

government, education and community interests. Their mandate generally requires them to advise government on the development of higher education, to make recommendations regarding the level of financial support to universities and sometimes also to distribute grants among the institutions, and to plan and co-ordinate with the universities the implementation of programs to meet the educational needs of the province or region. The fourth and last element of a system consists of the government, with either a department with responsibility for all levels of education or a separate department for higher education only.

There are some links which, though not leading to a country-wide, unified university system, connect the individual provincial systems at the national level. Thus we find the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada, which provides a mechanism for consultation and interaction in educational matters of common interest to the various provincial governments, and the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada which, as the voluntary organization of the Canadian universities, does the same for its members.

The following description of the provincial university system will concentrate on the main, non-denominational universities, all of which are members of the AUCC.

*Newfoundland:* Memorial University is the only university in the province. As already indicated, there is no intermediary or buffer body between the government and the university in Newfoundland and, accordingly, Memorial deals directly with the provincial government. Funding matters are the concern of a special cabinet committee on university affairs, while day-to-day relationships depend on direct contact between the university and the departments of education and finance.

*Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick:* The maritime provinces, with a number of small to medium-sized university-level institutions (one on Prince Edward Island, four in New Brunswick and 13 in Nova Scotia), have created one body, the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC), to act as an intermediary between the region's universities and the governments of the three provinces. Established to assist the provinces and institutions in attaining a more efficient use and allocation of higher education resources in the region, MPHEC reports to the Council of Maritime Premiers. Through the Council, MPHEC annually presents to the provincial legislatures its recommendations on the level of financial assistance to the universities. Each legislature determines its own level of funding for the institutions within its jurisdiction; the resulting grants are distributed to the universities, in New Brunswick and