

Various programs have been organized for students with learning difficulties: public school classes for slow-learners; separate institutions for the trainable mentally retarded; special classes to deal with other types of disability, such as visual or oral impairment; and separate provincial and interprovincial institutions for the blind and deaf.

Provincial funding for the education of the handicapped is extensive. Even where special schools are operated within the local public system, it is not unusual for the province to provide 100 per cent funding for special-education programs.

Federal schools

As indicated earlier, although education in Canada is primarily a provincial responsibility, the federal government has assumed direct responsibility for the education of native peoples, dependents of armed forces' personnel and inmates of penitentiaries.

Education of registered Indian and Inuit children is an obligation of the federal Department of Indian Affairs, whose minister is authorized to maintain schools or to provide access to educational services in public or private schools. The federal government owns and operates some 170 schools on Indian reserves. Although the minister regulates matters such as buildings, curriculum, inspection, and teaching, about 180 band councils manage their own schools.

About half the children residing in Indian reserves or on Crown land in Canada attend provincial public schools. The federal government reimburses the provinces by either paying the students' tuition fees or contributing to the schools' capital costs.

The Department of National Defence (DND) maintains schools for dependents of service personnel in Canada and overseas.

All military bases in Canada have their own school boards and schools; the curriculum follows that of the province in which the schools are located, with supervision and inspection provided by the provincial authorities. About 13 000 pupils attend the 60 DND schools in Canada. Another 6 600 students attend public schools. There are ten DND schools in Europe (eight in Germany, and one each in the Netherlands and Belgium) with an enrolment of 3 800.

Education in the Territories

Two geographically large areas of Canada do not have provincial status: the Yukon and Northwest Territories.