

Three correctional staff colleges -- at Kingston, Ville de Laval and New Westminster -- are operated for the training of recruits, for refreshing purposes for the training of senior penitentiary officers. These staff colleges also provide excellent facilities for Service-wide conferences of institutional heads and other special groups of officers.

As of March 31, 1972, 36 per cent of the inmates were in maximum-security institutions, 51 per cent in medium security and 13 per cent in minimum security. New institutions have been carefully designed to provide facilities for the rehabilitation of their inmates. All afford space for both indoor and outdoor recreation. Some of the older institutions are being brought up-to-date to meet present-day needs and others are being phased out.

Processing of prisoners

Every inmate enters the federal penal system through a regional reception centre or a receiving institution. The prime purpose of the reception centre is to allow a complete diagnosis of each inmate and, upon the basis of the results of that diagnosis, to allocate the inmate to the institution within the system that will most closely provide the training program and the degree of security that is proper in his case. Facilities provide for admission in one of three categories: age 21 years and younger, age 22 years and older and first offenders, and recidivists. Young or first offenders are segregated from the recidivists. Doctors, psychologists, and social workers examine them for physical and mental health, ability, training and need for schooling, so as to launch them on a rehabilitation program. The program of the correctional services is directed primarily toward assisting the inmate in every way possible to regain his proper place in society. Better facilities to achieve this are constantly available, and the staff involved in the process is highly dedicated. Academic opportunities are provided and inmates attend classes on either a full-time or part-time basis. Other students advance their education by correspondence courses offered at the elementary, secondary or university level. In 1971-72, approximately 3,500 inmates participated in adult-education and vocational-training programs offered by the Penitentiary Service, often with a view to acquiring a trade or profession. Expanded use was made of day parole and temporary absence in order to enable students to attend community education facilities. Fifty inmate students were attending university, high school or community colleges at year-end. Religious programs are provided for all inmates and from 20 per cent to 50 per cent of them participate in services of worship. Most chapels run multi-purpose chapel programs during the week, where, besides religious instruction, other activities related to religious services are carried out. There is active inmate involvement in this section of the program, including suitable community participation.

Living-unit idea

Plans have been completed to introduce inter-disciplinary teams to be responsible for groups of inmates on a living-unit basis in additional institutions besides the five originally selected as pilot institutions. The living-unit idea is an attempt to personalize the contacts between staff and