



SCHOOL OPENINGS AND CLOSINGS

Province/Territory	Fall Term Opening	Winter Break Closing	Post Winter Break Opening	Spring Break Closing	Post Spring Break Opening	Summer Closing
Yukon	Aug. 17-Sept. 6	Dec. 16	Jan. 3	March 3	March 13	May 31-June 23
Northwest Territories	District Education Authority (DEA) decision					
Yellowknife Catholic Schools	Aug. 30	Dec. 16	Jan. 3	March 3	March 20	June 28
Yellowknife Education District No. 1	Sept. 6	Dec. 16	Jan. 3	March 3	March 20	June 29
Nunavut	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
British Columbia	Sept. 6	Dec. 16	Jan. 3	March 10	March 20	June 29
Greater Victoria School District	Sept. 6	Dec. 16	Jan. 3	March 10	March 20	June 29
Vancouver School Board	Sept. 6	Dec. 16	Jan. 3	March 10	March 20	June 30
Richmond School District	Sept. 6	Dec. 16	Jan. 3	March 10	March 20	June 30
Alberta	Local decision					
Calgary Catholic School District	Sept. 1	Dec. 23	Jan. 9	Apr. 12	Apr. 24	June 29
Calgary Board of Education	Sept. 6	Dec. 23	Jan. 9	March 24	Apr. 3	June 30
Edmonton Public Schools	Sept. 6	Dec. 23	Jan. 9	March 24	Apr. 3	June 30
Edmonton Catholic Schools	Sept. 1	Dec. 23	Jan. 9	March 24	Apr. 3	June 30

N/A: Not available



SCHOOL OPENINGS AND CLOSINGS (continued)

Province/Territory	Fall Term Opening	Winter Break Closing	Post Winter Break Opening	Spring Break Closing	Post Spring Break Opening	Summer Closing
Saskatchewan	Board decision	Dec. 23 or earlier	Jan. 3 or later	Apr. 13	Apr. 24	June 30 or earlier
Saskatoon Public Schools	Sept. 1-2	Dec. 22	Jan. 5	Feb. 10	Feb. 20	June 27-28
Regina Catholic School	Sept. 1	Dec. 22	Jan. 9	-	-	June 28
Regina Public Schools	Sept. 1	Dec. 22	Jan. 9	Apr. 13	Apr. 24	June 28
Manitoba	Sept. 6	Dec. 23 or earlier	Jan. 3	March 24	April 3	June 30
Winnipeg School Division	Sept. 6	Dec. 22	Jan. 9	March 24	April 3	June 30
Ontario	Sept. 1	Dec. 16	Jan. 2	March 10	March 20	June 30
Peel District School Board	Sept. 6	Dec. 23	Jan. 9	March 10	March 20	June 28-29
Thames Valley District School Board	Sept. 6	Dec. 23	Jan. 9	March 10	March 20	June 29
Ottawa-Carleton District School Board	Sept. 6	Dec. 23	Jan. 9	March 10	March 20	June 29
Toronto District School Board	Sept. 6	Dec. 23	Jan. 9	March 10	March 20	June 28
York Region District School Board	Sept. 6	Dec. 23	Jan. 9	March 10	March 20	June 28

N/A: Not available

SCHOOL OPENINGS AND CLOSINGS (continued)

Province/Territory	Fall Term Opening	Winter Break Closing	Post Winter Break Opening	Spring Break Closing	Post Spring Break Opening	Summer Closing
Québec	Aug. 24 - Sept. 7	Dec. 20-22	Jan. 4-11	March 3	March 13	June 22-27
Commission scolaire de Montréal	Aug. 30	Dec. 23	Jan. 9	March 3	March 13	June 23
Commission scolaire de la Capitale	Aug. 29	Dec. 22	Jan. 10	March 3	March 13	June 22
Western Quebec School Board	Aug. 30	Dec. 23	Jan. 9	Feb. 24	March 6	June 23
Newfoundland & Labrador	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Avalon East School District	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
New Brunswick	Sept. 6	Dec. 23	Jan. 9	March 3	March 13	June 23
School District 18 (Fredericton)	Sept. 6	Dec. 23	Jan. 9	March 3	March 13	June 23
School District 8 (St. John)	Sept. 6	Dec. 23	Jan. 9	March 3	March 13	
Nova Scotia	Sept. 7	Dec. 20	Jan. 3	March 10	March 20	June 30
Cape Breton-Victoria	Sept. 8	Dec. 20	Jan. 3	March 10	March 20	June 30
Halifax Regional School Board	Sept. 7	Dec. 20	Jan. 3	March 10	March 20	June 30
Prince Edward Island	Sept. 6	Dec. 20	Jan. 5	March 17	March 27	June 27

N/A: Not available

SPRING BREAK SUMMARY

Province/Territory	Spring Break (inclusive dates)
Yukon	March 6-10
Northwest Territories	March 4-19 (Yellowknife and Dogrib)
Nunavut	March 6-24
British Columbia	March 13-17
Alberta	March 27-31
Saskatchewan	April 14-21
Manitoba	March 27-31
Ontario	March 13-17
Québec	March 6-10
Newfoundland & Labrador	N/A
New Brunswick	March 6-10
Nova Scotia	March 13-17
Prince Edward Island	March 20-24

N/A: Not available

Note: The dates may vary from one school board to the next.

PRESCRIBED HOLIDAYS

Province/Territory	Labour Day September 5	Thanksgiving Day October 10	Remembrance Day November 11	Good Friday April 14	Easter Monday April 17	Victoria Day May 22	Other/Notes
Yukon	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Discovery Day (Aug. 15)
Northwest Territories	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	National Aboriginal Day (June 21) is a statutory holiday
Nunavut	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
British Columbia		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	The school year starts after Labour Day
Alberta	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Saskatchewan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Easter Monday is always included in spring vacation.
Manitoba		✓	✓	✓		✓	
Ontario	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Québec	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	The day following St-Jean-Baptiste (June 24)
Newfoundland & Labrador	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
New Brunswick	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Loyalist Day in May (St. John schools)
Nova Scotia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Prince Edward Island	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

N/A: Not available

INSTRUCTIONAL (TEACHING) DAYS

Province/Territory	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	Jul.	Possible Work Days
Yukon	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	178-185
Northwest Territories	22	21	20	21	15	21	20	23	18	22	21	-	195 max.
Nunavut	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	195
British Columbia	-	19	20	21	12	21	20	18	18	22	21	-	192
Alberta	Local school board decision												200 max.
Saskatchewan	*	21	20	21	16	20	20	21	15	21	22*	-	197
Manitoba	-	19	20	21	12-16	17-21	20	18	19	22	22	-	194
Ontario	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	194-197
Québec	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	180 - 200
Newfoundland & Labrador	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
New Brunswick	-	19	20	21	17	17	20	18	18	20	17	-	187
Nova Scotia	-	19	20	21	14	21	20	18	18	22	22	-	195
Prince Edward Island	-	19	18	20	14	19	19	18	18	21	19	-	185

N/A: Not available

*: May vary



EDUCATION WEEK

Province/Territory	Education Week	Dates	Notes
Yukon	N/A	N/A	
Northwest Territories	Y	Feb. 20-24	Last full week of February. Theme: Celebrating Learning
Nunavut	Y	TBD	Dates and theme to be determined in fall 2005
British Columbia	N	1 st week March (past years)	
Alberta	Y	April 24-30	Theme TBA
Saskatchewan	Y	Oct. 16-22	Celebrate Learning, Celebrate Saskatchewan
Manitoba	Y	April 17-21	No theme
Ontario	Y	May 2-6	Theme TBA
Québec	N		
Newfoundland & Labrador	Y		Decision of the NL Teachers' Association
New Brunswick	N		
Nova Scotia	Y	April 24-28	No theme chosen yet
Prince Edward Island	N		

TBA: To be announced

N/A: Not available

TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY/WEEK

Province/Territory	Teacher Appreciation Day/Week	Dates	Notes
Yukon	N/A	N/A	
Northwest Territories	Y	N/A	The Northwest Territories Teachers' Association celebrates teachers during the "Thank you for making a difference" campaign each year.
Nunavut	Y		Teacher Appreciation Day is normally during Education Week.
British Columbia	N		
Alberta	N/A		
Saskatchewan	Y	Feb. 6-10	Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week.
Manitoba	N		
Ontario	N/A		
Québec	Y	Feb. 5-11	
Newfoundland & Labrador	N/A	N/A	
New Brunswick	Y	Mid Feb.	Called Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week
Nova Scotia	Y	N/A	
Prince Edward Island	Y	Feb. 13-17	

N/A: Not available

TBA: To be announced

Note: October 5th is The International Teacher Appreciation Day

NOTES

YUKON

(Notes from 2003-2004)

In Yukon, every school council and school board can set its own calendar. The duration of the school day varies from 5 hours to 5 hours and 20 minutes. Consequently, the total number of school days varies from 178 to 190. All Yukon students attend school for the prescribed 950 hours of instruction required by the *Education Act*. The school calendars recognise statutory holidays such as Labour Day, Thanksgiving, Remembrance Day, Heritage Day (February), Good Friday, Easter Monday, and Victoria Day. School councils, in consultation with staff, may declare other school closed days, so long as the total of 950 instructional hours is met.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

The calendar year varies for each school division and, sometimes by each school within a division. Due to seasonal variations (i.e. hours of sunlight) and community customs, some schools conclude the last week of May and resume classes the beginning of August. Most schools, however, begin classes during the last week of August and conclude the school year the last week of June. National Aboriginal Day (June 21) is a statutory holiday for schools and the Government of the Northwest Territories. Most private businesses observe it as a statutory holiday.

NUNAVUT

All schools have different opening and closing dates. The territory is vast, and due to different geographical locations and longitudes — daylight & darkness — they have the flexibility of setting their own dates. Each community is empowered to choose a school year that falls within the rules established by the Minister but is unique to the community. School years are established by the District Education Authorities (DEA) in each community.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Lieutenant Governor on Council sets a standard school calendar. This school year, there is a minimum of 186 days of instruction. A local school board may adopt, after a consultation process with the parents and board employees assigned to a school, a school calendar that differs from the standard school calendar for one or more schools in its district. Local school calendars must offer the required minimum hours of instruction as set out in the regulation. For the 2005-2006 school year, the standard school calendar prescribes a minimum of 193 days in session. These days are made up of 186 days of instruction, six non-instructional days, and one administrative day (year-end). In addition to the statutory holidays, the standard school calendar provides for a winter vacation period and a spring vacation period.

NOTES (continued)

ALBERTA

In Alberta, each local school board sets its own opening and closing dates, as well as the number of operating days, keeping in mind the following legislative requirements: a winter vacation at least from December 24 to January 2. Boards are required to provide 950 hours of instruction for elementary and junior high school students, and 1,000 hours of instruction for senior high students. The School Act states that teachers shall not be required to instruct students for more than 1,200 hours in a school year or for more than 200 days in a school year unless the teachers agree to additional hours/days. Thus the number of working days possible for teachers is variable each month. The spring and Christmas breaks, board-declared holidays, 2 days for teachers' conventions and various other provincial and federal holidays bring the number of instructional days down to an average of 185-190. A board may declare 1 day a month to be a school holiday. Statutory holidays are observed by all boards. Family Day is a statutory holiday in Alberta, and is observed on the third Monday in February. Easter Monday and Farmers' Day may be observed at the discretion of the local school board.

SASKATCHEWAN

Boards of education in Saskatchewan set their own opening and closing dates for the school year keeping in mind the following: a) the number of days in the 2005-2006 school year is 197 (different from the number of days students are in classrooms due to Teachers' Professional Days); b) the Christmas vacation must commence no later than December 23 and end no earlier than January 2, both days inclusive; c) there shall be a spring vacation consisting of the 5 days following Easter Sunday; d) a summer vacation must consist of a least 6 consecutive weeks from the last school day in one school year to the first school day in the following school year and must end no earlier than the first Monday in August. The school year runs July 1 to June 30.

The number of school days varies in August and June because each board of education in Saskatchewan sets their own opening and closing dates for the start and end of the school year. Some school divisions begin in late August while others wait until after Labour Day. The total number of school days in each school division must be 197. Saskatchewan prescribes 197 school days but these include all instructional, exam and PD days. Saskatchewan does not prescribe instructional days.

Easter Monday is not a prescribed holiday, but it falls during the spring vacation which consists of the 5 days immediately following Easter Sunday. Remembrance Day is a holiday only if it falls on a school day (Monday to Friday). No holiday in lieu of Remembrance Day falling on a Saturday or Sunday is required but it is provided for by most boards of education. A board of education may declare any day, but no more than one day at a time, to be a holiday. Any day proclaimed by the Governor General, Lieutenant Governor, the mayor of a city, town or village or the reeve of a rural municipality shall be a school holiday.

NOTES (continued)

MANITOBA

The school must consist of 194 school days and begin on September 6, 2005. School boards may set the opening and closing dates for the school year. The Christmas vacation period is to begin no later than December 23, or earlier as determined by the school board, and extend to January 2 inclusive, or later as determined by the school board. The spring vacation will be one week beginning the last Monday in March (March 28 - 31, 2006 inclusive). School boards may add to, but not delete from, statutory holidays and spring break as long as the 194 school days requirements are met.

ONTARIO

A board has the option of submitting a regular or a modified calendar. A regular calendar shall begin the school year on or after September 1 and end on or before June 30. The number of potential school days available within these limits will always exceed the required minimum of 194 school days. Any school days that exceed the 194 could be designated by the board as board holidays. For the 2005-2006 school year, boards may designate up to 3 board holidays between September 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006 that exceed the required number of school days. A school year shall include a minimum of 194 school days of which up to four days may be designated by board as professional activity days and the remaining school days shall be instructional days. A board may designate up to ten instructional days as examination days. However, boards may choose to submit a modified school year calendar to the Minister for approval. A modified school year calendar has one of the following characteristics: an early/late start or end to the school year, different school holidays, or year-round calendar format with a shortened summer vacation, and holidays dispersed throughout the entire year. There are a possible 20 working days in July (2006) and possible 22 working days in August (2005) for boards with schools that operate on a modified calendar.

QUÉBEC

Each school board can establish its own school calendar just as long as there is a minimum of 180 days devoted to teaching activities and student services. The working year for teachers consists of 200 working days from September 1 to June 30. A school board and a union can agree to change the start and end dates of the school year, but in no case can the number of holidays to which teachers are entitled be modified. The days following New Years Day (January 2) and the Saint-Jean Baptiste (June 24) are statutory holidays observed by school boards.

NOTES (continued)

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

(Notes from 2004-2005)

The Department of Education sets the opening and closing dates for the school year. Boards have the discretion to organize the school calendar. They determine the dates and length of holiday periods. The Christmas vacation is usually 8-10 school days. Most school boards take an Easter break of approximately six school days. The length of the school year is 195 days, composed of the 187 instructional days, three paid holidays, two non-teaching days for administrative purposes, and 3 professional development days. Each teacher may receive up to five days as professional development days. School boards may grant additional professional development days from a bank of one day per teacher employed by the board. Statutory holidays are observed, and school boards may declare further provided schools are open for 187 days.

NEW BRUNSWICK

The length of the school year is 195 days, composed of 187 instructional days (two of which are used for Pedagogical Activities Focused on Curriculum and Parent/Teacher Meetings), one day for NBTA Branch meetings, two council days (outside of the instructional year), four days (to be scheduled by the school districts) for administration days and professional development activities, one council day within the school year and. Schools in Saint John close on Loyalist Day (in May).

NOVA SCOTIA

The school calendar is set by the province and applies to all school boards. Of the 195-day school year, no more than eight days may be used for organisational and administrative purposes, or for in-service training programs. All teachers must be present on the days used for organisational and administrative purposes or in-service training programs, but pupils are not required to be present. When the 195th day in any year falls on a Monday, a board may declare that it will be observed on the Saturday immediately preceding the Monday.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

The regulations set a total of 195 to 197 days to be used in each school year. This provides for a maximum of ten professional days, including an orientation day for teachers at the start of the school year and up to three days that may be used for end of school year activities. The regulations also provide for a school board-wide professional development day between the first and the second high school semesters and allow two days for parent-teacher interviews. A school board may give approval to a school to carry out a professional development program for one-half of any day designated for parent-teacher interviews. Teachers will conduct a provincial development day on November 10 this year. Students do not attend. The Minister of Education may vary the calendar for a school or school board upon application by a school board.