

The University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina operate undergraduate and graduate degree programs. In addition, four theological colleges (two associated with the University of Saskatchewan) have degree-granting power.

#### 7.4.9 Alberta

Alberta's 1976-77 elementary and secondary enrolment totalled 451,400 and teachers numbered 22,270. Full-time university enrolment (33,500) was double that in post-secondary non-university institutions (16,600). The relative distribution of full-time teachers was 2,660 versus 1,730. Education expenditures of \$1.2 billion amounted to 6.9% of the Gross Provincial Product. This represented an outlay of \$655 per capita. Only in the North and Quebec was per capita spending greater.

In 1972 responsibility for education was divided between the education department and the department of advanced education and manpower, each with its own minister. The former deals with the elementary and secondary levels. The latter has jurisdiction over universities, post-secondary non-university institutions, vocational training centres, adult education provided by school boards and other public or private agencies, apprenticeship programs, federal manpower programs, and programs offered by licensed business or trade schools.

Local administration is based on the school district, although responsibility has largely been assumed by school divisions and counties. There are 60 school divisions and counties containing 4,191 districts and 149 districts not in divisions or counties. Districts and divisions have their own school boards. Religious minorities may establish separate school districts with the same rights and obligations as public ones.

Attendance is compulsory from ages 6 to 15. Kindergarten is not part of the provincial school system although some urban centres provide it. The predominant grade pattern is: elementary (grades 1-6), junior high (grades 7-9), and senior high (grades 10-12). Secondary schools operate on the comprehensive or composite principle. Thus academic and a wide range of vocational subjects are taught.

Post-secondary technical education is offered at two institutes of technology, and at agricultural and vocational colleges. Six community colleges and three other colleges have university transfer and technology programs, adult education, community service and academic upgrading. Nursing diploma programs are given in hospital schools and four community colleges.

University of Alberta programs lead to degrees, diplomas and certificates at the undergraduate and graduate levels. A constituent college, the Collège universitaire Saint-Jean, has a bilingual program toward the first degree. A number of affiliated colleges provide up to two years of university education. The university, located in Edmonton, operates extension programs in other centres. As well, there are two other universities, Calgary and Lethbridge, and the Newman Theological College.

#### 7.4.10 British Columbia

British Columbia's 1976-77 expenditures on education (\$1.4 billion) were third highest in the country after Ontario and Quebec but represented only 6.6% of the Gross Provincial Product, the lowest in any province. Spending per capita was \$572.

More than half a million (562,140) students were enrolled in elementary and secondary schools with a full-time teaching staff of 27,780. The province's 17,090 full-time non-university students were taught by 1,360 teachers and the corresponding numbers of university students and faculty were 32,680 and 2,870.

The province is divided into about 90 school districts, each of which elects a board of trustees for a two-year term. As well as having jurisdiction over its district, a board may establish and operate regional colleges in conjunction with one or more other districts. No legal provision is made for separate schools.

Children age 7 to 15 must attend school but participation in an optional kindergarten year is almost universal. Elementary school extends over seven years, followed by three years of junior and two years of senior high. In the senior years employment-oriented courses are available. As well as high school courses, technical and vocational education is provided by programs run in co-operation with the federal government, and in vocational schools throughout the province.