



CANADA

# REFERENCE PAPERS

INFORMATION DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 106  
(Revised July, 1964)

## CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

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### Historical background

Canada not only is a bilingual country but also has two cultural traditions. As a consequence, two somewhat different systems of higher education have developed. One, originally patterned on the French system before the secularization of higher education in France, with the majority of the institutions under control of Catholic orders or groups, has in recent years adapted more and more to such North American higher education traditions as may be considered to exist while still retaining distinctively French characteristics. The other was originally designed more according to English, Scottish, and United States practices; instruction being given in English and the instructions being controlled by a variety of groups - religious denominations, governments, and private non-denominational bodies. Institutions comprising a third small group and giving instruction to both English-speaking and French-speaking students are operated or controlled mainly by Catholic groups. The first such bilingual institution to be established, the present University of Ottawa, developed from a Catholic college opened in Ottawa in 1848.

Until 1763 Canada was a French colony. Education was limited to that provided by institutions under religious auspices. The first institution where college-level studies were undertaken, according to available records, seems to have been the Collège des Jésuites, founded in 1635 in Quebec City, one year before the establishment of Harvard University (the first institution of higher education in the United States), and from 80 to 100 years after the creation of the first American universities in what is now the Dominican Republic (1538), and in Mexico and Peru (1551).

A complete arts course was probably given at the Collège by 1655. Shortly afterwards, teaching in theology commenced, and at about this time the Séminaire de Québec was founded by diocesan priests. In 1852 the Séminaire was instrumental in the establishment of the Université Laval in Quebec City. A branch of Laval was opened in Montreal in 1878 and in 1920 it received a civil charter as the Université de Montréal. Today Montréal, with enrolment at its affiliated colleges included, has the largest number of students of any Canadian university.

Three King's Colleges (one at Windsor and later Halifax, Nova Scotia - opened in 1790; a second at Fredericton, New Brunswick - opened in 1829; and the third at Toronto, Ontario - opened in 1843, although chartered in 1827) were among the first English-language institutions founded after French control of Canada ended. They were closely associated with the Anglican Church, and through it with the dominant governing bodies, at the time of their formation. Early attempts to limit enrolment to Church of England adherents coupled with the movement towards responsible government in the provinces, made these colleges targets of religious and political criticism and led to two of them becoming provincial (i.e., state-controlled) universities (University of Toronto - 1850, and University of New Brunswick - 1859).

Many denominational colleges were also founded in Ontario and the Maritime Provinces, owing to the desire of various religious denominations to