

Canada Weekly

FREE

Ottawa
Canada

Volume 9, No. 37
October 21, 1981

An overview of Canadian educational opportunities, 1

Oil and gas survey, 2

Tribute to Anwar Sadat, 3

Assistance to Nepal, 3

Energy research gets funding, 3

Canada-ASEAN co-operation pact, 3

Change in labour situation challenges government, 4

Journal relates explorer's activities, 4

More fish for Poland, 5

Canadian assistance for African refugee relief, 5

Store for handicapped opens, 5

Joint acid rain research, 5

Skaters win in England, 6

Taxi of the future, 6

Railway tunnels planned, 6

Furnaceless office a success, 6

News of the arts — obituary, film, paintings, photography, 7

News briefs, 8



An overview of Canadian educational opportunities

As in most countries, the autumn marks the beginning of the school year for Canadian children. The following article is designed to provide *Canada Weekly* readers with some idea of the educational process in Canada.

Public education in Canada is co-educational and free at the primary and secondary levels. Children are required by law to attend school from the age of six or seven until age 15 or 16. In Quebec, free education is extended to the colleges of general and vocational education (CEGEPs). Students at most other post-secondary institutions are assessed tuition fees.

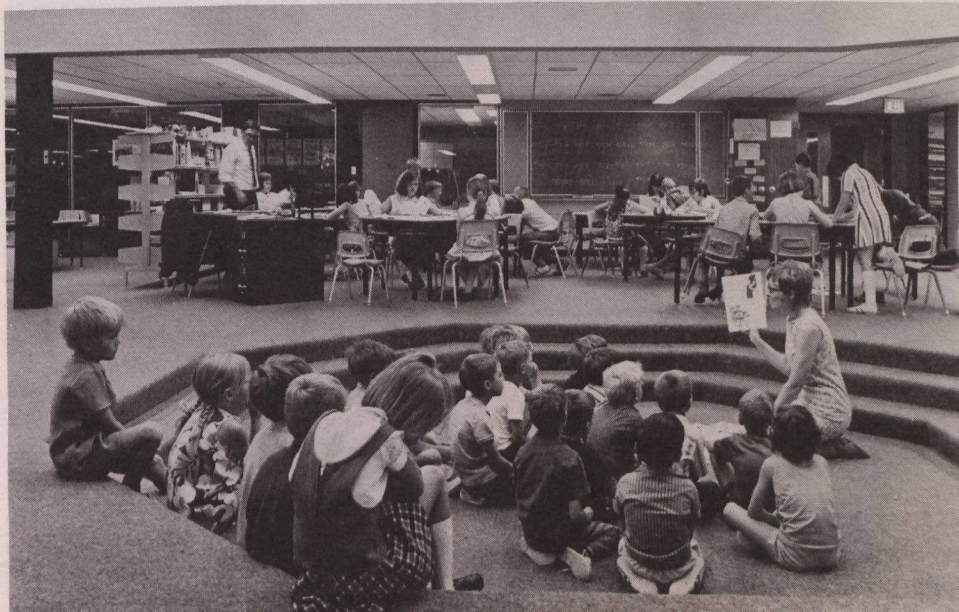
Provincial responsibility

In the Canadian federal system, which was established by the British North America Act, powers are shared between the federal government and the ten provinces. Responsibility for education rests with provincial governments. Each of the ten provinces of Canada has developed its own educational structure and institutions and, while they are similar to one another in many ways, they reflect the circumstances of regions separated by great distances and the diversity of

historical and cultural heritage.

Although not directly involved in the administration of provincial school systems, the federal government provides financial support to the provinces for post-secondary education, adult manpower training, official second-language education and cultural development activities, in an attempt to ensure that all Canadians have equal educational opportunities. The Canadian government is also responsible for education in the Yukon and Northwest Territories, the education of native peoples (Indians and Inuit), and education in the armed forces and penitentiary services.

Provincial ministries of education set standards, devise curricula and provide grants to educational institutions. Elected school boards at the municipal level set local budgets, hire and negotiate with teachers and determine elective parts of the curricula. These boards are responsible for elementary schools (grades one to



An open-concept class at a primary school in Agincourt, Ontario.



External Affairs
Canada

Affaires extérieures
Canada

Oct. 21/81