

recommendations on university development and finance. In 1975 a Maritime provinces higher education commission was created to advise the premiers, and through them the governments, on higher education in all three provinces. The commission dispenses operating and capital grants directly to universities and colleges in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. For Nova Scotia, grants are made by the education minister following the commission's recommendations.

7.5 Federal involvement in education

7.5.1 Educational services

Department of National Defence. As well as the schooling of children of service personnel in government quarters, the defence department is directly responsible for the instruction and training of those who join the armed forces.

The Canadian Forces Training System (CFTS) with headquarters in Trenton, Ont. plans, conducts and controls all recruit, trades, specialist and officer classification training. Five bases and 30 schools across Canada are under CFTS jurisdiction. CFTS trains an annual intake of about 11,000 recruits and provides continuing instruction to regular forces and reserve personnel. About 200 classification and trades qualification courses, more than 575 in-service specialty courses and 700 other courses are available. Canadian forces trades training is now accredited in most provinces. The average daily population at CFTS schools is 5,720 and in other schools 2,273. The average annual number of graduates is 37,158.

An agreement between the defence department and the University of Manitoba permits military personnel and their dependents to work toward a degree. Manitoba is the first university to award academic credit for training courses conducted at Canadian forces schools and for service experience.

A comprehensive system of educational courses and professional development programs prepares potential officers — the three-stage Officer Career Development Program. A combination of screening and self-selection, the program can cover participants throughout their years of service until retirement.

The department finances and controls three tuition-free colleges: the Royal Military College in Kingston, Ont., Royal Roads in Victoria, BC, and the Collège militaire royal de Saint-Jean in Saint-Jean, Que. Academic courses leading to degrees in arts, science or engineering are supplemented by military studies and practical training. Close to half of all graduates receive engineering degrees. Graduates are required to serve three to five years in the armed forces. The department also assists other educational institutions in carrying out certain specialized instruction and defence research. About 1,000 cadet corps are active in Canada. Most members are high school students who spend a limited amount of time learning military fundamentals.

Other federal instructional programs. The Public Service Commission provides federal public servants with refresher and upgrading courses, study grants, career development opportunities, and language training. The ministry of the solicitor general has an educational program for inmates of federal penal institutions. Full- and part-time instruction is offered in vocational and academic subjects, sometimes with credit given by provincial authorities. A day-parole system allows some prisoners to attend secondary schools, colleges and universities. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) operates and administers a technical assistance program in developing countries.

7.5.2 Indirect participation

The growth of education, both in size and importance, made it almost inevitable that the federal government would play some role in its development even though the BNA Act restricts direct participation. Many departments have educational functions, but they tend to take a financial form. Grants for post-secondary and minority language education and sponsorship of manpower training programs have already been noted. A number of other federal bodies also make significant contributions.