

Department of Manpower and Immigration and other agencies. Some departments — Agriculture and National Health and Welfare, among others — provide materials and publications of value in the school programs; and the National Museums of Canada, the National Gallery, the National Film Board and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation contribute directly or indirectly to various school programs.

More directly, the federal government is responsible for the education of Indians, members of the Armed Services and their dependents, and in-service training for permanent personnel and inmates of federal penitentiaries. It also assists in citizenship training and other out-of-school informal education activities.

External education assistance. The Canadian International Development Agency is responsible for the operation and administration of the technical assistance program offered by the Canadian government to developing countries. The International Development Research Centre, Canadian-financed but international in character, supports and assists research into the economic and social problems faced by developing countries. The activities of both organizations are described in Chapter 3.

7.2 Statistics of schools, colleges and universities

The first two tables concerning this Section give summary statistics of education at elementary, secondary and tertiary levels. Changes in enrolments at the three levels between 1968-69 and 1972-73 are shown in Table 7.1 and detailed data on numbers of schools, teachers and enrolment in the different types of institutions in each province and the territories are presented in Table 7.2.

7.2.1 Enrolments

7.2.1.1 Elementary and secondary enrolment

The combined elementary and secondary school enrolment increased each year until 1970-71, but at a decelerated rate. The trend has now been reversed. Between 1970-71 and 1971-72 the combined enrolment declined less than 1%, but between 1971-72 and 1972-73 the decline was almost 2%. The declines are due to decreased enrolments at the elementary level only, a result of the low birth rates in the mid-1960s. At the secondary level, however, enrolments were still increasing, reflecting the upsurge in the numbers of students at the beginning of the 1960s resulting from the high birth rates prevailing in the immediate postwar years. This growth is occurring in every province almost without exception as pupils attending elementary school in the 1960s move into the higher grades. This increase is also related in part to the fact that students are staying in school longer, and larger numbers of them are planning to go on to some form of post-secondary education. In addition, the greater diversification of courses offered which better prepare students for entry into the labour force and which more adequately fulfil the needs of the community, as well as the greater accessibility to further education, appears to affect school retention rates.

Table 7.3 shows enrolment in all elementary and secondary schools in Canada including National Defence schools overseas in 1971-72 by grade, and Table 7.4 shows the same enrolment by age.

Only 2.5% of all elementary-secondary school students were enrolled in private schools in 1971-72. In almost every province, these schools are being integrated into the public school system, possibly because of the improving quality of public education throughout the country, and rising costs associated with private education. Table 7.5 shows that in the six-year period 1967-68 to 1972-73 enrolment in private schools in all provinces except Newfoundland and Ontario declined substantially, although there were year-to-year fluctuations within the period in most provinces. Quebec, however, reported a significant increase in 1971-72 and 1972-73 over the previous years, as did New Brunswick and British Columbia in 1972-73.

7.2.1.2 Post-secondary non-university enrolment

During recent years, enrolment in post-secondary non-university education has grown rapidly due partly to new organizational structures and partly to a range of new programs that comprise programs in teachers' colleges, hospital and regional schools of nursing, some universities, and especially in community colleges.

As shown in Table 7.6, in 1972-73 the 198,732 enrolments in post-secondary non-university education represented an increase of 71,902 students or 56.7% over the previous year. Of