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## EDUCATION IN CANADA

(Prepared in the Education, Science and Culture Division,  
Statistics Canada)

### PART I

#### General Information

#### Provincial autonomy

In 1867, the British North American colonies that entered into Confederation insisted, as a condition of union, that education be strictly a provincial matter. Section 93 of the British North America Act, which provided that educational legislation should be the exclusive responsibility of provincial governments, applied originally to New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Quebec and Ontario. It was applied in the same form, or a slightly altered one, to the provinces that subsequently entered Confederation: Manitoba (1870); British Columbia (1871); Prince Edward Island (1873); Saskatchewan and Alberta (1905); and Newfoundland (1949).

In Canada today, the provinces are responsible for the education of all persons *except*: inmates of federal penitentiaries; children of members of the Armed Forces on National Defence stations; and some Indian children attending schools administered by the Education Branch of the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. The Federal Government, which is responsible for these groups, also provides grants to each province to be divided among its universities, community colleges and other tertiary (post-secondary) institutions, and participates to a considerable extent in informal education. It assists educational institutions indirectly by making grants-in-aid for research personnel and equipment, and by collecting, disseminating and analyzing education statistics.

The development of the Canadian educational enterprise under the auspices of the provincial governments has produced a school system second to none. There is equality of educational opportunity, and the illiteracy rate is so small as to be virtually non-existent. For all who have been to school, whether they have completed their courses or not, there are post-secondary and continuing education opportunities. In 1970-71, the total full-time enrolment in formal tertiary institutions was about 476,000. In the past five years, adult continuing education programs (credit and non-credit) for

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