

Education in Canada

In order to refresh your memory, Canada is a North American country consisting of ten different provinces and three territories. Education in Canada is a provincial responsibility as each province is ruled by its own government. Because of this national share of power, there are many variations for education between the provinces. The following descriptions about the educational system will therefore exclude the province of Quebec who operates under a totally different scheme.

Taking for model the United States of America, Canada has integrated a really vertical system that can either be public or private. It is worth noting that publicly funded schools serve about 93 per cent of all students in Canada. We can analyze the overall structure by looking at four different levels of education: *pre-elementary*, *elementary*, *secondary* and *post secondary*.



At the pre-elementary level, kids under six years old are welcomed in **Kindergarden**. At the elementary level, kids from the age of 6 until 11 attend **Elementary school** and climb from Grade 1 to Grade 6. From 12 to 14 years old, teenagers evolve in **Junior High School** and go from Grade 7 to Grade 9. Finally at the secondary level, teenagers experience **High School** until they graduate generally at the age of 18 years old (Grade 10, 11 and 12). Statistics show that the graduation rate for secondary level is close to 75%.

In Canada, graduating from High School is an important event that it worth emphasizing. For example, graduates might participate to a convocation ceremony during which they will receive their High School Diploma. The ceremony is followed by a night dance. If wanted and usually the case, students will continue their schooling towards post-secondary levels which include institutions like Universities and Community College. Depending on the provinces, the Universities, and/or government loan and bursary program, a full-term school year for undergrad studies cost on average 6000\$. Scholarships will luckily benefit a small minority mostly including athletes, remarkable students, low income families, and students with disabilities. The normal length for an undergrad program is for about 3 to 5 years. Students will then be eligible to receive their Bachelor degree. May be around 40% choose to continue their post-secondary education further. Those students will be enrolled in graduate programs to potentially obtain either their Master degree or Doctorate.

By Caroline Trudel