
Funds for labour education

The federal government has allocated \$16.5 million for a three-year extension to Labour Canada's labour education program.

The \$16.5 million will be divided as follows: \$4.1 million for the first year; \$5.9 for the second and \$6.5 million for the third, which brings the program to March 31, 1986. The labour education program is aimed at improving the industrial relations system by providing financial assistance for the operation of current and potential programs for union leaders.

The \$16.5-million grant program is distributed among individual union members, independent unions, as well as the six central labour organizations: the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), Canadian Conference Teamsters (CCT), Canadian Federation of Labour (CFL), Centrale de l'Enseignement du Québec (CEQ), Confederation of National Trade Unions (CNTU), and Centrale des Syndicats Démocratiques (CSD).

Since the inception of the labour education program in 1977, Labour Canada has distributed more than \$16 million to assist in labour education programs for Canadian unions.

Canadians are content

Canadians are among the happiest people in the world, with 95 per cent saying they are either very happy or quite happy, according to a recent Gallup poll.

The survey, which is part of a \$2-million worldwide study of values and beliefs, reports that Canadians are extremely content with their lives as a whole, with most rating their level of satisfaction at eight or more on a scale of one to ten.

The survey, which contained 138 questions, was given to 1 200 Canadians in June last year.

The study was sponsored by the Centre for Applied Research in the Apostolate, a Roman Catholic research organization, but it used a sample of all Canadians, not just Catholics.

Only one-third of the respondents said there are moral and ethical absolutes that can be used as guidelines for behaviour, with twice as many saying that good and evil depend on the circumstances.

The average Canadian is purposeful, comfort-oriented, gregarious and values family life, said Maurice Chagnon, a psychology professor at the University of Ottawa, who is chairman of a multi-disciplinary committee analyzing the

data. Professor Chagnon said the study should "help to destroy some of the myths" of Canadians as dull, thrifty and cautious people.

The results confirmed the Canadian stereotype of a law-abiding people, with 84 per cent expressing a lot of confidence in the police, the churches (69 per cent), the education and legal systems (65 and 63 per cent) and the armed forces (58 per cent). Respondents were less confident about the civil service (49 per cent), the press (44 per cent), Parliament (42 per cent) and labour unions (33 per cent).

Identical questions were asked in a survey conducted in the United States and Mexico by the US affiliate of the centre, and in Europe and Japan by the European Values System Study Group, an Amsterdam-based foundation.

Students to learn about computers

Within five years, every elementary school pupil in the Metropolitan Toronto borough of East York will be instructed in the use of computers under a program that is the first of its kind in Canada, reports the *Canadian Press*.

All elementary pupils will be taught how computers can be used in traditional subjects such as writing and arithmetic and how to write simple computer programs, as well as the effects of the new technology on society, said Ian Hose, audio-visual co-ordinator for the East York Board of Education.

Secondary school pupils will also be able to continue using computers for some traditional subjects and, in some cases, to study computer science, computer technology, commercial applications of computers and computer-assisted instruction.

The board, which has 11 000 pupils, is providing a microcomputer for each classroom and at least one computer laboratory with between seven and 15 computers for each school.

Ontario schools — with about 7 000 classroom microcomputers — have been the most aggressive in Canada in bringing computers into the classroom.

The Alberta government recently completed a study on computer literacy in elementary schools and hopes to have a curriculum available by September, but the program will be optional, said Sharon Mott, an Alberta Education Ministry official.

Academics attend disarmament briefings in Geneva



A group of academics from Canadian universities attended briefings at the Committee on Disarmament in Geneva, in February. Those visiting Geneva were: Leonard Cohen, Simon Fraser University; Stanley Ing, York University; Andrew Fenton Cooper, Waterloo University; Michael Klosch, Kitchener Vocational Institute; Henry Wiseman, University of Guelph; Gunnar Boehnert, University of Guelph; Joan Debardeleben, McGill University; Reginald Stewart, University of Prince Edward Island; and Barry Hunt, Royal Military College.