

In the light of these findings, the Council recommended that the advancement of education at all levels be given a very high place in Canadian public policy, and that investment in education be accorded the highest rank in the scale of priorities. In particular, the Council urged that immediate attention be given to:—

- (1) The rapid and substantial expansion of post-secondary education in all parts of Canada. The aim should be to provide a ready opportunity for higher education to every qualified Canadian student so that financial obstacles will be eliminated as a barrier to higher education. A substantial increase in funds for research is a necessary feature of expanded and improved education at the higher levels.
- (2) The closing of the remaining gaps in school facilities and professional resources at the secondary school level so that such education is a real and practical possibility for all Canadian children.
- (3) The development and implementation of greatly expanded programs to upgrade and bring up to date the education and skill qualifications of the existing labour force, including professional workers and management. Continuing education and retraining must play an ever-increasing role in the future.
- (4) Social and other measures to reduce drop-outs in high school to achieve a much higher rate of high school completions.
- (5) Vigorous efforts through research, the use of new techniques, and upgrading the qualifications of teachers to improve the quality and methods of education.
- (6) Closer co-operation between business, labour and the educational system, along with improved counselling of students, regarding future manpower needs and the most effective ways of meeting these needs.

Regional Growth and Disparities

The problem of assuring an appropriate participation on the part of each region in the over-all process of national economic development has long been an elusive goal and a continuing concern of the people of Canada. The Council's analysis showed that over the past four decades there has been relatively little progress toward the achievement of a better balance in this respect. Despite various policies and programs, very wide disparities have continued to exist in average per capita income. Also, there have continued to be wide differences in the extent to which the human and material resources of each region have found opportunities for productive use. While national prosperity has always tended to have a favourable influence everywhere, rapid national growth has not by itself served to bring about any significant or lasting reduction in these large and stubborn differences.

Regional levels of personal income per capita (in current dollars) are shown for three selected groups of years in the following statement. Provinces are ranked in order of level of income in 1963 and the data are for three-year averages centred on the year shown.

<u>Province</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1963</u>
	\$	\$,	\$
Ontario.....	509	981	2,025
British Columbia (incl. the Yukon and Northwest Territories).....	535	980	1,966
Alberta.....	509	923	1,750
Saskatchewan.....	449	818	1,749
Manitoba.....	455	875	1,721
Quebec.....	378	709	1,521
Nova Scotia.....	359	676	1,302
New Brunswick.....	277	609	1,167
Prince Edward Island.....	248	477	1,115
Newfoundland.....	1,009
PROVINCIAL AVERAGE.....	<u>407</u>	<u>783</u>	<u>1,532</u>

The most striking features of the above comparisons are the substantial percentage difference in income levels between the highest and lowest province and the fact that the rankings of the provinces in terms of income levels have hardly changed over a period of almost 40 years.