

## **Polish Post-Secondary Vocational Schools and Canadian Community Colleges**

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### **ABSTRACT**

**This article is a book review of the research by Norman L. Butler comparing select post-secondary two year institutions in Poland and Canada. Dr. Butler's book deals with educational challenges and opportunities in Poland.**

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Butler, Norman L. (2006). *Polish post-secondary vocational schools and Canadian community colleges*, Cracow, PL: CCNS s.a. Sponsored by Fundacja Lektorow AGH w Krakowie, AL. Mickiewicza 30, 30-059 Cracow, Poland. ISBN: 83-909958-9-1, 196 pages.

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### **Book Scrutinizes Educational Challenges in Poland**

**T**his book provides a valuable contribution to comparative education with an honest diagnosis of recent developments in Polish education at the post-secondary level. A serious, provocative, scholarly study, it dutifully scrutinizes educational challenges in Poland. It is a tribute to the investigator's resourceful efforts. The text is well organized and contains valuable, salient research with analysis of both Polish and Canadian higher education. The quality of the information presented is an interesting, vital, reliable, solid, straightforward scholarly piece of work. It attempts to balance simple and complex issues of planning for labor market needs in an emerging democracy

in Poland. Its merit lies in looking at student perceptions of nursing, tourism and information technology programs in both Canada and Poland. Respect for the two educational systems is evident and adroitly and copiously presented throughout the work.

### **Book Looks at Decentralization of Education in Canada and Poland**

Readers will find that the author's writing style is partially subjective when it draws upon his personal experiences as a student and instructor in both Canada and Poland. It attempts to look at the issue of decentralization of education in both countries. The voice of a more democratic educational system is emerging in Poland, which the author hints at the need for reforms along Canadian lines. The text is readable for academics and the informed public, and it deserves circulation in both Canada and Poland. It is a vivid reminder of the need to share educational achievements from other national systems. The text is highly recommended for the erudite scholar and graduate students.

### **Book is a Valuable Contribution to the Literature**

The work is not totally comprehensive in that psychological aspects of education are only briefly mentioned, and critical comments about the challenges facing the two different systems are minimal. However, it remains a valuable contribution to the literature with its sound empirical methodology. The book is well indexed. A learned, well-balanced, guide with various charts is presented. Scholarly concrete examples are clearly written. A competent use of tables and other documentation supports the research data with valuable appendices. The data may appear technical to the novice comparative education student; however this book is recommended because of the thoroughness of the research, sensitivity, and detail presented. It is an attempt to look at both the Polish and Canadian systems in a valid and different light. In summation, the author reiterates that student achievement in both systems of post-secondary education needs to be reviewed and analyzed in the decades to come.