



CANADA

CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION • DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS • OTTAWA, CANADA

Vol. 14 No. 36

CONTENTS

September 9, 1959

What Happened to the Class of '54?	1
P.E.I. Elections	2
Canada Council Grants	2
Air Agreement Signed	3
Mr. Churchill Goes Abroad	3
The Canadian Ministry	4
Canada Handbook 1959	4

Mr. Casey in Ottawa	4
Sales of Motor Vehicles Increase	5
Motor Vehicle Shipments	5
Tyrone Guthrie Awards	5
Government Finances	6
Commodity Exports Rise	6

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CLASS OF '54?

Professional Manpower Bulletin No. 6, "The Early Post-Graduate Years in the Technical and Scientific Professions in Canada", recently released by the Department of Labour, follows the careers of a group of university students who graduated in 1954. The bulletin, prepared by the Economics and Research Branch, is a case study of the 1957 employment status of the 1954 graduating class of engineers and scientists and covers in detail subjects such as type of work, place of employment, remuneration and post-graduate study.

The period under consideration (1954-1957) was characterized by a steady increase in the Canadian economy's demand for engineers and scientists, with corresponding shortages. The employment experience of the 1954 graduates, as shown in this report, undoubtedly reflects this favourable demand situation, inasmuch as some sectors of the economy were able to attract young graduates and influence their decision either to the labour force or to undertake post-graduate study.

The report shows that in 1957 four-fifths of the 1954 graduates were employed full time at jobs requiring a technical and scientific background and that less than one per cent were out of jobs and seeking work.

Some changes between field of study and field of work were made during the three years although, in most cases, this movement appears to be into some employment field reasonably similar to the field in which the individuals

graduated, and therefore where their academic training would be of value.

The only scholastic field which did not relinquish graduates to other fields was petroleum engineering. Furthermore, in 1957, there were seven times as many engaged in petroleum engineering as had graduated from that course in 1954. This represents the greatest proportional increase in any field.

The three major employers of the 1954 graduates were: industry, 75 per cent; government, 17 per cent; and educational institutions, eight per cent.

WORK PERFORMED

The bulletin shows that: 20 per cent of the 1954 graduates were engaged in 1957, in production, maintenance, and exploration work; 19 per cent in research and development work; 13 per cent were employed as designers, three-quarters of whom were engineers' and one-quarter of whom were architects; less than 10 per cent were supervisors or administrators; about seven per cent were in teaching positions, and the smallest proportion, 3.8 per cent, were in consulting and private practice.

In respect to variety of work experience, the results of the survey indicate a fairly high degree of job mobility for the group as a whole, with the engineers showing a slightly higher rate of job mobility than the scientists.

It seems that irrespective of the number of jobs held, there is a reluctance or inability