



A Canadian Perspective

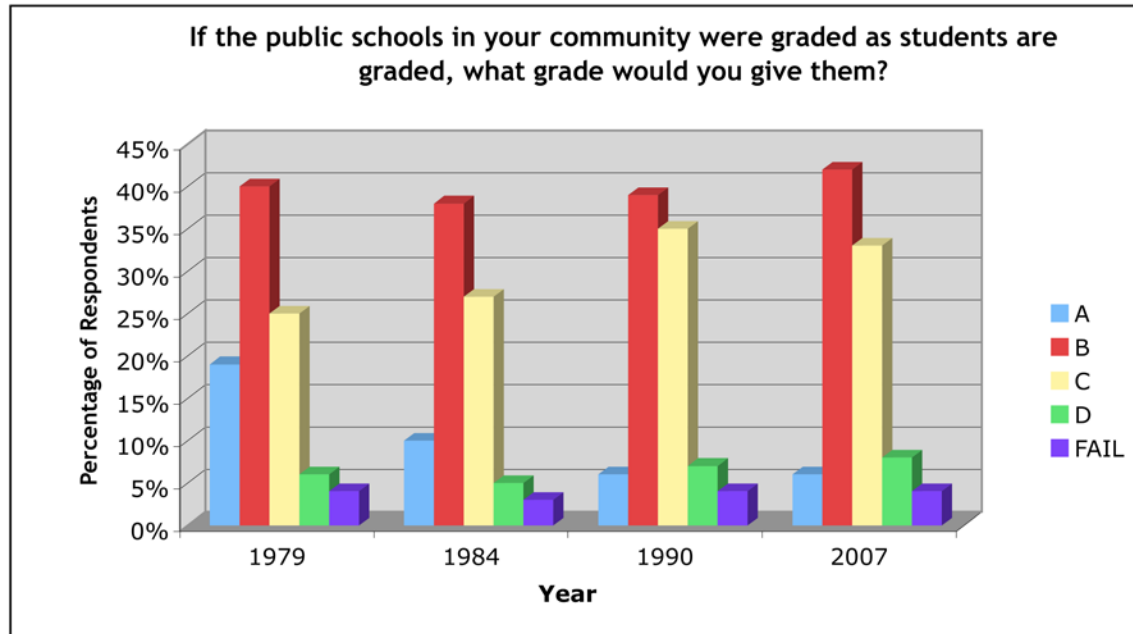
Headlines and Highlights

Canada has consistently performed well in international achievement assessments and is a top performer internationally in Reading, Math and Science. Canada has a unique decentralized education system where funding and policy decisions are made by provincial and territorial governments. Variations in achievement levels and in funding reflect differences in population, geography and economy. Canada's public education system is open to all children and several provinces provide partial financial support to support independent schools making them more affordable to some families. In response to the desire for choice by families many local school districts allow parents to choose which public school their children will attend. Alberta is the only province that has incorporated charter schools into their public education system. Many school districts, especially in large urban areas offer alternative schools or programs, specialist schools or programs for arts, sports, languages, science and technology. While parents can choose these schools for their children pre-qualifications or lotteries may be used if programs are over-subscribed.

While Canadian students are doing well, the public believes the quality of education, needs to improve. Canada's schools produce more equitable results than almost all other countries but there is much work to do to make sure all children share the benefits of a good education. It's time to build on Canadian success to make sure that all children and youth thrive in this rapidly changing world.

How do Canadians rate their public schools?

Public support relatively high for Canada's public schools



Source: Canadian Education Association. (2007). Public Education in Canada: Facts, Trends and Attitudes

Is the support deserved?

Canada is a top performer internationally in Reading, Math and Science

Pisa 2009: Science Combined Results for the Top-performing OECD Countries

| SHANGHAI (CHINA) | FINLAND | HONG KONG (CHINA) | SINGAPORE | JAPAN | KOREA | NEW ZEALAND | CANADA | OECD AVERAGE |
|------------------|---------|-------------------|-----------|-------|-------|-------------|--------|--------------|
| 575 | 554 | 549 | 542 | 539 | 538 | 532 | 529 | 500 |

Source: Measuring up: Canadian Results of the OECD PISA Study, 2010: Statistics Canada

Pisa 2009: Reading Results for the Top-performing OECD Countries

| SHANGHAI (CHINA) | KOREA | FINLAND | HONG KONG (CHINA) | SINGAPORE | CANADA | OECD AVERAGE |
|------------------|-------|---------|-------------------|-----------|--------|--------------|
| 556 | 539 | 536 | 533 | 526 | 524 | 500 |

Source: Measuring up: Canadian Results of the OECD PISA Study, 2010: Statistics Canada

Pisa 2009: *Mathematics* Results for Top-performing OECD Countries

| SHANGHAI (CHINA) | SINGAPORE | HONG KONG (CHINA) | KOREA | TAI PAI (CHINA) | FINLAND | SWITZER LAND | JAPAN | CANADA | OECD |
|---------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-------|--------------------|---------|-----------------|-------|--------|------|
| 600 | 562 | 555 | 546 | 543 | 541 | 534 | 529 | 527 | 500 |

Source: Measuring up: Canadian Results of the OECD PISA Study, 2010: Statistics Canada

Pisa 2009 Rankings – Canada and the United States, out of 65 Reporting OECD countries

| SUBJECT | CANADA | UNITED STATES |
|---------|--------|---------------|
| SCIENCE | 8 | 23 |
| READING | 6 | 17 |
| MATH | 6 | 33 |

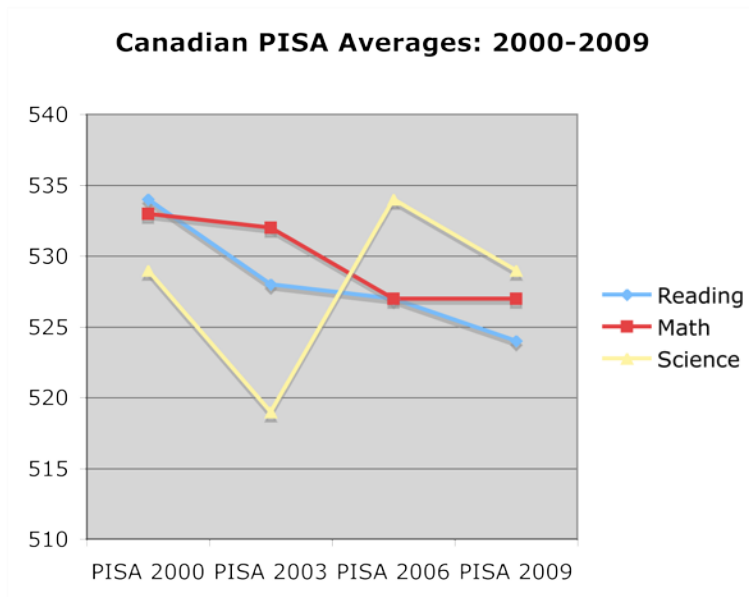
Source: Measuring up: Canadian Results of the OECD PISA Study, 2010: Statistics Canada

Are Canada's PISA scores improving or declining?

Pisa 2000-2009: Canadian Averages for Reading, Math and Science

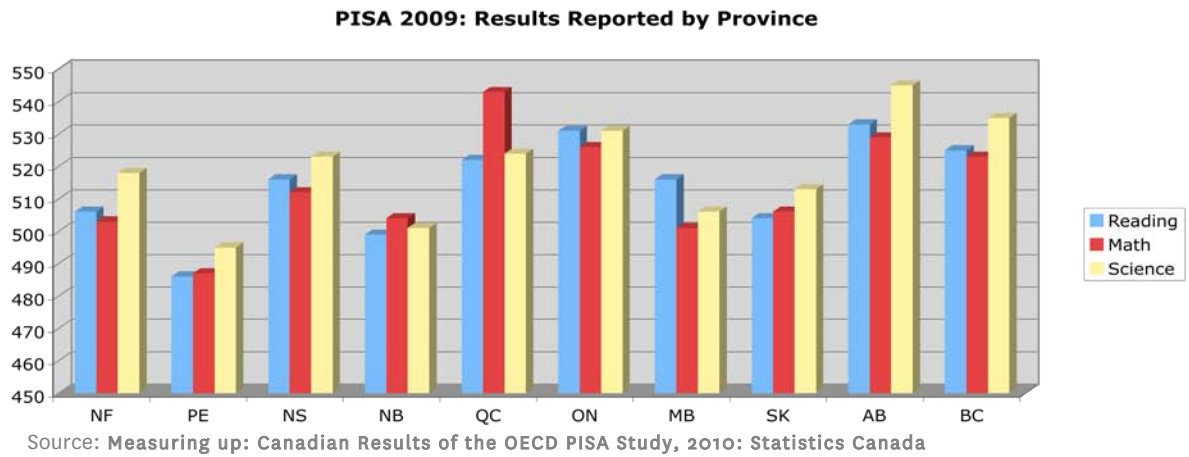
| DOMAIN | PISA 2000 | PISA 2003 | PISA 2006 | PISA 2009 |
|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| READING | 534 | 528 | 527 | 524 |
| MATH | 533 | 532 | 527 | 527 |
| SCIENCE | 529 | 519 | 534 | 529 |

Source: Measuring up: Canadian Results of the OECD PISA Study, 2000, 2006, 2009: Statistics Canada



Source: Measuring up: Canadian Results of the OECD PISA Study, 2000, 2006, 2009, 2010, Statistics Canada

Canadian achievement by province



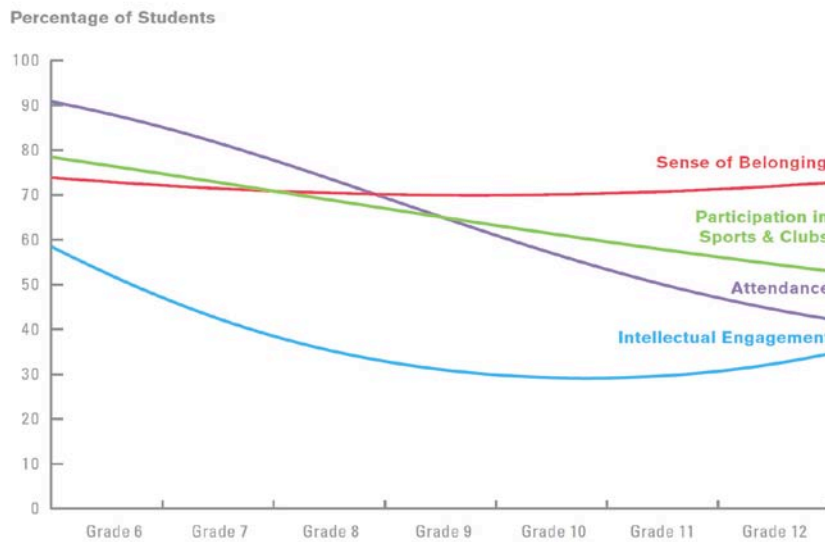
Canada however, ranks poorly on student engagement

Canada ranked 15th in students' sense of belonging in school and 29th in student participation out of 41 countries.

| | Israel | Canada | US |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------|----|
| Sense of belonging | 1 | 15 | 25 |
| | Hong Kong – China | Canada | US |
| Participation | 1 | 29 | 21 |

Source: J. Douglas Willms. Student Engagement at School: A Sense of belonging and Participation (Paris: OECD, 2003), p. 68

Student engagement declines as students move through school



Source: Willms, J. D., Friesen, S. & Milton, P. (2009). *What did you do in school today? Transforming classrooms through social, academic, and intellectual engagement. (First National Report)* Toronto: Canadian Education Association.

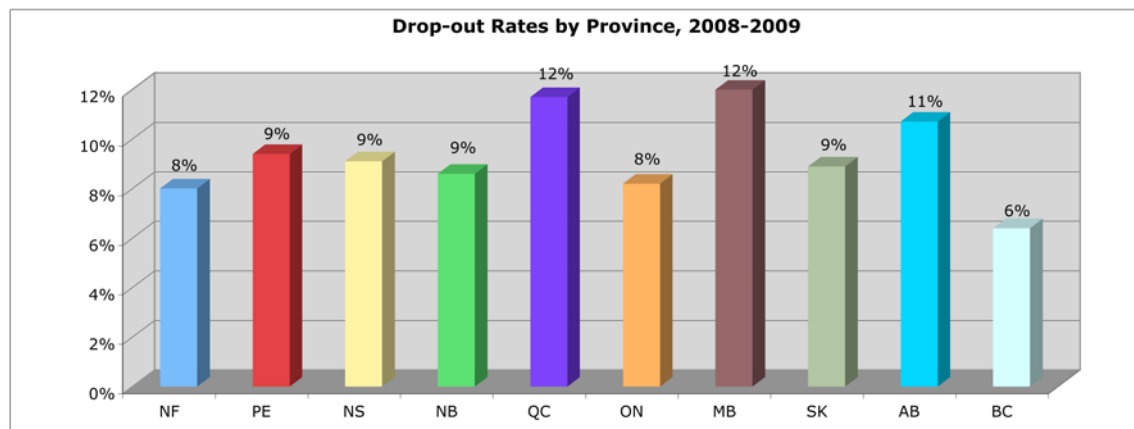
Who benefits from Canadian education?

Canada's high school completion rate ranks 18 among 30 OECD countries

| FINLAND | JAPAN | KOREA | NORWAY | UNITED STATES | CANADA | OECD AVERAGE |
|---------|-------|-------|--------|---------------|--------|--------------|
| 97% | 93% | 91% | 91% | 78% | 78% | 82% |

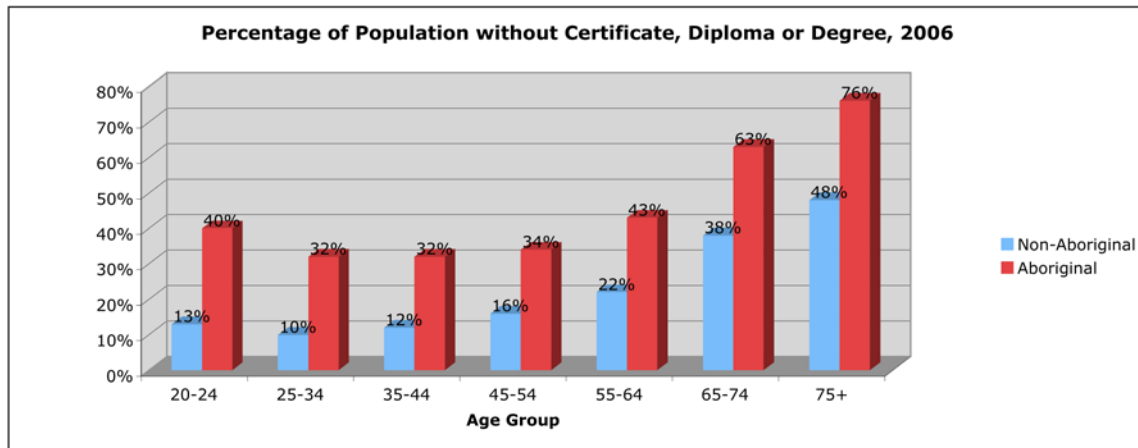
Source: Education Indicators in Canada: An International Perspective. 2009

Canada's drop-out rate varies across the country



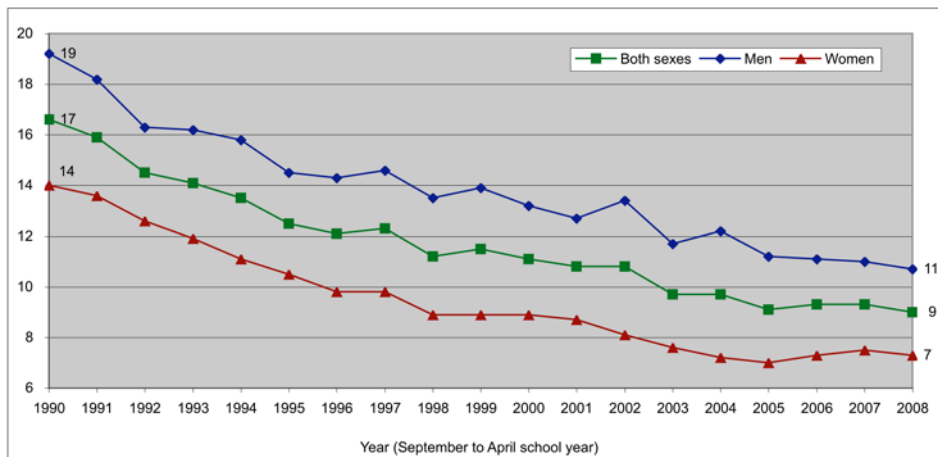
Source: Canadian Council on Learning, Canadian Composite Index Fact: Learning to Know, 2010

The education gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students is narrowing, but is still large



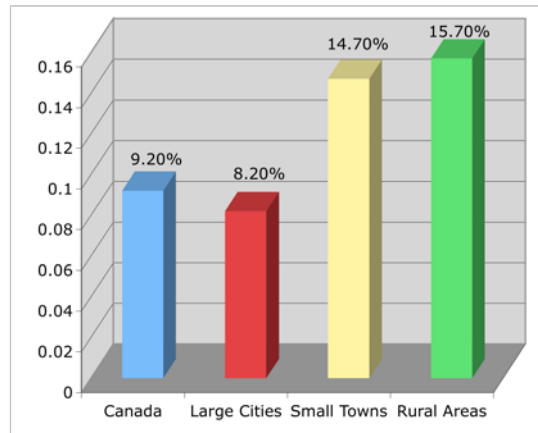
Source: Center for the Study of Living Standards, *The Effect of Increasing Aboriginal Educational Attainment on the Labour Force, Output and the Fiscal Balance*, 2009

Drop-out rate continues to decline, but boys are still more likely than girls to leave high school early



Source: Canadian Council on Learning Data Warehouse: Learning in School

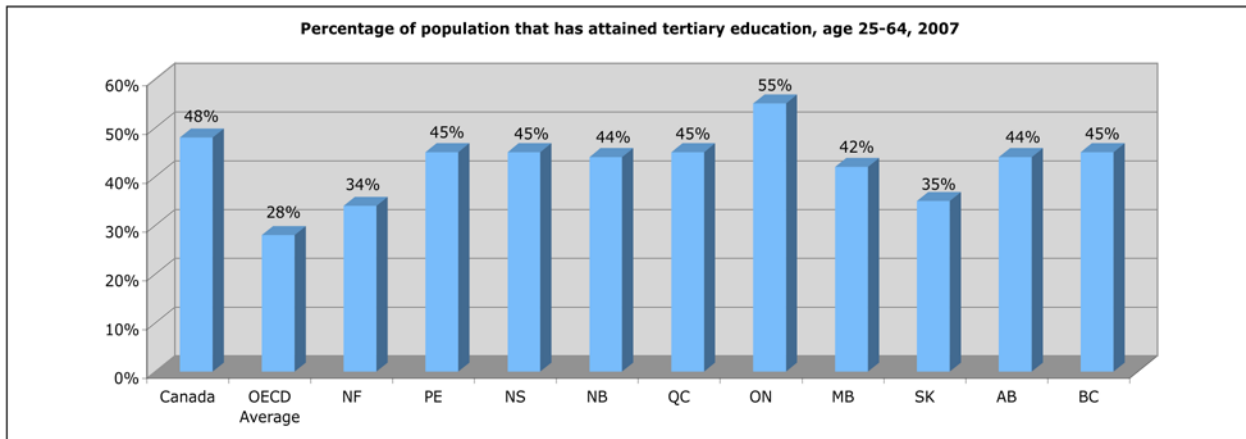
Canadian city dwellers are less likely to drop-out of high school than their small town and rural peers



Source: CCL: 2010 Composite Learning Index Indicator Fact Sheets: Learning to Know

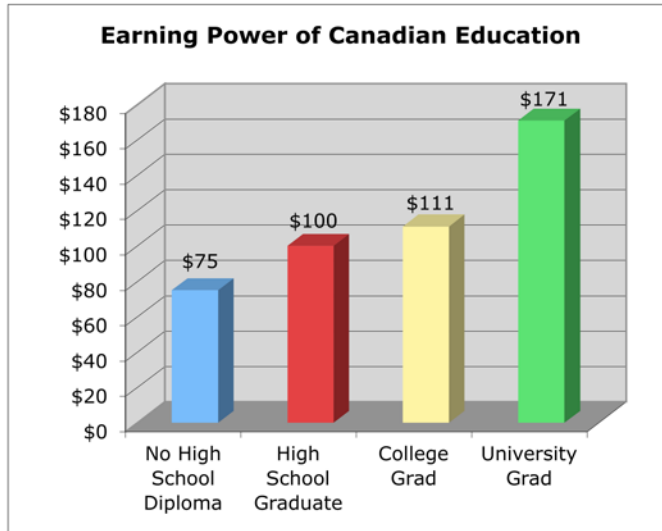
How many Canadians attend post-secondary education?

In all provinces, post-secondary education participation is higher than OECD average, but varies across the country



Source: Education Indicators in Canada: An International Perspective. 2009

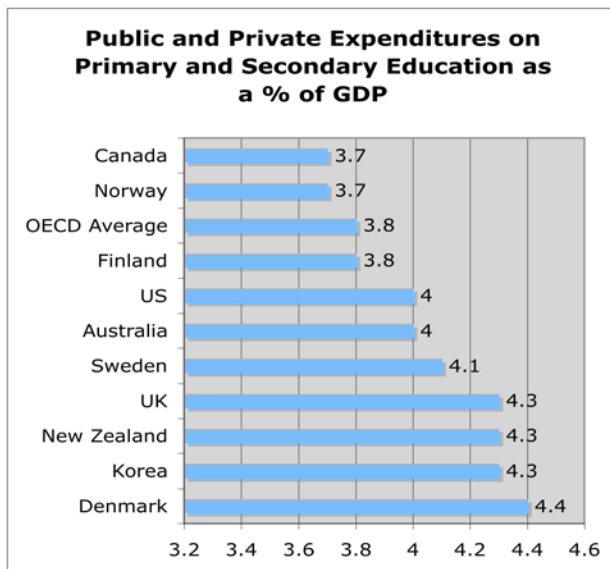
It pays to have a post-secondary credential in Canada. For every \$100 earned by a Canadian high school graduate, a university graduate earns \$171, a college graduate earns \$111 and someone without a high school diploma earns \$75



Source: Conference Board of Canada, *How Canada Performs*, January, 2010

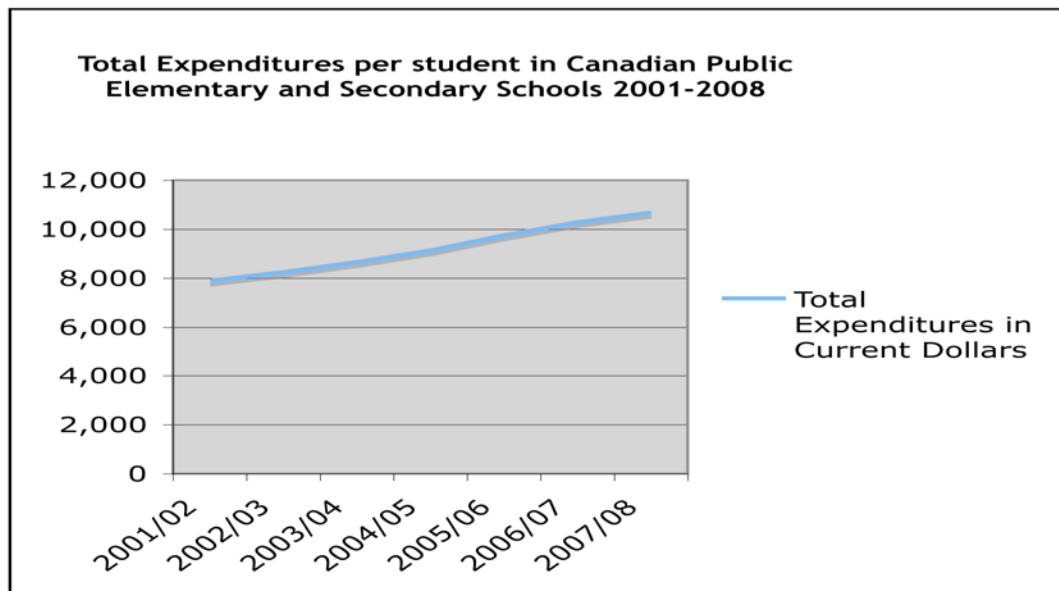
How much does Canada invest in its public education systems?

Canada's spending on primary and secondary education is just below OECD average



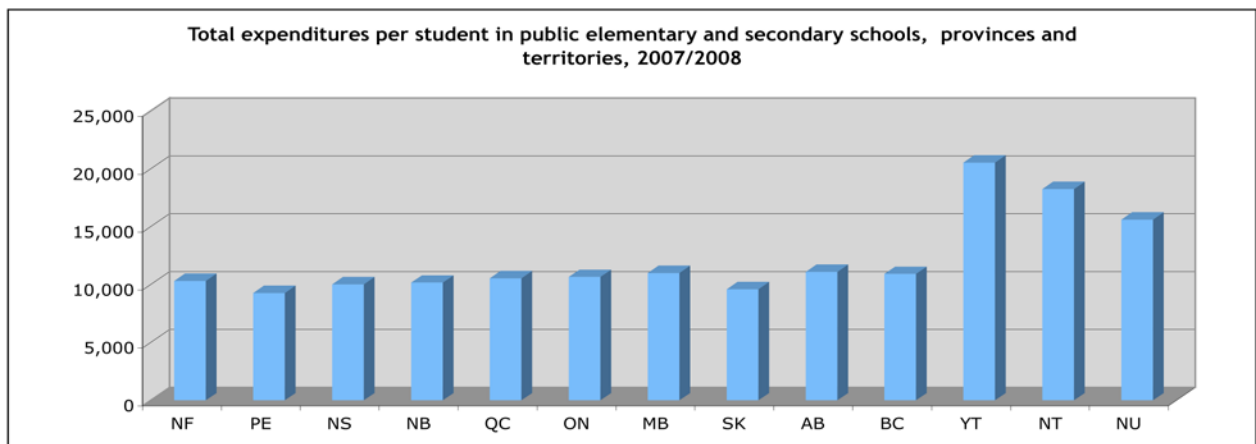
Source: Education Indicators in Canada: An International Perspective. 2009

Education expenditures have risen in Canada



Source: Statistics Canada, 2010: *Summary Public School Indicators for Canada, the Provinces and Territories, 2001/2002 to 2007/2008*

Similar spending across the country except for northern Canada where costs are higher



Source: Statistics Canada, 2010: *Summary Public School Indicators for Canada, the Provinces and Territories, 2001/2002 to 2007/2008*

For more information and further discussion, join the conversation at www.cea-ace.ca

Charts provided by the Canadian Education Association