

While there has been a trend in the education departments towards the offering of more services, there is also a tendency to delegate greater authority to the units, as they employ more professional service.

Early Childhood Education

Day nurseries are established primarily to provide day-care for the pre-school children one and a half to five years old of working parents. About two-thirds of them are conducted by public or private welfare agencies.

Nursery schools are usually for children from three to five years old, who attend for half the day. Most of these are private institutions, which may be operated as co-operative enterprises or for profit. It is estimated that there are more than 200 nursery schools in Canada, and the number is likely to increase. In some provinces their establishment must be approved by the departments of education or health.

Kindergartens are now found at the base of the elementary school in most large urban centres, but may be separate private institutions as well. Most kindergartens accept only five-year-olds but a few, where facilities permit, also accept four-year-olds.

Programmes are designed to help the child mature through developing skills and good habits and providing an opportunity for him to live with others and "express" himself. In addition to schedules for lunch, toilet and rest periods, indoor activities include music, stories and handiwork; outdoor activities are free play with large equipment. Towards the end of his stay in the kindergarten, simple ideas of language and numbers are given the child to prepare him for the formal studies to follow.

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation provides a fifteen-minute radio programme, "Kindergarten of the Air," five days a week from fall to spring for pre-school children.

Elementary and Secondary Education

Enrolment in the elementary and secondary schools has been increasing year by year, until in 1958-59 there were 3,629,130 pupils enrolled in the public schools, 141,871 in the private schools in addition to over 30,000 in the collège classiques and pre-matriculation courses in the universities, and 44,173 in the business colleges.

Each September, a majority of Canadian children aged six enter an eight-grade elementary school. After remaining for eight years, or at about fourteen years of age, more than 60 per cent of those who entered Grade I enter a regular four-year high-school. From the graduates at this level a limited number, about 8 or 9 per cent of those who began school, go on to college or university, where, after another three or four years, those who are successful in arts and science are granted a bachelor's degree. Some of these will study for at least another year for a master's degree and possibly another two or more years for the doctorate. Other professional university courses, such as law, medicine, accounting, engineering, account for half the number enrolled.

The 8-4 plan leading from Grade I to university was for many years the basic plan for organizing the curriculum and schools, other than those of Catholic Quebec. It is still followed in most rural, village and town schools and in many cities. However, this plan has been modified from time to time in various provinces, cities, or groups of schools, as it appeared inadequate to meet the