

## Education in the provinces and territories

7.4

Although a general structure of education prevails throughout the country, the system in each province is unique. Diverse historical developments, cultural traditions, geographic situations, and economic and social conditions have resulted in 12 education systems. Furthermore, even within a province school organization may vary from one region to another.

### Newfoundland

7.4.1

Enrolment in Newfoundland's elementary and secondary schools was 158,100 in 1976-77; total full-time teachers numbered 7,740. The province's non-university institutions had 2,000 full-time students and 210 teachers, while full-time enrolment at Memorial University was 6,640 and teachers totalled 765. Education expenditures (\$321 million) were 12.2% of the Gross Provincial Product, a larger percentage than was spent by any other province. Per capita this amounted to \$576.

Established in 1874, the education system in Newfoundland was originally sectarian. As a result of a 1964 provincial royal commission on education and youth, the school systems of the major Protestant denominations were consolidated, although the Roman Catholic, Pentecostal and Seventh Day Adventist churches still manage their own schools. Reorganization in 1969 divided the province into six regions containing a total of 35 school districts. The Pentecostal Assemblies and the Seventh Day Adventists each operate a single district which theoretically covers the whole province. The Roman Catholic system is largest, but its school boards have been cut from more than 100 to 12.

Children age 7 to 15 must attend school. Enrolment before grade one is not compulsory, but with construction of larger, more centralized elementary schools, most 5-year-olds go to kindergarten. School organization follows two major patterns: elementary (kindergarten and grades 1-6) with central high schools (grades 7-11), and elementary (kindergarten and grades 1-8) with regional high schools (grades 9-11). There are a few junior high schools (grades 7-9) and about a dozen district vocational schools.

Technical training is provided by the Newfoundland College of Trades and Technology and the College of Fisheries, Navigation and Marine Engineering and Electronics. Registered Nurse diploma courses are conducted exclusively in hospital schools. Memorial University grants undergraduate and graduate degrees, diplomas and certificates. The campus is located in St. John's but extension programs operate in 26 centres. A junior college campus of Memorial has been established in Corner Brook.

### Prince Edward Island

7.4.2

During the 1976-77 academic year, 28,000 elementary and secondary students were enrolled in Prince Edward Island's schools and were taught by 1,440 teachers. Full-time non-university enrolment was 750, and at the University of Prince Edward Island 1,480. There were 70 full-time non-university teachers and 110 at the university. The province devoted \$67 million, 11.7% of its Gross Provincial Product, to education. Per capita this amounted to \$569.

Throughout the 1960s small education units were consolidated. In 1972 the system was changed to one consisting of five administrative units with a school board in each. The age span of compulsory attendance is 7 to 15. Kindergarten is not part of the public system but private classes are available. The major pattern of organization is: elementary (grades 1-6), junior high (grades 7-9) and senior high (grades 10-12). In some cases, only two levels are distinguished: elementary (grades 1-8) and high school (grades 9-12). No provision is made for separate schools.

A network of regional high schools offers academic programs from grades 9-12 and a one- or two-year business education course. After grade 12, four additional years are required for a bachelor's degree. Two vocational high schools are operated by Holland College on behalf of the education department.

At the post-secondary level, Holland College offers non-degree programs, but because of the province's small population extensive technical education facilities have not been developed. Interprovincial arrangements allow students to attend the Nova