



*A group of young Indian students at a school in Rae Edzo, Northwest Territories.*

eight) and secondary schools (grades nine to 12 or 13, depending upon the province). Responsibility for post-secondary schools falls to their boards of governors, which are in turn responsible to provincial ministries of education.

#### **Free education**

Canada's educational systems offer free schooling to some five million children throughout the country. Formal education often begins at the nursery-school level, and it continues, in most cases, for at least ten years. Each province sets the length of its programs as well as the

requirements for graduation.

Secondary school is the final step for some students; it often precedes entry into the work force. For others, community college or university follows. University admission standards vary from province to province. The official examinations which until very recently were the standard for high school graduation have been discontinued in favour of consideration of the student's over-all academic record. Most provinces have adopted a subject-by-subject approach to promotion, thereby eliminating the risk for some students of failing an entire year.

#### **Post-secondary schooling**

University education is subsidized heavily by the federal and provincial governments. Students pay only about 10 per cent of their actual education costs and low-interest loans are available for students needing financial assistance.

Some 376,000 students attend over 60 universities, and 227,000 students attend about 189 non-university institutions in Canada; another 190,000 are part-time university students. Community colleges are meeting the growing demand for para-professional, technical and business-trained graduates.

Well over 40,000 foreign university students study in Canada each year.

The need for educational reform was felt in Canada at the beginning of the Sixties and has continued to grow in recent years. This is a manifestation of a desire to expand and improve educational services and of a growing sense of nationhood.

Successive changes in teaching methods and the alternation between traditional and liberal course content are designed to consolidate and refine the educational system. The goal of accessibility is also met by a network of institutions offering "continuing education" for adults.

The steady decline in enrolment, because of the declining school-age population, and the closing of many public and junior high schools have resulted in revisions to standards for the granting of teaching certificates. Because faculties of educational sciences will not have to admit a continually increasing number of students, future teachers can be chosen and trained more thoroughly and according to the needs of communities.

#### **Oil and gas survey**

The year 1980 "was a very strong financial year for the petroleum industry", according to a survey of last year's activities and financial performance of the petroleum industry.

The report issued by the Petroleum Monitoring Agency (PMA) is based on data provided by the 100 largest oil and gas companies in Canada. It deals with a number of subjects including profitability, flow of funds, investment patterns, ownership and control, revenue sharing and research and development.

Higher prices for both crude oil and natural gas in 1980 more than offset the impact on industry revenues of declining production of these two commodities, said the report. As a result, industry revenues rose by about 24 per cent in 1980 compared to 1979 revenues and profits (net income after tax) increased by 31 per cent.

Increases in profits on downstream operations (refining, marketing and petrochemicals) were the major factor resulting in the rise in profits on total operations in 1980. Profits on downstream operations rose by 49 per cent to \$1.5 billion. This followed an increase of nearly 250 per cent in 1979. Downstream profits accounted for 31 per cent of total industry profits in 1980, whereas the comparable percentage for 1978 was 12 per cent.

Canadian-controlled firms accounted for 28 per cent of total industry profits of \$4.7 billion, a decline of 3 percentage points from 1979. The foreign-controlled integrated companies accounted for 49 per cent of total industry profits, an increase of more than 4 percentage points from 1979.



*A young kindergarten student tries her hand at creative pursuits.*