

The distribution of school districts in British Columbia is a function of its geography. Most of the province except for the Peace River district constitutes the most rugged and elevated region in Canada. For purposes of administering the schools, the province is divided into 83 organized and four unattached districts classified as municipal or as rural school districts.

Types of school include: Senior secondary (Grades 11 and 12, and sometimes 13); junior-senior secondary (Grades 8 to 12); junior secondary (Grades 8 to 10); elementary-senior secondary (Grades 1 to 12); elementary-junior secondary (Grades 1 to 10); and elementary (Grades 1 to 7).

The sole authority to issue teaching certificates rests with the provincial Department of Education, which issues a series of Elementary and Professional certificates. Teacher-training is done at the faculty of education in each of the universities.

#### Federal Departments and Agencies

While education is primarily a responsibility of the provinces, the Federal Government is directly responsible for the education of native Indians throughout Canada and for Eskimo, Indian and other children in the Arctic regions, inmates of federal prisons, and members of the armed forces and their children on military bases at home or overseas. In addition, some federal departments close to problems of national defence, manpower, social welfare, and vocational training have become involved directly or indirectly in certain education services or have provided education facilities for specified groups. The following incomplete list includes only those departments most immediately concerned:

Department of Agriculture -- The Information Division edits and issues departmental publications, releases information to the press and radio, prepares motion pictures for screening and television use, and provides exhibits in this field for display at fairs and exhibitions.

Department of External Affairs -- The Cultural Affairs Division performs a liaison function in matters concerning education with international implications. Thus the direct official link UNESCO maintains with the Federal Government is through this Division. The same may be said for liaison between Canada and the International Bureau of Education, of which Canada is not yet a full member. Similarly, Canada's participation in the Commonwealth Education Liaison Committee and the biennial Commonwealth Education Conference is organized by the same Division within the Department. Finally, as a function of its responsibility for the conduct of Canada's external relations, the Department of External Affairs has been charged with the negotiation and implementation of cultural agreements with foreign countries which, among other things, provide for academic and scientific exchanges.

External Aid Office -- This office is responsible for the administration of educational and technical assistance on a bilateral basis to other countries. Its divisions include planning and policy co-ordination, education, capital assistance, and technical assistance.