

## Canadian per capita student spending

N.L.	7,914	The territories and Nunavut were excluded because their expensive delivery costs – the Yukon spends over \$15,000 - drives up their per capita.
P.E.I.	7,532	
N.S.	7,189	
N.B.	8,376	
Que.	8,465	
Ont.	8,629	This chart was extracted from the <i>Summary Public School Indicators for the Provinces and Territories, 1997-1998 to 2003-2004</i> , by Statistics Canada.
Man.	9,003	
Sask.	8,214	
Alta.	8,598	
B.C.	8,463	
Average	\$ 8,238	

## SASKATCHEWAN NEWS

### Coalition - education taxes on property

A coalition of organizations representing Saskatchewan local government leaders, taxpayers and businesses is reiterating its call for the provincial government to reduce education taxes on property. The legislative session has begun.

The following organizations are the coalition:

- Association of Saskatchewan REALTORS®
- Provincial Association of Resort Communities of Saskatchewan
- Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities
- Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce
- **Saskatchewan School Boards Association**
- Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association

### First Nations Partnership

The Saskatchewan School Boards Association and the Departments of First Nations and Métis Relations and Learning officially introduced their jointly developed Aboriginal Employment Development Program (AEDP).

The AEDP was designed to enhance the engagement of Aboriginal employees in Saskatchewan's education system and to increase the pool of qualified Aboriginal candidates.

[www.saskschoolboards.ca](http://www.saskschoolboards.ca)

## American Study: Spend more on schools

A University of Washington study, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, has recommended a 16-31% increase in spending on education in Ohio to a per pupil average increase from roughly \$9,300 to a range of US\$10,722 to US \$12,128. [www.ohiommm.com/PDF/news/report.pdf](http://www.ohiommm.com/PDF/news/report.pdf)

### What international studies say about Canada!

Canadian school boards produce students who rank among the best in the world, but not because we throw money at our education system.

According to the OECD's *Education at a Glance Report*, Canada spends less on education as a percentage of its GDP than the United States: just under 6% as opposed to 7.5% by the U.S.

And our achievement levels are generally higher, according to the OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) data.

Canada also spends less than France, which spends slightly more than Canada - just under 6.3% - but is in 16th place compared to Canada's third place on the 2003 PISA mathematics comparison.

Canada also spends less than Korea, the second placer on that mathematics comparison. Korea spends 8.0% of its GDP on education.

And it's not because we have an easy education delivery challenge!

The top PISA scorer, Finland, is about 100,000 square kilometers smaller than Newfoundland and Labrador. Korea is 98,480 square kilometers in total. Both spend more of their GDP on education and both have homogeneous populations.

There is another fact that should also make Canadian trustees proud.

The OECD measures *variation between and within schools in the mathematics performance of 15-year-olds*, and finds that Canada's variance level is very, very low.

That means Canadian parents can be assured no matter what school their kids attend, no matter how poor or wealthy they are; our school boards will do the best they can for each and every student.

Canadian trustees are not satisfied – problems remain, but we should never lose sight of our successes.

Thank you.

Patricia Parulekar, National Director.

*PS – Book now for the Urban Boards Session put on by the Alberta School Boards Association – it's a special pre-Congress workshop on July 3rd from 9:00-3:30. It will run about \$100-\$150 to cover administrative costs and features Dr. Rudy Crew, Superintendent, Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Here's a sample of his thinking – Crew's three priorities: eliminate low-performing schools, increase academic achievement and bring cost-efficiency to construction and business practices.*

[www.asba.ab.ca](http://www.asba.ab.ca)