

Although there are variations from province to province, and within provinces, the usual pattern of education is an eleven- to thirteen-grade system of elementary and high schools, one- to three-year courses in trade schools and technical institutes at the secondary level, post-secondary teachers' colleges with one- to four-year programs of training, and universities offering three-year and longer courses in the arts and sciences and the professions. Agencies of adult education, both formal and informal, provide short- and long-term programs of study.

Characteristic of education at all levels and in most regions are: (1) rapidly increasing enrolments; (2) active school building programs, never quite catching up with the demand for facilities; (3) a shortage of teachers—despite increased salaries, recruitment from the United Kingdom, and emergency short-course training schemes; and (4) mounting expenditures. The attention being given to the education of exceptional children in recent years is worthy of special note.

The following paragraphs indicate the ways in which the several provincial systems differ from the pattern outlined above, together with mention of institutions and practices of special interest and of significant recent developments in education.

Newfoundland.—Newfoundland might be said to have a public denominational school system. The Deputy Minister is assisted by four Superintendents of Education, one for each of the four main religious denominations—Anglican, Roman Catholic, Salvation Army and United Church. The Minister of Education, the Deputy Minister and the four Superintendents form a Council of Education which makes educational policy and co-ordinates the various parts of the system. One curriculum serves the schools of all denominations and teachers receive common training in the Memorial University of Newfoundland, a provincial institution.

Each denomination builds and maintains its own schools, with financial assistance from the Provincial Government. The salaries of almost all teachers are paid directly by the Province according to a provincial scale. Until recently no provision had been made for local taxation, but in 1954 legislation was passed which provided that any area might be declared taxable for school purposes. By 1955 only one area had been so declared.

Some children are admitted to school at the age of five in what is called a "pre-grade 1" class. Elementary education includes grades 1 to 8 and secondary education grades 9 to 11. Most schools teach both elementary and secondary grades. The high school curriculum is academic, leading to university entrance after grade 11. In some schools in St. John's, grade 12 studies are offered (they follow the Nova Scotia grade 12 program of studies and the pupils write Nova Scotia examinations) and a post-grade 11 commercial course is taught. An active school building program in the Province includes, for the first time, regional high schools. Few private schools are operated in Newfoundland.

Trade training is offered in the St. John's Vocational Training Institute. A provincial university to which is affiliated a theological college (Queen's) is located in St. John's. The Division of Adult Education of the Department of Education sponsors programs in both urban and rural centres.

Prince Edward Island.—Except in Charlottetown and the incorporated towns, the school boards are the only local governing authorities, and therefore collect the school tax. Teachers' salaries are provided by the Provincial Government, supplemented by the local school board.

Kindergarten classes are available in a few urban schools. The elementary school curriculum comprises grades 1 to 8 and high school grades are 9 to 12, grade 12 being the junior matriculation grade. The majority of the Island's schools are of one room and it is common for rural schools to teach grades 1 to 10, with grades 11 and 12 available in the larger centres. One junior high school has been established recently. There are a few private Roman Catholic schools in the Province.