



4.13 Nunavut

Population – 31,906

Total Area – 2,093,190 km²

Population Density – 0.015 people/km²

Capital (Population) – Iqaluit (6,699)

Number of K–12 Schools – 43 (2011–12)

Number of K–12 Students – 8902 (2011–12)

Number of K–12 Distance Education Programmes – 0

Number of K–12 Distance Education Students – Estimated at 29¹²

K–12 Distance Education Policy – None

Distance Programs

Nunavut does not have any active K–12 distance education programs. However, the territory has conducted pilot projects in the past and has plans for future projects at the high school level. For example, the Curriculum and School Services division has the capability through a Media Centre connected to high school classrooms to offer videoconferencing when bandwidth services are sufficient. Staffing of a position to coordinate distance education is currently underway. Further, a new K–6 Information Communication Technology Curriculum, which integrates learning technology skills into regular curricula is being completed. Finally, a new senior high options program in Information Technology, Communications and Media is also being implemented in 2013–14, which should prepare graduates for work in technology-related careers.

The Alberta Distance Learning Center (ADLC) continues to provide the majority of distance learning (i.e., primarily print-based) courses to Nunavut secondary students. In examining the ADLC enrolment data, 29 students from Nunavut were enrolled in distance education courses, at least through ADLC—suggesting that there are most likely no Nunavut students involved in distance education at all. At present, the monitoring of such enrolments occurs at the school and regional level, so that data may simply not be reported. The Department is currently working on a new information system that would capture this kind of enrolment information.

Governance and Regulation

Initially, Nunavut continued to use the *Education Act, 1996*; a piece of legacy legislation from the Northwest Territories. This was updated when the Nunavut legislative body passed the *Education Act, 2008*. The only reference to distance education is a statement that a university providing “distance learning programs by mail or by electronic means from outside Nunavut to persons in Nunavut” was not considered to be operating in the territory (p. 95). All other regulation is based on the territorial agreements signed with individual distance education programs authorized to operate in Nunavut.

¹² This figure represents the number of enrolments and not the number of students enrolled (as some students may have registered for more than one course).

Interprovincial and International

If a student in Nunavut wished to receive credit for a course taken from an online program in another province or territory, the process would vary depending on where the online program is located. If the online program is located in Alberta, the list of specific transfer credits is available in advance and specific equivalencies are automatically granted (i.e., due to the fact that the Nunavut senior secondary core program is linked to the Alberta course curriculum). If the online program is located in another province or territory, the school principal would request the curricular information from the jurisdiction from which the course originates. Where the online course can be shown to be equivalent to an existing credit course contained in the *CMEC Student Transfer Guide*, this guide can facilitate credit transfer. Finally, using online programs from a jurisdiction other than Alberta would require Ministerial approval. The same process would occur if the online program was located in another country.

As Nunavut does not offer any distance education programs of its own, students from other jurisdictions are unable to enrol in their courses to receive credit.