

The mandate of the force is set out under the Ontario Police Act (RSO 1980). The Ontario Provincial Police Force enforces federal and provincial statutes in areas not required to maintain their own police departments, maintains a traffic patrol on more than 22 000 km of highways and 993 000 km² of rural area, enforces the Liquor Licence Act for Ontario and maintains a criminal investigation branch and other branches to assist other forces to investigate major crimes.

The force has 187 detachments and 16 policing districts, each commanded by a superintendent. Contract policing services are provided to 13 municipalities. To police Indian reserves in Ontario, the force has 120 Indian reserve special constables employed on 58 Indian reserves.

Quebec Police Force (QPF). Under the authority of the Attorney General, the Quebec Police Force is responsible for maintaining peace, order and public safety throughout the province, and for prevention and investigation of criminal offences and violations of provincial law. The force is under the command of a director general assisted by five assistant directors general and a director of personnel and communications.

For police purposes, the province is divided into nine districts, each under the command of a chief inspector or an inspector, and named as follows: Bas St-Laurent, Saguenay - Lac St-Jean, Quebec, Mauricie, Estrie, Montreal, Outaouais, Nord-Ouest and Côte-Nord. Personnel of the force at the end of December 1985 was 5,298 uniformed and civilian employees.

Municipal police forces. Provincial legislation makes it mandatory for cities and towns to furnish adequate municipal policing for the maintenance of law and order in their communities. Also, all villages and townships or parts of townships having a population density and a real property assessment sufficient to warrant maintenance of a police force, and having been so designated by order-in-council, are responsible for policing their municipalities.

Police strength. Data for the five-year period 1980-85, showed a 1.0% increase in the number of full-time police officers in Canada, from 52,922 to 53,464. Municipal police forces (excluding RCMP and OPP contracts), which account for more than 55% of Canada's police strength, exhibited a 0.5% increase in the number of police officers over this period, rising from 29,493 in 1980 to 29,636 in 1985. Figures for the RCMP, who comprise over 26% of the national police strength, showed a 2.8% increase in the number of police officers, from 13,879 in 1980 to 14,271 in 1985. Similarly, the OPP

and the New Brunswick Highway Patrol experienced increases in police numbers during this period.

In contrast, the QPF, Ports Canada Police, Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Railway Police had decreases in police strength of 7.4%, 8.8%, 12.2% and 13.2%, respectively, between 1980 and 1985.

20.5 Adult criminal court adjudications

Offences may be classified in three groups: indictable offences, summary conviction offences and dual procedure offences which allow the prosecutor to choose whether the prosecution will be by summary conviction or indictment. Indictable offences are grouped in two main categories: offences that violate the Criminal Code and offences against federal statute. Offences punishable on summary conviction — those not expressly made indictable — include offences against the Criminal Code, federal statutes, provincial statutes and municipal bylaws. Many summary conviction offences amount to mere disturbances of the peace, minor upsets to public safety, health and comfort such as parking violations, intoxication and practising trades without a licence. Nevertheless, summary conviction offences may include more serious charges such as assault.

There are two important differences between summary conviction and indictable offences. First, indictable offences are tried by a more complex and formal procedure than are summary conviction offences. Second, the maximum penalty which can be imposed in a summary conviction is a \$500 fine or six months imprisonment, or both. The Criminal Code provides that a magistrate's or provincial court has exclusive jurisdiction over summary conviction offences and certain named indictable offences. Other indictable offences require the accused person to elect whether he wishes to be tried by the magistrate or provincial court judge alone, a higher judge alone or a higher judge sitting with a jury.

More serious offences such as murder, rape or treason are the exclusive jurisdiction of a superior court and must be tried in a superior court, usually with a jury.

20.6 Youth courts — young offenders

The Juvenile Delinquents Act (RSC 1970 c.J-3), enacted in 1908 to deal with children who were involved in criminal activities or who were generally delinquent, was repealed and replaced in