

of the regional economy undoubtedly have played a part. It is also true that, to a greater extent than in most of the other provinces, Quebec faces a difficult problem of securing sub-regional balance.

In terms of regional income growth, however, Quebec's performance has been well above the Canadian average. Indeed, since 1950, rising levels of income per person in this province have been a powerful force in reducing inter-regional income disparity in Canada. Employment has grown almost as rapidly as in Canada as a whole. Internal migration from rural to urban areas and occupations has also been an important factor in the over-all development of Quebec's economy, especially in the postwar period.

**Manitoba and Saskatchewan.**—These two Prairie Provinces have important distinguishing features. They are essentially similar, however, with respect to income levels and related economic characteristics, in which they rank somewhat above the average for Canada. Manpower utilization is at or above the national level because participation in the labour force is relatively high and the rate of unemployment is the lowest in the country. Seasonal unemployment associated with agriculture, however, is large. Indeed the importance of agriculture in both economies, but particularly in Saskatchewan, is an overriding influence which affects their economic status in relation to the other regions.

Earnings per employed person average close to the national level, although the relatively high concentration of employment in agriculture exerts a general downward pull. The shift out of this primary industry has involved a replacement of labour by capital on the farm and high rates of migration both to urban areas and to other provinces. Educational attainment in the labour force approximates the national average. Rates of investment per capita have been favourable and, in Saskatchewan particularly, the development of new mineral resources has diversified the productive capacity of the province. In these ways productivity and income per capita have been successfully maintained at or above the Canadian average. Nevertheless, total regional income and employment have increased relatively slowly because a highly mobile population has been attracted away by superior employment alternatives in the most rapidly expanding areas of the country. Consequently, a more rapid and sustained rate of regional growth and participation in national economic development will depend upon the provision of suitable employment opportunities involving high productivity and income within these regions.

**Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia.**—Although all three provinces have clearly distinguishable economic characteristics, in recent decades they have maintained a consistent standing at or near the top of the regional ranking of personal income per capita. Manpower utilization is higher than average in Ontario and Alberta, with favourable population age structures, high labour force participation rates and low unemployment. These factors are less favourable in British Columbia but their effects are offset by the exceptionally high rate of earnings per person employed—19 p.c. greater than the national average.

In all three provinces, educational attainment in the labour force and educational investment are advanced and rates of new investment have been well above average. In the range of factors the Council was not able to measure statistically—resource endowment, scale of enterprise and the stimulus of urban agglomeration, location and the use of advanced technology—these regions are relatively more favoured than most other provinces. With all these characteristics contributing to rapid growth in employment, population and total income, these regions have participated very strongly in national economic development. At the same time, to a greater extent than elsewhere, these regions have been confronted with problems associated with a sharp increase in the concentration of people and