

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **NEW POLL SHOWS LABOUR SHORTAGE REACHING CRITICAL STAGE FOR MANITOBA BUSINESS LEADERS**

**November 27, 2006** – The latest results of The Chamber Meyers Norris Penny Manitoba Business Leaders Index (MBLI) reveals that almost three out of four (72 per cent) of business leaders have had difficulty finding qualified new employees over the past year.

“This is far and away the biggest challenge facing business leaders in Manitoba and there doesn’t appear to be any indication the situation is improving,” said Leslie Dornan Senior Partner and Director of Human Resource Consulting for Meyers Norris Penny.

When asked what is the greatest challenged facing their company over the next year 41 per cent of business leaders cited the labour shortage issue an increase from 26 per cent in last year’s MBLI and 23 percent two years ago.

“What is also concerning is that more than one in four business leaders (28 per cent) see the labour issue as the greatest challenge facing their business over the next decade,” added Dornan.

When asked where the province should be concentrating its efforts in terms of address the workforce shortage business leaders cited new immigrants (27 per cent), Manitoba’s youth (26 per cent) and skilled workers from other provinces (16 per cent) as the top three pools to draw from.

“The workforce shortage is not just a Manitoba problem, it’s a worldwide problem and I think it’s imperative that government and business leaders work together to find ways to address the problem,” concluded Dornan.

Probe Research Inc. conducted the 4th Annual Chamber/Meyers Norris Penny Manitoba Business Leaders Index. Two hundred CEOs, Presidents, business owners and designated senior corporate officers from small, mid-sized and large enterprises, as defined by Statistics Canada and the Manitoba Bureau of Statistics, were surveyed by telephone between October 20 and October 31. The results, based on the sample size, are accurate to between  $\pm 6.9\%$  of what they would be had the entire population of Manitoba business leaders been surveyed.

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