

LH3  
M3

## The Macdonald Report

# EXPANSION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

## "... OF GRAVEST URGENCY"

- ★ Diversification of education to meet B.C. needs.
- ★ Two types of institutions of higher education:
  1. Universities and 4-year colleges;
  2. Two-year colleges.
- ★ Two-year colleges throughout province.
- ★ Academic Board to co-ordinate smaller colleges.
- ★ Grants Commission to co-ordinate provincial aid.
- ★ Tremendous increase in grants needed for higher education.



DR. J. B. MACDONALD

# 37,000 Seek Entry by '71

The Macdonald "Plan for the Future" released to the press this morning estimates that by 1971, 37,000 high school graduates will be enrolled or seeking entry to the universities and colleges of British Columbia.

### ENROLMENT DOUBLE

The report states that there are not more than 17,000 students registered in programmes beyond the high school level for the academic year 1962-63, and goes on to say "This means that in the brief period of seven years we can look forward to double the enrolment we have now."

The present average cost of

higher education is \$1,550 per student per year. According to the report, this is expected to increase to \$2,100 by 1965 and to \$3,000 by 1970. Cost per student per year over the last five years have gone up from \$1,072 to the present \$1,550.

If the projected cost per student for the year 1970 is translated into total operating cost

for higher education the required amount will, according to the report, be 111 million dollars a year.

### CANADA-WIDE INCREASE

Figures presented in the report indicate that the projected increase in the number of students and in the costs of higher education will not be restricted to this province. It is thought that by 1970, 312,000 Canadian high school graduates will be seeking admission to Canadian colleges and universities. Canadian University Foundation sta-

tistics quoted in the report indicate that capital costs for the five years from 1960 for higher education in Canada could go to one billion dollars per year. In line with this, "the projection for this province is 20 million dollars per year for a total of 100 million dollars by 1965. Dr. Macdonald, in explaining the consequences of the rapid growth that he foresees, comments: "Clearly the task and cost of meeting requirements for higher education in the years ahead are of a new dimension."

JAN 29 1963  
LIBRARY

## THE MARTLET

Published weekly throughout the University year in Victoria by the Publications Department of the Alma Mater Society, Victoria College. Editorial opinions expressed are those of the Editorial Board of The Martlet and not necessarily those of the Alma Mater Society of Victoria College.

Editor-in-Chief: Tony Else

Associate Editors:

Dave Humphries, Terry Matte, Don Shea

Staff:

Lue Murgatroyd, Julie Banfield

Telephone: EV 3-5271



COLONIST PRINTERS LIMITED

### Editorial

## Comprehensive Assessment

Dr. J. B. Macdonald's report, **Higher Education in British Columbia and a Plan for the Future**, offers to the people of this province a comprehensive view of the present state of our system of higher education and a realistic proposal for its future development.

The problems with which the report deals are of interest to each and every citizen of this province. It is the basic concern of institutions of higher learning to provide those educational opportunities which are so essential to the social, economic and cultural progress of the community. For this reason the matter is, in the words of Dr. Macdonald, "one of the gravest urgency."

The costs involved in developing the proposal system may, at first seem exorbitant and the taxpayer may cringe at the thought of meeting such costs. It must be remembered, however, that if we fail to undertake this development we cannot survive in a technological culture which is continually becoming more intricate.

In the past we have imported the majority of our top university teachers. The demand for qualified educators is rapidly increasing. Therefore, it is now essential that we place considerable stress on the expansion of post-graduate facilities so that we have a supply of highly qualified teachers near at hand. In this way, and only in this way, will our system be self-perpetuating.

Of particular interest to Victoria is the suggestion in the report that Victoria College be granted the option of remaining affiliated with UBC or becoming totally independent.

It is evident that the people of this city, recognizing the benefits of having a university here, both want and are willing to support an independent degree-granting institution.

We must, in assessing Dr. Macdonald's plan, remember that it is only a proposal and, as such, is binding on no one.

It can only be hoped that the members of the government and the other officials concerned will give this report the serious consideration it deserves and will see fit to allocate the funds necessary for the successful execution of the development it proposes.

# Grants Commission To Disperse College Monies

The individual institutions should consolidate when making application for provincial aid. "Any means established should insure the equitable distribution of funds among institutions."

Duplication of the more expensive courses should be avoided wherever possible. This would include such things as "libraries, professional schools, laboratories and equipment for specialized teaching and research."

To co-ordinate the efforts of all the institutions with regard to raising public support, and to control the disbursement of these funds, MacDonald proposes the formation of a Grants Commission. This could be one of the most important suggestions to come out of the whole report.

A Grants Commission would solve the problem of individual competition among the colleges for provincial aid. This has always been a sore point in UBC-VC relations.

The commission, says Macdonald, "... would be vested with the specific responsibility of appraising the requirements of institutions and of satisfying the government of the soundness of their proposals."

"In addition, just as it is important that the needs of the universities be presented to government through some systematic procedure, it is also important that by this same procedure the needs of the Province and the country be interpreted to the institutions of higher learning."

Dr. Macdonald outlined the duties of the Grants Commission:

- To analyze and appraise the needs, aims and future plans of individual institutions in relation to the whole development of higher education in this province.

- To seek and gather system-

atically pertinent information and advice from the institutions themselves and from all available sources.

- To recommend to the Provincial Government policy, both long and short term, with respect to the continuing operation and financing of higher education.

- To receive and study the budget estimates for both capital and operating needs of each institution.

- To exercise an executive function by distributing the funds which the Provincial Legislature assigns for higher education.

- To distribute the grants made by the Federal Government towards the operating revenue of institutions of higher learning.

- To submit an annual report to the Legislature.

Dr. Macdonald suggested that the membership on the Grants Commission consist of a chairman appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, a representative of each of the institutions connected with the commission, an equal number appointed by the government (preferably from the ranks of business, labour and the professions).

To be employed by the commission are an Executive Director, a Financial Officer and a secretarial staff who will also work for the Academic Board.

Dr. Macdonald stressed the importance "of an informed commission" which would command the respect of the public and "would increase the confidence of the government."

*Macdonald Suggests***MILLIONS MORE NEEDED BY 1971**

Millions of dollars are needed for the development of institutions of higher learning in the next few years. Dr. Macdonald divides his suggested programme for this development into three phases.

**PHASE 1: The present to 1965.**

**PHASE 2: 1965-1971.**

**PHASE 3: 1971 onward.**

No accurate estimate could be made regarding Phase 1 and no estimate was attempted for Phase 3. The capital costs for the three colleges established in Phase 2 are summarized as follows:

Western Lower Fraser Valley—\$5,000,000.

Okanagan—\$1,500,000.

West Kootenay—\$800,000.

Dr. Macdonald's report states that "one-third of the total capital cost (including land, buildings, equipment and libraries) should be borne by the community or region which the college serves, and two-thirds should come from funds supplied by or through the Provincial Government. If a portion of the capital cost is paid by the Federal Government under the Vocational and Technical Training Act, the Provincial Government's share would be reduced."

"It must be emphasized," says

Dr. Macdonald, "that these capital costs are not new costs to be imposed on the Province by decentralization. If the capital requirements are not met by decentralization, they will have to be met through equivalent expansion of undergraduate and auxiliary facilities at UBC and Victoria College.

**OPERATING COSTS**

The approximate operating costs of these three institutions up to 1971 are as follows:

W.L.F.V. College—\$16,000,000.

Okanagan College—\$3,000,000.

West Kootenay—\$1,170,000.

Dr. Macdonald suggests that about 25 per cent should come from student fees, at least 25 per cent from the community or region, and not more than 50 per cent from Government grants (Provincial and Federal).

When and if these two-year colleges develop to the point where they change their function and become four-year degree granting colleges, their financing would alter to parallel other four-year institutions.

**Location of Proposed Colleges**

The Macdonald report cited five criteria by which the location of the new colleges will be decided:

- Total population.
- The size of the "student pool".
- The number of students within commuting distance (one hour by car).
- The estimated proportion of these students who will enroll in the colleges.
- The existing quality and level of cultural activities in the areas concerned.

The report said that a college should not be started unless there will be a minimum enrollment of 300 students after two years. It stated that these colleges "will foster and promote higher education and cultural activities among the students who are in attendance," and "provide an opportunity for continuing education among interested citizens."

Dr. Macdonald studied the province on the basis of the above criteria and recommended:

(a) "That Victoria College have the privilege of deciding" its status. This recommendation removes all doubt as to the long-awaited emergence of Victoria College as the independent University of Victoria.

(b) That a four-year degree-granting college be established in Burnaby at the Stormont Interchange. He estimated that the enrollment at such an institution would reach 7,000 by 1971.

(c) That a two-year regional college be established near Kelowna to serve the Okanagan area. That college should become a four-year degree-granting college by 1970.

(d) That a two-year regional college be established near Castlegar to serve school districts from Trail to Nelson. That college would likely have an enrollment of 900 by 1971.

(e) That the King Edward program in Vancouver be developed as a two-year college

serving Vancouver and adjacent municipalities.

The report recommended that all the above programs be started as soon as possible, and that two-year regional colleges should be in operation in the following areas by 1971:

1. Central Vancouver Island region.
2. Kamloops and South Cariboo region.
3. Central Interior (Prince George).
4. Eastern Lower Fraser Valley.

*Macdonald Gives Reasons*

At the present time there are only two "public" institutions offering higher learning in British Columbia: UBC and Victoria College. Yet population statistics show that the population of B.C. is expected to reach 2½ million by 1971. Statistics also show that the number of students enrolled or seeking enrollment to higher-learning institutions is expected to reach or exceed 37,000 by 1971. "If we wish to maintain our cultural and economic status," says Dr. Macdonald, "then we must provide for a larger proportion of able young people, but at the same time avoid undesirable congestion in the present institutions."

Two basic kinds of institutions of higher education are needed, says Dr. Macdonald.

(Continued on page 4)

**Governing Bodies For New Institutions**

Dr. Macdonald recommended that "local needs be served" by giving the citizens "a large voice in the governing bodies of these regional colleges."

If the new institutions are established on a regional basis by agreement between the B.C. Government and the participating school boards, as is expected, the governing bodies will be composed as follows:

(a) One representative named by each of the co-operating school boards;

(b) One representative named by the Lieutenant-Governor;

(c) One superintendent of schools from the co-operating school districts;

(d) One representative named by the academic board;

(e) One representative named by the grants commission;

(f) The president or principal of the institution, although he shall not be a voting member;

(g) One representative named by the faculty.

## Lack of Qualified Faculty

The most crucial problem facing higher education in B.C. is the lack of qualified professors.

Macdonald suggests that 125 more professors with Ph.D.'s awarded in Canada at present is 208 per year. number of Ph.D.'s awarded in Canada is 208 per year.

Thus facilities must be made available to accommodate a much greater enrolment in graduate studies.

It is supposed that Macdonald would like to see UBC become an "upper years" centre with less emphasis on the first two years of college.

## Academic Guarantees

Provisions for guaranteeing the academic standards of the new regional colleges are necessary, says Dr. Macdonald. However, each institution should be self-governed.

Macdonald suggests the formation of an Academic Board which would:

- Foster the growth and academic development.
- Assist in gaining public support.
- Assist in procuring staff and academic personnel.

- Arrange to transfer students from one institution to another.

- Aid new institutions in basic plan.

No responsibility would be placed on the Academic Board for the collection or disbursement of regional funds.

Should the academic standards of a regional college become lower than was first intended, the Academic Board would assist in the investigation and correction of the situation. If lower standards are maintained the Board would have the power to withdraw its recognition of the defaulting institution.

In turn, financial support could be withdrawn.

### EDITOR'S NOTE

It should be understood that the Macdonald Report is just a report. Any action taken as a result must come through the government.

### V.C. Now

Victoria College now offers courses leading to degrees in Arts, Science and Education, and first year courses in Commerce and Business Administration.

Requirements for admission and tuition are the same as U.B.C., and students graduating from Victoria College receive degrees from UBC.

The proposed independent University of Victoria will set its own admission requirements and grant its own degrees.

This year, the total enrollment at Victoria College is 1,849, and next year it will probably exceed 2,000.

(An indication of the rapid expansion of Victoria College is the growth of its library, i.e. 20,000 volumes annually).

## Reasons Given...

(Continued from page 3)

- Universities and four-year colleges offering degree programmes and advanced training for those students who have the necessary ability and aptitude;

- Two-year colleges offering a variety of programmes (academic and technological) of one or two years of education beyond Grade XII.

These two-year colleges would be designed for students who for financial reasons wish to remain in their own locality; for students who wish to take only one to two years of higher education (technical, academic, or a combination of both); and for those students who plan to continue their education at a degree-granting institution.

"Their academic programmes," says Dr. Macdonald, "must be parallel so that the students can transfer to the University, but parallel should not mean identical."

### THE COLLEGE PLAYERS' CLUB

presents

## "A Midsummer Night's Dream"

TUES. through SAT. at 8:15 p.m.

Tickets: Adults \$1.25, Students 75c.

Available at the College or Eaton's Box Office