

Commission on educational leave

"Educational leave has immense implications for individuals, industry and education in Canada," said Dr. Roy J. Adams recently as he released a discussion paper, *Educational Leave*, in preparation for public hearings to be held later this year.

"What we are actually considering is the future relationship between the worlds of work and education in Canada."

Since adoption of paid educational leave (PEL) by the Canadian Labour Congress convention in 1976, several unions have made it a bargaining priority. For example, the United Auto Workers now have over 25,000 employees governed by PEL with the employers contributing one cent an hour for each worker to an educational fund operated by the union.

Dr. Adams says the Commission, which is seeking submissions from interested parties including trade unions, business groups and the educational community, will assess cost benefits of educational leave and its impact upon productivity and employment.

Paid educational leave is defined by the International Labour Organization as "leave granted to a worker for educational purposes for a specified period during working hours, with adequate financial entitlements".

Impact of educational leave

The discussion paper states that a well-developed system of educational leave may have all of the following beneficial effects:

- The productivity of the work force may be increased;
- The motivation of employees to produce may be increased;
- Employees may be less prone to absenteeism;
- Capable employees may be attracted to undesirable jobs if they are convinced that they may be able to qualify eventually for more interesting and demanding positions;
- Employees may be less prone to "skill obsolescence";
- The problem of functional illiteracy in adults may be reduced;
- Immigrants may be more smoothly assimilated into Canadian society;
- Educational leave might reduce discrimination against minority groups;
- Older workers may be able to prepare more effectively for retirement;

• It may also be a tool for addressing the problem of declining enrolment in the schools.

Drawbacks

On the other hand, the cost of an expansion of educational leave may have serious negative effects:

- If employers are required to bear the burden of financing new provisions, their ability to compete in international markets may be hampered;
- If educational leave is financed through government expenditures, taxes may have to be increased;
- Suggestions have been made that any expansion of current government regulation would decrease rather than increase productivity;
- Individual employers may be unwilling to introduce educational leave schemes for fear that employees who acquire new skills through such training will be attracted to other enterprises.

The Commission has been asked by the Minister of Labour to present its findings and recommendations by June 30, 1979.

New bonds on sale

The 1978-79 series of Canada savings bonds, on sale after October 2, offer Canadian investors an average 8.90 per cent over a seven-year term, Finance Minister Jean Chrétien announced recently.

There will again be a choice of two Canada savings bonds — the regular interest bond, which pays interest annually by cheque or direct deposit, and the compound interest bond, on which interest is left to accrue and compound annually to maturity.

The bonds, offering regular or compound interest, will pay at the rate of 8.50 per cent in the first year and 9.00 per cent in each subsequent year to maturity in 1985.

Mr. Chrétien said the individual purchase limit for the new issue had been increased to \$30,000 from \$15,000, with an exception for the 900,000 holders of two series of Canada savings bonds which mature this autumn — the S24 Series of 1969-70, maturing November 1, and the Special Replacement (SR) Series of 1968, maturing October 1.

Holders of the two maturing series may convert all or any portion of the redemption proceeds (principal, interest

and cash bonus) into the new bond issue without affecting this year's purchase limit.

The new bonds can be cashed on demand for their full face value plus accrued interest and be bought only by *bona fide* residents of Canada, estates of deceased persons, or registered in the name of a trust governed by certain types of deferred income plans.

Netherlands tourists like Canada

The total number of visitors from the Netherlands to Canada should exceed 10,000 by 1979, according to forecasts prepared by the Canadian Government Office of Tourism.

The same forecasts call for more than 90,000 Dutch visitors in Canada during 1978, a figure which represents a 28 per cent increase over the 1977 number and is reminiscent of the growth seen in the early 1970s.

Figures for the first six months of 1978 indicate that 34,882 tourists from the Netherlands visited Canada, compared with 30,072 in the first six months of 1977.

Travel from the Netherlands to Canada is growing faster than that from any of the other major European markets and from all of Europe.

Babes in arms



Janice Fox cuddles two four-week-old tiger cubs, born at the African Lion Safari in Rockton, Ontario. They are believed to be the first born in captivity in Canada.