

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.

Hand in hand with this growing demand for better educational facilities, educators are striving to provide comprehensive programs at all levels to meet the needs not only of the university-bound but also of the great majority who require adequate preparation for early entry into the labour force. It is now accepted that vocational education for adults as well as for youths 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 in Canada varies from province to province and there are variations within the provinces. However, there are three basic types of institute offering vocational education—secondary schools, trade schools and post-secondary institutes of technology. Many municipal school boards provide vocational courses as part of the regular secondary school program in technical or composite-type schools. Students in these schools get some general vocational training or training in certain specific fields, such as typing or auto-mechanics, along with instruction in general academic or cultural subjects.

Trade schools, on the other hand, are open only to those who have passed the provincial school-leaving age and have left the regular school system. These schools offer specialized training and their purpose is to develop competent tradesmen. Courses at the trade 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 12.

The third type, the institutes of technology, operate at a higher level of training. Enrolment in the institutes presupposes high school graduation or at least high school standing in such relevant subjects as mathematics and the sciences. Graduates from institutes of technology are awarded diplomas of applied arts or diplomas of technology and form an essential link between professional engineers or administrators on the one hand and qualified craftsmen on the other. Most of the institutes of technology and trade schools across Canada are provincially operated.

In addition to the vocational education and training provided by these three types of publicly operated schools, many private business colleges and 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 given 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 10 weeks a year.

During the past six years under the Technical and Vocational Training Agreement the Federal Government shared provincial costs for training in secondary, pre-employment, occupational, post-secondary and adult programs provided that the provincial programs met the conditions of the federal-provincial agreement; however, the shared-cost agreements expired on Mar. 31, 1967 and were not renewed. Under new legislation, the Adult Occupational Training Act, the Federal Government takes full rather than partial responsibility for financing the cost of training adults who are or should be in the labour force. The cost of providing primary, secondary and post-secondary education remains a provincial responsibility.

If, in the opinion of a Manpower Counsellor, it is in the best interest of the individual and of the economy for an adult to undertake training or retraining, it will be purchased by the Federal Government from a public or private training institution or from industry.