

Parent-teacher and home and school organizations are numerous and active across Canada, working toward better schooling and giving community leadership in many areas connected with child instruction and welfare.

The divergent systems of Newfoundland, Quebec and the Territories are discussed separately below.

**Newfoundland.**—The topographical and economic influence of the Island influenced the development of education as did pockets of settlers establishing themselves in outposts which were relatively self-sufficient. Active leadership of the churches and homogeneity of the village populations provided a minimum of overlapping of denominations except in a few industrial areas or the larger cities. A Royal Commission is considering the efficiency of the present organization with a view to increasing the education level of the Island's population.

The present system is predominantly denominational although there are amalgamated and community schools operated by the Department of Education. The schools are administered on a local basis by the five largest denominational groups—Roman Catholic, Anglican, United Church, Salvation Army and Pentecostal Mission. These operate under five superintendents, each in charge of the schools of his faith, and a member of the Department. Local boards, including the local clergymen as members, select teachers, pay salaries from government grants and look after the school property. All schools follow the provincial course of study and examinations, scholarships and diplomas are determined by an interdenominational body representing the major denominations and the Department.

**Quebec.**—Quebec's education system operates on a unique working compromise which was reached after nearly a century of struggle on the part of two cultures, both of which recognized education as fundamental to their way of life. Two distinct publicly administered systems operate under a common Act of the Legislature. About seven eighths of the population is Roman Catholic and the remainder forms the non-Roman Catholic, predominantly Protestant, system. Organization of the non-Roman Catholic schools is similar to that in the other provinces, whereas the Roman Catholic system is patterned somewhat after the French education system and is unique in Canada. The difference in religion is accentuated by the difference in language—teaching in most Roman Catholic schools is carried out in French and in the Protestant schools, with perhaps one or two exceptions, in English. Private schools are financed and administered by private organizations and comprise schools for infants, elementary and secondary schools, classical colleges, commercial schools and institutions giving courses at university level. Public schools are maintained through local taxes supplemented by provincial subsidies and are administered by school commissions whose members are elected in accordance with the Education Act; they are free and accessible to all children of school age.

Up to and including grade 7 in the Roman Catholic public schools, classes consist of pre-school and elementary courses; and about 1 p.c. of these are for exceptional children (retarded, slow-learning and high-ability accelerated pupils), a program growing in importance. The secondary program in grades 8 to 11 includes general, scientific, classical, special and college-preparatory divisions. In addition, there are occupational courses in grades 8 and 9, and secondary vocational programs in grades 8 to 11 covering commercial, industrial, agricultural, home economics and family institute courses, with provision for a grade 12 in the commercial section. For pre-university students there is a grade 12 which corresponds to the first year of university or fifth year of the *collège classique* which many students enter after completing year 7 and continue for eight years of further study to earn the *Baccalauréat*. The English-language Roman Catholic schools follow similar programs in elementary and secondary education. The Protestant public schools provide a seven-year elementary and four-year secondary course leading to the High School Leaving Certificate, which gives access to university. Some Protestant secondary schools provide a grade 12, from which graduates may proceed to second year university.