

have created the Association of Atlantic Universities (AAU), a voluntary organization whose aims are to ensure high academic standards, in co-ordinating higher education and avoid unnecessary duplication of programs. A co-operative effort between AAR and MPHEC resulted in a commonly-accepted allocation formula for operating grants: about 75 per cent of the total is allocated to the universities as a flat grant, whereas enrolments form the basis for allocating the remaining 25 per cent.

*Quebec:* There are nine institutions in Quebec with enrolments ranging from just over 1,000 to approximately 25,000 full-time equivalent students. Three of them are English-language universities (Bishop's, Concordia and McGill) and four are French-language institutions (Laval, Montréal, Sherbrooke, and the Université du Québec). The last is a decentralized, multi-unit institution comprising, amongst others, four constituent universities, a learning centre, and a distance-learning facility.

At the institutional level, the co-ordinating body is the Conference of Rectors and Principals of Quebec Universities. This voluntary organization provides a forum for information exchange between its members and for concerted actions and studies. It also serves as a convenient channel through which the government can consult the universities as a group.

At the government level, responsibility for higher education is entrusted to the Ministère de l'Éducation and within it, to the Direction générale de l'enseignement supérieur. Relating directly to the universities, it takes an active part in the development of higher education in Quebec and allocates to the universities the funding provided by the government in support of higher education. The government's main adviser in university affairs is the Conseil des universités, established in 1969. This body may, on its own initiative, counsel the government concerning the needs of higher education and the measures to meet these needs; it must by law be consulted by the government in certain matters such as the level and distribution of annual support to universities, but the government is not obliged to follow its recommendations.

The Conseil supérieur de l'éducation, created in 1964, advises the government regarding all levels of education and has, at one of its standing committees, the Commission de l'enseignement supérieur to deal in particular with university education. While the government is obliged to consult this council in certain matters, the more specialized Conseil des universités has, since its creation in 1969, become its main source of advice in university affairs.