

2.4.1 Yukon

The Yukon, as it has been officially known since 2003 (prior to that it was the Yukon Territory), is the most western of Canada's three territories. It is also the smallest with a total area of 482,443 km². It has a population of 33,442 (Statistics Canada, 2009), giving it a population density of 0.065/km². The capital Whitehorse has a population of 22,898. The Yukon follows the same curriculum as the Province of British Columbia, with some additions to address their distinct language and culture.

K-12 Online Learning

There was no response from the Yukon Ministry of Education, as such this profile has been developed based on a document analysis of the Ministry's website and other published Government documents.

Category	Yes/No	Comments
Territory-led programme	No	
Other online programmes	No	
Territorial-level policy	Yes	Brief language in the <i>Education Act</i> and an inter-provincial agreement with a British Columbia school district

Online Programmes

The main provider of K-12 distance education services in the Yukon is the Northern British Columbia Distance Education School (NBCDES). The NBCDES was part of the 9 regional school distance education consortium until distributed learning programs were opened up to all districts. The school serves about 130 full time elementary students and approximately 1,000 secondary students taking over 2,600 secondary courses in the northern third of British Columbia, as well as the Yukon. According to recent annual reports, in 2006-07 there were 141 students registered in 51 different courses. This was up from 87 students in 49 different courses during the 2005-06 school year.

Territorial Policies

According to the *Education Act, 2002*, the only mention of distance education indicates that:

30 (1) The deputy minister may provide for distance education courses of instruction on conditions prescribed by the guidelines established by the Minister.

(2) The Minister may charge fees for the provision of distance education courses as prescribed by the regulations. S.Y. 1989- 90, c.25, s.30.

At present the Deputy Minister, on behalf of the Government of the Yukon has entered into an understanding with the Peace River North School District in British Columbia to obtain K-12 distance education services from the NBCDES.

Funding

Since the 2003-04 school year, distance education and home school courses were offered at no cost to students from Grade 1 to 12. The Ministry of Education covers the cost for their enrolment for all students up to the age of 21.

Governance

The understanding between the Government and the Peace River North School District outlines specific responsibilities for both the NBCDES and the individual schools in the Yukon that take advantage of their distributed learning offerings. For example, the NBCDES must provide the courses and all resources to students in the Yukon for the period of one year. Other administrative and support items include assigning teacher advisors to students who are using distributed learning courses and issuing report cards. While not part of the actual understanding, the NBCDES also attempts to make two visits a year to each participating school and home learner and to try to see every student (particularly with elementary-aged students). This service is typically well received by the students and families, their schools, and the Yukon Ministry of Education. The understanding also calls on the schools to assign a teacher to look after students taking distributed learning courses.