

discuss the various aspects of the experiences and relate them to the theories of learning, group dynamics and subject matter areas. The great value of simultaneous teaching and learning of the program is reflected in the growing abilities of students to translate theory into application. The harsh aspects of reality are always present and act as an effective antidote to the hardening of theoretical arteries....

#### Needs of the multi-handicapped

The severe retardation too often found among multi-handicapped children may be the product of under-stimulation and consequent deprivation of experience. These children are in special education classrooms and schools and cannot be overlooked. In order to meet the very special needs of the multi-handicapped child, we have instituted an experimental program within the Diploma Program in Learning and Behaviour Disorders.

In its first year of operation, five students from the diploma programs volunteered to participate in this experimental program. These students selected courses, such as the Education of the Visually Handicapped, which would help prepare them for this work. Each student is working one day a week with one child throughout the year. On the remaining four days these students participate in the normal practicum sequence. Meetings are held every two weeks to discuss and evaluate the response of the child and to plan further development of the program. The programs are highly individualized and are based on teacher and student evaluations of the developmental profile of the child.

The children range in age from two years to 13 years and present mental retardation, emotional disturbances in association with physical, sensory or neurological impairments. All the children are functioning far below the norms established for their age levels

and are, with the exception of the youngest child, enrolled in ongoing pre-school and special class programs. The content and sequence of developmental planning varies for each child and includes the stimulation of exploratory and manipulative skills, social and communication skills and language development....

#### Benefit periods under Unemployment Insurance Act

On April 1, 1971, Canada's unemployment insurance covered an estimated 5,340,770 persons. Owing primarily to the earlier timing of the survey in 1971, this figure was 59,000 lower than the June 1, 1970, estimate. The insured population represented almost 80 per cent of the paid-worker component of the labour force.

During the first six months of 1971, a total of 528,910 regular benefit periods were established. This half-year total represented 47 per cent of the 1,127,790 established during the full year in 1970 and 56 per cent of the five-year average from 1966 to 1970. Regionally, 37 per cent of the periods were established in Ontario, 29 per cent in Quebec, 14 per cent in the Prairie Provinces, 11 per cent in British Columbia and 10 per cent in the Atlantic Provinces.

#### Average benefits

The average benefit paid on claims terminating in 1971 increased to \$562, up \$51 or 10 per cent from the \$511 paid in 1970. Provincially, the highest and lowest averages were recorded in the Atlantic Provinces — \$612 for Newfoundland and \$463 for Prince Edward Island. The average number of weeks paid rose 4 per cent, to 15.0 from 14.4. Owing partly to the impact of the inclusion of the 10 percent supplementary benefit on June 27, the average weekly benefit climbed to \$37.60 from \$35.63 for the previous year.

Between December 1, 1970, and May 15, 1971, a total of 378,370 seasonal benefit periods were established, up 24 per cent from the previous year. Ontario accounted for 31 per cent (16 per cent in 1972), Quebec 25 per cent (30 per cent) and the Atlantic Provinces 19 per cent

(22 per cent), while the remaining 25 per cent (22 per cent) was shared equally by the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia. The average amount of seasonal benefit paid in 1971 increased to \$361, up \$16 or 5 per cent from the previous year. The average weeks paid remained the same (10.2) for the two years.

On June 27, 1971, a new Unemployment Insurance Act was introduced that featured an easing of the qualifications for benefit and a more generous benefit-rate structure. Under the universal provision of the new program, more than two million persons — formerly excluded under the 1955 Act — were insured effective January 2, 1972.

For the last six months of 1971, 856,360 benefit periods were established, of which 91 per cent, or 775,710, were for regular benefit. The remaining 80,650 were composed of sickness (40,160), maternity (10,050), retirement (6,630) and fishing claims (18,810). Regionally, 31 per cent of the total periods were established in Ontario, 29 per cent in Quebec, and equal proportions of 13 per cent in the Atlantic and Prairie Provinces and British Columbia.

#### Record number of housing starts in 1972

Housing starts in Canada reached a record of some 250,000 in 1972, according to preliminary figures released by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. The total represented a 7 per cent increase over the previous record of 233,653 starts in 1971.

Starts in the urban areas alone totalled 14,106 in December and 207,518 for the full year. Of this, 80,903 were starts on single-family dwellings, an increase of about 18 per cent from the 1971 figure, while starts on multiple housing declined by about 1 per cent to 126,615.

The seasonally-adjusted annual rate for housing starts in all areas dropped from 222,600 in November to 200,700 in December. The fourth quarter rate of starts was 229,200, compared to 258,800 in the third quarter of 1972.

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