

Provincial Organization and Administration

Each province designates a cabinet member to serve as minister of education. Under him the deputy minister, who is a public servant and senior professional educationist, administers the department and advises the minister on policy.

Each department of education undertakes: (1) either the training or supervision of the training of teachers; (2) the certification of teachers; (3) the inspection of public schools in order to maintain specified standards; (4) the prescribing of courses of studies and of textbooks; (5) the provision of financial assistance to the schools through grants and services; and (6) the setting out of rules and regulations for the guidance of school trustees and teachers. Each department requires regular statistical and other reports from schools.

Departmental personnel usually include: a chief inspector of schools; elementary-school and secondary-school inspectors or superintendents; and directors or supervisors of curricula, technical-vocational education, teacher training, home economics, guidance, physical education, audio-visual education, correspondence instruction, adult education, and a limited number of other services.

Local Units of Administration

In all provinces, school laws provide for the establishment and operation of schools by local education boards, which operate under the public school act and are held responsible to the provincial government and resident ratepayers for the actual operation of the local schools. Through the delegation of authority, education becomes a provincial-local partnership, with the degree of centralization changing from time to time.

From the earliest times, the provincial departments delegated authority to publicly-elected or appointed boards, which functioned as corporations under the school acts and regulations. These boards of three trustees were expected to establish and maintain a school, select a qualified teacher, prepare a budget for the annual meeting of ratepayers, and present it to the municipal authorities. As towns and cities developed, the original boards remained as units, but provision was made in the acts for urban school-boards with more members and, generally, with responsibility for both elementary and secondary schools, though in some districts separate boards are still to be found. In recent years there has been a trend in rural and adjoining town areas to amalgamate boards into larger units of administration, particularly for secondary schools.

The Provincial Systems

Newfoundland and Labrador

Population: 493,396 (1966)

School enrolment: 146,221

University enrolment (full-time): 3,168