

Canadian Education In Demand

Education is a commodity in high demand throughout the world. It is a prerequisite for development, both economic and social, and is of particular importance to the developing world.

Canada has a long tradition of excellence in education with world-class institutions offering their services to Canadians and other students from around the world.

Large numbers of foreign students have attended Canadian institutions over the years. ASEAN countries — in particular Malaysia and Singapore — have traditionally been a major source for foreign students in Canada.

Decentralization characterizes education in Canada. Although the provincial governments are responsible for education, schools at the elementary-secondary level are administered by locally-elected Boards of Education.

Responsibilities of such boards vary from province to province, but they generally include school construction, pupil transportation, hiring of teachers, and determination of tax rates for school support.

The elementary-secondary system in all provinces, except for Ontario and Quebec, extends over 12 grades. Normally, elementary schools consist of



ASEAN Students in Canada (by Province) — July 1, 1986

	New-foundland	Nova Scotia	New Brunswick	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	British Columbia	TOTAL
Malaysia	44	151	69	141	1,597	358	46	195	308	2,904
Singapore	14	93	30	24	732	239	15	228	266	1,641
Philippines	3	5	0	10	955	10	2	110	48	1,143
Indonesia	4	10	4	51	320	33	7	15	119	563
Thailand	1	6	3	12	75	3	6	30	35	171
Brunei	2	3	3	6	29	12	3	35	32	125

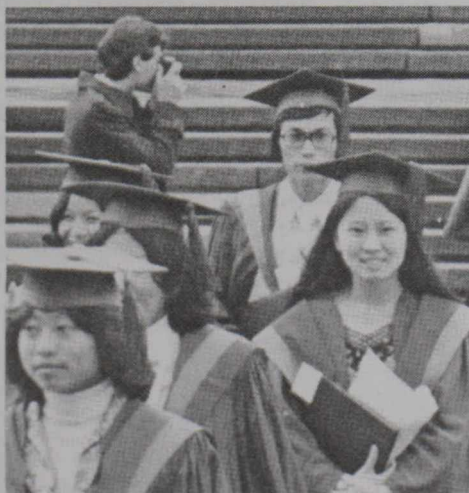
Figures for July 1986 show that while Hong Kong remains the major source, Malaysia was number three and Singapore number four. Students from all six ASEAN nations are currently studying in Canada, primarily in Ontario, British Columbia, and Alberta. By doing so they help to provide cultural and personal bridges between Canada and ASEAN which will endure well into the future.

Unique Systems

Education is a provincial responsibility. Thus, unlike many other nations, Canada does not have a single educational system. Rather, the provinces have established their own systems in response to their varying needs. Each provincial system is in some ways unique — in local organization, grade structures, funding, curriculum, or testing.

The federal government nonetheless maintains an interest in education, particularly in the form of financial contributions to the funding of higher education and assistance to provincial governments in promoting bilingualism in education.

grades one through six, with secondary school comprised of grades seven through 12. In addition, some provinces provide one year of education prior to grade one — kindergarten.



In Ontario, primary education has eight years and secondary school has traditionally included an extra year, grade 13. At present, the system is being modified, with the result being that students in Ontario will now be able to complete second-

ary school in four, four and one half, or five years, depending on the wishes of the individual student and on the course of study.

In Quebec, secondary school continues only to grade 11. This is followed by two or three years in a "college d'enseignement general et professionnel" (CEGEP). Students planning to go to university must complete the two-year CEGEP program.

Started in 1663

University education in Canada has a long history which reflects Canada's status as a developed nation as well as its bi-cultural heritage. The foundations of Canada's higher education system can be seen as far back as 1663 — with the establishment of the Seminaire de Quebec by Bishop Laval.

Although many years were to pass before the Seminaire developed into its present state, the Universite de Laval, this represents the beginning of university education in Canada. To put this into perspective, 1663 is only 50 years after

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