The first IB Diploma Programme was authorized in 1974 at Lester B. Pearson Collegiate United World College of the Pacific, a private school in Victoria, British Columbia. In 1979, Sir Winston Churchill High School in Alberta and Mountain Secondary School in British Columbia became the first public schools to implement the DP. By 1989 there were 32 IB World Schools, the majority of them public.

Between 1989 and 1998, the IB’s presence in Canada tripled. During this period, the first IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) was authorized in 1991 at the Petit Séminaire de Québec, a private school in Québec. The first Primary Years Programme (PYP) was authorized in 1996 at Glenlyon Norfolk School, a private school in British Columbia.

Since 1999, the total number of IB programmes has nearly tripled again, and PYP growth has been particularly strong.

There are currently 297 IB World Schools in Canada, 237 (80%) of which are public. All of these schools are implementing 329 IB programmes (given that some schools implement several at once).

The MYP and the DP have an equally large share of all IB programmes in Canada.

Only 7 IB World Schools in the country implement the entire continuum of IB programmes, and one of these, the Victoria School of Performing and Visual Arts in Alberta, is public.
Where are IB World Schools located?

The provinces with the largest number of IB World Schools are Québec (124) and Ontario (67). Nearly two-thirds (64%) of all Canadian IB World Schools are located in these two provinces. Ontario has the largest number of DP, while Québec has the most MYP and PYP.

A large number of IB World Schools can also be found in Alberta (41) and British Columbia (33). The remaining IB World Schools are found in Nova Scotia (14), Manitoba (7), Saskatchewan (5), New Brunswick (3), Prince Edward Island (2) and Newfoundland (1).

The Northwest Territories, Nunavut and the Yukon Territory do not have any IB World Schools (as of October 2010).

What are the prospects for future growth of IB programmes in the country?

The total number of IB programmes in Canada may cross 400 in the near future, given that there are currently 48 candidates for authorization, and 52 have expressed interest in becoming candidates.

The MYP seems likely to grow substantially, and will thus represent the largest proportion of programmes in the country. The DP appears to be growing at a more stable pace, while the PYP may expand at a faster rate.

A COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY: PROFILE OF IB STUDENTS

How do IB World Schools reflect Canada’s linguistic diversity?

More than half of all IB programmes in Canada use English as their main language of instruction, but a very large proportion use French.

Four schools use both English and French as their main languages of instruction, and two, both located in Québec, use English, French and Spanish.
Languages of instruction at IB World Schools tend to match the specific linguistic composition of each province quite closely. In Ontario, for example, the state funded education system is divided into 60 English language school boards and 12 French language ones. IB World Schools mirror this linguistic diversity, with 14% of them imparting IB programmes primarily in French.

In Québec, the language of instruction of most state funded primary and secondary schools is French, given that 83% of the population is Francophone. Nonetheless, around 40% of Québec’s inhabitants are considered bilingual, and 11% of primary and secondary students are served by Anglophone schools. IB World Schools reflect this reality, with 86% of them imparting IB programmes primarily in French.

Toronto District School Board School Profiles, 2008-09, at: http://www.tcdsb.on.ca
A RECORD OF SUCCESS: ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

How successful have IB high school students been in passing IB exams and obtaining the IB Diploma?

The total number of IB exams taken has increased substantially over the past five years, reaching 26,190 in 2009.

There were also 3,300 IB Diploma candidates across Canada in 2009, 2,886 of whom obtained the Diploma. The total number of Diplomas awarded has steadily increased over the past five years.

Each year since 2005, more than 88% of all IB exam takers have obtained grades of 4 or above, and more than 87% of all Diploma candidates successfully obtain one.

In 2009, the province with the highest IB Diploma pass rates was Québec (97%). This province also had the highest percentage of exam scores of 4 or above (96%). The province with the lowest IB Diploma pass rates was Nova Scotia (80%), and the lowest percentage of exam scores of 4 or above were found in New Brunswick (80%).

In 2009, Ontario had the largest number of IB Diploma candidates (1,443), followed by British Columbia (665), Alberta (431), Nova Scotia (382) and Québec (188). The remaining four provinces with IB programmes had between 14 and 100 Diploma candidates.

How have IB programmes been recognized as examples of academic excellence?

- In 2008, IB students in Edmonton Public Schools (Alberta) scored above the world average on all IB examinations, with the exception of IB HL History. One of Edmonton’s public schools, Harry Ainley High School, currently has the largest IB programme in Alberta, and it encourages all students to participate in the DP by providing pre-IB courses for all 10th grade students. Ainley IB graduates have won numerous awards from Edmonton Public Schools, and in 2007 alone, they received over $500,000 in University of Alberta Scholarships and over $800,000 in Alexander Rutherford Scholarships.

- The Toronto-based nonprofit Youth in Motion (YIM) recognizes 20 students under the age of twenty each year for accomplishments leading to “the betterment of [their] school, community, province and/or country.” The judges for these “Top 20 Under 20” awards are community leaders from across the nation, and in 2008, awardees were paired up with adult mentors who have received the prestigious Order of Canada awards. Four of the 2008 award recipients were students at
IB World Schools. Cassandra Fong, who attends Britannia Secondary School, has developed a lie detector test to help improve the criminal justice system and crack down on crime in her troubled Vancouver Eastside community. When Aleema Jamal was an 11th grader at Calgary’s Strathcona-Tweedsmuir School, she raised more than $20,000 and obtained 12 computers to donate to a school in Kenya. As a student at Edmonton’s Archbishop MacDonald High School, Taddes Korris organized a group of young Albertans to play and record an orchestral score by an early 20th century Lithuanian composer, reviving a piece of music that had nearly disappeared. Sundeep Randhawa, who currently studies at Edmonton’s Old Scona Academic High School, created a nonprofit and raised more than $30,000 for the people of Darfur, Sudan when he was only 14 years old.

Abbotsford Middle School, an IB World School in British Columbia, is pioneering an alternative energy model, striving to be the first school in Canada to use a combination of three alternative energy sources to substantially reduce power consumption. As a result of a meeting between the school’s environmental club and the school district’s manager of energy consumption, the school district agreed to finance a project which will combine a wind turbine, solar panels and a human-powered generator to provide energy for two computers and ten monitors. This project will not only reduce energy consumption for these computer stations by up to 75%, it will also serve as a learning tool for students. It is hoped that the school will be a model for efficient energy use in the community and in other schools, and become “a seed for a whole new generation,” according to the school district’s manager of energy consumption. Principal Jim McDonald believes the project reflects the school’s IB principles: “the key theme is to develop global citizens…. and roles students can develop at the community level, reducing the carbon footprint.”

IB WORLD SCHOOLS AND NATIONAL GARFIELD WESTON AWARDS

The Garfield Weston Awards, sponsored by the W. Garfield Weston Foundation and managed by the Fraser Institute, recognize the achievement of schools across Canada in various categories. The École d’éducation internationale in McMasterville, an IB World School, won the Garfield Weston Award for Overall Academic Achievement for the province of Québec in 2008, and the Victoria School of Performing and Visual Arts, an IB World School in Edmonton, was the First Runner-Up for the Alberta Elementary school category of the awards in 2007. In 2008, the IB World Schools École secondaire du Riviere-du-Loup, in Québec, and Harrison Public Elementary School in Toronto, Ontario, were named 2008 Schools of Distinction.

Source: http://www.forexcellenceineducation.org/
The extent of policies supporting IB ranges from provinces like Nova Scotia, where provincial funding provides support for IB schools and for IB teacher training, to provinces such as New Brunswick, where the higher education system recognizes the IB, but where no policies have yet been formulated to support IB in other areas.

All ten provinces, however, currently have some form of legislation supporting the IB.

How do provincial policies and legislation currently support IB programmes?

How do universities and colleges in Canada recognize the rigor of IB courses?

Out of 66 Canadian universities listed in IBO’s Recognition Policy Summary, all accept the IB Diploma as a credential for admission. Eleven universities recognize the IB through all five policies listed in the graph.

The universities receiving the largest number of IB transcripts welcome IB students through a wide variety of recognition policies. In addition to providing support in all five areas listed in the graph, the University of British Columbia gives credit to some SL courses and has dedicated advisors for IB students.