

2.9.1 Institutions and training schools

There is a limited amount of statistical information available with respect to correctional institutions (see Table 2.15). "In-custody" figures shown in Table 2.16 for penitentiaries refer only to those persons under sentence, but the figures for admissions include those received from courts as well as by transfer from other penitentiaries and by cancellation of paroles. Figures for releases include expiry of sentences, transfers between penitentiaries, releases on parole, deaths, pardons and releases on court order. In-custody figures for provincial and county institutions may include, in addition to those serving sentences, persons awaiting trial, on remand for sentence or psychiatric examination, awaiting appeal or deportation, any others not yet serving sentence and, for training school population, juveniles on placement.

Population figures in Tables 2.15 and 2.16 are for a given day of the year. These figures represent, in effect, a yearly census of correctional institutions and, as such, are not indicative of the daily average population count. For instance, if an abnormal number of commitments is made to a certain institution on or just prior to the end of the year, the result will be an unrepresentative population total for the institution in that year.

With regard to the fluctuations that might have occurred during the year between census days, the total population of correctional institutions has shown a general increase, however, totals for each type of institution have shown a tendency to level off. The marked decline in training school population is due to the closing of training schools in some provinces.

2.9.2 The Canadian Penitentiary Service

The Penitentiary Service operates under the Penitentiary Act (RSC 1970, c.P-6) and is under the jurisdiction of the Solicitor General of Canada. It is responsible for all federal penitentiaries and for the care and training of persons sentenced or committed to those institutions. The Commissioner of Penitentiaries, under the direction of the Solicitor General, has control and management of the Service and all related matters.

In the fiscal year ended March 31, 1974, the federal penitentiary system consisted of 14 maximum security institutions, nine medium security institutions and 27 minimum security institutions. Maximum security institutions receive inmates sentenced by the courts to imprisonment for terms of from two years to life. These are located at Dorchester, NB; Ste-Anne-des-Plaines and Ville de Laval, Que.; Kingston and Bath, Ont.; Stony Mountain, Man.; Prince Albert, Sask.; Abbotsford and New Westminster, BC.

Medium and minimum security institutions receive inmates transferred from the maximum security institutions on the basis of their suitability for special forms of training including vocational training. Medium security units are located at Springhill, NS; Cowansville and Ville de Laval, Que.; Campbellford and Kingston, Ont.; Drumheller, Alta.; Agassiz and Abbotsford, BC. Minimum security institutions are located at Dorchester, Saint John and Blackville, NB; Halifax, NS; Ville de Laval, Montreal and Ste-Anne-des-Plaines, Que.; Kingston, Gravenhurst, Petawawa, Toronto and Bath, Ont.; Stony Mountain and Winnipeg, Man.; Prince Albert and Regina, Sask.; Edmonton and Calgary, Alta.; Victoria, Agassiz, Vancouver and Mission City, BC.

Some inmates sentenced to penitentiary terms in Newfoundland are held in the provincial centre at St. John's, Nfld. under the provisions of Section 14 of the Penitentiary Act. Exchange of services contracts between the federal government and several of the provinces also provide for exchange of inmates for various reasons, with full-cost recovery agreements.

Headquarters of the Penitentiary Service is located in Ottawa and regional directorates are located in Vancouver, BC, Kingston, Ont. and Ville de Laval, Que. for the western, Ontario and Quebec areas, respectively. Three correctional staff colleges — at Kingston, Ville de Laval and New Westminster — are operated for the training of recruits and for refresher courses for senior penitentiary officers. These staff colleges also provide excellent facilities for service-wide conferences of heads of institutions and other special groups of officers. It is anticipated that the Service will acquire an additional training facility at Edmonton, Alta., in 1974-75. This facility will be adequate to handle a constant flow of 120 to 130 trainees. An additional college might be required in the Atlantic Provinces by 1978.

As at March 31, 1974, 35% of the inmates were in maximum security institutions, 50% in medium security and 15% in minimum security. New institutions have been carefully designed to provide facilities for the rehabilitation of inmates. All afford space for both indoor and outdoor recreation. Some of the old institutions are being brought up-to-date to meet present-day needs and others are being phased out.