

Committee: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Topic: Ethical Implications of Artificial Intelligence in Education and Cultural Preservation

Canada is a country in North America. Its ten provinces and three territories extend from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean and northward into the Arctic Ocean, making it the world's second-largest country by total area, with the world's longest coastline. Its border with the United States is the world's longest international land border. The country is characterized by a wide range of both meteorologic and geological regions. It is a sparsely inhabited country of 40 million people, the vast majority residing south of the 55th parallel in urban areas. Canada's capital is Ottawa and its three largest metropolitan areas are Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver. Canada is a parliamentary democracy and a constitutional monarchy in the Westminster tradition. The country's head of government is the prime minister, who holds office by virtue of their ability to command the confidence of the elected House of Commons and is "called upon" by the governor general, representing the monarch of Canada, the head of state. The country is a Commonwealth realm and is officially bilingual (English and French) in the federal jurisdiction. It is very highly ranked in international measurements of government transparency, quality of life, economic competitiveness, innovation, education and gender equality. It is one of the world's most ethnically diverse and multicultural nations, the product of large-scale immigration. Canada's long and complex relationship with the United States has had a significant impact on its history, economy, and culture.

A developed country, Canada has a high nominal per capita income globally and its advanced economy ranks among the largest in the world, relying chiefly upon its abundant natural resources and well-developed international trade networks. Canada is recognized as a middle power for its role in international affairs, with a tendency to pursue multilateral and international solutions. Canada's peacekeeping role during the 20th century has had a significant influence on its global image. Canada is part of multiple international organizations and forums. Education in Canada is for the most part provided publicly, funded and overseen by federal, provincial, and local governments. Education is within provincial jurisdiction and a province's curriculum is overseen by its government. Education in Canada is generally divided into primary education, followed by secondary and post-secondary education. Education in both English and French is available in most places across Canada. Canada has a large number of universities, almost all of which are publicly funded. Established in 1663, Université Laval is the oldest post-secondary institution in Canada. The largest university is the University of Toronto, with over 85,000 students. Four universities are regularly ranked among the top 100 worldwide, namely University of Toronto, University of British Columbia, McGill University, and McMaster University, with a total of 18 universities ranked in the top 500 worldwide.

The Canadian Commission for UNESCO (CCUNESCO), administered by the Canada Council for the Arts, is Canada's national commission for UNESCO, actively advancing the organization's mandate to contribute to peace based on the intellectual and moral solidarity of humankind by promoting cooperation among nations. Its role is to involve government departments and agencies, institutions, organizations and individuals working for the advancement of education, science, culture, communication and information, in its activities. UNESCO is the only UN agency to have a system of National Commissions. As part of this international network of 195 National Commissions, the Canadian Commission for UNESCO is in a unique situation to effectively contribute to Canada's positions on UNESCO issues. The Canadian Commission for UNESCO was established by Order in Council on 14 June 1957, in conformity with the Constitution of UNESCO and pursuant to the Canada Council Act. It operates under the general authority of the Canada Council for the Arts, which provides its Secretariat. The Commission's role is to involve government departments and agencies, institutions, organizations and individuals working for the advancement of UNESCO's mandated fields of education, science, culture, communication and information, in its activities.

UNESCO Presence in Canada:

- 63 schools in the Canadian Associated Schools Project (ASPnet) adhere to UNESCO's values of a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence
- 54 signatory municipalities of the Canadian Coalition of Cities against Racism and Discrimination, are located across Canada in nine provinces and one territory
- 16 UNESCO Biosphere Reserves work to conserve biodiversity and promote sustainable development by involving local communities
- 16 World Heritage Sites encourage the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage considered to be of outstanding value to humanity
- 2 UNESCO Global Geoparks to promote geoheritage protection and awareness
- 15 UNESCO Chairs in universities and post-secondary institutions promote international cooperation for exchange of knowledge and information sharing
- 3 collections are listed in the International Registry of the Memory of the World: the Hudson's Bay Company Archives; the Collection of the Seminary of Quebec and the film Neighbours by Norman McLaren
- 2 post-secondary education institutions, one in Quebec and one in Ontario, are designated UNEVOC Centres for technical and vocational education and training
- 1 member of the Creative Cities Network, Montreal, is designated a UNESCO City of Design