

In 1969, authority was given for the award of high school equivalency diplomas to adults who had not completed high school but had improved their educational standing through job experience or informal training. This diploma is awarded on the basis of a series of tests, developed and validated over a 25-year period by the Commission on Accreditation of the American Council on Education; Nova Scotia is the first Canadian province permitted to use these tests.

Nova Scotia has two institutes of technology offering trade-level and post-secondary vocational courses, an agricultural college providing post-secondary terminal and university transfer programs, and a land survey institute. All nursing training leading to the RN diploma is carried out in hospital schools. There are several universities and colleges offering degree programs in many disciplines. Teacher training is given in one teachers' college and degree programs in education are offered in five universities — Acadia, Dalhousie, Mount Saint Vincent, St. Francis Xavier and Saint Mary's.

New Brunswick. There are 33 school districts in the province combined into seven regions, each administered by a regional superintendent. Instruction is available in both English and French; 34% of the student population at the elementary and secondary level take their instruction in the French language.

Pre-grade 1 classes are not offered in the publicly controlled school system, except in unusual or experimental circumstances. Enrolment in private nurseries and kindergartens is also low in proportion to the number of five-year-olds in the province.

The province has a 12-year system of public education leading to junior matriculation. The most common patterns of school organization are: elementary school (grades 1-6), junior high school (grades 7-9) and senior high school (grades 10-12); and elementary school (grades 1-6) and high school (grades 7-12). Vocational courses are taught within the framework of the secondary school system and are taken concomitantly with academic instruction.

The New Brunswick Institute of Technology in Moncton and the Saint John Institute of Technology offer post-secondary vocational and technical programs. Teachers' colleges still exist in New Brunswick although there is an indication that they will soon be integrated with the university system. In addition to six hospital schools, the Saint John School of Nursing offers training leading to the RN diploma. This province has four universities offering a variety of degree programs.

Quebec. In 1964, the Quebec government, acting on recommendations of the provincial Royal Commission on Education (1961-64), passed legislation (under Bill 60) establishing a new administrative structure for the school system in that province; the Department of Education replaced the former Departments of Youth and of Public Instruction. Today, in addition to the Minister and Deputy Minister, the structure of the Ministry includes two Associate Deputy Ministers — one for the Catholic sector and one for the non-Catholic sector. This change of system required large increases in education expenditures to finance the building of new schools and to acquire additional teaching personnel and materials. In September 1971, there were 64 regional school boards (55 Catholic and nine Protestant) with 993 affiliated local school boards.

Kindergartens admitting five-year-olds are now part of the school system and in 1972-73 over 90% of the five-year-old population was registered. Elementary education, intended for pupils aged six to 11, is given in publicly controlled schools operated under the direction of local school boards. Since the autumn of 1968, pupils are enrolled in the first grade only if they have reached the age of six by October 1. The new system calls for six years of elementary school, five years of secondary school and a collegial level to be taken in post-secondary non-university institutions. Another emerging trend is a composite course with graduated options and promotion by subject matter.

The federal Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development assumes full responsibility for the education of Inuit children living in northern Quebec, and uses the curriculum established by the Department of Education of Quebec.

Collèges d'enseignement général et professionnel (CEGEPs), inaugurated at the beginning of the 1967-68 school year, replaced many of the former classical colleges, normal schools, schools of nursing and technical institutes. These colleges, currently numbering about 35, admit students graduating from grade 11 and offer three-year terminal technical programs