

Education in Canada and the Province of Manitoba

**Gerald Farthing, Deputy Minister of
Education, Citizenship and Youth,
Manitoba, Canada**



Presentation

1. About Canada and Manitoba
2. Education in Canada and Manitoba
3. Education Language Policy in Canada and Manitoba
4. Enrolment in Language Courses
5. Multilingualism and Global Citizenship
6. Learning Spanish in Manitoba

Canada Quick Facts

- **Became Canada in 1867**
- **Population of just over 33 million – low population growth rate**
- **Federal system of governance – powers divided/shared between the provinces and the federal government**
- **Ten provinces and three territories**
- **Two official languages: English and French**

Manitoba Quick Facts

- **Became a province in 1870**
- **Population just over 1 million - about 700,000 live in Winnipeg**
- **Proportionately large (14% provincially vs. 4.5% nationally) and growing Aboriginal population (65% First Nation, 30% Métis, 5% Inuit)**
- **Strong and historical Francophone presence (about 5% consider French to be their mother tongue)**
- **Historically and currently very diverse**

Where is Manitoba?



Immigration in Manitoba and Canada

- **Citizenship and Immigration Canada: “Canada has a proud tradition of welcoming immigrants.”**
- **Annually, about 250,000 people immigrate to Canada and recently about 11,000 to Manitoba**
- **One out of every six Canadian residents was born outside of Canada.**
- **Manitoba’s “Action Strategy for Economic Growth: Growing Through Immigration” offers adult English as an additional language programming**
- **In 2005, Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth released an “Ethnocultural Equity Action Plan” and an “English as an Additional Language Action Plan”**

Public Elementary and Secondary Education in Canada

- **Just over 5.2 million pupils – declining enrolment a factor**
- **Just over 329,000 educators**
- **Per pupil expenditure is about \$10,000**
- **Graduation rate is about 80%**
- **In most provinces and territories, schools are run by elected school boards**

Public Elementary and Secondary Education in Manitoba

- **Just over 180,000 pupils – declining enrolment is a factor (In addition there are \approx 30,000 students in independent, band, or home school situations)**
- **Just over 13,000 educators**
- **Per pupil expenditure is about \$10,500**
- **Graduation rate varies across the province but overall is about 80% – lower in many low-income and northern communities**
- **37 school boards and 650 schools**

Education and the Canadian Constitution

- **Provinces and territories are solely and exclusively responsible for education in their jurisdictions**
- **No federal/national minister of education or department of education but the federal government (i) provides funding to official-language minority communities (Anglophones in Quebec and Francophones outside Quebec) in support of education in their own language and (ii) is responsible for the funding of education for First Nations pupils living on reserves.**
- **Systems of education in the provinces and territories are the same in broad respects but different in various small ways**

Council of Ministers of Education, Canada

- **CMEC Joint Declaration “2020 Learn Canada” released in 2008**
- **Three major areas of focus:**
 - **Literacy**
 - **Aboriginal Education**
 - **Postsecondary Capacity**
- **Four pillars of Lifelong Learning:**
 - **Early Childhood Learning and Development**
 - **Elementary to High School System**
 - **Postsecondary Education**
 - **Adult Learning and Skills Development**

Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth

Vision: that Manitoba's children and youth will have access to an array of educational opportunities such that every learner becomes engaged in an educational experience that is highly relevant and leads to lifelong learning.

Goal: to work effectively with partners in the effort to provide all learners with access to relevant, engaging, high quality and responsive education that meets the needs of every learner now and in the future.

Belief Statement: the fundamental objective of the education system is to prepare learners for lifelong learning and citizenship in a democratic and sustainable society. In support of this objective, MECY will continually seek ways to create more opportunities for learner success, especially for those least likely to succeed.

Educational Themes

- **Teaching and learning about citizenship in a diverse, democratic and sustainable society is central**
- **Early Childhood education is strongly emphasized**
- **Commitment to inclusiveness**
- **Enduring concern with student equity and achievement**
- **Globalization is here**

Education Language Policy in Canada

- **Section 23 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* gives parents belonging to an official language minority the right to have their children educated in that language - the federal government provides some funding but provinces and territories are responsible for the implementation of minority language education rights**
- **In many provinces, French as a second language is mandatory - Manitoba and Saskatchewan do not require mandatory second language education**
- **Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta encourages public schools to offer instruction in other languages as “bilingual programs” for up to fifty percent of the school day**
- **Most jurisdictions support the teaching of Aboriginal languages - 25% of Aboriginal people can carry on a conversation in their traditional language - Nunavut, one of Canada’s northern territories, recently passed legislation making Inuktitut an official language and has adopted a bilingual policy**

French Language Education in Manitoba

- **French and English are the official languages of instruction in Manitoba**
- **Français and French Immersion programs are available to students throughout Manitoba if 23 or more students may be grouped for instruction**
- **Français is for students whose first language is French and almost all students attend a Francophone school division run by a trustees elected by Francophone parents**
- **French Immersion Policy allows for three entry points: early (Kindergarten or Grade 1), middle (Grade 4), or late (Grade 7) – almost all the 95 schools offering Immersion begin in the early years**
- **Basic French is not compulsory but school divisions can make it a requirement in their schools – most of the 600 schools offer Basic French courses**

Funding and Enrolments in Second Language Education

- **Provincial funding is provided for French, International/Heritage, and Aboriginal Language Programming**
- **Partial funding for French language programming and instruction is provided by the federal government**
- **In the last several years enrolments have been increasing in Spanish language courses**
- **Peak enrolments in French Immersion and Basic French were experienced in the late 1980s and early 1990s - recently, enrolments in French Immersion have increased while enrolments in Basic French continue to decline**

International, Heritage, and Aboriginal Language Education in Manitoba

- **Manitoba has collaborated with Alberta and Saskatchewan in developing curriculum for International and Aboriginal languages**
- **Bilingual programming offered in four languages: Cree, German, Hebrew and Ukrainian**
- **A variety of languages are offered as languages of study (similar to Basic French)**
- **In Winnipeg, Spanish is the most popular language followed by Ojibwé, Filipino, Japanese and Cree**
- **In Manitoba, German is the language with the highest overall enrolment followed by Spanish**

French Language Programming in Manitoba 2007-2008

Program	Total Enrollment K- 12
Basic French	65,534
French Immersion Program	18,214
Français Program	5,378

*Bilingual Programming In Manitoba:
Aboriginal and International languages
2007-2008*

Bilingual Heritage Language Programming	
	Total Enrollment K- 12
Cree-English Bilingual	169
German-English Bilingual	830
Hebrew-English Bilingual	223
Ukrainian-English Bilingual	684

Language of Study (Basic) International Language Programming in
Manitoba 2007-2008**

	Approximate Total Enrollment K- S 4
Cree	855
Ojibwé	320
Saulteaux	120
German	2711
Filipino	64
Hebrew	710
Japanese	250
Mandarin	30
Portuguese	36
Spanish	2240
Ukrainian	130

Multilingualism and Global Citizenship

- **Citizenship is the central concept in Manitoba's social studies curriculum**
- **Multilingualism is an important part of developing global citizenship skills.**
- **Collaboration will enhance opportunities - we have strong collaborative relations with Alberta and Saskatchewan**
- **CMEC is exploring how the European Framework of Reference for Languages can be used in Canada**
- **Recently developed an International Education Strategy**

Learning Spanish in Manitoba

- **In July, Manitoba signed an MOU with Spain's Ministry of Education, Social Policy and Sport to enhance the teaching and learning of the Spanish language and culture in Manitoba**
- **Want to learn from what Alberta is doing in their 16 International Spanish Academies**
- **Will increase the amount of Spanish language resources**
- **Will provide support for Manitoba Spanish language teachers**

Winnipeg – Cree for “muddy waters”

Manitoba – Cree or Ojibwé for “strait of the spirit”

Canada – Huron-Iroquois for “village”

Gracias – Merci – Meegwetch - Thank You