

# Education in Canada



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Minister of Education, Alberta, and  
Chair of CMEC

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# Canada — Overview



International Summit on the  
Teaching Profession

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# Education in Canada — A Provincial/ Territorial Responsibility



- Canada: a federation of 10 provinces and three territories
  - **There are 13 education systems.**
- Jurisdiction over education:
  - **Canada's *Constitution Act, 1867* assigns legal and legislative authority for education to the provinces.**
  - **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.

# Education in Canada — A Provincial/ Territorial Responsibility



- 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.**

- The Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC)
  - **Founded in 1967 by the provincial and territorial ministers responsible for education.**
  - **The collective voice of Canada's ministers of education.**
- CMEC provides:
  - **a forum for education ministers to discuss matters of common concern, explore ways to cooperate, share information, and coordinate international education activities and representation;**
  - **leadership in education at the pan-Canadian and international levels;**
  - **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)**

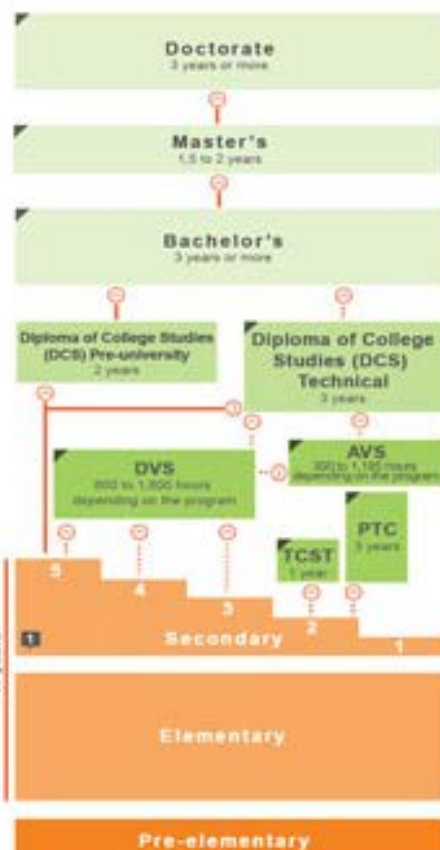
# Areas of collaboration



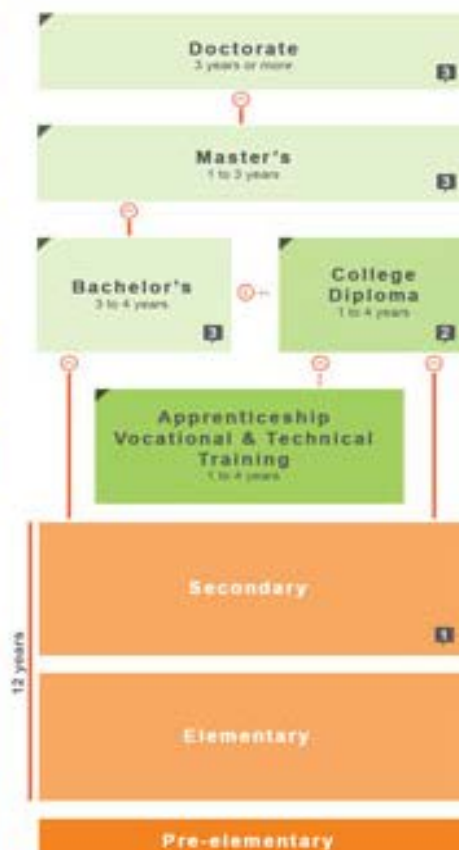
- International representation
  - **Canada's voice for education on the international scene**
    - UNESCO
    - OECD
    - OAS
- Official-languages programs
  - **Odyssey**
  - **Explore and Destination Clic**
- Imagine Education au/in Canada
- CMEC Early Learning and Development Framework

# Canada's Education Systems

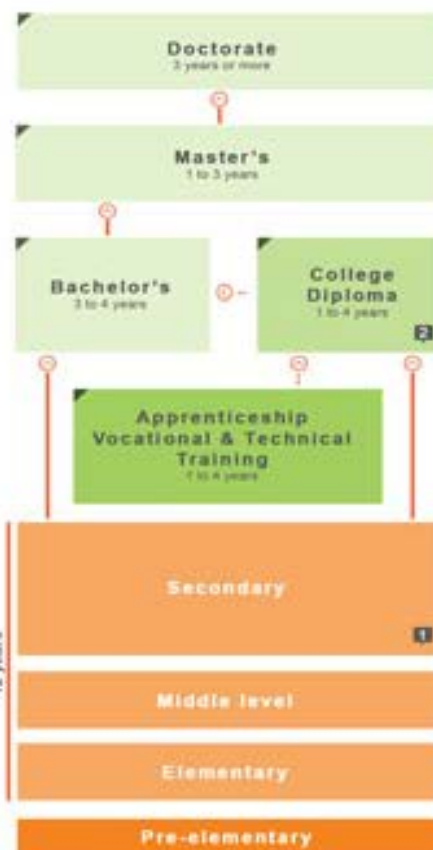
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AB BC MB NB NL NT NU ON YK



NB PE SK



NS



## Legend

- University Education
- College Education
- Apprenticeship - Vocational and Technical Training
- To the job market
- Typical pathway
- Alternate pathway

- In all jurisdictions, a secondary school diploma is issued upon successful completion of the secondary school curriculum.
- Selected institutions in Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, and Prince Edward Island offer applied degrees.
- The Northwest Territories and Nunavut have no degree-granting institutions. Some degrees are available through partnerships. Students may also access degrees directly from institutions outside the territories.

- PTC Pre-work Training Certificate
- TCST Training Certificate for a Semi-skilled Trade
- DVS Diploma of Vocational Studies
- AVS Advancement of Vocational Specialization

- AB Alberta
- BC British Columbia
- MB Manitoba
- NB New Brunswick
- NL Newfoundland and Labrador
- NT Northwest Territories
- NU Nunavut
- ON Ontario
- PE Prince Edward Island
- QC Quebec
- SK Saskatchewan
- YK Yukon

## Notes

- Colleges and universities may offer certificate programs of variable length.
- Continuing and adult education programs, while not shown on this chart, may be offered at various levels of instruction.
- British Columbia's colleges also offer associate degrees.



- Provincial/territorial ministries and departments of education (ministers, deputy ministers, civil servants):
  - **Legislation (education acts, statutes, regulations)**
  - **Policy**
  - **Assessment and accountability**
- School boards/districts (elected school trustees):
  - **Curriculum implementation**
  - **Operation and administration (personnel, enrolment, infrastructure)**

- 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**

## 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](http://www.cmec.ca)

Thank you!