



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. 19-Sept. 8	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	Feb. 27	March 8	May 28-June 18
Northwest Territories	District Education Authority (DEA) decision					
Yellowknife Education District No. 1	Sept. 2	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	Feb. 27	March 15	June 25
Nunavut	Aug. 18-Sept. 8	Dec. 17-19	Jan. 5-7	DEA Decision		June 2-28
British Columbia	Sept. 2	Dec. 19	Jan. 4	March 12	March 22	June 29
Vancouver School Board	Sept. 2	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	March 12	March 22	June 30
Vancouver School District 39	Sept. 2	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	March 12	March 22	June 30
Richmond School District 38	Sept. 2	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	March 12	March 22	June 30
Burnaby School District 41	Sept. 2	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	March 12	March 22	June 30
Alberta	Local decision					
Calgary Roman Catholic Separate School District 1	Sept. 2	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	April 8 (noon)	April 19	June 29 (noon)
Calgary Board of Education	Sept. 2	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	April 2	April 13	June 30
Edmonton Public School Board	Sept. 2	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	March 26	April 5	June 29
Edmonton Catholic Separate School District 7	Sept. 2	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	March 26	April 5	June 30



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	No later than Dec. 23	No earlier than Jan. 3	Board decision		
Saskatoon Public School Division 4	Aug. 27 (s) Aug. 28 (e)	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	April 8	April 19	June 22 (s) June 23 (e)
Regina Roman Catholic Separate School Division 81	Sept. 2	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	April 8	April 19	June 25
Regina School Division	Sept. 2	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	April 8	April 19	June 25 (e) June 29 (s)
Manitoba	Sept. 2	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	March 26	April 15	June 30
Winnipeg School Division	Sept. 2	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	March 26	April 15	June 30
Ontario	Sept. 2	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	March 12	March 22	N/A
Peel District School Board	Sept. 2	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	March 12	March 22	June 23
Thames Valley District School Board	Sept. 2	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	March 12	March 22	June 24
Ottawa-Carleton Catholic School Board	Sept. 2	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	March 12	March 22	June 22 (s) June 23 (e)
Toronto District School Board	Sept. 2	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	March 12	March 22	June 23
York Region District School Board	Sept. 2	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	March 11	March 22	June 23 (s) June 24 (e)

N/A: Not available

s: secondary

e: elementary



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
Quebec	Aug. 26 - Sept. 3	Dec. 23	Jan. 2-7	April 17	April 22	June 20-23
Commission scolaire de Montréal	Sept. 2	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	Feb. 27	March 8	June 22
Commission scolaire de la Capitale	Sept. 2	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	Feb. 27	March 8	June 23
Western Quebec School Board	Sept. 2	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	Feb. 27	March 8	June 23
Newfoundland & Labrador	Set. 3	Board decision				June 25
Avalon East School Board	Sept. 3	Dec. 19	Jan.5	April 8	April 19	June 24
Avalon West School District	Sept. 2	Dec. 19	Jan.5	April 9	April 19	June 25
New Brunswick	Sept. 2	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	Feb. 27	March 8	June 18
School District 18 (Fredericton)	Sept. 2	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	Feb. 27	March 8	June 18
School District 8 (Saint John)	Sept. 2	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	Feb. 27	March 8	June 18
Nova Scotia	Sept. 3	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	March 15	March 22	June 28
Halifax Regional School Board	Sept. 3	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	March 12	March 22	June 18
Prince Edward Island	Sept. 3	Dec. 19	Jan. 5	March 12	March 22	June 25

PRESCRIBED HOLIDAYS

Province/Territory	Labour Day September 1	Thanksgiving Day October 13	Remembrance Day November 11	Good Friday April 9	Easter Monday April 12	Victoria Day May 24	Other
Yukon	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Northwest Territories	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	National Aboriginal Day (June 22)
Nunavut	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
British Columbia		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Alberta	✓	✓	✓	✓	Local decision	✓	
Saskatchewan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Easter Monday is always included in spring vacation.
Manitoba		✓	✓	✓		✓	
Ontario	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Quebec	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	The day following St-Jean-Baptiste (June 24)
Newfoundland & Labrador	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
New Brunswick	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Loyalist Day (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	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
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	-	21	22	19	15	20	20	18	20	20	21	-	196
Alberta	Local decision												185-190
Saskatchewan	19*	20	22	20	15	21	20	21	16	20	21*	-	N/A
Manitoba	-	21	22	19	15	20	20	20	19	20	22	-	198
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	194-198
Quebec	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	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	195
New Brunswick	-	21	22	19	15	20	20	18	20	19	14	-	188
Nova Scotia	-	21	22	19	15	20	20	18	20	20	20	-	195
Prince Edward Island	-	21	22	19	15	20	20	18	20	20	22	-	197

N/A: Not available

*: May vary



EDUCATION WEEK

Province/Territory	Education Week	Dates	Notes
Yukon	N		
Northwest Territories	Y	Feb. 23-March 1	Theme TBA
Nunavut	N/A		
British Columbia	N	Feb. 23-March 1	Theme TBA
Alberta	Y	April 25-May 1	Theme TBA
Saskatchewan	Y	Oct. 5-11	Together we are better
Manitoba	Y	April 12-16	No theme
Ontario	Y	May 3-7	Theme TBA
Quebec	N		
Newfoundland & Labrador	Y	March 7-13	Learning... A Class Act
New Brunswick	N		
Nova Scotia	Y	April 18-24	Science: Questions, Investigate, Discover!
Prince Edward Island	Y		

TBA: To be announced

N/A: Not available

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

Province/Territory	Teacher Appreciation Week	Dates	Notes
Yukon	N		
Northwest Territories	N		There is a “Thank you for making a difference” week jointly sponsored with the NWT Teachers’ Association, which generally coincides with Education Week
Nunavut	N		Teacher Appreciation Day TBA
British Columbia	N		Not for 2003-2004
Alberta	N		
Saskatchewan	Y	Oct. 5-11	Coincides with Education Week. Teacher Appreciation Day (Oct. 15)
Manitoba	N		
Ontario	N		
Quebec	N/A		
Newfoundland & Labrador	N/A	Mid Feb.	Some school boards and schools. Also NL Home School Federation
New Brunswick	Y	Mid Feb.	Called Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week
Nova Scotia	N/A		Discretion of school boards
Prince Edward Island	Y		

TBA: To be announced

Note: October 5th is The International Teacher Appreciation Day

NOTES

YUKON TERRITORY

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

School years are set by each district education authority (DEA). At present there are 8 Education Jurisdictions and each has set a school year calendar that is unique to the needs of the community it serves. Some school years start in late July and end as early as the second week in May. The *Education Act* does not set a required number of days, but establishes the number of hours of instruction that must be provided to students in each academic year. For kindergarten, the required number of hours is no more than 570 hours, for grades 1 through 6, no less than 997 hours, and for grades 7-12, no less than 1,045 hours. Teachers are required to provide instruction up to the required number of hours of the *Education Act* for the grades they teach. Through the collective agreement, the total number of days of instruction is not to exceed 195, of which 5 are for professional development. District education authorities have the flexibility to add additional holidays for local purposes when required. National Aboriginal Day (June 21) is also a statutory holiday. This school year, National Aboriginal Day will be observed on Monday, June 22nd, since the 21st falls on a weekend.

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.

NOTES (continued)

BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Lieutenant Governor on Council sets a standard school calendar. This school year, there is a minimum of 190 days of instruction. A local school board may adopt, after consultation with the parents and board employees assigned to a school, and after satisfying the specified “notice” period, 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 2003-2004 school year, the standard school calendar prescribes a minimum of 197 days in session. These days are made up of 190 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.

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 1,100 hours in a school year, or for more than 200 days in a school year unless the teachers agrees 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.

NOTES (continued)

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 2002-2003 school year is 197 (differs from the number of days students are in classrooms due to TPD's); 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 – June 30.

Easter Monday is not a prescribed holiday, but it falls during the spring vacation. 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.

MANITOBA

The school year must consist of 198 school days and begin on September 2, 2003. 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 29 to April 2, 2004 inclusive). School boards may add to, but not delete from statutory holidays and Spring break as long as the 198 school days requirements are met.

NOTES (continued)

ONTARIO

A school board 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 194 school days. The school days exceeding 194 must be designated by the board as board holidays. For the 2003-2004 school year, boards may designate up to 2 board holidays. These are 2 possible days between September 1, 2003 and June 30, 2004 that exceed the required number of instructional days of 194. A minimum of 190 instructional days, including 10 examination days, is required, with up to four professional activity days. This provides boards with limited flexibility unless they choose to submit a modified school year calendar to the Minister for approval. Other school holidays: all statutory holidays (except Remembrance Day) and if the head of the municipality in which a school is situated proclaims a school day as a civic holiday, the board may close any of its schools on such a day. There are also possible 22 working days in July and possible 21 working days in August for boards with schools that operate on a year-round calendar and/or modified calendar.

QUEBEC

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 and the Saint-Jean Baptiste (June 24) are statutory holidays.

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

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, and 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.

NOTES (continued)

NEW BRUNSWICK

The length of the school year is 195 days, composed of 185 instructional days, one day for NBTA Branch meetings, 2 days for pedagogical activities focused on curriculum, 2 council days (outside of the instructional year), 4 days (to be scheduled by the school districts) for administration days and professional development activities, and a council day within the school year. 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.