



4.12 Northwest Territories

Population – 41,462
Total Area – 1,346,106 km²
Population Density – 0.03 people/km²
Capital (Population) – Yellowknife (19,234)
Number of K–12 Schools – 49 (2011–12)
Number of K–12 Students – 8509 (2011–12)
Number of K–12 Distance Education Programmes – 1
Number of K–12 Distance Education Students – 367
K–12 Distance Education Policy – Senior Secondary School
Administrators’ Handbook and Memorandums of Understanding

Distance Programs

Traditionally, the Alberta Distance Learning Centre (ADLC) has been the distance education program authorized by the Northwest Territories. Since 2010, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment does not require district education authorities to report specific data on distance education course enrolments or completions. In examining the ADLC enrolment data, 285 students from the Northwest Territories enrolled in 404 distinct distance education courses offered through the ADLC. The ADLC also partners with *Centre francophone d'éducation à distance*; through this partnership an additional 57 students have access to distance education.

Some of the individual education councils representing more remote communities have begun to create their own distance education programs. For example, the Beaufort-Delta Education Council offered 18 courses to 25 students. In its second year of operation during the 2010–11 school year, the Beaufort-Delta Education Council offered seven courses to 36 students.

Governance and Regulation

In 2004, the Department signed a *Memorandum of Understanding* (MOU) with the ADLC to establish a partnership to provide print-based and online courses to students in the territory. The MOU outlines the specific responsibilities, duties and opportunities for both parties. However, the *Education Act, 2009* allows various educational bodies to “authorize, supervise and evaluate the use of distance learning programs in the provision of the education program” (p. 72). Further, there was a departmental decision in 2010 to cease funding ADLC enrolments or successful completions. Finally, Section 17 of the Senior Secondary School Administrators’ Handbook outlines a series of requirements for distance learning.

Interprovincial and International

If a student in the Northwest Territories were to take a distance education course from other any provider in the Province of Alberta it would be accepted by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, as the territories follow the Alberta curriculum. However, if the student were to complete a distance education course from any other jurisdiction, it would have to be evaluated by a “Special Cases” committee before credit could be granted.

Students from outside of the Northwest Territories are not eligible to enrol in the territories’ distance education programs.