

member of the provincial cabinet, or in the case of the territories, a councillor. Policy-making power rests with the department; the influence of the legislature is confined to formal matters such as passing budgets. Four provinces have established separate departments for post-secondary education. Where two departments exist there may be two ministers, or one may have dual jurisdiction.

While the education minister has general authority, day-to-day operation of the department is carried out by a deputy minister. The latter, a senior civil servant, is the permanent head of the department. The deputy minister advises the minister and supervises all functions of the department. These include: supervision and inspection of elementary and secondary schools; provision of curriculum and school organization guidelines; approval of new courses and textbooks; production of curriculum materials; finance; teacher training and certification; prescription of regulations for trustees and teachers; research; and support services such as libraries, health and transportation.

In most provinces, responsibility for teacher training has been transferred from teachers' colleges operated by the department to faculties or colleges of education in universities. Increasingly, this has meant that an elementary teacher must have a bachelor's degree.

The Nova Scotia Teachers' College is the only institution of its kind remaining in the country. Ontario teachers are trained in university faculties of education or the Ontario Teacher Education College, run directly by the province; to be admitted to it, students must have a degree, and graduates receive both a Bachelor of Education degree and a teaching certificate.

Other provincial departments have some responsibility for education. They operate apprenticeship programs, agricultural schools, reform schools and forest ranger schools.

Levels of education. Despite variations in matters such as the ages of compulsory attendance, course offerings and graduation prerequisites, the education systems that evolved in each province basically consist of three levels: elementary, secondary and post-secondary. The number of years required to complete each level and the dividing lines between them vary from province to province.

7.2 Elementary and secondary education

At the elementary and secondary level, most public schools are established and operated by local education authorities according to public school acts of the provinces. This category includes Protestant and Roman Catholic separate schools, and schools operated in Canada by the defence department within the framework of the public system. Private schools, church-affiliated or non-sectarian, are operated and administered by private individuals or groups. Private kindergartens and nursery schools for children of pre-elementary age offer education at that level only. These schools may be church-affiliated and are administered by private individuals or groups. Schools for the handicapped provide special facilities and training. Most are under direct provincial government administration. Federal schools are administered directly by the federal government including overseas schools operated by the defence department for dependents of servicemen, and Indian schools operated by the Indian and northern affairs department.

Local administration. Schools in all provinces are established under a public school act and operated by local authorities answering to the provincial government and resident ratepayers. Provincial authorities delineate school board areas. With the growth of cities and towns, and of educational facilities and requirements, small local boards have been consolidated into central, regional or county units with jurisdiction over both elementary and secondary schools in a wider area. The boards, composed of elected or appointed trustees or commissioners, are responsible for school management. Their powers are determined and delegated by the legislature or education departments and vary from province to province. Generally, they handle the business aspects of education — establishment and maintenance of schools, appointment of teachers, purchase of supplies and equipment, details of school construction and budget preparation. Boards are authorized to levy taxes and manage grants from the department.