

**CANADA**

Compiled by Dr Dianne Oberg, July 2016

Population and literacy levels	<p>Population: 33,099,836 (July 2015 est.)</p> <p>Literacy Rate: 99%</p> <p>Male: 99%; female: 99% (2003 est.).</p> <p>Definition: persons over 15 years who can read and write</p> <p>Languages: English (official) 58.7%, French (official) 22%, Punjabi 1.4%, Italian 1.3%, Spanish 1.3%, German 1.3%, Cantonese 1.2%, Tagalog 1.2%, Arabic 1.1% (2011 est.)</p> <p>Source: CIA World Factbook</p>
Overview of education and school	<p>Classbase – Education system in Canada</p>

library situation	<p>School library facilities and resources can be found in most schools in Canada, but many school libraries do not have qualified professional staff. <i>Achieving Information Literacy: Standards for School Library programs in Canada</i> (2003) recommends that school libraries be staffed by teacher-librarians and by support staff to ensure that teacher-librarians can focus on teaching roles. Teacher-librarians manage the school library and work with other teachers to design and implement resource-based instructional programs.</p> <p>In Canada, a teacher-librarian is a professional teacher (4-year degree minimum for teacher certification) with a minimum of two years of successful classroom experience and additional qualifications in the selection, management and utilization of learning resources. With the exception of Ontario, which has a system of Additional Qualifications (three courses leading to certification as a school library specialist), most teacher-librarians are qualified through post-baccalaureate diploma programs (8-10 courses) or master's programs (10-16 courses). Access to school library education has been decreasing over the past 30 years.</p> <p>Education in Canada is the responsibility of the provinces; there is no national office of education. Every province has guidelines for school library programs, but no province mandates levels of staffing and/or funding for school libraries. The local school authority (municipality, county, or school district) makes decisions related to staffing and funding. Low levels of staffing and funding for school libraries are ongoing issues for the school library community. A related problem is that the role of the teacher-librarian is not well understood or recognized by educational decision-makers.</p> <p>IASL conferences have been held several times in Canada: 1982 in Red Deer, Alberta with the theme: <i>Sharing – a challenge for all</i> 1986 in Halifax, Nova Scotia with the theme: <i>The school library – window on the world</i> 1997 in Vancouver with the theme: <i>Bridging the gap: Information rich but knowledge poor?</i></p>
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	<p>For the history of the development of school libraries in Canada: Oberg, D., & Wright, J. G. (1991). Canada. In J. E. Lowrie & M. Nagakura, <i>School libraries: International developments</i> (2nd ed.) (pp. 339-354). Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press.</p>
Links to important associations/ contacts	<p>In the past, the school library community across Canada has been represented nationally, first by a division of the Canadian Library Association (the Canadian School Library Association) and then by a network within the Canadian Library Association (Voices for School Libraries). In 2016, the Canadian Library Association changed from an individual membership organization to a federation of library associations. The challenges of the re-development of the Canadian Library Association have placed school library concerns to the margins. Nationally, the school library community is re-organizing itself as Canadian Voices for School Libraries (CVSL) and working towards incorporation as a non-profit organization and registration as a charitable organization. The CVSL Working Group is maintaining its online presence on Facebook and developing websites for the Canadian standards document, <i>Leading Learning: Standards of Practice for School Library Learning Commons in Canada</i> (2014), and for the national school library publication, <i>School Libraries in Canada</i>, so that valued resources are not lost during the transition from CLA to CVSL stewardship. Canadian Voices for School Libraries can be contacted on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/groups/1400617276832667/</p> <p>The provincial school library associations remain strong in general, but their interests are more local than national or international at this time. With the exception of Ontario and Quebec, provincial school library associations are part of teacher associations, not library associations. Here are links to the most active ones:</p> <p>British Columbia Teacher-Librarians Association</p> <p>Alberta School Library Council</p>

	<p>Saskatchewan School Library Association</p> <p>Manitoba School Library Association</p> <p>Ontario School Library Association</p>
Particular issues and needs of the country	<p>Limited support for the aspirations of Aboriginal and immigrant people. Shortage of qualified tradespeople. Lack of understanding between French-speaking and English-speaking parts of the country. Economy still heavily dependent on export of resources and agricultural products.</p> <p>Other issues include (from the CIA World Factbook) cannabis production, refugees, air pollution, acid rain, ocean water contamination.</p>
Famous authors (children's and young adult materials)	<p><i>Current:</i> R.J. Anderson, Paulette Bourgeois, Martha Brooks, Margaret Buffie, Joan Clark, Sarah Ellis, Marie-Louise Gay, Marie-Francine Hébert, Hazel Hutchins, Gordon Korman, Dennis Lee (poet), Jean Little, Janet Lunn, Robert Munsch, Susin Nielsen, Kenneth Opel, Willard Price, Kathy Stinson, Cora Taylor, Eric Walters, Tim Wynne-Jones, Paul Yee.</p> <p><i>Past:</i> Lucy Maud Montgomery, Christie Harris, Monica Hughes, Suzanne Martel.</p>
Links to literature of the country (children's / young adult materials)	<p>CM: Canadian Review of Materials – online weekly, Sep-Jun</p> <p>International Children's Digital Library - Canada</p> <p>The Canadian Children's Book Centre</p>
Links to SL programs or advocacy tools	<p>Achieving Information Literacy: Standards for School Library programs in Canada (2003)</p>

	<p><i>Together for Learning: School Libraries and the Emergence of the Learning Commons</i> (2010)</p> <p><i>The Crisis in Canada's School Libraries: The Case for Reform and Re-investment</i>, by Ken Haycock (2003)</p> <p><i>21st Century School Libraries, Parent Engagement and Student Achievement</i> (2011)</p> <p>British Columbia Teacher-Librarians Association-Advocacy</p>
News/Reports	<p><i>School Libraries in Canada</i> (SLIC) – online quarterly journal</p> <p>UNESCO International Bureau of Education – Europe and North America links including world data on the education in Canada and contacts</p> <p>For information literacy resources and links related to Canada in English, see pages 164-169, and in French see pages 233-236 of <i>UNESCO Overview of information literacy resources worldwide, 2nd edn.</i></p>

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