

In the past, reliance was placed entirely on audited statements and published public accounts for all data; this resulted in delays that sometimes exceeded 30 months between the termination of an academic year and the publication of national information on schooling costs in Canada. However, provincial departments of education are now providing budgets and other information which will make it possible to have financial estimates available sooner.

The determination of more accurate educational costs on a current basis has enabled the federal government to provide significant sums of money (\$70.1 million in 1972-73) to the provinces to further the aims of bilingualism. A fixed percentage of the cost-per-pupil of elementary-secondary education is paid to each province, based on their costs, for the amount of minority language education provided and the time devoted to teaching the second language.

The importance of adequate statistics in order to plan and maintain a program of education support cannot be over-emphasized. An excellent data base already exists and it is constantly being refined and improved. The use of education statistics in order to establish and maintain programs designed to meet national and regional aims is now a genuine possibility, and could be put to immediate use.

Financial data (along with enrolment and teaching staff statistics) form an integral part of a developing nation-wide information system which was initiated by the Council of Ministers of Education in Canada but has been carried on by the Education Division of Statistics Canada since 1969. In addition, other initiatives have been taken to round out the statistical picture. In 1971, a survey was undertaken on school transport to provide national and provincial data on a number of aspects of this particular education phenomenon, on which very little information has ever been available; results of the survey were published in mid-1974. Recent moves in nearly all provinces to consolidate both administrative and education services into large units have resulted in significant increases in pupil transportation services which, it appears, now absorb from 3% to 10% of school board budgets.

Federal contributions to education. In 1971-72, universities and colleges received more than 78% of their operating funds from the federal and provincial governments. Private schools and colleges are normally supported by student fees, endowment income, gifts and income from sponsoring bodies.

In 1971-72, federal government expenditures on education amounted to an estimated \$928 million excluding monies transferred to provinces under the terms of the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements Act; of this, some \$256 million was spent at the university level, and expenditures on non-university post-secondary education, including vocational training, amounted to \$462 million. Finally, direct expenditures by the federal government on elementary-secondary education and teacher training accounted for \$210 million.

Some 66 federal government departments and agencies contribute to education in one way or another. As stated previously, the federal government has no responsibility for the organization and administration of education. It has, however, a vital interest in the quantity and quality of education, the skills of the population and the extent of scientific research carried on in Canada, realizing the effect of these on the national economy and on individual and social development.

During the past few years, federal support to education has undergone significant change. As a result of the federal-provincial conference of October 1966, the federal government undertook to provide increased support to education. Recognizing that education is a provincial responsibility, it decided to discontinue payment of operating grants directly to universities and to expand its support beyond university education and included in its program all, or almost all, post-secondary education, i.e. the educational institutions and courses requiring for admission at least junior matriculation, or its equivalent, in each province. The provinces were offered the choice of either a federal per capita grant of \$15 based on population or 50% of operating costs of post-secondary education, whichever was greater. Implementing this proposal, Parliament passed the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements Act in March 1967. This Act authorized the transfer of specific percentages of federal revenue plus required cash from the federal treasury to the provinces for a five-year period commencing with the 1967-68 fiscal year.

The financial resources transferred to the provinces were \$422 million in 1967-68; for succeeding years they were \$530 million in 1968-69, \$654 million in 1969-70, \$786 million in 1970-71, \$880 million in 1971-72, and \$987 million in 1972-73. The amount to be transferred to the provinces in 1973-74 is estimated at \$1,067 million.