

Home Schooling in Canada :

A Guide for Parents



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Introduction to Homeschooling in Canada

Homeschooling is a growing trend in Canada, with many families opting for this form of education as an alternative to traditional school. From 2006 to 2018, homeschooling numbers were up by 104%, according to the Fraser Institute and Stats Canada reported a 106% rise in home education in Canada, and this number has grown exponentially since then. You can find current numbers here: <https://cche.ca/growth-in-the-homeschooled-population/>

Homeschooling offers many benefits, including personalized attention, flexibility, and the opportunity to incorporate unique learning experiences. This eBook will provide you with a comprehensive guide to homeschooling in Canada, including the legal requirements, resources, and tips for success.

Chapter 1: Understanding Homeschooling in Canada

Homeschooling, also known as home education, is a method of educating children in the home. This can be done through a variety of methods, including using textbooks, online resources, and hands-on learning experiences. Homeschooling in Canada is governed by each province and territory, and it is important to understand the specific laws and regulations in your area.

There is research that indicates that home education has a higher success rate for students in the areas of being able to complete standardized exams, succeed in post secondary education and other measures of success. You can read the whole report here:

<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/home-schooling-in-canada-2015-rev2.pdf> As outlined in that article, there is a growing need to see home education as a viable form of private education as the growing numbers mean that the financial and political impact of so many opting out of the school system is starting to be seen all throughout North America. In my

personal experience, this also means that there is a considerable backlash in the school system against home education and this is seen in the reaction of school based and district administrators to the ideologies of freedom and choice inherent in home based education programs.

Chapter 2: Legal Requirements for Homeschooling **in Canada**

The legal requirements for homeschooling in Canada vary by province and territory. In some areas, homeschooling is considered a private school, while in others it is considered a form of alternative education. It is important to check the specific regulations in your area to ensure you are in compliance. Some common requirements include registering your homeschool, providing a curriculum, and ensuring that your child is receiving an education equivalent to that provided by the public school system.

Chapter 3: Finding Resources for Homeschooling in **Canada**

There are many resources available for homeschooling families in Canada. These include textbooks, online courses, educational websites, and support groups. There are two major educational resource sales websites in Canada and you can find them here: [The Learning House](#) and [CHER](#). Some provinces offer educational materials that you can borrow for a small fee. Additionally, many homeschooling families choose to work with a tutor or teacher to provide additional support and guidance. More excitingly, there are plenty of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) on every subject imaginable. You can find a comprehensive list here:

www.mooc-list.com There are also paid courses through [Udemy](https://www.udemy.com/) and [OutSchool](https://www.outschool.com/). There is a great resource list on my website found here: www.demystifyingeducation.com/resources

Chapter 4: Tips for Successful Homeschooling in Canada

Homeschooling can be a challenging and rewarding experience. Here are some tips to help ensure your homeschooling journey is a success:

1. Plan ahead and be organized. This will help you stay on track and ensure that you are meeting the legal requirements for homeschooling in your area.
2. Create a routine and stick to it. Having a consistent schedule can help ensure that your homeschooling experience runs smoothly.
3. Be flexible. Homeschooling offers many opportunities for customization, so don't be afraid to change your approach if something isn't working.
4. Take advantage of community resources. Many homeschooling families choose to participate in local homeschooling groups and co-ops, which provide support, resources, and opportunities for socialization.
5. Incorporate hands-on learning experiences. Homeschooling provides unique opportunities for hands-on learning, including field trips, community service projects, and educational outings.
6. Read books that are supportive of home education and listen to podcasts that show a different ideology than the mainstream culture. You will likely experience some disapproval of your choice to home educate and you may even have doubts of your own. Having a good reason for home educating your child/ren will go a long way to helping you through your fears and staying in touch with others that are doing it will also assist you in overcoming debates about whether you made the right choice. Know that everyone faces these doubts and fears.

Chapter 5: Understanding Unschooling in Canada

Unschooling is a form of homeschooling that emphasizes self-directed learning. Unlike traditional homeschooling, which often follows a structured curriculum, unschooling allows

children to pursue their interests and learn at their own pace. Unschooling is based on the belief that children have an innate curiosity and desire to learn, and that they will naturally seek out knowledge and experiences that are relevant to their lives.

In unschooling, the role of the parent or caregiver is to provide support, resources, and opportunities for learning, rather than to direct or dictate the learning process. This can take many forms, including providing access to books and other educational materials, exposing children to a variety of experiences and activities, and encouraging exploration and experimentation.

Unschooling is not for everyone, and it can be a challenging approach for families who are used to a more structured approach to education. However, many families who have embraced unschooling have found that it provides a unique and enriching experience for their children.

If you are considering unschooling in Canada, it is important to research the specific laws and regulations in your area and to familiarize yourself with the principles and practices of unschooling. You may also want to connect with other unschooling families to share resources and support. Most provinces and territories support a self directed learning model for home education.

In conclusion, unschooling offers a unique and flexible approach to education, and can provide a rich and rewarding experience for families who are open to exploring this alternative form of homeschooling. Many students experience a rich learning experience with an unschooling approach and learn to incorporate learning into everything they do instead of considering learning as something people only do in books and worksheets.

Chapter 6: Legal Requirements for Home Education **in Each Province and Territory**

As mentioned in Chapter 2, the legal requirements for homeschooling in Canada vary by province and territory. In this chapter, we will provide a detailed overview of the legal requirements for home education in each province and territory. Please note that these requirements are subject to change, so it is always important to check with your local authorities for the most up-to-date information.

British Columbia



British Columbia: In British Columbia, homeschooling is considered a form of private education. Parents or guardians must notify the Ministry of Education of their intention to homeschool, and must provide a basic education that is equivalent to that provided by the public school system. Homeschooling families are not required to follow the provincial curriculum, but they must ensure that their child is receiving a comprehensive education. There are 2 options in BC for home education: the Online Learning or Directed Learning (DL) model where a teacher directs and assesses your child's learning. In the DL model, you are required to report to a teacher and follow the provincial curriculum. The other option is to register and in that case you are not required to report to anyone but just provide a basic education for your children. BC has a

manual for home education and it can be found here:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/kindergarten-to-grade-12/support/homeschooling/homeschooling-procedures-and-guidelines.pdf> There is a supportive home education group

in BC and you can find that here: <https://bchea.ca/>

Alberta



Alberta: Homeschooling in Alberta is governed by the Home Education Regulation. Parents or guardians must notify the Minister of Education of their intention to homeschool, and must provide an education that is equivalent to that provided by the public school system. Homeschooling families are not required to follow the provincial curriculum, but they must ensure that their child is receiving a comprehensive education. In Alberta there are three options for home education: 1) you can register with a willing homeschool board where you are assigned a facilitator who visits twice a year, checks your home education year plan and then assesses your child's progress at the end of the year with the evidence you provide to them. This option comes with funding and at the time of writing this, the reimbursement funding was \$850/child/year. Most home education facilitators are supportive of home education and make these visits helpful and supportive as opposed to evaluative. You must register by September 29th of the school year in order to receive funding but you can register for home education with a board anytime. 2) You can register directly with the Ministry of Education where you receive no funding but also do not have a mandatory visit from a facilitator. With this option the Ministry of Education can ask for your learning plan and any proof of learning but to date, this

has not happened to anyone up to the time of the writing of this ebook. 3) Online schooling is not technically home education and is not governed by the home education regulation but is an option that some schools offer for parents who do not wish to make a learning plan. A list of these school boards can be found here: <http://albertahomeschooling.ca/schoolboards.html>.

The home education form for registering directly with the government can be found here:

<https://www.alberta.ca/assets/documents/edc-home-education-notification-form-program-not-supervised-by-school-authority.pdf> and the one for those that are planning to register with a

homeschool board can be found here:

<https://www.alberta.ca/assets/documents/edc-home-education-notification-form-program-supervised-by-school-authority.pdf>

Saskatchewan



Saskatchewan: In Saskatchewan, homeschooling is considered a form of private education. Parents or guardians must notify the local school district of their intention to homeschool, and must provide an education that is equivalent to that provided by the public school system. Homeschooling families are not required to follow the provincial curriculum, but they must ensure that their child is receiving a comprehensive education. They must register with their local school board, report to a contact (often the Superintendent) and keep a portfolio of their child's work or provide a summary of learning when asked for it. Funding for home educators varies according to the district they live in. Information can be found here:

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/education-and-learning/prek-12-education-early-learning-and-schools/home-schooling#how-to-apply>

Manitoba



Manitoba: In Manitoba, homeschooling is governed by the Home-Based Education Regulation. Parents or guardians must notify the Minister of Education of their intention to homeschool by either September 30th or 30 days after they have been withdrawn from school, and must provide an education that is equivalent to that provided by the public school system. Homeschooling families are not required to follow the provincial curriculum, but they must ensure that their child is receiving a comprehensive education. They are required to provide a report of learning in both January and June outlining what learning has been completed and this is filed in an official report. Manitoba does not offer funding for home education students. Students are required to be registered from the age of 7 until they are 17. The notification package can be found here: <https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/schools/ind/homeschool/index.html>

Ontario



Ontario: In Ontario, homeschooling is considered a form of private education. Parents or guardians must notify the school board that the child last attended school of their intention to homeschool. Children who have never been to school do not need to send in a letter of intent. Homeschooling families are not required to follow the provincial curriculum, but they must ensure that their child is receiving a comprehensive education. There are no requirements from the provincial government for reporting of learning and there is also no funding for home educators. You can find more information here:

<https://ontariohomeschool.org/homeschool-faq/>

Quebec



Quebec: Homeschooling in Quebec is governed by the Education Act. Parents or guardians must notify the Minister of Education and their local school board of their intention to homeschool, and must provide an education that is equivalent to that provided by the public school system. Homeschooling families are not required to follow the provincial curriculum, but

they must ensure that their child is receiving a comprehensive education. Parents must send in a learning plan for the year, send in a mid-year and completion report to the minister and a Minister's representative holds follow up meetings to see how the child is progressing. There is no funding for homeschooling in Quebec. There is a Association that tries to simplify this process and it can be found here: <https://www.aged.qc.ca/en/obligations/learning-project>

New Brunswick



New Brunswick: In New Brunswick, homeschooling is considered a form of private education. Parents or guardians must notify the Minister of Education of their intention to homeschool, and must provide an education that is equivalent to that provided by the public school system. They are required to register with an English or French school board and must have a detailed learning plan and submit to an in-home interview. Homeschooling families are not required to follow the provincial curriculum, but they must ensure that their child is receiving a comprehensive education. There is no funding in New Brunswick for home education students. The application form can be found here:

<https://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/ed/pdf/K12/AnnualHomeSchoolingApplicationForm.pdf>

Nova Scotia



Nova Scotia: Homeschooling in Nova Scotia is governed by the Home Education Regulation. Parents or guardians must notify the department of Education of their intention to homeschool, and must provide an education that is equivalent to that provided by the public school system. They are required to register their child using a form that is found on the Ministry of Education's website and in June must follow up with a progress report outlining what progress their child has made throughout the year. Homeschooling families are not required to follow the provincial curriculum, but they must ensure that their child is receiving a comprehensive education. There is no funding for home education in Nova Scotia. You can find the registration forms here: <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/homeschooling/forms>

Prince Edward Island



Prince Edward Island: In Prince Edward Island, homeschooling is considered a form of private education. Parents or guardians must notify the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development of their intention to homeschool, and must provide an education that is equivalent to that. There is no funding for home education in PEI but there is also no reporting or requirements. There is a place where you can request learning materials on the PEI website. The form that needs to be filled out can be found here:

<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/education-and-lifelong-learning/home-education>

Newfoundland and Labrador



Newfoundland and Labrador: Homeschooling in Newfoundland and Labrador is governed by the School Act and the Home Schooling Regulation. Parents or guardians who wish to homeschool must notify the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development of their intention to

do so. The education provided by homeschooling families must be equivalent to that provided by the public school system and must meet the standards set by the government.

Homeschooling families are not required to follow the provincial curriculum, but they must ensure that their child is receiving a comprehensive education. In addition, homeschooling families may be required to participate in annual evaluations or assessments to ensure that their child is receiving a comprehensive education. Progress reports are required up to 3 times a year and children must be registered in their local community school. There is no funding for home education in NFLD. More information can be found here:

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/education/k12/homeschooling/>

and the application for the English district can be found here:

<https://www.nlesd.ca/includes/files/policies/doc/1624283309650.pdf>

NorthWest Territories



Northwest Territories: Homeschooling in the Northwest Territories is governed by the Education Act. Parents or guardians who wish to homeschool must notify the Department of Education, Culture, and Employment of their intention to do so as well as notify their local school and their District Education Authority who are elected officials that live in their community.

<https://www.justice.gov.nt.ca/en/files/legislation/education/education.r23.pdf> Parents must register with their local school and then are considered students that are exempt from attendance. The education provided by homeschooling families must be equivalent to that provided by the public school system and must meet the standards set by the government.

Homeschooling families are not required to follow the territorial curriculum, but they must ensure that their child is receiving a comprehensive education. Funding is available, depending on what the local school deems is necessary. There is a group here that helps parents who are homeschooling in Yellowknife: <https://ykhomeschool.wixsite.com/home>

Nunavut



Nunavut: Homeschooling in Nunavut is governed by the Education Act. Parents or guardians who wish to homeschool must notify the Department of Education and their local school of their intention to do so. They may have to justify their home education plan before the principal of the school and the elected District Education Authority representative. The education provided by homeschooling families must be equivalent to that provided by the public school system and must meet the standards set by the government, especially in the inclusion of the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit values and skills. Homeschooling families are not required to follow the territorial curriculum, but they must ensure that their child is receiving a comprehensive education. Reimbursement funding is often provided by the DEA and the school based on what they think is necessary for the child's education. More information can be found here:

https://www.gov.nu.ca/sites/default/files/homeschooling_reimbursements_directive.pdf

Yukon



Yukon: Homeschooling in the Yukon is governed by the Education Act and the Home-Based Education Regulation. Parents or guardians who wish to homeschool must notify the Department of Education of their intention to do so and must register with the Aurora Virtual school who coordinates the home ed program for all of the Yukon territory. You can find more information here: <https://yukon.ca/en/homeschool-distant-register> Parents must provide a home education plan that outlines the learning outcomes for the year, divided into four semesters. The education provided by homeschooling families must be equivalent to that provided by the public school system and must meet the standards set by the government which in this case, is often the BC curriculum. Homeschooling families are not required to follow the territorial curriculum, but they must ensure that their child is receiving a comprehensive education. Funding is provided for reimbursement of learning needs.

It is important to note that the specific requirements for homeschooling in the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and the Yukon may vary, and it is always best to check with local authorities for the most up-to-date information. Additionally, homeschooling families may be required to participate in annual evaluations or assessments to ensure that their child is receiving a comprehensive education.

Chapter 7: Why do people Home Educate their children?

The reasons that people home educate have morphed greatly in the past 20 years. Far from being a religious movement, people remove their children from school for a wide variety of reasons. Here are some of them:

- 1) Their child has been bullied in school and nothing they or the school has done has been able to rectify the situation.
- 2) Their child has unique learning needs and the school is not able or does not care to meet them.
- 3) They want their child to be exposed to more culturally appropriate experiences and materials.
- 4) Their child has a unique set of interests they would like to develop and would like more time to develop them.
- 5) Their child does not 'fit in' to the mainstream school system and they are starting to hate learning and despise school.
- 6) They disagree with the school system's curriculum or program of studies and do not want their child taught an ideology their family does not agree with.
- 7) They want their child to gain access to a post secondary institution that is favourable to a more self directed model of learning.
- 8) Their child does not see the relevance of what they are required to learn in school.
- 9) They see the school system as more of an obedience training model than an institution of learning.
- 10) They want their child taught religious values that conflict with the school's system of values.
- 11) They want the freedom to travel and have experiences as worldschoolers.
- 12) They believe children learn best when they choose their own learning methods and directions.

There are many other reasons as well!

Conclusion

Homeschooling and unschooling in Canada can be a wonderful experience for families who are looking for a personalized and flexible form of education. With the right resources, support, and a commitment to success, homeschooling can be a great way to provide your child with a high-quality education. We hope that this eBook has provided you with the information you need to get started on your homeschooling journey.