

and the ordinances passed by the Commissioner in Council is carried on by the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. A federal Administrative Officer serves at each of the following Territorial centres: Fort Smith, Aklavik, Hay River and Yellowknife. The seat of government is at Ottawa.

3. Municipal Government

The earliest local government in Canada was carried out by the seigneurs of New France who bore, along with military command and the administration of justice, the responsibilities of appointing justice of the peace and clerks of roads. Some of these officers were soon replaced by a 'syndic' elected by the people, the first in 1644, though a mayor and two aldermen had held office briefly in the city of Quebec in 1643. When the syndics fell into disuse, such powers were delegated by the Governor to officials. The City of Quebec was incorporated in 1832, and the system of local government for the province decreed in 1840 was later remodelled by Acts of 1845, 1850 and 1860.

In the Atlantic Provinces, Saint John, N.B., had attained the distinction of becoming Canada's first incorporated city in 1785. Incorporation of Halifax, N.S. came in 1841 and Charlottetown, P.E.I., in 1855. In Newfoundland, St. John's was created a town in 1888.

The Ontario Parish and Town Officers Act of 1793 provided for an annual meeting in a parish or township to appoint local officers responsible to Parliament and the courts, but the meetings had no law-making powers. Brockville, in 1832, gained from the Governor in Council some local powers that had previously been exercised through the courts. In 1834, York was incorporated as the self-governing city of Toronto. The Municipal Act of 1849 became the foundation of the local government in Ontario and later provided a model for the western provinces. Subsequently, Acts have been passed in all provinces governing aspects of municipal incorporation, powers and duties. Constitutional provision that jurisdiction over municipal affairs would rest with the provinces has resulted, quite naturally, in dissimilarity in the organization of local government across the country. This stems not only from the difference in beginnings and subsequent independent growth in each province, but also from variations in requirements arising out of geographical and population differences.

The situation remains in a state of flux, with constant amendment of provincial Acts and charters in an attempt to solve old problems and to meet new ones. Just as the call for new and additional services has enlarged the scope of federal and provincial activities, the municipalities have had to assume responsibilities unheard of a few decades ago, or considered beyond their sphere of activity. As a result, amendments to Acts have varied from those enlarging the powers and the boundaries of municipalities, to those establishing closer provincial control and greater financial aid.

RP/A

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