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Students worth more

OTTAWA (CP) -- Expenditure on education increased by 305 per cent between 1962 and 1973, almost twice as fast as the rise in the Gross National Product (GNP), a Statistics Canada report says.

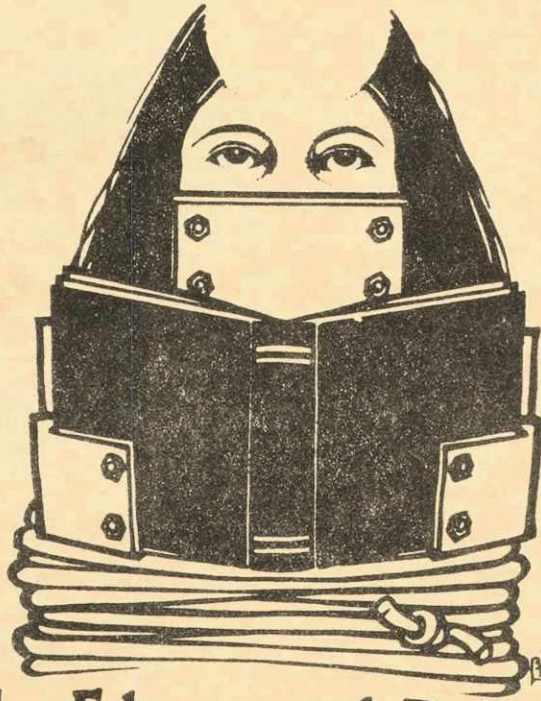
The government agency's recent annual statistical review of Canadian education, says \$9.6 billion was spent on schooling in 1973, an increase from \$2.3 billion in 1962.

The GNP — the total value of goods and services produced — rose by 185 per cent in the same period.

Spending on education will continue to rise despite falling enrolments, the agency says.

This year, an estimated \$14.5 billion would be spent to educate about 6,150,000 students in elementary, secondary, post-secondary and vocational schools, a decrease of about 54,000 in students enrolled in 1975.

Transposed in terms of per capita expenditures, \$436 was spent on education for each Canadian resident in 1973, an increase of 240 per



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cent from the \$128 spent for each person in 1962.

The report shows that provincial governments are bearing a larger share of increasing education expenditures.

Between 1962 and 1973, the percentage of education expenditures absorbed by the provinces increased to 60.7 from 43.6, while the federal government's share dropped during the same period to 10.2 per cent from 14.9 per cent.

The report notes, however, that federal funds transferred to the provinces for post-secondary education are classified as provincial expenditures and the British North America Act makes education a provincial responsibility.

When provincial education expenditures are related to other economic indicators such as the size of the labor force, they reflect regional economic disparities, the report says.

From East to West, expenditures on education in 1973 as a proportion of personal income generally declined — 11.7 per cent in the Atlantic provinces, 12 per cent in Quebec, nine per cent in Ontario and 8.9 per cent in the West.

The differences are due in part to the lower personal income each

member of the labor force has in the East and means that each eastern worker must bear a larger burden of education expenditures than his western counterpart.

While each worker in the Atlantic provinces had to absorb a larger share of education expenditures, less was spent on students in that region.

The average spent in 1973 on a student in those provinces was \$823, compared with the \$1,187 in Quebec, \$1,096 in Ontario and \$997 in the West.

The report shows that while the over-all student enrolment declined, university enrolment has increased.

Statistics Canada is predicting that the trend will continue and university enrolments will be up.

The student enrolment drop is evident mainly in primary schools and can be attributed to a falling birth rate during the last decade.

Education now ranks second to all other government expenditures, only to be outdone slightly by spending on social assistance programs.

Of the major western countries, only Sweden spends more per capita than Canada on education.

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