

There are six schools for the blind, nine schools for the deaf and a number of training schools for mental defective. Special classes are found in tuberculosis sanatoria, mental hospitals and reformatories. In many cities, there are classes for the hard-of-hearing, the partly blind and other physically and mentally handicapped children.

Special classes in the regular schools are provided in some cities for pupils with defective hearing or sight, or with physical handicaps, and for the mentally retarded or epileptic, whenever it appears that they will not benefit from the regular classes.

Vocational and Technical Education

There has been considerable growth in vocational and technical education during the past decade. In all provinces except Nova Scotia and Quebec, technical education is administered by the Department of Education. At present approximately 200 provincial and municipal institutions offer technical and trade training. Of these 80 to 85 offer mainly post-secondary or advanced technical courses, lasting for two or three years, about 100 offer secondary-level industrial and trade courses, and 25 or 30 provide trade courses for apprentices. Machinery is taught in polytechnical institutes and in most universities.

Support by the Federal Government for vocational education is based on a sharing basis with the provinces, has been a matter of contribution to the economic efficiency of the people in consideration of home and foreign markets. The grants have been generally well received, since vocational education requires costly equipment and is relatively expensive, and training and education must be up to date. Grants are made according to the current vocational training agreements, which provide for assistance to appropriate provincial government authorities operating especially vocational-training projects.

Most regular secondary schools provide a limited number of options in such subjects as agriculture, shop and home economics, shorthand and typing. Vocational, technical and commercial high schools are an integral part of the high-school system of a province. Although these schools stress vocational courses, they include languages, mathematics, history, science and other selected subjects to ensure a well-rounded education in both theory and practice. Co-operative schools, whether urban or rural high schools, generally provide several optional courses (academic, technical, agricultural, home economics, commerce, etc.), and may allow pupils to set courses of their own.

Provincial trade schools and technical institutes are organized by the provinces to complement the work undertaken in vocational high schools. Some of these are classified as secondary institutes with courses designed to prepare highly-skilled technicians for a variety of fields. Others are essentially trade schools offering courses mostly at the secondary level and lasting from two weeks to two years in the length of their courses. Most of the short courses are apprenticeship courses conducted in co-operation with the Canadian Vocational Training section of the Federal Department of Labour. Some schools of this kind include a wide range of courses such as engineering technology, radio, electronics, home economics, photography, metal trades, stenography, cooking, business-machine operation and apprenticeship in the skilled trades.

To provide sufficient skilled operators in particular occupations, several other departments of government offer specialized courses in such occupations as cooperatives, textiles, mining, forestry, agriculture, navigation and shipping, the armed forces,