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ED-D 410
Oct 3rd 2007



Teaching in the North

Northwest Territories:

- What are the Northern allowance rates?

They start at \$2275 annually in Yellowknife to 20,065 annually in Sachs Harbour.

- What subjects or grade levels will I be teaching?

A high percentage of NWT teachers are required to teach more than one grade level at a time and more than one subject at a time. You are expected to follow NWT curriculum guidelines.

- What size class will I have?

The larger centres have traditionally larger class sizes ranging from 26 to 32 students. In a smaller community, teachers may look forward to a lower teacher-student ratio. Along with the smaller class sizes however, you will be expected to teach several grade levels and more than one subject at a time.

- What facilities are available? Does your school have computers? How many and what kind?

All NWT schools have Internet access, however, the band width is not necessarily up to par and a couple of NWT schools are still on dial up Internet.

Northern BC – The Stikine District:

- How large is the Stikine District?

It is 188,034 square kilometres, and is located in the at the top of BC along the Yukon Border. It is the largest school district in the province.

- How many schools are there in the district?

There are four schools in the district: Atlin School, Dease Lake School, Tahltan School and Denetia School.

- What are the benefits of teaching in the Stikine District?

- Some of the highest paid salaries in the province
- Moving allowance
- Isolation allowances
- Travel allowances
- Professional development package
- 100% of medical, extended health, dental, and group life insurance
- Best pupil-teacher ratios in the province
- Modern teacherages are available

Yukon:

Yukon communities are composed of 14 communities: Beaver Creek, Carcross, Carmacks, Dawson City, Destruction Bay, Faro, Haines Junction, Mayo, Old Crow, Pelly Crossing, Ross River, Teslin, Watson Lake and Whitehorse.

Pay Scale: \$55,931 starting salary, with zero experience. Salary goes up to \$80,795 with ten years of experience.

Northern Allowance: Ranges from \$500-\$3,000 per year in Yukon communities outside of Whitehorse.

School and Curriculum: Yukon schools follow British Columbia program of studies, and students write the British Columbia Provincial Exams. There is extensive curriculum support such as Resource Services which provides a comprehensive range of curriculum services from a central location. Technology is readily available as Yukon schools have high-speed Internet and access in both classrooms and computer labs.

Yukon offers French Immersion Programs, German, and Spanish instruction in school. First Nations Content is also integrated into the curriculum. Furthermore, First Nations Elders provide a wide variety of services to the schools, participating in daily activities at school and they affirm curricular resources developed for language and cultural courses.

Lifestyle: There are an abundance of things to do for the outdoor adventure fanatic! This includes, skiing, water rafting, kayaking, hiking, exploring waterfalls, canoeing, making snowmen and playing in the snow, helicopter rides and hunting. There are several special events such as music festivals, rodeos, storytelling, trade shows, races, and theatre performance groups.

References:

Northwest Territories Curriculum:

Northwest Territories: Kindergarten - Grade 12. Retrieved October 2, 2007, from New Page 1 Web site:

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NWT Web site: http://www.nwtta.nt.ca/teaching_in_the_nwt.html

Yukon Teacher's Association Website: <http://www.yta.yk.ca>

Yukon Government Website: <http://www.education.gov.yk.ca>

Yukon Communities Website: <http://www.yukoncommunities.yk.ca>