

In terms of years of schooling before training, 30 per cent of all trainees had between 1 and 8 years, 45.7 per cent between 9 and 11 years, 18.8 per cent had 12-13 years, that is, the equivalent of high school graduation, and 5.5 per cent had 14 years or more. Compulsory attendance at school for a minimum of 10 years is now established in Canada. The proportion of pupils who remain in school through to grade 12 has steadily risen. In 1972-73, 71 per cent of those who had been enrolled in grade 2 ten years earlier were enrolled in grade 12. A comparative statistic for 1961-62 showed that by the time they reached grade 12 only 36.4 per cent were still enrolled.

Creation of new jobs in the private or the public sector has been insufficient to absorb the rapid increase in the labour force which is largely attributable to the entry of young workers. As a result young workers under 24 years not only account for approximately 50 per cent of all registrations at Canada Manpower Centres, they take up 47 per cent of all forms of institutional training. In the skill training component they take 69 per cent of the available training seats, while in industrial training courses assisted by the Division, they utilize 40 per cent of the opportunities.

Mr. Thompson as a provincial educator raised an objection before the Committee that young workers should not necessarily be required to have one year attachment to the work force before becoming eligible for federal sponsorship for training. In New Brunswick many provincially supported trainees go into skill courses directly upon graduation from secondary schools.

The present one year attachment has been in effect since the amendment to the Adult Occupational Training Act in 1972. It originally was three years. This restriction reinforces the principle that the federal government through the Manpower Division is primarily responsible for assisting adult workers in training for employment. To remove the element of experience in the work force would alter this basic assumption. Instead of providing training as part of a pattern of recurrent work and education, the federal government would effectively be assisting students in their continuing education.

**The Committee recommends continuation of the present rule that trainees must have spent one year in the work force before becoming eligible for a federally sponsored training course.**

#### **Basic Training for Skill Development (BTSD)**

"Education is a luxury the poor cannot afford", was the observation of Senate Committee on Poverty.<sup>2</sup> The Manpower Division has attempted to deal with the employment ramifications of that statement directly through two of its training programs, in a small way in industrial training but predominately through institutional training in the Basic Training for Skill Development (BTSD) program.

It is an unattractive statistic to face, but Canada still has over one million people with only four years of formal schooling or less. This is the portion of

<sup>2</sup> *Poverty in Canada: A Report of the Special Senate Committee 1971*; page 116