innovation has led to significant increase in federal funding for polytechnic and college applied research and inclusion of students from these institutions for innovation internships.

Mrs. Robinson holds a B.A. from Amherst College, an M.A. from Oxford University (Commonwealth Scholar 1985-1988) and has pursued post-graduate studies at Yale University.

Mrs. Robinson served as a member of the Expert Panel on the Review of Federal Support to Research and Development that completed its work in October 2011. She was recently awarded an Honorary Degree in Applied Science by Algonquin College, in Ottawa.

Nobina has written numerous media commentaries about Canada's innovation and talent challenges and opportunities for modernizing Canada's skills and research ecosystems. Some of her articles can be found [here](#).