

of a wide range of social and recreational activities. All students are members of the student union, to which a fee is paid at the time of registration. Numerous social, intellectual, political, religious and literary clubs are found on the campus. Sports generally include football (North American style), soccer, ice-hockey, skiing, swimming and basketball.

At many universities there are clubs for students from individual countries as well as foreign-student organizations attracting a general membership. These provide an excellent opportunity for students to meet their fellow-countrymen, other overseas students and Canadian students. Canadian students are not always ready to take the initiative in getting to know students from other countries. You should not, therefore, have any reservations about making the first move in getting to know your fellow-students. Many overseas students meet Canadians through fellow-students and faculty members. At times, special programs of activities are held with the purpose of bringing together overseas students and Canadians. Overseas students are advised, if possible, to bring a few items from home that will be of interest to Canadian friends, such as maps, pictures, musical instruments, recordings, handicrafts and national costumes.

VII Life in Canada

(a) Geographic location and climate

Canada occupies nearly half the North American continent with the exception of Alaska, and is territorially the second-largest country in the world. Its area is over 3.8 million square miles. It stretches over 3,200 miles from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific, and almost 3,000 miles from the northern tip of Ellesmere Island to the United States border. It has a population of over 22 million.

The climate varies greatly from region to region, but is generally one of extremes. In British Columbia, summers (June to September) are long and warm, while winters (November to March) are mild and wet in the coastal regions and cold in the interior. In the Prairie Provinces, the climate is dry, and temperatures in summer and winter are extreme owing to the fact that these provinces are shielded from the Pacific Ocean and are in the interior of a large land-mass. The large water-surfaces of Eastern Canada produce a considerable modification in the climate of Ontario and Quebec. While summers are hot and humid, and winters cold, in southwestern Ontario winters are relatively mild and summers benefit from the cooling effect of the Great Lakes. The climate of the Atlantic Provinces is similar to that of Ontario and Quebec, though the Atlantic Ocean has consider-