

Elementary and Secondary Schools

A pupil spends seven, eight or nine school years at elementary or "public" school. Except in Quebec, these are largely co-educational. The pattern of study at secondary school is a flexible one. A girl, for instance, may take a domestic science course or instruction in typing; a boy may train for a trade. Special courses such as music and art often form part of the curriculum. Outside school hours a student may be a member of the school orchestra or a reporter for the school paper, a properties man in the school dramatic society or a defence-man on the school hockey team. The high school, like the university, is in many ways a miniature world of its own with its own student government, its

own press, and its own organizations.

Private secondary schools in English-speaking Canada generally follow the pattern of their British counterparts. In Quebec there are several kinds, but the classical college, with its emphasis on classical studies and character training, is typical.

Teacher Training

Elementary school teachers are trained for one or two years at a teacher's college or "normal school" following high school graduation, or at a university teacher-training centre. A high school training certificate normally requires a university degree, and more and more elementary school teachers are also being university trained. Many teachers supplement their training with special summer courses.

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1) Courtyard of the Ontario College of Education, Toronto

2) Priests who have been marking examination papers in the Grand Seminary of Quebec's historic Laval University pose for a photograph by the massive circular staircase

Universities and Colleges

There are more than 30 universities in Canada and about 250 colleges affiliated with them. Some are supported by provincial and federal grants, some by provincial grants only, and others by religious institutions; all derive a small part of their income from private endowment. The smaller colleges may cater to fewer than a hundred students, the larger universities to more than ten thousand. Most are co-educational. Some of the smaller colleges offer only a year or two of education and a limited curriculum. The larger universities offer a wide variety of subjects and grant doctorates as well as bachelor's and master's degrees.

There is a university in most large

cities in Canada. Students who come from out-of-town live in residence on or near the campus. The majority take some form of part-time or summer employment to help pay costs of board and tuition fees. University fees in the past several years have been steadily rising but this increase has been to a great extent offset, at least for gifted students, by an increasing number of bursaries and scholarships. By 1955 the universities of Canada were faced with what the President of the University of Toronto called "the crisis of numbers". So many young Canadians wanted to go to college—and could afford to go—that leading educators were faced with complex expansion and financial problems.

The oldest university in Canada is Laval, in Quebec City, established in 1635. The largest is Toronto, with its several affiliated colleges. The largest in French-Canada is the Université de Montreal. Many universities are noted for their particular fields of study: thus, British Columbia for courses in forestry and mining engineering; Queen's at Kingston, Ontario, for its mining faculty; Dalhousie in Nova Scotia for its law school; and McGill and Toronto for their medical faculties.