



The Canadian History Report Card: Curriculum Analysis of High Schools in Canada

The Dominion Institute finds that too many provinces and territories do not take Canadian History seriously

June 15, 2009 – As the end of the school year approaches, the Dominion Institute releases The Canadian History Report Card, a curriculum analysis of high schools in Canada. The Institute has assigned each province and territory a grade based on the quality of its Canadian history curriculum at the high school level (grades 9-12).

The Canadian History Report Card (<http://report-card.dominion.ca>) revealed that:

- Four provinces failed and received an 'F'.
- No province received an 'A'.
- Only four provinces—Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Nova Scotia—require Canadian history as a mandatory course for all students in high school. The others do not.
- Most provinces simply offer courses in “social studies”, catch-all courses which generally ignore Canadian history (with the notable exception of British Columbia).

“The findings are, simply put, troubling,” said Marc Chalifoux, Executive Director of the Dominion Institute. “Too many provinces and territories do not take seriously the teaching of Canadian history. It is little wonder that so many students graduate from high school without a basic knowledge of our country’s past.”

Grades were assigned by the Institute based on an analysis of the curriculum requirements, as well as the content covered and the skills developed.

Provinces received the following grades:

Quebec:	B+	(1st place)
British Columbia:	B	(2nd place)
Ontario:	B	(3rd place)
Manitoba:	B-	(4th place)
Nova Scotia:	C+	(5th place)
New Brunswick:	C	(6th place)
Alberta:	F	(7th place)
Saskatchewan:	F	(8th place)
Newfoundland and Labrador:	F	(9th place – tied)
Prince Edward Island:	F	(9th place – tied)

Territories received the following grades:

Yukon:	B	(1st place)
Nunavut:	D	(2nd place)
Northwest Territories:	F	(3rd place)

The report also proposes seven policy recommendations to improve Canadian history curricula across the country.



**THE DOMINION
INSTITUTE**

**L'INSTITUT DU
DOMINION**

“The Dominion Institute hopes to kick-start a wide-ranging debate on the teaching of Canadian history to the next generation of citizens,” added Marc Chalifoux. “We are inviting all Canadians who are as concerned about this issue as we are to visit our website and sign a petition demanding better history education in high school.”

Visit <http://report-card.dominion.ca> to download the full report, view detailed results by province/territory and to sign the petition.

The Dominion Institute (www.dominion.ca) is a national charitable organization that seeks to create more active and engaged citizens through a greater knowledge and appreciation of the Canadian story

-30-

For more information

Marc Chalifoux
Executive Director
416.602.9721 (cell)
marc@dominion.ca