

About the middle of the nineteenth century, Montreal's McGill University introduced courses in the natural sciences, applied science and engineering. Similar changes were taking place at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Queen's University in Kingston and the University of Toronto.

Toward the end of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth, when the four western Canadian provinces were being settled, university programs based on a strong commitment to extension programs and community services began to emerge. The University of Manitoba was founded in 1877; the Universities of Saskatchewan and Alberta followed suit in 1909 and 1908 respectively. The University of British Columbia opened in 1915.

Some institutional expansion occurred after the First World War, so that by 1938 Canada had 28 universities, ranging in size from the University of Toronto, with a full-time enrolment of about 7,000, to institutions with fewer than 1,000 students. University enrolment in 1938 totalled about 40,000, representing five per cent of the population between the ages of 18 and 24.

After the Second World War, as a result of the Veterans' Rehabilitation Program, more than 50,000 ex-service men and women entered the universities. By the mid-1950s, places vacated by veterans were filled by an increasing number of high school graduates. Demand for university places continued, but the full force of expansion was not felt until the late 1960s and early 1970s. Enrolment rose from 128,600 in 1961-62 to 323,000 a decade later.

The later 1970s saw enrolment decline in some years, despite an increase in the 18-to-24 age bracket. In the 1980s, however, this situation was reversed: the number of 18-to-24-year-olds has decreased every year since 1983, while university enrolment has increased.

### *Admission policies*

Admission to universities and other degree-granting institutions is granted directly from high school graduation except in the province of Quebec, where university entrance qualification is obtained after the completion of a two-year program at a *collège d'enseignement général et professionnel (CEGEP)*.

With provincial examinations mostly discontinued in recent years, the school record has become the primary tool for evaluating applicants. There are no university entrance examinations as such in Canada; high school graduate applicants are selected on the basis of their marks and subject selection.

Most universities also provide for the admission of older "mature students"; usually, these are applicants who have spent a number of years in the work force and do not meet the normal entrance requirements.