

on demand. Total deposits as at November 30, 1977 were \$344 million and the number of depositors was approximately 81,800; 21 branches are in operation throughout the province.

**Province of Alberta Treasury Branches.** Established in 1938, this system operates 95 branches, one dependent branch, two sub-branches and 90 agencies throughout the province. As at March 31, 1977, deposits from customers totalled \$1,052 million while loans to individuals, merchants, corporations and municipal bodies totalled \$832.4 million. Profits for the year ended March 31, 1977, before allowances for reserves, were \$12.8 million. Of this amount \$6.1 million was transferred to the general revenue of the province. Financial services include current accounts; regular (chequing) and super (non-chequing) savings, interest-bearing accounts; capital savings, term deposits for terms ranging from one day to six years bearing competitive interest rates; agricultural loans, business loans, life-insured personal loans, mobile home financing, home improvement loans, small businessmen's loans, 20-year commercial and industrial mortgage loans, and 25-year residential mortgage loans. Treasury branches are also authorized lending agents for farm improvement loans and small business loans guaranteed by the federal government.

**The Montreal City and District Savings Bank** was founded in 1846 and has operated under a federal charter since 1871. On October 31, 1977 it had a paid-up capital and reserve of \$34.0 million (\$30.3 million in 1976), savings deposits of \$1,169.8 million (\$1,077.7 million) and total liabilities of \$1,231.9 million (\$1,123.9 million). Assets of a like amount included \$262.1 million, (\$258.6 million in 1976) consisting of federal, provincial, municipal and other securities.

**Credit unions.** The first credit union in Canada was founded in Lévis, Que., in 1900 to promote thrift by encouraging saving and to provide loans to members who could not get credit elsewhere or could get it only at high interest rates. For many years growth was slow; in 1911, when the first figures were available, assets amounted to \$2 million and by 1940 they were only \$25 million. However, since that time there has been a spectacular increase. The first credit union legislation was passed in Nova Scotia in 1932 followed by legislation in Manitoba and Saskatchewan in 1937 and in Ontario and British Columbia in 1938.

Credit unions are under provincial legislation. Almost all local offices in each province belong to central credit unions operating within the province. The number of chartered credit unions in Canada at the end of 1976 was 4,037. They reported a total membership of 7.7 million and assets of \$15,077 million (Table 19.15). Quebec, with 4.1 million members and assets of \$6,928 million, accounted for 53% of members and 46% of assets of all credit unions in Canada (Table 19.16).

Canadian credit unions in the 1960s and 1970s have continued their rapid growth. Outstanding loans of credit unions at year end increased 26.0% in 1976 over 1975 to reach \$10,623 million. Assets at \$15,077 million increased 22.3% and savings at \$14,339 million increased 21.3% over 1975. Membership of 7.7 million represented 33.4% of the total population. Assets, liabilities and member equity in local credit unions are given in Table 19.17.

There were 20 central credit unions in 1976; these are organized as centralized banking entities to serve the needs of local credit union members, mainly by accepting deposits of surplus funds from them and providing a source of funds for them to borrow when they cannot meet the demand for local loans. Most centrals also admit co-operatives as members. Total assets of the centrals increased 21% to \$3,155 million over 1975. The Credit Union National Association serves as the central organization for provincial centrals.

The centrals had combined total assets of \$3,155 million at the end of 1976 compared to \$2,601 million in 1975. Most funds are invested in securities and these are financed mainly by demand and term deposits from local credit union members. The combined total assets of local and central credit unions exceeded \$18 billion at the end of 1976.