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Faculty unions are a comparatively recent development in Canada. The first was established in 1970 and the first collective agreement signed in 1974. By 1980, more than 72 per cent of full-time members of faculty in Canadian universities were members of collective bargaining units — either certified under provincial labour law or "special plan" units not regulated by provincial legislature. The provinces of British Columbia and Alberta forbid certification of faculty unions.

Most academics are served by a local faculty association which, for unionized faculty members, is the bargaining agent. Local associations are grouped into provincial federations and also into a national body — the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) (in Quebec, the *Fédération des associations de professeurs d'université du Québec*, a member with special status of the CAUT).

Types of institution

In Canada, an institution of post-secondary education that has the power to grant degrees is usually called a university. However, several are called colleges, a few are institutes and one is a school.

A university or college may be associated with another university (often called a "parent" university) as a federated, affiliated or constituent institution. A federated institution is responsible for its own administration and has the power to grant degrees; while in federation, it holds some or all of its degree-granting powers in abeyance. An affiliated institution is responsible for its own administration but does not have the power to grant degrees. A constituent university or college is an integral part of the parent university with respect to both administrative and academic matters.

There are 65 degree-granting institutions in Canada, of which 12 hold in abeyance some or all of their degree-granting powers while in federation with other universities. Of the 65, six use French as the language of instruction. The others are basically English-language institutions, but four of them have among their constituents or affiliates a faculty in which some or all of the courses for a degree are taken in French.

Almost all of the universities and their affiliates are co-educational. Only