

A Canadian flag is shown waving on a flagpole against a clear blue sky with some light clouds. The flag features a white square in the center with a red maple leaf, flanked by two red vertical bands.

# **A Snapshot State of the Nation: K-12 Online Learning in Canada**

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# Background

- “A Snapshot State of the Nation Study: K-12 Online Learning in Canada”
  - iNACOL study from 2008

[http://www.inacol.org/resources/docs/NACOL\\_CanadaStudy-Ir.pdf](http://www.inacol.org/resources/docs/NACOL_CanadaStudy-Ir.pdf)

- Virtual Schooling in Canada
  - project wiki site

<http://virtualschool.wikispaces.com/canada>

# iNACOL Report

- Unsuccessfully attempted to get funding for full study
- Decision was made to complete an abbreviated version of the study to get some information about the Canadian context into the public domain
- Provide brief provincial overview with a more detailed case study of three or four provinces

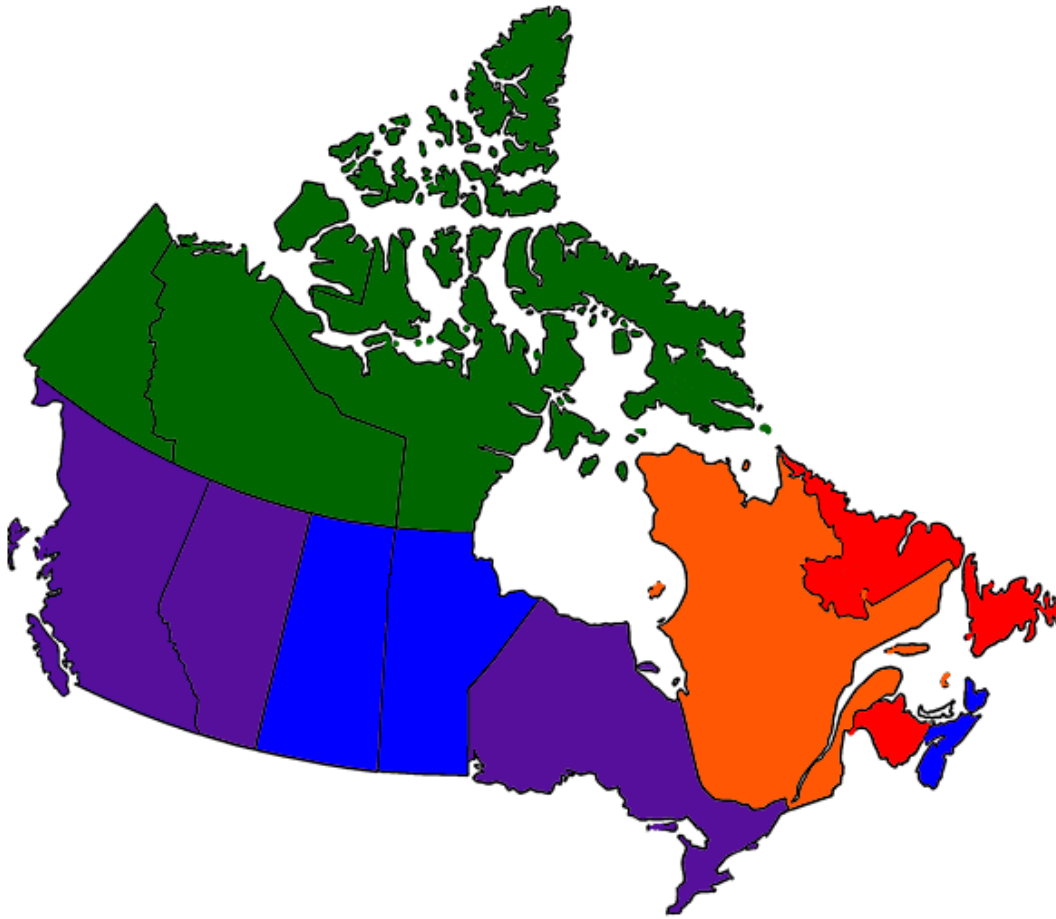
# Methodology

- Initial report consisted of reviews of Ministry of Education websites and documents
- Informal interviews with distance education personnel in each province
- Some key personnel reviewed the content of some of the provincial information
- Originally planned to submit surveys to MOEs and follow-up with interviews after the website and document review

# History of K-12 Distance Education in Canada

- Correspondence education began in British Columbia in 1919
- First virtual school appeared in 1993 in British Columbia
- Distance education used primarily in rural areas and was primarily managed by the provincial governments

# National Overview



**No or little online learning activity**

**Single provincial online learning program**

**Limited district-based online learning programs**

**Provincial online learning program with limited district programs**

**Provincial online learning program with significant district-based & private programs**

**Use district-based online learning programs from other provinces**

# Single Provincial Programs

- Newfoundland & Labrador
  - came from models developed in earlier district-based programs
- New Brunswick
  - grew from a single technology-based course
- Both housed within Ministry of Education



# Single Provincial Programs

- Both primarily supplemental programs
- Both programs rely upon on-site mediating or facilitating presences
- Both programs make their curricular materials available to all teachers in the province for use in the classroom too



# Provincial Programs with District Activity

- Nova Scotia
  - provincial initiative with two or three district-based programs
- Manitoba
  - all or almost all districts participate in provincial program
- Saskatchewan
  - several districts have their own programs



# Saskatchewan



- Province provides two options:
  - substantial TSL course offerings, primarily traditional correspondence courses
  - smaller number of synchronous ITV offerings
- Several school districts have begun their own web-based programs
  - these programs have formed SK Distance Learning Course Repository

<http://www.skdistancelearning.ca/>

# Provincial Programs with Significant District Activity

- Ontario
  - began with models developed in district-based programs
- Alberta
  - provincial program evolved from correspondence school with extensive district activity
- British Columbia
  - variety of models have been utilized prior to current model



# Ontario



- Province provides CMS and course content
- Each district maintains its own program (i.e., hire teachers, enrolls students, etc.)
- There are formal (e.g., Ontario e-Learning Consortium) and informal sharing of resources between districts

# Alberta



- Provincial distance/distributed education body that is available throughout the province
- Districts can and some have created their own capacity
- Alberta Distributed Learning Centre, the provincial body, also serves students in the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and students around the world using the Alberta curriculum

# British Columbia



- Province provides a clearinghouse of distributed learning opportunities for students, parents & teachers
- All school boards that have distributed learning programs are represented
- Ministry oversees district-based programs using quantitative and qualitative measures

# Primarily District Activity

- Quebec
  - Ministry of Education turned responsibility for distance education over to a semi-independent agency



# Quebec



- Société de formation à distance des commissions scolaires du Québec (SOFAD) manages distance education develops and leases content
  - approximately 200 courses, only a small percentage are online
- Three English-speaking and 37 French-speaking school boards manage their own distance education programs



# Utilize Programs from Other Provinces

- Yukon
  - follows British Columbia curriculum
  - utilizes distance education programs from British Columbia
- Northwest Territories / Nunavut
  - follows Alberta curriculum
  - utilizes distance education programs from Alberta



# Yukon



- Less than 5000 K-12 students in territory
- Utilizes programs from British Columbia
- Students enroll directly in district-based programs
- Involved 141 students in 51 different courses in 2006-07

# Your Questions and Comments





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