

Nearly 70 per cent of community college students take technical "career" programs; the rest are in university transfer programs. But full-time enrolment in community colleges represents only a small portion of the colleges' activities in educating adults. It is not unusual for a college to have a small full-time enrolment and five times as many or more students enrolled part-time in trades, technical or general interest courses.

Training in the trades

Early in the twentieth century, rapid industrialization in Canada gave added importance to the acquisition of technical and trades skills. Since schools and universities rarely offered such instruction, alternative means to train tradespeople had to be found to meet Canada's growing needs.

A series of federal-provincial initiatives were begun, such as the agricultural training program, established in 1913. During the 1950s, a shortage of technical workers prompted the federal government to give provinces more aid for vocational training. By 1960, about 30 institutions had been opened, and in 1961 the *Technical and Vocational Training Act* was passed to encourage provinces to extend and improve facilities. Thereafter, new comprehensive schools frequently incorporated technical and vocational programs.

Trades courses, which emphasize manipulative skills and performance of established procedures and techniques, are generally of one year's duration, and require the completion of Grade 10 for admission. These courses are provided in a variety of environments: "trade divisions" of community colleges (which teach the trades, such as plumbing, carpentry, etc.), specially designated provincial trade schools, private business colleges, and on-the-job training programs.

Training-in-industry is provided by business and industrial establishments to train new employees, re-train experienced workers or upgrade qualifications.

Apprenticeship programs combine on-the-job training with classroom instruction. Under contract with an employer, individuals learn a skilled trade and eventually reach journeyman status. Apprentices may be registered with a provincial department of labour or employment that sets standards for journeyman qualifications, or they may enter into a private agreement with an employer. 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 may work in any province.