

Federal contributions to higher education

The financial contributions of the Federal Government include: the University Grants Programme; assistance to students by the Department of National Defence through the Regular Officer Training Plan; aid to veterans and to children of war dead by the Department of Veterans' Affairs; awards by the National Research Council to graduate students in pure and applied science; grants by the Department of National Health and Welfare; vocational-training grants by the Department of Labour, made through provincial government authorities, and certain other awards.

In addition to money for such student awards, several million dollars of federal funds are made available annually for research in the universities. For 1958-59 over \$9 million was reported in this category.

The largest federal contribution is in the form of annual grants to universities and colleges for current operating purposes. These grants were first paid for the 1951-52 academic year when roughly \$7 million was voted by Parliament to be paid on the basis of 50¢ a head of the population in each province. Distribution within each province was made on the basis of eligible full-time university-grade enrolment in the various institutions as a proportion of the provincial population. Grants at the 50¢ rate were paid until 1956-57. In that academic year the grant was raised to \$1.00, and payment was made by the Government to the National Conference of Canadian Universities, which distributed the money among the eligible institutions. Beginning with the 1958-59 session, the grant was increased to \$1.50. For 1959-60 some \$26,112,000 was authorized at this rate, the average grant for each full-time eligible student amounting to \$270.94.

Another large federal contribution is through the Canada Council for the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. Plans to form the Council, which had been suggested in the 1951 Report of the Royal Commission on National Development in the Arts, Letters and Sciences (the Massey Commission report), were announced in November 1956. The Council was granted \$100 million, half of which was to be distributed to Canadian institutions of higher education over the 10-year period for specific building or capital equipment projects that were in the fields of the Council's interest. Eligibility and payment were based essentially on the scheme used for university grants. By March 31, 1960 grants totalling \$22,160,000 had been approved.

The interest on the other \$50 million was to be used to assist the development of the arts, humanities and social sciences through graduate scholarships and grants to individuals and organizations in these fields. About \$2,500,000 was made available in 1959-60.