

## 5. CHANGES TO LEVELS OF ASSISTANCE

### a) *Tuition Assistance:*

Tuition assistance under the new policy is without limits at all levels of study. Under the E-12 Guidelines, such assistance was subject to the same time restrictions as other categories of assistance.

Tuition assistance under the new policy is defined as including "students' fees for registration, tuition, and the cost of books and supplies which are listed as required by the post-secondary institution".<sup>5</sup>

Requirements for funding of tuition costs at foreign institutions are a little tighter than previously. Under the E-12 Guidelines, tuition costs could not exceed those for a comparable program of studies offered in Canada. If the program was not available in Canada, actual tuition costs would be covered.

Under the new policy, actual tuition costs will still be covered if no comparable program is available in Canada. If there is a comparable program, tuition costs are not to exceed those charged by the Canadian institution where a comparable program is offered nearest to the student's place of residence at the time of application.

### b) *Seasonal Travel Allowances:*

The 1989 policy is not as extensive as the 1977 policy in the range of seasonal travel expenses covered, with one possible exception resulting from the revised definition of "dependent". Under both policies, a student's dependents are included in the seasonal travel allowance. Under the 1977 policy, "dependent" included a spouse or any child with annual gross earnings less than \$2,000. Under the 1989 policy "dependent" is defined by Revenue Canada's Income Tax regulations and will likely result in a broader possible class of dependents.

The number of return trips home funded in one academic year under each form of the program appears to be two. The 1977 E-12 Guidelines allowed one return trip home "for each period of time covered by their enrollment" (one academic year), and upon the approval of the Sending Counsellor, a return trip home for the Christmas holidays was funded. Under the 1989 policy, students are eligible for travel assistance for themselves and