

About Canada

Government

Canada is a federation of ten provinces and three territories. Under the Canadian constitution, provincial governments have exclusive responsibility of all levels of education. There is no ministry or department of education at the federal level. Canada's three territories, Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut, do not have the same constitutional status as the provinces, and are subject, in many areas, to more direct control from the federal government. With respect to education, however, the federal government has delegated this responsibility to the territorial governments, which, in turn, cooperate with the provinces to deliver postsecondary programs.

Culture

Canada is highly diverse culturally, with more than 200 ethnic origins and 200 first languages reported in the 2006 census. There are two major linguistic groups and two official languages, English and French. In 2006, over 57 per cent of the population reported English as their first language and almost 22 per cent reported French as their first language. The vast majority of francophones in Canada live in Quebec, where 79 per cent have French as their mother tongue. Almost 4 per cent of the Canadian population self-identified as Aboriginal.

Geography

Canada is the second largest country in the world. Because of its climate, there are no permanent settlements in nearly 90 per cent of the country. Most of Canada's more than 33 million people live in highly urbanized centres in the south, within 300 kilometres of the border with the United States.

Economy

Canada is a major industrialized trading nation, a member of the G7/8, the G20, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and many other international bodies. The critical connection between a highly educated workforce and Canada's continuing prosperity is at the core of Canadian economic policy.

Education

Canada has one of the highest rates of postsecondary-education completion in the world. According to the 2006 census, six out of every 10 adults between 25 and 64 years of age had completed some form of postsecondary education.

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