

COVID-19

Northwest Territories Summary of Education Updates

July 31, 2020

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NORTHWEST TERRITORIES | Summary of the Government's Response to COVID-19

School System	Status, Date of Closure, & Expected Date of Re-Opening	Current Graduating Classes	Access to Online Learning	Provincially Mandated Assessments & Report Cards	Financial Aid for Schools and Parents	Tuition, Scholarships & Entry Fees
Child Care – Dept. of Education, Culture and Employment: Early Childhood and School Services						
Licensed early learning and child care programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chief Public Health Officer (CPHO) is currently recommending that early learning and child care programs in the NWT stay open during the COVID-19 public health emergency. This includes early learning and child care programming for school aged children. The continued availability of licensed early learning and child care programs is critical to help provide child care services for NWT health care and essential services staff. A list of licensed programs that are operational can be found here (current as of June 18). While the Government of NWT is encouraging programs to prioritize spaces for essential services workers, ECE is not requiring programs to limit their programming to care for essential services workers. ECE recognizes that these decisions are ultimately up to individual programs (current as of April 24). ECE is supporting HSS by matching Northwest Territories Health and Social Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECE is continuing to pay Early Childhood Program (ECP) funding to licensed early learning and child care programs, regardless of whether a program remains open or closed during the pandemic. As this funding is attendance-based, ECE is processing payments based on the previous fiscal quarter's payment or the current actuals, whichever is higher. Programs may choose to continue charging parent fees, regardless of whether families have access to the services; this will vary depending on the individual program and policies (current as of April 24). A \$1,000 per month wage top-up will be provided to child care staff, to ensure both licensed family day homes and centre-based early learning and child care programs are adequately resourced to provide child care services, especially during non-regular hours, for a total value of \$1.3 million (current as of April 24). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition refunds are determined on a school-by-school basis (current as of May 21).

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	<p>Authority (NTHSSA) essential service employees who have identified child care needs with licensed early learning and child care programs (<i>current as of April 24</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The list of licensed early learning and child care programs that remain open can be found here. 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthy Children Initiative (HCI) and Supporting Child Inclusion and Participation (SCIP) funds will be provided to existing recipients of both funding streams at the amount provided during the 2019-20 fiscal year, further supporting stability for existing programs. New funding requests may be considered at a later date, depending on needs and available funds (<i>current as of March 26</i>). ECE is immediately providing a temporary \$1.9-million subsidy to lower child care costs by 33% for parents who are required to physically attend work and who need child care during COVID-19 (<i>current as of April 24</i>). For licensed early learning and child care programs that have closed due to COVID-19, ECE is immediately providing a \$1.24-million subsidy to offset a portion of the fixed costs, such as rent and utilities (<i>current as of April 24</i>). The Government of NWT, through ECE, is providing \$665,000 in additional resources to ensure licensed child care 	

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					<p>programs receive adequate support for supplies and labour to carry out enhanced cleaning regimens, and to provide personal protective equipment (PPE) for staff and clients (<i>current as of April 24</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government allocated an additional \$557,000 to help licensed child-care programs, which now expires on Sept. 30. Those specific measures include funding to pay up to 75 per cent of eligible fixed costs for child-care operators and funding supports for cleaning child-care spaces (<i>Current as of July 31</i>). 	
Junior Kindergarten to High School – Dept. of Education, Culture and Employment & District Education Authorities						
Private	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NWT JK-12 schools will be closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year (<i>current as of June 18</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade 12 students on track to meet graduation requirements will still be eligible to graduate and receive a NWT High School Diploma in June 2020. If a student is unable to meet specific graduation requirements, such as completion of non-core 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECE, in partnership with Education Bodies and the NWT Teachers' Association, is developing an approach to offering continued learning opportunities during the closure of NWT schools. This will be unique to every 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Every JK-12 NWT student will receive final grades and a report card for this 2019-2020 school year no later than June 30, 2020. Teachers will be responsible for assessing a student's progress to-date, leaving opportunities for including assessment of their continued learning where possible, and assigning a final grade for the end of the current 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No school-specific update as of May 21, 2020, but BDIC will offer low interest working capital loans to businesses to help offset up to one month of COVID-19 impacts, and will allow for the deferral of any BDIC loan payments for a period of up to three cumulative months, between April 1, 2020 and September 30, 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition refunds are determined on a school-by-school basis (<i>current as of May 21</i>).
Public denominational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All NWT schools have submitted plans for approval by the OCPHO to reopen their doors for the 2020-2021 school year. (<i>Current as of July 3</i>). 					
Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How education is delivered will be different for each school and community, based on factors such 					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable.

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	<p>as school size and layout, grade levels taught, the number of students and staff, access to technology, and the unique needs of individual students, including those who are at-risk or have complex needs. details on specific health and safety measures will vary from school to school. (<i>Current as of July 3</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> K-Grade 6 can expect full-time in-person learning and no physical distancing when inside the classroom "bubble". Grades 7-9 can expect full-time in-person learning, or blended learning when necessary and physical distancing of 1m between students. For Grades 10-12, there will be full-time in-person learning or blended learning when necessary, and physical distancing of 2 m between all students and staff. (<i>Current as of July 3</i>). 	<p>subject courses like Career and Technology Studies (CTS) courses, Physical Education 10 or completion of Community Service hours, schools will be able to request a course waiver for those students (<i>current as of March 30</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) will work with post-secondary institutions across Canada on admission requirements to ensure the smoothest transition possible for those who are graduating this year (<i>current as of March 25</i>). 	<p>school based on the unique circumstances of the community such as staff availability and internet access (<i>current as of March 30</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers and families should consider that a significant draw on internet and technology resources will cause delays and concerns across the territory for families, businesses and essential services like health care. Care should be taken to ensure continued learning does not rely entirely on online access (<i>current as of March 30</i>). 	<p>year/semester (<i>current as of March 30</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JK-9 students will be promoted, placed or retained, as per the usual process of assessment by the teacher(s) in collaboration with parents (<i>current as of March 30</i>). All Grade 6 and 9 Alberta Achievement Tests are cancelled for May and June 2020 (<i>current as of March 30</i>). The administration of Grade 12 diploma exams will be cancelled for April and June 2020 (<i>current as of March 30</i>). 		

Post-Secondary Institutions – Dept. of Education, Culture and Employment: Adult and Post-Secondary Education Unit

Aurora College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no in-person classes for the remainder of the semester. Some programs are moving 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All convocation, graduation and completion ceremonies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some programs are moving forward using distance learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each instructor will provide their students with information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No school-specific update as of May 21, 2020, but BDIC will offer low interest working capital loans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition refunds are determined on a school-by-
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	<p>forward using distance learning, and some programs are suspended or cancelled (<i>current as of March 30</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NWT Chief Public Health Officer has ordered that NWT residents travelling into the NWT by air and road must immediately self-isolate for 14 days upon return to the NWT, regardless of if they have symptoms or not (<i>current as of June 18</i>). 	<p>from March until June are cancelled (<i>current as of March 25</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aurora College is investigating options to hold formal ceremonies at a later date, as well as alternate ways to acknowledge graduating students' achievements on a smaller scale in the meantime (<i>current as of May 7</i>). 	<p>(<i>current as of March 25</i>).</p>	<p>regarding course work and exams (<i>current as of March 25</i>).</p>	<p>to businesses to help offset up to one month of COVID-19 impacts, and will allow for the deferral of any BDIC loan payments for a period of up to three cumulative months, between April 1, 2020 and September 30, 2020.</p>	<p>school basis (<i>current as of May 21</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The repayment of all GNWT student loans will be suspended until September 30, 2020. No interest will accrue during this time period (<i>current as of March 26</i>).
Collège Nordique Francophone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The college will be closed to the public from March 19, 2020, until further notice (<i>current as of March 18</i>). Language courses for the Winter 2020 session are maintained, but offered as a virtual classroom. Tlicho courses 1 and 2 are cancelled for the remainder of the Winter 2020 session (<i>current as of March 18</i>). As of April 6, the French, English and Spanish courses scheduled for the spring session will be offered through distance learning, in the form of an interactive virtual classroom. Classes will continue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No update as of May 21, 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Language courses except for Tlicho courses 1 and 2, and LINC Program courses are offered as a virtual classroom (<i>current as of March 18</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No update as of May 21, 2020. 		

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	<p>on-site when the situation allows it (<i>current as of March 18</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scheduled LINC Program courses are offered as an interactive virtual classroom until further notice. Classes will continue in the classroom when the situation allows it (<i>current as of March 18</i>). The college will re-open to the public and in-classes courses and activities will resume while maintaining a social distance in Phase 3 of the GNWT's plan to ease public health restrictions. The date for Phase 3 remains to be determined (<i>current as of May 14</i>). 					
Dechinta Centre for Research and Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No update as of May 21, 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No update as of May 21, 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No update as of May 21, 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No update as of May 21, 2020. 		

A special note about the Federal Government's directive with respect to post-secondary students and recent graduates:

- Post-secondary students and recent graduates who are ineligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit or for Employment Insurance, but who are unable to find full-time employment or are unable to work due to COVID-19, may apply for the Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB). The CESB would provide \$1,250 per month for eligible students from May through August 2020, and \$2,000 for students with dependents and those with permanent disabilities. The CESB will be delivered by CRA. More information is found [here](#) (*current as of May 13*).
- The Government of Canada announced a new Canada Student Service Grant which will provide up to \$5,000 to support student's post-secondary education costs in the fall. More details to follow (*current as of April 22*).

- The Government of Canada will revise the Canada Student Loan Program's eligibility requirements in 2020-21 to allow more students to qualify for supports and be eligible for greater amounts, including doubling the non-repayable Canada Student Grants for full and part time students, as well as for students with disabilities and students with dependents, in the coming academic year. The changes are expected to expand the reach of the program and the benefit to more than 760,000 students at an estimated cost of approximately \$1.9 billion over two years starting in 2020-21 (*current as of April 22*).
- The Government of Canada will revise various student and youth employment programs, such as the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy. More information is found [here](#) (*current as of April 22*).

A special note about the Federal Government's directive with respect to international students:

- As announced on March 20, 2020, international students who held a valid study permit or had been approved for a study permit when the travel restrictions took effect on March 18, 2020, will be able travel to Canada by air or land. They will be exempt from air travel and border restrictions. This exemption is to accommodate students who are in the middle of their course of study or who have just been approved to study in Canada but were outside Canada when the travel restrictions took effect (*current as of March 26*).
- Courses of study being delivered online on an exceptional basis due to COVID 19 will not affect Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP) Program eligibility (*current as of March 26*).
- Students who have a study permit or who have been approved for a study permit for a program starting in May or June may begin their classes while outside Canada and may complete up to 50% of their program while outside Canada if they cannot travel to Canada sooner (*current as of April 16*).
- Individuals who are already legally in Canada will be able to remain in the country (*current as of March 26*).
- Temporary residents who are currently in Canada are able to apply to extend their status online if they need to extend their status. A temporary resident who has applied to extend their status is allowed to remain in Canada until a decision is made on their new application, even if their initial status expires while they are waiting for that decision. This is called implied status (*current as of March 26*).
- At least one post-secondary institution has suspended the intake of new incoming International students from overseas for the Spring Semester beginning in May.
- The Government of Canada is temporarily allowing international students holding study permits, who are eligible to work off campus and already present in Canada, to work more than 20 hours per week while classes are in session, provided they are working in an essential service or function, such as health care, critical infrastructure, or the supply of food or other critical goods. This change is in effect until August 31, 2020 (*current as of April 22*).

Information about the Northwest Territories' Government's response to COVID-19 can be found directly at:

- <https://www.gov.nt.ca/en/newsroom/education-minister-and-education-leaders-recommend-nwt-schools-remain-closed-remainder>
- <https://www.ece.gov.nt.ca/en/services/education-culture-and-employment-covid-19-updates/information-schools-and-licensed-early>
- <https://www.ece.gov.nt.ca/en/services/education-culture-and-employment-covid-19-updates/information-post-secondary-students>
- http://www.auroracollege.nt.ca/_live/pages/wpPages/Covid-19_Info.aspx

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