

have left the regular school system and are older than the compulsory age may attend. High school graduation is not usually required although, depending on the province and the trade, admission standards can range from grade 8 to grade 12. Included in this group are adult vocational centres and schools related to specific occupations such as police work, forestry and nursing.

A number of institutions offer academic upgrading courses designed to raise a trainee's general level of education in one or a series of subjects. Courses may be taken to qualify for admission to higher academic studies or vocational training. The federal government sponsors basic training for skill development in community colleges and adult vocational centres. However, completion of levels corresponding to the final grades of secondary school does not give high school graduation status.

Rather than attend an educational institution, individuals may acquire trades training as they work. Training on the job is organized instruction offered in a production environment. Skills relating to a specific trade or occupation are learned in a step-by-step approach.

Training in industry is provided by business and industrial establishments to train new employees, retrain experienced workers or upgrade their qualifications. It may be publicly supported, in full or in part, or entirely financed by the company. Training can be on the job, by classroom instruction, or a combination of the two. Under cost-sharing agreements the federal government reimburses companies that provide training. The provincial governments monitor the publicly supported company programs and approve them for federal support.

Apprenticeship programs combine on-the-job training with classroom instruction. Persons contract with an employer to learn a skilled trade and eventually reach journeyman status. Apprentices may be registered with a provincial or territorial labour or manpower department in order to train in an apprenticeship trade. The department sets standards for journeyman qualification: minimum age, educational levels for admission, minimum wages, duration of apprenticeship and the ratio of apprentices to journeymen. Non-registered apprentices enter into a private agreement with an employer, perhaps in association with a labour union. They are not subject to regulations established by the provincial department for that trade.

The federal Vocational Rehabilitation for Disabled Persons Act facilitates trades-training for the handicapped. The federal government reimburses the provinces for 50% of costs for programs that enable disabled people to support themselves fully or partially. The provinces provide training directly in community colleges and trade schools or purchase it from the private sector or voluntary agencies. Quebec does not participate.

In co-operation with the provinces, the federal government has introduced standard interprovincial examinations to promote the mobility of journeymen. Those who pass examinations in certain apprenticeable trades have an interprovincial seal attached to their certificate, allowing them to work in any province.

Staff. In 1976-77 full-time educational staff administering and teaching trades level courses numbered 5,400. On the average, they had seven years of teaching experience and two years in industry. At the same time, 18,600 were administering and teaching in post-secondary technical programs.

Students. In 1976-77 an estimated 417,000 full-time students were enrolled in institutions providing technical and trades training. About three-quarters were in community colleges, and most of these were studying at the technical level. The rest were distributed between public trade schools and hospital schools. The same year there were 260,000 business and industry trainees.

Business was the most popular field in both career programs and trades level courses. Second place in career enrolment was taken by medical and dental fields, while at the trades level, engineering and medical technologies and trades were next.

Continuing education

6.3.4

Continuing or adult education is adapted to the needs of persons not in the regular system. Out-of-school adults (15 and older) are able to pursue accreditation at diverse