

Financing the elementary-secondary system

6.2.3

In 1977-78, expenditures on the elementary-secondary level were an estimated \$11.4 billion or 67% of all education spending.

Financing elementary-secondary education was traditionally a municipal responsibility, local real estate taxes paying most of the cost of basic education. School boards determine their budgets and therefore the taxes required. In most cases municipalities levy and collect taxes for the boards. Where there is no municipal organization the boards have these powers. Taxes on real estate are still a vital element of elementary-secondary finance but the municipal share has declined in recent years to less than 20%.

Rapid post-war expansion of the need for educational services caused other levels of government to become more deeply involved in funding elementary and secondary schools. At the end of the 1940s provincial governments were contributing less than 20% of net general expenditures. During the next decade education spending tripled to more than \$1 billion. This reflected rising enrolment, improvement of teacher salaries, large-scale building programs and the growth of special services. As budgets increased, municipal authorities requested more support from provincial governments.

The relative contributions of the two levels differ from province to province, each provincial authority deciding the magnitude of its responsibility. A system of formula financing determines distribution. The intention is first to secure minimum standards, and second to moderate differences of wealth and income in different localities.

Part of this support actually comes from the federal government, channelled through the provinces. Federal expenditures cover some 3% of the elementary-secondary total, including what was spent on Indian and overseas schools. The federal government also contributes to elementary-secondary education under a federal-provincial program of co-operation for development of bilingualism in education.

Post-secondary education

6.3

Universities and degree-granting colleges

6.3.1

Several types of degree-granting institutions exist in Canada. Universities have, as a minimum, degree programs in arts and sciences; liberal arts colleges are smaller institutions with degree programs, usually only in arts; theological colleges grant degrees exclusively in theology; other specialized colleges offer degree programs in a single field, such as engineering, art or education. There are more than 60 degree-granting institutions in Canada.

History. The first institutions in Canada followed European models. The Séminaire de Québec, founded in 1663, was the base upon which Université Laval was established in 1852. The oldest English-language institution, King's College, at Windsor, NS opened in 1789. By 1867 Quebec had three universities and 712 classical colleges. There were three universities in New Brunswick, five in Nova Scotia and seven in Ontario. As well as in Nova Scotia, King's colleges had been established in New Brunswick and Ontario. Queen's and Victoria universities, supported by the Presbyterian and Methodist churches, had been chartered in Ontario. Their purpose was to train the clergy and a small, select group of laymen who wished to enter the professions. Teaching concentrated on theology, philosophy, the classics, medicine and law.

About the middle of the 19th century McGill University introduced courses in natural sciences, opened a normal school for elementary teachers and pioneered instruction in applied science and engineering. Similar changes were taking place at other universities — Dalhousie in Halifax, Queen's in Kingston, and the University of Toronto.

While the trend in English-language institutions was toward practical and scientific studies and secular control, in the French-language sector emphasis continued on classical studies under clerical control.

When the four western provinces were settled, other structures began to emerge. The American example of land-grant colleges led to a strong commitment to extension programs and community service. The University of Manitoba was granted a charter in 1877. In Saskatchewan and Alberta provincial universities were established in 1909 and