

Geological Education

John L. Usher

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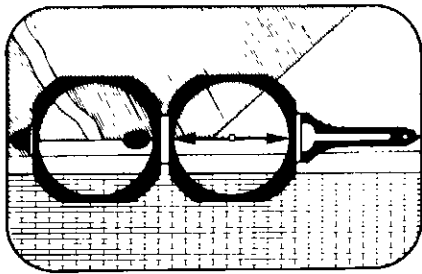
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Features

Geological Education



Canadian Secondary School Populations

John L. Usher
*Department of Geological Sciences
Queen's University
Kingston, Ontario*

In 1972 the Canadian Geoscience Council sponsored a study of earth science teaching in Canadian secondary schools. The purpose of the study was to ascertain the school levels at which earth science courses, or courses with earth science content, were being taught, the texts used, the nature of the courses, and to enquire into the feasibility of producing a Canadian written earth science text that would aid teachers and encourage expansion of the subject matter in our secondary school curricula. Out of the enquiry came many interesting discoveries such as, that instead of a single comprehensive Canadian text, or a rewritten Canada-oriented E.S.C.P. volume, teachers requested pamphlets or short monographs on individual earth science topics. A statistic that also resulted from the study was the total secondary school populations across our land. In most provinces,

secondary schools involve Grades 9 to 12, but in some, such as Quebec, Grades 7 to 11 encompass that category and C.E.G.E.P. (the pre-university level) accounts for Grades 12 and 13.

The author has been curious to know what changes, if any, have occurred over the two-year interval since the first C.G.C. enquiry was made. Table I compares the 1971-72 provincial school populations from Grades 8 to 13 with the most recent population figures which, in most cases, are for 1973-74. Not all of the figures are available but those reported in Table I have been obtained from provincial Education Ministries. Table II lists the levels at which earth science subjects or earth science *per se* are taught in Canada.

The C.G.C. Education Committee has just completed a year's work in compiling a "Contribution to Earth Science Teachers in Canadian Schools" where, in 50 pages are: (a) lists of professional people in Canada who have volunteered to help teachers, within reach in their areas, set up programmes in earth science, (b) lists of source materials and where they may be obtained, (c) a list of earth science programmes already developed by teachers across the country, and (d) the location of regional workshops for teachers in earth science education. Copies of this compilation are available upon request to the present author. The C.G.C. further hopes to continue its aid by setting up, in 1975, regional workshops across Canada for earth science teachers. Those readers not already involved in the important task of helping teachers make our children aware of the significance and importance of earth science in their

lives and in the future of Canada are most heartily welcomed to assist.

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Table I Comparative Provincial Secondary School Enrolments

		Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12	Grade 13	Totals
Nfld.	1971-72	12,965	12,083	9,859	9,124			44,031
	1973-74	?	11,890	10,055	9,344			
P.E.I.	1971-72	2,642	2,434	1,948	1,651	1,434		10,109
	1973-74	?	?	1,983	1,659	1,347		
N.S.	1971-72	18,080	16,664	13,903	13,113	9,152		70,912
	1973-74	18,150	16,037	14,660	12,559	9,284		70,690
N.B.	1971-72	15,952	14,614	14,074	10,984	9,517		65,132
	1973-74	16,000 (A)*	12,000 (A)		35,000 (A)			63,000 (A)
Quebec	1971-72	138,066	134,491	131,898	114,157	87,954		518,612
	1972-73	136,742	125,511	120,940	93,441	?	?	477,634
Ontario	1971-72	149,608	168,712	153,240	121,750	101,733	51,665	746,708
	1973-74	153,775	165,235	143,939	126,596	99,854	50,101	739,500
Manitoba	1971-72	19,484	19,219	18,649	17,024	15,619		89,995
	1973-74	19,341	18,585	18,226	16,024	14,410		86,586
Saskatchewan	1971-72	21,000 (A)	21,000 (A)	20,000 (A)	18,500 (A)	18,000 (A)		98,500 (A)
	1973-74	20,000 (A)	18,998	17,762	16,133	15,344		88,237
Alberta	1971-72	34,000 (A)	33,000 (A)	32,500 (A)	29,000 (A)	29,000 (A)		123,500 (A)
	1973-74	?	35,497	24,107	30,254	29,675		119,533
B.C.	1971-72	43,667	41,861	39,146	35,676	31,726		192,076
	1973-74	47,006	45,130	41,546	36,793	32,342		202,817
Yukon	1971-72	364	323	283	187	138		1,700
	1973-74			information not available				
N.W.T.			information not available					

* approximate

Table II

Province	Earliest levels of Course containing some elements of Earth Science	Later levels of Earth Science or Geology (courses optional)
Newfoundland	Grade 10 Earth Science	Grade 11 Earth Science
P.E.I.	Grade 9 General Science	Grade 12 Environmental Geography
N.S.	Grades 7, 8, 9 Science	Grade 11 Earth Science Grade 12 Geology
N.B.	Grades 7, 8 Science	Grade 10 Physical Geography
Quebec	Grades 7, 10, 11 Geography	Grades 12, 13 (C.E.G.E.P.) Geology
Ontario	Grades 4, 5, 6 Science	Grades 11 and 12 Geology
Manitoba	Grades 7, 8, 9 Science	Grade 11 Geography Grade 12 Geography
Saskatchewan	Grade 8 Earth Science	Grades 10, 11, 12 Geography Grade 12 Geology
Alberta	Grade 8 Science	None
B.C.	Grade 8 Science	Grade 10 Science
N.W.T.	Follows Alberta Curriculum	
Yukon	Follows British Columbia Curriculum	