

Full-time enrolment in educational institutions in Canada in 1975-76 showed an increase in universities and in non-university post-secondary courses of 27,350 students, with a combined total of 584,441 compared with 557,191 in 1974-75. At the elementary-secondary level, enrolment in 1975-76 decreased by 41,445 to a total of 5.59 million students from 5.63 million the previous year; this continued a downward trend that began in 1971-72 after a high enrolment of 5.83 million in 1970-71.

Costs of education continued to rise, increasing from a preliminary total of \$11,002.7 million for Canada in 1974-75 to an estimated \$12,964.2 million in 1975-76. These preliminary figures and estimates are not final, however. For this edition of the *Canada Year Book*, 1974 was the latest year for which final data were available.

The cost of education in Canada for 1973-74 has been established at \$9,635.2 million. This amount represents a per capita expenditure of \$436 or of \$1,038 per member of the labour force. By comparison, the cost of education 10 years earlier was \$134 per capita of the population or \$377 per member of the labour force. Following a rapid growth in the 1960s, total enrolment reached a peak in 1971-72. Declining by more than 1% from the previous year, the full-time enrolment at all levels was 6.44 million for 1973-74.

Changes in education

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Across Canada, the necessity of assuring equality of opportunity and of providing diversified programs in the last 20 years led education planners to offer a wide choice of courses at all levels of education. At the secondary level courses now include fine arts, music, drama, urban planning and social geography. Community colleges and vocational institutions provide a widening range of advanced technological and para-professional courses. Universities offer varied interdisciplinary programs at all levels and some have instituted programs of Canadian studies.

At the post-secondary non-university level, several new structures have evolved. The most innovative type of institution that emerged across the country in the 1960s was the community college. In Quebec there are now about 36 colleges of this type: they are known as *collèges d'enseignement général et professionnel* and are commonly referred to as CEGEPs. There are also about 20 private colleges in the province. In Ontario, colleges of applied arts and technology (which incorporated the former institutes of technology and the provincial vocational centres and are known as CAATs) were set up in 1967 in 20 regions. This upsurge in the establishment of additional post-secondary vocational and technological institutions has occurred all across Canada to meet the labour market's increasing need for qualified technicians.

Another significant change in education was the greater accessibility of programs to students regardless of sex. Females, who constituted about 39% of the full-time post-secondary enrolment in 1971-72, accounted for 41% of this enrolment in 1973-74. They increasingly selected, and were selected for, certain post-secondary courses which previously had shown almost total male enrolments.

One of the notable increases in teaching facilities was in the area of library service. School libraries provide up-to-date reference books on all subjects in the school curricula and have assumed increasing importance as resource centres for audio-visual aids such as projectors, films, filmstrips, maps, tapes and records.

Efforts were being made to overcome the financial barriers to continuing education. Investigation by demographers and sociologists confirmed that financial con-