

public safety throughout the province, and for prevention and investigation of criminal offences and violations of provincial law.

The RCMP provides provincial policing services under contract to all provinces except Quebec and Ontario, and to the two territories. In Newfoundland, provincial policing is shared with the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary. In New Brunswick, the New Brunswick Highway Patrol provides specialized traffic law enforcement services in addition to the RCMP policing services.

Municipal Police. Provincial legislation makes it mandatory for cities and towns to furnish adequate municipal policing for the maintenance of law and order in their communities. 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. Municipal police enforce the Criminal Code, provincial statutes and municipal bylaws in their jurisdiction.

Over 400 municipalities maintained their own independent police force in 1987. The RCMP provides municipal policing services under contract to 191 municipalities in all provinces except Newfoundland, Quebec and Ontario. In Ontario, the OPP provides municipal policing services under contract to 13 municipalities.

Police administration highlights, 1987. Canada's total police officer strength (52,510) accounted for 73% of police personnel which totalled 71,650.

The largest concentration, 36% or 18,836 police officers, was registered in Ontario and the smallest proportion, 0.2%, in the Yukon.

In 1987, policing expenditures in Canada totalled \$4,025 million — a national per capita cost of \$157.

For additional information see Table 20.4.

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, sexual assault 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 1984 by the Young Offenders Act (RSC 1982 c.110). The Young Offenders Act presents a new direction, based on a different philosophy and a new set of principles for dealing with young persons who commit crimes.

The Young Offenders Act became operative in all provinces and territories on April 2, 1984. Under the terms of the Young Offenders Act, youth courts were given restricted jurisdiction to deal only with children who violated the Criminal Code and other federal statutes. Violations of provincial and municipal laws and 'status offences' such as sexual immorality were excluded from the jurisdiction of youth courts. At the same time, amendments were made to the Criminal Code to coincide with the Young Offenders Act.

With the implementation of this act, the minimum age for prosecution of young persons was raised to 12 and the maximum age was standardized at under 18 years across the country.