

this country. These influences, however, have been incorporated into a movement that has a distinct Canadian character.

The local union, made up of employees in a particular plant or locality, is the basic unit of labour organization. Its members may be drawn from a particular occupation or trade (craft union) or may include all the workers of a plant or industry without regard to occupation or trade (industrial union). They pay dues directly to their locals and elect officers who, in turn, are responsible for business matters, including the relations between their local and the employer or employers whose employees it represents. The members exercise their rights in regular meetings of the local organization, which may have anywhere from one to several thousand members. For the most part, a local is a subsidiary but integral part of a larger union organization, which may be international, national or regional in scope. Some locals are, however, chartered bodies of one of the central labour congresses, and a few exist as independent entities in the sense that they are not affiliated with any other labour organization.

Just under half (47.4 per cent) of the organized workers in Canada are in locals chartered by international unions, i.e. unions with headquarters in the United States but with locals in both that country and Canada. Fifty per cent are in national or regional unions that confine their activities to

this country. The remainder are in locals directly chartered by a central labour body (.8 per cent) or are independent locals (1.8 per cent).⁴

International, national and regional unions organize and charter locals in industries or trades as defined in their constitutions. They are responsible for laying down general policy, assisting locals in the conduct of their affairs and co-ordinating their activities. Funds are obtained through *per capita* taxes, and regular conventions of delegates from the locals are held at which general policy is decided upon and officers are elected.

Between the local and its headquarters union organization a variety of structures may exist, according to the type of union and the industry and occupations which it serves. In the railway unions, for example, joint boards exist for particular lines, and in some of the industrial unions, such as the United Automobile Workers, councils have been established to deal with particular sections of the industry. Some national unions have established subsidiary provincial and district councils to serve the needs of locals on a geographical basis. Some international unions have established Canadian district or regional councils to act on behalf of their Canadian membership as a whole, while others divide their Canadian membership into two or more districts. In some cases,

⁴ See Table 3, p. 12.