

Each Department of Education concerns itself with the general administration of the public schools, the conduct of examinations, the certification of teachers, the registration of private and trade schools, public and travelling libraries, correspondence courses and also the direct management and control of teacher training schools and vocational institutes.

Direct control and operation of the public schools are in the hands of local boards of school trustees who operate under the School Law, and are usually elected for terms of two or three years. They employ the teachers and administer the revenues received from provincial grants, local taxation and minor sources. Elementary education is free but school boards in some provinces charge nominal fees for secondary education. In Newfoundland fees may take the place of local taxation.

Larger units of administration, usually formed from a number of single school board units, exist in all provinces except for the Roman Catholic schools of Quebec, although in most provinces the local boards within the units remain with limited powers. These units may be geographical areas intended to be large enough to provide a sufficient number of high school students for a composite or county high school. The one room school may be continued for the elementary grades but generally provision is made for transporting children to central schools; or where this is not practical dormitories may be provided.

#### 1.—Active School Boards and Official Trustees by Province 1952

Province	Unit Boards	Local Boards within Units	Independent Local Boards	Total Boards	Official Trustees <sup>1</sup>
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Newfoundland.....	—	—	293	293	—
Prince Edward Island.....	2	—	476	478	—
Nova Scotia.....	24	1,740	48	1,812	3
New Brunswick.....	36	1,020	75	1,131	—
Quebec—					
Roman Catholic.....	—	—	1,649	1,649	—
Protestant.....	10	96	191	297	—
Ontario.....	693	—	3,966	4,659	2
Manitoba.....	1	46	1,459	1,506	30
Saskatchewan.....	53	4,340	858	5,251	61
Alberta.....	56	3,809	106	3,971	12
British Columbia.....	77	—	11	88	10
<b>Totals.....</b>	<b>952</b>	<b>11,051</b>	<b>9,132</b>	<b>21,135</b>	<b>116</b>

<sup>1</sup> Usually the school inspector, delegated to act where a board cannot be obtained.

<sup>2</sup> Included with independent local boards.

The basic organization of the school system is an eight year, or eight grade, elementary school which the child enters at age six and a four or five year high school; for college or university the basis is a three or four year course during which the student earns a degree in arts and science. Among the modifications to be found in one or more provinces are the following: the addition, as the base, of a one or two year kindergarten, now found in many cities and some towns; the reorganization of the 8-4 (year or grade) plan for elementary and high schools to a 6-3-3, 3-3-3-3, or 3-3-4-3 organization by year or grade; the addition of an extra high school year in two provinces; the addition of a year in arts and science ending in an honours degree for students with sufficient ability to specialize; and the provision of graduate study in a variety of fields in a number of universities.

Other variations, some as old as the systems themselves, concern vocational education and professional training. After completing eight years of elementary education pupils may enter vocational or commercial high schools. Composite schools offering options in academic, technical, agriculture and home economics courses are on the increase. Provincial