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After a slight drop in enrolment in the late 1980s, enrolment at community colleges peaked at a record high in 1992. Enrolment levels have increased by approximately 6 percent each year since the early 1990s. International enrolment at colleges during the same period increased at a rate of about 37 percent.

In spite of the faster growth in international student enrolment versus domestic student enrolment in the early 1990s, international students represent only about 4 percent of Canada's total student enrolment (Chart 1.12).

According to an article in *The Globe and Mail* (June 18, 1993), post-secondary educational institutions in Ontario received a significantly higher number of applications from Canadian high-school graduates in 1993 than in previous years, and had limited spaces available for these students due to budgetary constraints.

While it is clear that there has been an increased domestic demand for space in Canada's post-secondary institutions, it does not necessarily follow that Canada should limit its acceptance of international students. In fact, in cases where differential fees paid by international students go directly to educational institutions, international tuition fees can help create more spaces for domestic students.

Some school boards in Canada have also become involved in marketing their programs to international students—particularly students in their last few years of secondary education. According to the CBIE's annual report, some 40 percent of post-secondary international students in Canada have attended a Canadian secondary school.

Enrolment of full-time students at Canadian universities by field of study is outlined in Chart 3.33. The fields with the largest percentage of international students are mathematics and applied sciences (Chart 3.34). The international student population at various universities in Canada is highlighted on Chart 3.35. McGill University has the highest percentage of international students in Canada, followed by Simon Fraser University and the University of Toronto.

A university's capacity to accept international students could be linked to the number of spots freed by Canadian students pursuing an international education. In 1988, there were a total of 18 433 Canadians pursuing their education outside the country. There were just under twice that number of international university students in Canada in the same year. Only 3 percent of Canadians studying outside the country studied in the Asia Pacific region.

The anticipated growth in the Canadian student population is outlined in Chart 3.36. Trends show a levelling off from the high numbers in the mid-1980s.