



UPDATE

Education is one of Canada's largest investments: in 1983-84 about 5.7 million full-time students in 15,800 schools, colleges and universities were taught by 330,000 full-time teachers at a cost of more than \$30 billion — 8% of the gross national product (GNP) or \$1,200 per capita.

Elementary-secondary enrolment had been declining since 1971-72 but showed signs of levelling off in 1983-84. In fact, small increases are expected for the next few years.

Postsecondary enrolment is still growing, but at a modest pace. Increasing participation of women has been noteworthy: in 1960-61 only 38% of full-time postsecondary students were women but by 1982-83 the proportion had risen to nearly 50%. Indeed it exceeded 50% in community colleges and university undergraduate programs.

Non-government sources such as tuition fees and private donations accounted for just 8% of all monies spent on education. Provincial and municipal governments spend close to a quarter of their budgets on education.