

A survey of participants in further education, taken in 1960 using a 1-p.c. sample of the population 15 years of age or over, indicated that a typical student was male, married, about 31 years of age, had completed secondary schooling and had worked in a clerical or similar occupation.

Many public and private institutions and organizations also sponsor informal public lectures, film showings, guided tours, musical and dramatic performances and similar activities of an educational nature for adults. Workshops, conferences and residential adult education, as well as regular courses, help to prepare those who staff these activities.

How Education Costs are Met

In 1964, about 8 p.c. of Canada's total national income was spent on formal education. Almost 19 p.c. of all municipal, provincial and federal revenue went for education and of the amount so spent, the municipalities provided 32 p.c. and the provinces 45 p.c.

As stated on p. 340, the actual operation of public elementary and secondary schools is in the hands of the local elected or appointed school boards which determine the budgets and therefore the amount of taxes required for school purposes. In most cases, these taxes are levied and collected for the boards by the municipalities; however, in those areas where there is no municipal organization the school boards have the power to levy and collect taxes for school purposes. At present, local governments provide about half of the cost of operating the public schools, provincial grants provide over 46 p.c. and the remainder is obtained from various other sources. Except in Newfoundland, fees are almost non-existent. Four provinces—British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba and Nova Scotia—pay operating grants on an equalization formula and thus ensure at least a minimum level of education throughout the province; the standard is determined either in terms of so much per pupil, or from an established salary scale for teachers with a prescribed teacher-pupil ratio, or by some combination of these.

In Newfoundland where municipal organization scarcely exists outside certain larger centres, there are three school-tax areas (centres). Consequently only about 1.2 p.c. of school revenue is provided by local taxation; the province provides about 87 p.c. and most of the remainder is paid by parents in the form of fees. In Prince Edward Island where there is no municipal organization outside of the cities of Charlottetown and Summerside, the school boards levy and collect property and poll taxes but the province provides about two thirds of the operating costs. Ontario and Saskatchewan make use of various equalization and incentive grants and New Brunswick uses a combination of a basic grant per pupil and special grants. Most provinces provide grants for school buildings and equipment, establish loan funds, and guarantee debentures for school purposes and assist in selling them.

In 1964, universities and colleges received 62 p.c. of their current operating funds from provincial governments and the Federal Government, 25 p.c. from fees, 3 p.c. from endowments and gifts and 10 p.c. from a variety of other sources. Private schools and colleges are normally supported by student fees, endowment income, and gifts and support from sponsoring bodies.

Trade and Technical Education and Training

Increasing use of automated processes in business and industry is resulting in a shrinking market for unskilled and semi-skilled workers. Early school dropouts are finding it increasingly difficult to find suitable employment and many are now trying to acquire in their adult years the general education or training in the skilled trades that they missed in their youth. Those persons still in the regular school system are tending to remain longer and go farther in the system, partly because of the changing attitudes of society toward education and partly for economic reasons.