

Direct control and operation of the public schools is in the hands of local boards of school trustees, usually elected for terms of two or three years. They employ the teachers and administer the revenues received from provincial grants, local taxation and other minor sources. Any fees charged are for secondary education and are merely nominal, except in Newfoundland where they take the place of taxation.

Larger units of administration exist in all provinces except in Newfoundland and for the Roman Catholic schools of Quebec, though in most provinces the local boards within the units remain with limited powers. In some provinces an official trustee (or trustees), often the school inspector, may be appointed to act in school sections where a board cannot be obtained. Table 1 gives figures of local administrative units.

**1.—Active School Boards and Official Trustees, by Province, 1952**

Province	Unit Boards	Local Boards within Units	Independent Local Boards	Total Boards	Official Trustees
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Newfoundland.....	—	—	293	293	—
Prince Edward Island.....	2	—	476	478	—
Nova Scotia.....	24	1,740	48	1,812	3
New Brunswick.....	36	1,020	75	1,131	—
Quebec—					
Roman Catholic.....	—	—	1,649	1,649	—
Protestant.....	10	96	191	297	—
Ontario.....	693	—	3,966	4,659	1
Manitoba.....	1	46	1,459	1,506	30
Saskatchewan.....	53	4,340	853	5,251	61
Alberta.....	56	3,809	106	3,971	12
British Columbia.....	77	—	11	88	10
<b>Totals.....</b>	<b>952</b>	<b>11,051</b>	<b>9,132</b>	<b>21,135</b>	<b>116</b>

<sup>1</sup> Included with independent local boards.

Elementary and secondary education extends over 12 or 13 years or grades, depending on the province. The elementary grades terminate with Grade VIII and the secondary grades begin with Grade IX though there is a practical as well as a theoretical separation into three divisions—Primary (Grades I to VI), Intermediate (Grades VII to X), and Senior (Grades XI to XII or XIII). The elementary schools are known as public schools, the secondary schools as high schools. However, many public schools teach some secondary grades and in Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland all grades are taught in the public schools.

In the cities and in some smaller centres there are kindergarten classes for five-year-olds and a few for four-year-olds as part of elementary education. Most children begin Grade I at age six or early seven and many complete the eight grades in seven years. Attendance is compulsory from age seven or eight to age 14 with attendance to age 16 required of urban pupils in some provinces. Emphasis is on the fundamental subjects—reading, writing, arithmetic, health and social studies—with varying additions of science, arts and crafts, music, home economics and shop-work. Many pupils, particularly in rural areas, leave school at the end of elementary schooling and enter employment in agriculture or unskilled occupations.