

Regulation of Wages and Hours of Labour.—The regulation of wages and hours of persons in private employment in Canada is within provincial jurisdiction, and all the provinces, except Prince Edward Island, have legislation on the subject.

In Nova Scotia, the minimum wage law applies only to women, while in Ontario, though the Act applies to both sexes, the Orders apply only to women. In Manitoba, Alberta and New Brunswick, there are separate Orders for men and women and also in British Columbia but in the latter Province certain Orders cover both sexes. In Quebec and Saskatchewan, Orders apply to both sexes. The Newfoundland Minimum Wage Act, 1950, applies to both male and female workers and is similar to the Acts in the other provinces. In Quebec, under the Collective Agreement Act, hours and wages and also apprenticeship, vacations with pay and family allowances provisions established by a collective agreement voluntarily entered into by employers and unions or groups of employees may be made legally binding, by Order in Council, on all employers and employees in the industry in the district covered by the agreement, if the parties are sufficiently representative of the industry. At Mar. 31, 1950, 99 agreements had been generalized to apply either throughout the Province or to a certain district. These agreements covered 192,228 workers and 20,711 employers. The agreements in force throughout the Province applied to the following industries: building materials, the manufacture of women's cloaks and suits, dresses, millinery, men's and boys' clothing, men's and boys' hats and caps, fine gloves and work gloves, shoes, furniture, paints, corrugated and uncorrugated paper boxes, tanning, lithographing, and elevator construction. Other agreements concern industries in particular cities or parts of the Province including all building trades and printing trades in the large urban centres and many rural districts. From Mar. 31, 1950, to the end of 1951, four new agreements were extended for the first time, and five were repealed affecting municipal employees, barbers and hairdressers, and clock and watch repairmen in certain areas. New agreements extended for the first time and applicable throughout the Province apply to the manufacture of men's and boys' shirts and the manufacture of ladies' handbags, etc.

The Industrial Standards Acts of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario and Saskatchewan and the Alberta Labour Act provide that wages and hours agreed upon at a conference of representatives of employers and employees called by the Minister of Labour or his representative may be made legally binding by Order in Council on the industry in the area concerned. The Nova Scotia Act applies only to construction work at Halifax, Dartmouth and Sydney.

In Nova Scotia ten schedules for individual building trades were in force during 1951, all of which were renewals of previous schedules. In New Brunswick, three schedules were in force at Mar. 31, 1951, two of which were renewals. Since that date, two new schedules have been made binding.

In Ontario there were 134 schedules in force at Mar. 31, 1950. Throughout the Province, schedules were in effect for brewery workers, cloakmakers, the men's and boys' clothing industry, men's and boys' hats and caps and the hard furniture industry. In the construction industry, one schedule covered several building trades in one city, and 55 schedules, each for a single trade in a single locality, covered one or more trades in 28 localities. In other industries also, schedules were in effect only for certain zones; for bakers in one zone, for soft furniture manufacturing in one, for coal hoisting in one, for the coal industry in one, for taxi-drivers in one, for the retail gasoline service in four and for barbers in 64 zones. From Mar. 31, 1950, to the end of 1951, 29 new schedules were made binding, six of which were made for the first time.