



CANADIAN SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION (CSBA)

**CROSS COUNTRY OVERVIEW OF EDUCATION STRUCTURE FOR
PUBLIC BOARDS OF EDUCATION**

**DECEMBER 2015
(*minor revisions, 2017*)**



THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION PROVIDES AN OVERVIEW OF THE CANADIAN PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM STRUCTURE AS OF DECEMBER 2015. HAVING NO FEDERAL BODY OF EDUCATION, EACH PROVINCE IS SHOWN INDIVIDUALLY AND THEIR STRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS VARY.

TOTAL # OF PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS IN CANADA

4,665,860

TOTAL # OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

13,537

TOTAL # OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS

314,666

TOTAL # OF SCHOOL BOARDS

429

TOTAL # OF TRUSTEES / COMMISSIONERS

3581

CSBA MEMBERSHIP

OF PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS REPRESENTED BY THE CSBA MEMBERS

3,752,695 / 80% (revised, 2017)

OF SCHOOL BOARDS REPRESENTED BY THE CSBA MEMBERS

309 (revised, 2017)

OF TRUSTEES / COMMISSIONERS REPRESENTED BY THE CSBA MEMBERS

2,655 (revised, 2017)

OF PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS REPRESENTED BY ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

- **FNCSF: 150,000 (28 BDS)**
- **NB: 98,906 (7 Councils)**
- **PEI: 20,131 (2 BDS)**

**SMALLEST MEMBER BOARD:
NLSBA**

**LARGEST MEMBER BOARD:
OPSBA**

AVERAGE OPERATIONS BUDGET FOR A PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATION:

\$2,277,886

CANADIAN SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

OVERVIEW (Students)



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TOTAL # OF PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS IN CANADA

BRITISH COLUMBIA
557,571 TOTAL PUBLIC STUDENTS

ALBERTA
620,475 TOTAL PUBLIC STUDENTS

SASKATCHEWAN
173,548 TOTAL PUBLIC STUDENTS

MANITOBA
182,073 TOTAL PUBLIC STUDENTS

ONTARIO
1,844,217 TOTAL PUBLIC STUDENTS

- **1,231,529** English Public School Boards
- **24,434** French Public School Boards
- **522,104** English Catholic School Boards
- **66,150** French Catholic School Boards

QUEBEC (K-11)
959,925 TOTAL PUBLIC STUDENTS

- **97,308** English School Boards
- **862,617** French School Boards

NOVA SCOTIA
119,383 TOTAL PUBLIC STUDENTS

NEWFOUNDLAND LABRADOR
67,293 TOTAL PUBLIC STUDENTS

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
20,131 TOTAL PUBLIC STUDENTS

NEW BRUNSWICK
98,906 TOTAL PUBLIC STUDENTS

- **69,972** English District Education Council
- **28,934** French District Education Council

YUKON
5,086 TOTAL PUBLIC STUDENTS

NORTHWEST TERRITORY
8,367 TOTAL PUBLIC STUDENTS

NUNAVUT
8,885 TOTAL PUBLIC STUDENTS

CANADIAN SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION OVERVIEW (Trustees/Commissioners)



BRITISH COLUMBIA

416 SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES

- 407 BCSTA (59 BDS)
- 9 Non-Members (1 BD)

ALBERTA

450 SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES

- 450 ASBA (65 BDS)
- INCLUDING 2 BOARDS FROM NWT

SASKATCHEWAN

253 SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES

- 253 SSBA (28 BDS)

MANITOBA

316 SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES

- 316 MSBA (38 BDS)

ONTARIO

716 SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES

- 356 OPSBA (31 BDS-10 SCHOOL AUTHORITIES)
- 230 (29 ENG CATHOLIC BDS)
- 82 (8 FR CATHOLIC BDS)
- 48 (4 FR PUBLIC BDS)

QUEBEC

772 SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES

- 639 FCSQ (57 FR BDS)
- 95 QESBA (9 ENG BDS + 1 Special Status)
- 38 Independent (3 non linguistic BDS)

NOVA SCOTIA

105 SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES

- 105 NSSBA (8 BDS)

NEWFOUNDLAND LABRADOR

25 SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES

- 25 NLSBA (2 BDS)

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

21 SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES

- 12 (1 ENG BDS)
- 9 (1 FR BDS)

NEW BRUNSWICK

68 SCHOOL COUNCIL TRUSTEES

- 41 (4 ENG District Education Councils)
- 27 (3 FR District Education Councils)

YUKON

91 SCHOOL COUNCIL TRUSTEES

- 90 (28 Education Councils)
- 1 (1 FR Education Board)

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PLAYS A DUAL ROLE AS MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCHOOL BOARDS. A MAXIMUM 129 TRUSTEES CAN BE ELECTED OR APPOINTED TO THE ENGLISH BOARD, WHILE A MAXIMUM OF 5 TRUSTEES CAN BE ELECTED OR APPOINTED TO THE FRENCH BOARD.

NORTHWEST TERRITORY

197 SCHOOL COUNCIL TRUSTEES

- 197 (30 District Education Authorities)
- (4 District Education Councils)
- (1 Commission Scolaire Francophone)
- (1 Tlicho Community Services Agency)

NUNAVUT

151 SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES

- 26 (ENG District Education Authorities)
- 1 (*FR District Education Authorities)

*COMMISSION SCOLAIRE FRANCOPHONE DU NUNAVUT (CSFN)

CANADIAN SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

OVERVIEW (Elections)



BRITISH COLUMBIA
ELECTIONS WITH MUNICIPAL
NEXT: **OCTOBER 2018**

ALBERTA
ELECTIONS WITH MUNICIPAL
NEXT: **OCTOBER 2021**

SASKATCHEWAN
ELECTIONS WITH MUNICIPAL
NEXT: **OCTOBER 2020**

MANITOBA
ELECTIONS WITH MUNICIPAL
NEXT: **OCTOBER 2018**

ONTARIO
ELECTIONS WITH MUNICIPAL
NEXT: **OCTOBER 2018**

QUEBEC
ELECTIONS INDEPENDANT
NEXT: **TBD**

NOVA SCOTIA
ELECTIONS WITH MUNICIPAL
NEXT: **OCTOBER 2020**

NFLD LABRADOR
ELECTIONS INDEPENDANT
NEXT: **TBD**

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
FRENCH ELECTIONS INDEPENDENT
ENGLISH BOARD APPOINTED
NEXT: **FALL 2018**

NEW BRUNSWICK
ELECTIONS WITH MUNICIPAL
NEXT: **MAY 2020**

YUKON TERRITORY
ELECTIONS INDEPENDANT
NEXT: **MAY 2018**

NORTHWEST TERRITORY
ELECTIONS WITH MUNICIPAL
NEXT: **FALL 2019**

NUNAVUT TERRITORY
ELECTIONS WITH MUNICIPAL
NEXT: **OCTOBER 2018**

REVISED, 2017

CANADIAN SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION OVERVIEW (Board Services)



*CSBA MEMBERSHIP	*BCSTA	*ASBA	*SSBA	*MSBA	*OPSBA	*QESBA	*FCSQ	NBSEC	*NSSBA	*NLSBA	PEISTA
Advocacy (Provincial Level)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
Media / Communications Services		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Professional Development	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Insurance for Boards		✓	✓	✓							
Pension Management		✓		✓					✓		
Labour Relations		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Legal Services	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				
Taxation				✓		✓					
Elections Assistance	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓				
Advisement on Governance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		

CANADIAN SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

The CSBA was founded in 1923 by school trustees from Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia in recognition of the need for a national forum on education. It was incorporated under federal statute as a non-profit organization in 1965.

CANADIAN EDUCATION AND AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

"Since 2000, Canada has become a world leader in its professionally-driven reform of its education system. Not only do its students perform well, they perform well despite their socio-economic status, first language or whether they are native Canadians or recent immigrants.

Canada is a top-performing OECD country in reading literacy, maths and sciences with the average student scoring 522. This score is higher than the OECD average of 497, making Canada the 5th strongest OECD country in students' skills."

The OECD report can be found here: <http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org/topics/education/>

CANADIAN SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION OVERVIEW (Provincial Associations)



BRITISH COLUMBIA

The BC School Trustees Association serves and supports its members in their key work of improving student achievement. At the local level, BCSTA provides professional development, legal counsel and communications support to local Boards of Education. BC's public education system operates under a legislated co-governance structure between the Ministry of Education and locally elected Boards. Based on that structure, there is currently a Memorandum of Understanding intended to define the working relationship between BCSTA as the representative voice of its member boards and the Ministry of Education.

ALBERTA

Currently all 61 of Alberta's public, catholic and francophone school boards are members of ASBA. Additionally, the public and separate school divisions in Lloydminster and Yellowknife are members of ASBA. Albertans have long benefitted from having locally elected school boards to represent their interests in the public education system. As the provincial and national economy continue to face challenges, Albertans are relying on their locally elected school boards to maintain that engagement and ensure public education reflects their local priorities.

SASKATCHEWAN

The Saskatchewan School Boards Association represents all public, separate and francophone school divisions and reflects the rural, urban and northern diversity of the province. There are 28 locally elected boards of education in the province that are all unique and different. Membership in the Saskatchewan School Boards Association is voluntary and is open to school boards and First Nations education authorities.

MANITOBA

As of 2015, Manitoba has 38 public school boards, 37 english and one french. This also includes one appointed board that is uniquely mandated by the provincial government to oversee operations of the Manitoba Institute of Trades and Technology, a hybrid secondary / post-secondary technical training institute. Each of Manitoba's elected public school boards retain authority to assess educational levies in support of school funding.

ONTARIO

OPSBA represents 31 English public district school boards and 10 public school authorities across Ontario, serving more than 1.2 million students. There are no anticipated changes to the governance structure, following 1997, when 125 English, French and Catholic school boards were amalgamated into 72. School board and municipal elections are scheduled for October 2018.

QUEBEC

The constitutional amendment in 1997 allowed the province of Quebec to replace the denominational school boards with ones organized on linguistic lines. The "Fédération des commissions scolaires du Québec (FCSQ)" was established in 1947. It represents the majority of the school boards in Quebec, and almost all of the Francophone school boards. The QESBA currently represents the 9 English school boards and 1 special status board.

There is currently draft legislation (Bill 86) before the National Assembly to reorganize school board governance, make elections for some representatives optional. There could also be a merging of school boards which has also been proposed by this current government. Low voter turn out has been used as a reason for reform.



CANADIAN SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION OVERVIEW (Provincial Associations)



NOVA SCOTIA

The last election was held in 2012: they are scheduled to happen every four years with the municipal elections. This year the NSSBA will be taking on a greater role promoting the school board elections and educating the public on the Mi'kmaq and African Nova Scotian Representative positions.

NFLD LABRADOR

On January 1st, 1997, the boards moved into a non-religious denominational framework. Then in 2014 they went from 5 to 2 boards. The new minister of education has acknowledged the importance of trustee elections and has said they will be forthcoming. The existing boards still have been able to maintain their membership at CSBA.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

The English board is currently being abolished, which will be replaced by the Ministry of Education. The French board is still in place, with elections being held for trustee nominations. They were in the process of creating PEISTA when this happened.

NEW BRUNSWICK

In 2012 the school districts were amalgamated from 14 to 7 (4 English, 3 French). There is no body that represents the province. Elections are scheduled for May 2016 with no anticipated changes to the governance structure. While DEC's differ from school boards, New Brunswick has expressed interest in collaborating with CSBA.

YUKON TERRITORY

Yukon has one school board, the Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon (CSFY). All of the other 28 schools fall under the Department of Education which plays a dual role as the Ministry of Education and "the School Board".

NORTHWEST TERRITORY

Each DEC is composed of one DEA member from each community within the region. There may be additional members representing regional organizations who also sit on the DEC. The DEC is jointly responsible for the governance and direction of schools in their region. The TCSA operates with the authority of a DEC and each Tlicho community has representation on the TCSA. Each Tlicho community does not, however, have a DEA.

NUNAVUT TERRITORY

Nunavut has one quasi school board, the Commission scolaire francophone du Nunavut (CSFN). All of the other 25 communities in Nunavut have a local District Education Authority which retain some of the characteristics of a school board but share responsibility for schools with the Department of Education.

