

# The Growth of Post-Secondary Education

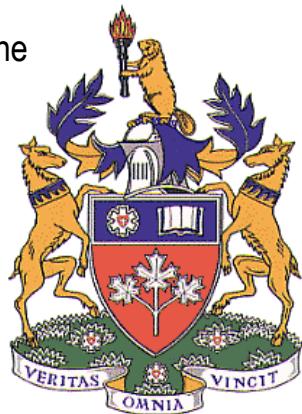
- World War II created a high demand for specialist skills, especially scientific knowledge. After the war, the Canadian government offered veterans financial help attend university, and 53 000 enrolled between 1944 and 1951.
- By 1963, twice as many people were going to university as had attended in the early 1950s.

Why? . . .

- Higher wages and the increasing tendency of women to work meant that the labour of teenagers was not as highly valued as it had been earlier in the century.
- Post-war parents were less likely than pre-war parents to encourage their teenagers to quit school and get a job, to help with family expenses. In fact, many families began to think that their children should be the first persons in their families to have higher degrees.
- A social and economic stigma became attached to not finishing high school.
- One of the most strongly held values of the post-war period was a belief that many social problems would be alleviated by more education.
- There was also a decline in un-skilled labour after WWII. Increasingly, workers needed literacy and math skills just to protect their jobs, as well as the ability to continue to learn new skills as the workplace evolved. Those who wanted to become management increasingly needed a university or college degree.
- There was a post-war boom in the founding of universities and colleges.
  - A major social change occurred when governments began to make student loans and bursaries widely available. Students who were not socially privileged could now afford university – they were encouraged to.



Ryerson University,  
founded 1947



Waterloo Lutheran  
(renamed Wilfred Laurier)  
University, founded in  
1959



Brock University, founded  
1964

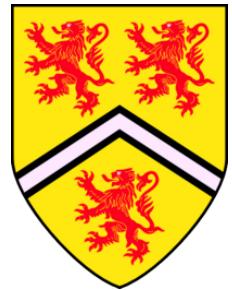


Mohawk College,  
founded 1967

- Today, Canada has the highest participation rate in higher education of any western nation.

Consequences . . .

- As more people attended universities and colleges, their degrees no longer assured access to high-status jobs.
- A major decline in the skilled-trades has developed in Canada – people lack the training needed and a real gap has emerged in modern society.



University of  
Waterloo, founded  
1957



*A billboard encouraging youth to enter the Skilled Trades,  
sponsored by the Canadian Government (2005)*



Sheridan College, founded 1967

## Also . . .

- Many young people from a variety of backgrounds began to see themselves as people who could change the traditional values that they had begun to question.
- Experimentation became part of university culture, and by extension the culture of youth.