



Canada has a comprehensive, diversified system of education, designed to respond to the bilingual and multicultural character of Canadian society. The quality of Canadian education is widely respected internationally. Graduates of this country's educational institutions have been recognized by the world's most prestigious fora in all areas of academic endeavour. These same graduates have contributed immensurably to the development of Canada, and helped make it one of the world's most industrialized and technologically sophisticated countries.

A wide range of adult education programs exists. Through lifetime study, a person can improve qualifications by taking courses toward a high school credential, a college diploma or a university degree. A person may also take an adult program for personal enrichment or improved instruction in a specific subject. The adult applied arts, recreation and social education programs are also available. Professional development and enrichment courses are also offered.

For the past few years, adult education has been the fastest growing sector of Canadian education. In 1987, more than 1.3 million Canadians were taking courses on a non-credit basis. There is a recognition of the out-of-school population 17 years of age and above, the number of whom has increased to over five million in Canada who are taking part-time courses.

Financing

As Canada's diversity programs and the "short-qualified" requirements in all provinces and territories, government resources have been involved in financing and planning university, college and technical education. The bulk of per capita costs are based on the population and the number of years based on full-time or part-time attendance. Tax revenues to the provinces for education and other social services have also been increased to help support

in 1987 the federal government provided \$1.2 billion to the provinces and territories for the financing of university, college and technical education. This amount is 12.5 per cent of Canada's 1987 federal revenue.

Continuing efforts are being made to improve the quality of education. The Ministry of Education is currently reviewing a reform of the education system. The results of this review will be published in the near future.