

The Minister stated that a permit for the construction of this subcritical reactor was issued by the Board in October of last year. The subcritical reactor had now been satisfactorily completed and the University had submitted detailed operating procedures which were reviewed by the Board's Reactor Safety Advisory Committee.

The subcritical reactor, the Minister pointed out, would be the first non-government nuclear facility to be operated in Canada. Though it was not, strictly speaking, a nuclear reactor since it was too small to support a nuclear chain reaction, it would be a valuable tool for training students in the theory and operation of full scale reactors and it could also be used for nuclear research.

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MORE AND LARGER FAMILIES

Estimated number of families in Canada's ten provinces increased nearly 4 per cent in 1957 to 3,849,000 from 3,705,600 in the preceding year and was more than 17 per cent larger than the 1951 total of 3,282,400, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. Average family size in 1957 was 3.8 persons in 1957, unchanged from the preceding year but slightly larger than the 1951 average of 3.7.

Families were largest in Newfoundland and New Brunswick at 4.5 persons and smallest in British Columbia at 3.4 persons. Average family size in Prince Edward Island was 4.3 persons, Quebec 4.2, Nova Scotia 3.9, Manitoba 3.8, Saskatchewan 3.8, Alberta 3.8, and Ontario 3.5 persons.

As in the Census, the family for purposes of these estimates is defined as a group of two or more persons living in the same dwelling and related to one another either as husband and wife, with or without unmarried children, or as parent and children. Any other persons in the dwelling who might be related to the family head were not counted as members of his family.

Number of children per family (at home) in 1957 averaged 1.8, the same as in 1956 but up from the 1951 average of 1.7. Families with no children at home were lower in relation to the total in 1957 at 30.9 per cent versus 32.3 per cent in 1951, and those with one child fell to 21.3 per cent from 23.5 per cent, but those with two children rose to 20.5 per cent from 19.8 per cent, three children to 12.5 per cent from 10.9 per cent, four children to 6.6 per cent from 5.8 per cent, and five or more children to 8.2 per cent from 7.8 per cent.

Families in Newfoundland had the highest average number of children at home in 1957 at 2.5, followed by Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick with 2.4 each, Quebec with 2.2, Nova Scotia 1.9, Alberta 1.8, Manitoba and Saskatchewan 1.7 each, Ontario 1.5, and British Columbia 1.4.

In Ontario, the nation's most populous province, the proportion of families with no children at home declined in 1957 to 33.7 per cent from 36.1 per cent in 1951 and families with one child to 23.2 per cent from 25.1 per cent. Proportions of families with two or more children were larger: two children, 21.7 per cent versus 20.4 per cent in 1951; three children, 11.5 per cent versus 9.8 per cent; four children, 5.5 per cent versus 4.4 per cent; and five and more children, 4.4 per cent versus 4.1 per cent.

Changes in family size in Quebec followed the same general pattern as those in Ontario except that the proportions of the "five and over" group declined. The figures: no children at home, 27.5 per cent (28.2 per cent in 1951); one child, 19.3 per cent (21.2 per cent); two children, 18.8 per cent (17.7 per cent); three children, 12.6 per cent (11.6 per cent); four children, 8.2 per cent (7.4 per cent); and five and more children, 13.6 per cent (13.9 per cent).

Proportions for the other provinces: British Columbia -- no children at home, 35.7 per cent (37.7 per cent in 1951); one child, 21.2 per cent (24.2 per cent); two children, 22.0 per cent (21.6 per cent); three children, 12.7 per cent (9.7 per cent); four children, 5.0 per cent (3.9 per cent); and five and more children, 3.4 per cent (2.9 per cent). Prairie Provinces -- no children at home, 30.5 per cent (30.9 per cent); one child, 20.3 per cent (23.8 per cent); two children, 21.0 per cent (21.6 per cent); three children, 14.2 per cent (11.8 per cent); four children, 6.7 per cent (5.8 per cent); and five and more children, 7.3 per cent (6.1 per cent).

Newfoundland -- no children at home, 22.7 per cent (23.0 per cent in 1951); one child, 19.3 per cent (20.7 per cent); two children, 20.5 per cent (17.6 per cent); three children, 11.4 per cent (13.2 per cent); four children, 9.1 per cent (9.1 per cent); and five and more children, 17.0 per cent (16.4 per cent). Maritime Provinces -- no children at home, 25.8 per cent (28.3 per cent); one child, 21.6 per cent (22.9 per cent); two children, 17.9 per cent (18.7 per cent); three children, 13.7 per cent (11.9 per cent); four children, 7.9 per cent (7.3 per cent); and five and more children, 13.1 per cent (10.9 per cent).

Just over 35 per cent of the children in Canadian families were under school age (under 6 years), two fifths were between 6 and 13 years, inclusive and one-quarter were 14-25 years of age. Among the regions the lowest proportion of family children of pre-school age (under 6 years) was in Quebec at just one-third, while the highest was in Newfoundland at 37.1 per cent. On the other hand, Quebec had the largest percentage (28.4) of working age, i.e., between 14-24 years, with Newfoundland lowest at 22.5 per cent.