

There is an active Adult Education Division in the Department of Education and a flourishing program of rural extension centred in the College of Agriculture of the University.

Alberta.—Like Saskatchewan, Alberta has a 12-grade school system ending at the senior matriculation level. Schools may be public or separate and all private schools are under Departmental inspection. The three-stage curriculum includes: elementary (grades 1 to 6), junior high (grades 7 to 9) and senior high school (grades 10 to 12). Because of crowding in the schools there has been no kindergarten in the public system since 1954, but private kindergartens do operate.

A major project was completed in 1954 when the Coterminus Boundary Commission submitted its final report. For most of the settled parts of the province, the Commission's work resulted in identical boundaries for rural school and municipal administrative areas. Centralization of school facilities has been a significant aspect of school administration in recent years, resulting in improved facilities, better qualified teachers and greater retention of pupils in high school grades.

Vocational education is provided in public high schools, many of which are of the composite type; in the Provincial Institute of Technology and Art at Calgary; at three Canadian Vocational Training Centres—one for trade training, one for nursing aide training and one for commercial training; at the three agricultural and home economics schools operated by the Department of Agriculture; and in private trade schools and business colleges.

All teacher training in Alberta is conducted by the University of Alberta at Edmonton and a branch of that institution at Calgary. Minimum training of elementary school teachers is given in a one-year course following grade 12 while secondary school teachers must have a university degree.

Higher education is concentrated in the University of Alberta, including its Calgary branch and three affiliated colleges. There is an independent Roman Catholic seminary affiliated with the University of Ottawa, and two independent junior colleges. The University of Alberta's extension service is province-wide and the Department of Agriculture also conducts an active extension program.

British Columbia.—The basic divisions in the public school system of British Columbia are: elementary school (kindergarten and grades 1 to 6), junior high school (grades 7 to 9) and senior high school (grades 10 to 13). There are, however, several combination patterns such as elementary-junior high school, elementary-senior high school, junior-senior high school. The junior matriculation level is reached at the end of grade 12 and the senior matriculation level at the end of grade 13. No provision is made for the public support of separate schools but there are private schools in the province serving minority groups. Consolidation of schools has progressed far in British Columbia.

Public vocational schools include the Vancouver Technical School, Vocational Institute and the Vancouver School of Art, all at the secondary level, two provincial trade schools and a number of private trade schools and business colleges.

Until 1956, elementary school teachers were trained in two provincial normal schools and secondary school teachers in the University of British Columbia. In that year all teacher training was integrated in a College of Education created in the University with a branch at Victoria College.

The chief institution of higher education is the University of British Columbia, to which are affiliated Victoria College (a junior college) and four theological schools, two of which have been recently established. A Canadian Services College operates at Royal Roads, and Notre Dame College at Nelson is a junior college affiliated to Gonzaga University, Spokane, Washington, U.S.A.

Under the jurisdiction of the provincial Department of Education there are night classes, vocational courses, correspondence courses and community program services for adults, and the University operates a province-wide system of extension services.