



FAQ: Public and Media

Why is ECE changing its curriculum?

- Curriculum in all jurisdictions has to be renewed regularly, including the curriculum used in the NWT, to ensure it aligns with the territory's priorities and values for education.
- The NWT JK-12 school curriculum is out of date and in need of renewal.
- Exploring what options are available is a normal part of reviewing and renewing curriculum. ECE has conducted research to explore how other provinces and territories approach curriculum, including British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and the Yukon.
- Change is inevitable; NWT uses a significant portion of Alberta's curriculum, which is undergoing large-scale changes to every subject and grade from K-12. This new curricula will require a large systemic overhaul in the NWT, as well as additional resources.

Is ECE going with British Columbia's curriculum?

- No decisions about NWT curriculum and/or a change of partnership have been made.
- Creating curriculum takes a lot of human and financial resources, so ECE relies on adapting or adopting curricula from other provinces.
- ECE is currently in the research and engagement phase of curriculum renewal; this includes exploring possibilities for a provincial partnership with a western province, such as British Columbia.
- Through ECE's work on Education Renewal, and in response to the Office of the Auditor General's report, ECE believes a competency-based curriculum, which develops each student's unique skills, knowledge, attitudes and values, best suits the NWT.
- Currently, the NWT gets curriculum from a variety of western provinces, such as Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. The NWT high school curriculum is predominately from Alberta.
- Some of the JK- 9 curriculum is created in the NWT, such as the Junior Kindergarten/Kindergarten curriculum, the Our Languages Indigenous languages curriculum, and Northern Studies 10.



I have heard that Alberta's new curriculum doesn't include Indigenous content. What does this mean for the NWT?

- ECE and the Minister of Education are aware of discussions and concerns raised about Alberta's new curriculum.
- ECE looks carefully at any new curriculum before it is considered and will not automatically follow Alberta's new curriculum without considerable review.
- Currently, the NWT has adopted Alberta's high school Grade 10-12 curricula and Grade 1-9 math curriculum, and uses Alberta's student assessment tools, including Alberta Achievement Tests and diploma exams.
- Any curriculum implemented or used in the NWT must meet the needs and interests of students and communities. It must be a curriculum that is grounded in Indigenous world views and reflect the identities of our northern children and support them in becoming capable people.

Why is the NWT considering other provincial curricula?

- The NWT JK-12 school curriculum is out of date and needs to be renewed. ECE has begun the investigating process before the time comes that the curriculum must be renewed.
- ECE has conducted research into which western province's curriculum would be the best fit for the NWT, including British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba.
- To examine curriculum and policy documents from other western provinces, ECE identified 34 educational priorities for the NWT, gathered from information received at previous public engagements, such as Aboriginal Student Achievement forums, and the Early Childhood and Educational Renewal roundtables.
- The research indicated that the BC curriculum most aligned with the NWT's educational priorities.
- Alberta announced a new draft curriculum in 2020. This curriculum was not available when ECE was researching the best fit for the NWT.
- ECE is investigating both British Columbia and Alberta as possible educational partners.

What about the NWT's partnership with Alberta?

- Historically, the NWT has had a close relationship with Alberta Education in the areas of curriculum and student assessment. That relationship is ongoing as we investigate future possibilities to best serve our students.



- Alberta is currently renewing its curriculum and plans to roll out those changes beginning in the 2021-2022 school year. ECE will review Alberta's new curriculum as soon as it is available.
- NWT needs a new curriculum, whether its primary partner continues to be Alberta or another jurisdiction.
- Any changes to NWT curriculum would need to be carefully considered to ensure it aligns with the territory's education goals and is the best fit for JK-12 students.

How will a decision be made?

- The next step is for ECE staff to find out what a partnership with another western province would entail and what the implications for such a partnership would be. This includes investigating costs, systems compatibility, teacher training, and classroom resources.
- Central to this investigation is discussions with and hearing from Indigenous governments, education bodies, and the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association. Information gathered in these discussions will inform decisions made about the curriculum and future partnerships.
- A *What We Heard Report* of key findings and considerations will be created. This report will be shared with participants. Participants will have the opportunity to provide comment and feedback on the report to ECE.
- The final decision will be communicated to Cabinet, Indigenous Governments, and key education partners. .
- It is ECE's intention to ground any decisions made within an appropriate level of consensus among partners.

When will a decision be made?

- ECE is still in the consultation and engagement stages of curriculum renewal.
- A decision regarding the NWT JK-12 school curriculum is planned for August 2021.