



Canadian Education Association
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THE 2008-2009 SCHOOL CALENDAR

For all mistakes or omissions, please contact the Canadian Education Association at info@cea-ace.ca

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INTRODUCTION

This useful calendar conveniently summarizes all of the opening and closing dates for schools in every province and territory in Canada. Since, in a number of jurisdictions, school boards are allowed considerable freedom in setting opening and closing dates for their schools, the first chart indicates whether or not the province sets the dates. If the dates are set by the local school board, those of large urban cities are also included.

In addition to the other charts indicated above, explanatory notes from regulations and legislation are also included at the end of this document.



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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	Varies	Dec. 22*	Jan. 2*	March 9*	March 20*	Varies
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**	All schools have different opening and closing dates**					
Yellowknife Catholic Schools	Aug. 27	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	March 13	March 30	June 25/26
Yellowknife Education District No. 1	Sept. 2	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	March 13	March 30	June 26
NUNAVUT	All schools have different opening and closing dates**					
BRITISH COLUMBIA	Sept. 2	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	March 13	March 23	June 25
Greater Victoria School District	Sept. 2	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	March 13	March 23	June 25
Vancouver School Board	Sept. 2	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	March 13	March 23	June 26
Richmond School District	Sept. 2	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	March 13	March 23	June 26
ALBERTA	N/A	Dec. 24 or earlier	Jan. 2 or later	N/A	N/A	N/A
Calgary Catholic School District	Sept. 2	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	April 9	April 20	June 29
Calgary Board of Education	Sept. 2	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	March 20	March 30	June 30
Edmonton Public Schools	Sept. 2	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	March 27	April 6	June 26
Edmonton Catholic Schools	Sept. 2	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	March 27	April 6	June 30
SASKATCHEWAN	Varies	Dec. 23 or earlier	Jan. 3 or later	April 9	April 20	Varies
Saskatoon Public Schools	Aug. 27/28	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	April 9	April 20	June 23/24
Regina Public Schools	Aug. 28	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	April 9	April 20	June 24
MANITOBA	Sept. 2	Dec. 19 or earlier	Jan. 2 or later	March 27	April 6	June 30
Winnipeg School Division	Sept. 2	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	March 27	April 6	June 30

N/A: Not available

* With some exceptions

** See notes at the end of the calendar for more details.



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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
ONTARIO	Sept. 2	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	March 13	March 23	June 30
Peel District School Board	Sept. 2	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	March 13	March 23	June 26
Thames Valley District School Board	Sept. 2	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	March 13	March 23	June 24/25
Ottawa-Carleton District School Board	Sept. 2	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	March 13	March 23	June 25/26
Toronto District School Board	Sept. 2	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	March 13	March 23	June 23/24
York Region District School Board	Sept. 2	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	March 13	March 23	June 24/25
QUÉBEC	Aug. 26 – Sept. 4	Dec. 22 – 23	Jan. 5 – 6	Feb. 27 *	March 9 *	June 19 – 25
Commission scolaire de Montréal	Aug. 28	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	Feb. 27	March 9	June 23
Commission scolaire de la Capitale	Sept. 2	Dec. 19	Jan. 6	Feb. 27	March 9	June 23
Western Quebec School Board	Aug. 28	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	Feb. 27	March 9	June 23
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR	Sept. 3	Dec. 19 *	Jan. 5 *	April 9 *	April 20 *	June 25
Eastern School District	Sept. 3	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	April 9	April 21	June 25
NEW BRUNSWICK	Sept. 2 *	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	Feb. 27	March 9	June 19
School District 18 (Fredericton)	Sept. 2	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	Feb. 27	March 9	June 19
NOVA SCOTIA	Sept. 3	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	March 13	March 23	June 29
Cape Breton-Victoria	Sept. 4	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	March 13	March 23	June 27
Halifax Regional School Board	Sept. 3	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	March 13	March 23	June 29
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	Sept. 4	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	March 13	March 23	June 25

N/A: Not available

* With some exceptions

** See notes at the end of the calendar for more details.



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SPRING BREAK SUMMARY

PROVINCE/TERRITORY	SPRING BREAK (INCLUSIVE DATES)
YUKON	March 9 – March 20
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES	N/A
NUNAVUT	Varies across the territory
BRITISH COLUMBIA	March 16 – 20
ALBERTA	N/A
SASKATCHEWAN	April 13 – 17
MANITOBA	March 30 – April 3
ONTARIO	March 16 – 20
QUÉBEC	March 2 – 6
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR	April 13 – 17
NEW BRUNSWICK	March 2 – 6
NOVA SCOTIA	March 16 – 20
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	March 16 – 20

N/A: Not available

Note: The dates may vary across school boards.



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PRESCRIBED HOLIDAYS

PROVINCE/TERRITORY	LABOUR DAY SEPTEMBER 1	THANKSGIVING DAY OCTOBER 13	REMEMBRANCE DAY NOVEMBER 11	GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 10	EASTER MONDAY APRIL 13	VICTORIA DAY MAY 18	OTHER/NOTES
YUKON	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Discovery Day (Aug. 18) and Heritage Day (Feb. 20) are also statutory holidays
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	National Aboriginal Day (June 21) is a statutory holiday
NUNAVUT	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	½ day Hamlet days are set by the municipality
BRITISH COLUMBIA		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	The school year starts after Labour Day
ALBERTA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓*	✓	Family day (Feb. 16) is a statutory holiday
SASKATCHEWAN	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	Family day (Feb. 16) is a statutory holiday
MANITOBA	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
ONTARIO	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	Family day (Feb. 16) is a statutory holiday
QUÉBEC	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	The day following St-Jean-Baptiste (June 24) is a statutory holiday
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
NEW BRUNSWICK	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Schools in Saint John close on Loyalist Day in May
NOVA SCOTIA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Pending legislation (Fall 2008), February 9 will be Islander Day and a provincial holiday will be observed

N/A: Not available

* Varies by board



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INSTRUCTIONAL (TEACHING) DAYS

PROVINCE/TERRITORY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	JAN.	FEB.	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JUL.	POSSIBLE INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS
YUKON	Varies across the territory by school												178-184
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES	Varies across the territory by school												188 *
NUNAVUT	Varies across the territory by local District Education Authority												195
BRITISH COLUMBIA	-	21	22	19	15	20	20	17	20	20	19	-	193
ALBERTA	Varies across the province by school board												185 – 190
SASKATCHEWAN	Varies across the province by school board												N/A
MANITOBA	-	21	22	19	15	20	19	20	18	20	22	-	196
ONTARIO	-	21	22	20	15	20	19	17	20	20	22	-	196
QUÉBEC	Varies across the province by school board												180 - 200
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR	-	20	22	19	15	20	19	21	15	20	19	-	190 *
NEW BRUNSWICK	-	21	22	18	15	20	20	17	17	19	15	-	185
NOVA SCOTIA	-	21	22	19	15	20	20	17	20	20	21	-	195
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	-	19	19	19	15	20	18	17	20	19	19	-	185

N/A: Not available

* May vary



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EDUCATION WEEK

PROVINCE/TERRITORY	EDUCATION WEEK	DATES	NOTES
YUKON	Y	N/A	
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES	Y	TBA	
NUNAVUT	Y	April 20 – 24	
BRITISH COLUMBIA	Y	March 2 – 6	Theme TBA
ALBERTA	Y	April 26 – May 2	Theme TBA
SASKATCHEWAN	Y	October 26 – November 1	Reading More into Education
MANITOBA	Y	April 13 – 17	
ONTARIO	Y	May 4 – 8	Energizing Young Minds
QUÉBEC	N		
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR	Y	March 2 – 6	Theme TBA
NEW BRUNSWICK	N/A		
NOVA SCOTIA	Y	April 19 – 25	Theme: the arts
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	N		

TBA: To be announced

N/A: Not available



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TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY/WEEK

PROVINCE/TERRITORY	TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY/WEEK	DATES	NOTES
YUKON	N/A	N/A	Teachers are acknowledged through the Excellence in Education awards, which are presented during the Yukon Teachers' Association Reception in April
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES	Y	N/A	Teachers are celebrated during the "Thank you for making a difference" campaign each year. The campaign runs from early January to mid February
NUNAVUT	Y	During Education Week	
BRITISH COLUMBIA	Y	TBA	
ALBERTA	Y	Oct. 5	
SASKATCHEWAN	Y	Feb. 9 – 13	
MANITOBA	N		
ONTARIO	Y	Oct. 5	
QUÉBEC	Y	Feb. 1 – 7	
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR	Y	N/A	Sponsored by the Federation of School Councils
NEW BRUNSWICK	Y	Feb. 4 – 8	Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week is sponsored by the Canadian Home and School Federation, the New Brunswick Federation of Home and School Associations Inc., and the Association francophone des parents du Nouveau-Brunswick.
NOVA SCOTIA	Y	Feb. 8 – 14	Theme: "Kids Say"
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	Y	Feb. 8 – 14	

N/A: Not available

TBA: To be announced

Note: October 5th is the World Teachers' Day



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NOTES

YUKON

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 184. All Yukon students attend school for the prescribed 950 hours of instruction required by the *Education Act*. The school calendars recognize 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. In addition, District Education Authorities may choose to recognize particular community holidays in their school calendar. The Northwest Territories has 195 total sessional days for students in all grades. Kindergarten has 475 hours minimum/year for half-day kindergarten and 750 hours minimum/year for full day kindergarten. The maximum length of day is 330 minutes per day. Grades 1-6 have 953 hours per year minimum with 330 minutes per day as maximum length of school day. Grades 7-12 have 1000 hours/year minimum with 345 minutes per day as maximum length of school day.

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 187 days of instruction. A local board of education 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 98 school year, the standard school calendar prescribes a minimum of 194 days in session. These days are made up of 187 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.



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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 2008-09 school year which is set at 197 days (different from the number of days students are in class rooms 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 five days following Easter Sunday; and d) a summer vacation must consist of at 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 from July 1 to June 30.

In the fall of 2006 the Government of Saskatchewan introduced legislation for a new statutory holiday, Family Day, to be the third Monday in February. For the 2008-09 school year, the number of school days has been set at 197. In the 2008-09 school year Family Day will be observed by schools on February 16, 2009. 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-Friday). No holiday in lieu of Remembrance Day falling on a Saturday or a 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 year must consist of 196 days and may begin no earlier than September 2, 2008. 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 number of school days in February is shortened by one day due to the establishment in 2008 of a new provincial statutory holiday on the third Monday of February each year (February 16, 2009). The spring vacation will be one week beginning the last Monday in March (March 30 to April 3, 2009 inclusive). School boards may add to, but not delete from, statutory holidays and spring break as long as the 196 school days requirement is met. The last day of classes must be no later than June 30, 2009.

ONTARIO

Boards have the option of submitting a regular school year calendar or a modified school year calendar. A regular school year calendar generally indicates that the school year begins on or after September 1 and ends on or before June 30, with a minimum of 194 school days between the beginning and end of the school year. For the 2008-2009 school year, boards may designate up to 2 board holidays and 6 professional activity/development days between September 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009. 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 is characterized by one of the following: an earlier or later start or end date than the regular school calendar; school holidays that differ from the regular school calendar; or differences in the format of the regular school year calendar, such as a year-round school calendar with a shortened summer vacation, and holidays dispersed throughout the year.

QUÉBEC

The number of work days for teachers is 200 days spread between September 1st and June 30th. A school board and a union can agree to change the beginning and end dates of the school year. However, they cannot change the number of days under any circumstances. Each school board negotiates the distribution of working days within the civil calendar, without altering the number of work days or the period covered by the work year. As a rule, the school year never goes over June 30th, but can start before September. The day following New Year's Day (January 2) and Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day (June 24) are statutory holidays observed by school boards.



NOTES (continued)

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

The Department of Education sets the opening and closing dates for the school year. The five school boards have the discretion to organize the school calendar. Boards 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 for 2008-09 shall be 195 teaching days comprised of 187 actual teaching days, three paid holidays, two non-teaching days to be scheduled by the district during the school year for administrative purposes, and three professional development days. Each teacher may receive up to five days as professional development days. Statutory holidays for the school year are October 13 (Thanksgiving Day), November 11 (Armistice Day), and May 18 (Victoria Day).

NEW BRUNSWICK

The length of the school year is 195 days, comprised of: 185 instructional days for students, 1 day for NBTA/AEFNB Branch Meetings, 3 Subject Council Days (2 of which are for 08-09 only), 4 District Administration Days, and 2 days for pedagogical activities focused on curriculum. School Districts will also schedule two days as a combination of parent teacher meetings and professional development activities during the instructional year (one full day in the fall and one full day in the spring).

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 organizational and administrative purposes, or for in-service training programs. All teachers must be present on the days used for organizational 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 October 3 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.

