

Trade and Technical Education and Training

The introduction of more complex technology, data processing and other industrial production practices has caused widespread changes in the employment pattern, creating an employer demand for more education and training of staff members at all levels. The result has been an unprecedented expansion of technical and vocational education facilities and programs which has, in turn, stimulated a close examination of the objectives, practices, techniques, accomplishments and standards inherent in all phases of the vocational training program.

Both the concept and the scope of the services required in this field have been advancing steadily. There is general acceptance of the idea that vocational-technical education neither substitutes for nor competes with general education but forms a complementary sector of education; that man can achieve his fullest self-realization and render his greatest service through socially useful, efficient work and that modern vocational-technical education should contribute to that end from late adolescence to retirement; and that vocational education for adults as well as for youth is a public responsibility which must be provided, as needed, throughout man's working life. Education of this nature is of national concern and has a direct impact upon material prosperity, the national economy and the standard of living.

The pattern of vocational education and training in Canada varies from province to province and there are also variations within the provinces. However, there are three basic types of institutions offering vocational education—trade schools, secondary schools, and post-secondary technical institutes. Courses at the trade school level do not usually require high school graduation; the grade level demanded, which varies according to province or trade, ranges from grade 8 to grade 11 or even grade 12. On the other hand, enrolment in technical institutes presupposes high school graduation or at least high school standing in such relevant subjects as mathematics and the sciences. Most of the trade schools and institutes of technology across Canada are provincially operated, but many municipal school boards provide vocational courses as part of the regular high school program in technical or composite-type schools. In addition, many private trade schools offer a wide variety of business, trade and technical courses, some through correspondence. Vocational education is also carried out under a system of apprenticeship training. Such training is done mainly on the job with classes taken at the trade schools either during the evening or on a full-time basis during the day for periods ranging from three to ten weeks a year.

Recognizing the importance of a high level of occupational and technical competence in the economic development of the country, the Federal Government, through the Vocational-Technical Branch of the Department of Labour, is interested in helping the provinces maintain a balance in the development of programs at different levels—for youth preparing to enter the labour market, for the trade and other occupational training and re-training of adults (pre-employment and upgrading courses), and for advanced technical training. Under the Technical and Vocational Training Act, passed in 1960, a number of federal-provincial measures have been introduced providing federal financial assistance to enable the provinces to provide training adequate to their needs and in the national interest. These measures consist of: (1) a capital assistance program; (2) nine Technical and Vocational Training Agreements covering Technical and Vocational High School Training Program, Technician Training Program, Trade and Other Occupational Training Program, Training Program in Co-operation with Industry, Program for the Training of the Unemployed, Program for the Training of the Disabled, Program for the Training of Technical and Vocational Teachers, Training Program for Federal Departments and Agencies, and Student Aid; and (3) an Apprenticeship Training Agreement.

The capital assistance program, under which the Federal Government pays 75 p.c. of the provincial expenditure up to a specified total for each province, has given a tremendous impetus to the development of training facilities. As of Mar. 1, 1964, projects valued at over \$583,400,000 had been approved; the cost of new schools approved amounted to