

20%. Assuming that the rate will hover around 20% for the rest of the century means that enrolment will follow the contours of the 18-24 age group. Thus, a high of about 673,000 should occur in the early 1980s and a low of 527,000 (a 22% drop) in the mid-1990s. By 2000, enrolment should again be rising.

**Teachers.** The number of full-time elementary-secondary teachers declined 0.8% from 276,900 in 1975-76 to 274,700 in 1976-77. Their ranks had been falling since 1972-73 when they totalled 278,300. However, because the number of teachers had not decreased as quickly as enrolment, the number of students in relation to teachers fell every year. Of the 1976-77 total, more than half (57%) were women. The majority were teaching grades one to eight, while 20% taught grade nine and higher. Only 14% of principals and 16% of vice-principals were women.

In contrast to the elementary-secondary situation, the number of full-time post-secondary teachers was still growing. The 1976-77 total of 50,100 represents a 4% increase over the previous year and a 117% jump since 1966-67. The rise occurred among both university and non-university teachers, although the latter increased more rapidly to keep pace with greater enrolment gains.

**Graduates.** More than a quarter of a million students (265,600) graduated from secondary school in 1975-76, a 4% increase over 1974-75. The size of these graduating classes reflects the high birth rates of the 1950s and a growing tendency of young people to remain in school at least until secondary graduation. About 60% of high school graduates enter a post-secondary institution.

For 1976 the number of earned degrees conferred by universities were: bachelor's and first professional 83,300; master's 11,560; and earned doctorates 1,690. Comparable figures for 1978 were expected to be 92,000, 12,200 and 1,820 — overall, more degrees than ever before. Annual increases are anticipated through the early 1980s. In 1974-75, non-university institutions awarded 53,200 diplomas, an increase of more than 10,000 over the 1970-71 total of 41,600.

**Spending for education** from kindergarten through graduate studies was estimated at \$15.1 billion for 1976-77, and preliminary estimates place the 1977-78 figure at about \$16.4 billion. Elementary-secondary education absorbed \$10.0 billion of the 1976-77 total. Universities received \$4.1 billion; non-university institutions \$1.0 billion; and vocational training \$883 million.

Between 1975-76 and 1976-77, education expenditures rose 15%. The greatest increase, 17%, was at the elementary-secondary level. Spending on universities rose 12% and on non-university institutions 15%, while the increase in expenditures for vocational training was 5.2%.

Total spending for education per capita of population and per capita of labour force has climbed steadily in the past decade. Spending per capita rose from \$208 in 1966 to \$656 in 1976. The increase per capita of labour force was from \$560 to \$1,462.

Nonetheless, other indicators point to a decline in education spending that coincides with the enrolment turnaround. In 1970 when total full-time enrolment reached a high, education expenditures were equivalent to 9% of GNP and absorbed 22% of government spending, more than any other major area. By 1976 expenditures on education represented only 7.9% of GNP and social welfare had assumed first place.

### 7.1.2 History of education

The earliest organized forms of education in the territory that was to become Canada were under church control. Quebec was founded as a colony of France in 1608 and the first school soon opened. But it was not until 1824 that Quebec passed an education act. Nova Scotia had done so in 1766, followed by New Brunswick in 1802 and Ontario in 1807. However, education at lower levels continued to be church-dominated until the mid-19th century.

During the 1840s and 1850s a public system of education was developed in Quebec (Canada East), supplemented by schools and colleges operated by Roman Catholic orders. At the same time, Ontario (Canada West) also established a public system, as did the Maritimes (New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island).