



## 4.3 Prince Edward Island

Population – 140,204

Total Area – 5684 km<sup>2</sup>

Population Density – 24.67 people/km<sup>2</sup>

Capital (Population) – Charlottetown (34,562)

Number of K–12 Schools – 63 (2011–12)

Number of K–12 Students – 21,037 (2011–12)

Number of K–12 Distance Education Programs – 0

Number of K–12 Distance Education Students – 71

K–12 Distance Education Policy – Ministerial directives

### Distance Programs

K–12 distance education in Prince Edward Island is provided through an inter-provincial agreement with the New Brunswick Ministry of Education. During the 2011–12 school year there were 29 French first language students and 42 English-language students enrolled in 13 online courses through this program. Since the inception of the *State of the Nation* reports, the Prince Edward Island video conferencing distance education program has been declining. For example, during the 2010–11 school year there were two students enrolled in a single course offered through this system. There was no video conferencing activity in 2011–12.

### Governance and Regulation

There is no mention of distance education in the provincial *Schools Act*. Internal regulation continues to be driven by Ministerial Directives No. MD 2001–05 and No. MD 2008–05, which apply to courses delivered during the regular school day, broadly define distance education, and outline a series of beliefs about the nature of distance education instruction. Individual schools and districts that participate in distance education programs must adhere to guidelines found in the provincial *Roles and Responsibilities for Distance Education* document.

### Interprovincial and International

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development approves distance courses by correlating outcomes found in online programs to those found in the Prince Edward Island authorized curriculum documents. Students must apply to enrol in approved courses, in advance, through their school principal. Students completing online programs are awarded the Prince Edward Island equivalent course on their school mark transcripts.

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