Education in Canada

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Education in Canada — A Provincial/Territorial Responsibility

• Canada: a federation of 10 provinces and three territories
  o There are 13 education systems.

• Jurisdiction over education:
  o Canada’s Constitution Act, 1867 assigns legal and legislative authority for education to the provinces.
  o Provinces and territories exercise exclusive responsibility for and jurisdiction over education.

• There is no federal department of education and no integrated national education system in Canada.
Canada’s three territories, Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut:
  - do not have the same constitutional status as the provinces;
  - are subject to more direct control from the federal government in many areas.

In education:
  - Responsibility is delegated to the territorial governments.
  - Territories cooperate with the provinces to deliver postsecondary programs.
Council of Ministers of Education, Canada

• The Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC)
  o Founded in 1967 by the provincial and territorial ministers responsible for education.
  o The collective voice of Canada’s ministers of education.

• CMEC provides:
  o a forum for education ministers to discuss matters of common concern, explore ways to cooperate, share information, and coordinate international education activities and representation;
  o leadership in education at the pan-Canadian and international levels;
  o a mechanism through which to fulfill the constitutional responsibility for education conferred on the provinces and territories.
Areas of collaboration

• Assessment
  - Design, implementation, and analysis of both pan-Canadian and international assessment programs
    - educational environment
    - expectations of students’ performance

• Programs
  - Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS)
  - Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS)
  - International Computer and Information Literacy Study (ICILS)
  - Pan-Canadian Assessment Program (PCAP)
  - Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)
  - Programme for the Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC)
Areas of collaboration

- International representation
  - Canada’s voice for education on the international scene
    - UNESCO
    - OECD
    - OAS

- Official-languages programs
  - Odyssey
  - Explore and Destination Clic

- Imagine Education au/in Canada

- CMEC Early Learning and Development Framework
Steering

• Provincial/territorial ministries and departments of education (ministers, deputy ministers, civil servants):
  o Legislation (education acts, statutes, regulations)
  o Policy
  o Assessment and accountability

• School boards/districts (elected school trustees):
  o Curriculum implementation
  o Operation and administration (personnel, enrolment, infrastructure)
Funding

- Total public expenditure on public education ($95 billion):
  - 16.1 per cent of total public expenditure ($51 billion on elementary and secondary education; $39 billion on PSE; $5 billion on other)
- Funding for K–12 education:
  - Provincial/territorial governments, using formulas to tailor funding to local needs
  - Combination of provincial/territorial governments and municipal/school-board taxes
- Funding for postsecondary education:
  - Provincial/territorial governments, plus portion of transfer payment from federal government
Statistics

Elementary and secondary education

- Number of students in public schools: 5,032,183 (2011-12)
- Number of teachers: 337,600 (2009-10)
- Student-teacher ratio in public schools: 14.0 (2009-10)
- Number of public and private schools: 15,500 (approx.)

Postsecondary education

- Number of provincially/territorially recognized and authorized universities/colleges: 280 (approx.)
- Number of university students in 2008-09:
  - Full-time: 828,216
  - Part-time: 284,154
- Number of college students in 2006-07:
  - Full-time: 460,962
  - Part-time: 148,089

- Many private colleges
Case study presenters:

• **Ontario**
  Mary Jean Gallagher, Assistant Deputy Minister, Student Achievement Division, Ministry of Education, Ontario

• **Alberta**
  Gene Williams, Assistant Deputy Minister, System Excellence Division, Alberta Education
For more information about CMEC, visit: www.cmec.ca

Thank you!