



## This! is Canada: A Virtual Exchange Program

**At a time when so much is keeping them apart, we're pleased to launch a new program that helps bring young Canadians together!**

As schools, educators, and youth organisations increase their use of online learning, Experiences Canada is offering a fun, engaging activity that will connect young people to each other. It will encourage them to discover the diverse history, geography, languages, cultures and ways of life that shape their communities and our country.

**This! Is Canada**, is our adapted **Virtual Exchange Program**. It is designed to provide educators and youth leaders with easy-to-implement projects and activities, which allow them and their students to connect with other youth across Canada.

Our Virtual Exchange program is:

- **Easy to organize and implement** – we provide online lessons, lesson guides, and supporting student materials that can be organiser led or assigned individually.
- **Supports provincial and territorial curriculum objectives** for social studies, history, geography, language arts, Indigenous studies, and creative studies.
- **Flexible** for small or large groups and individuals.
- **Interchangeable** with online and in person learning as required.
- **FUN**

Experiences Canada's Virtual Exchanges are designed for youth between the ages of 12 and 17 and in grades 7 to 12. The program is available to youth from a Canadian school or recognized community organization, and to individual youth participants residing in Canada.

### HOW IT WORKS:

Experiences Canada has designed the virtual exchanges program to take the workload burden off organisers.

- Once an application is received, we look for a compatible twin based on age level, shared goals and objectives for the program. (Alternatively, two groups can apply to be twinned together if they prefer).
- From there, organisers and students will gain access to our online learning platform where we provide learning modules (lessons), an organiser's guide, and supporting documents.

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- Each learning module challenges youth to create a specific media project (i.e. a video, a photo gallery, a website, etc.). Templates, videos, examples and step-by-step guidelines are provided for each of them.
- The program is flexible, and modules can be assigned to groups or individuals. Modules can even be divided up between smaller groups within a group and completed simultaneously.
- Once completed, groups share their creation with their twins through a virtual meeting scheduled between organisers using a school or home approved platform (i.e. Zoom, Google meets etc.).
- After completing 4 modules, a group is automatically pre-approved for an in person exchange when it is safe to do so. Otherwise, there is no obligation to travel and only the first unit on Daily Life is required

### **THIS! IS CANADA INTERACTIVE MAP:**

The completed projects will be uploaded to an Interactive Map of Canada displayed on Experience Canada's website at the end of the school year. The works from all groups will offer the rest of the country an impressive virtual tour across Canada as seen through the eyes of our youth.

### **MORE INFORMATION:**

If you have any questions about the program, please reach out to us at: [info@experiencescanada.ca](mailto:info@experiencescanada.ca) or visit our website: <https://experiencescanada.ca/>.

We would appreciate you passing on information about the program to anyone you feel might be interested, or alternatively, we invite you to submit your own application today at: <https://experiencescanada.ca/virtual-exchanges/>.

We look forward to learning with you!

**[Apply Today](#)**

### **ABOUT EXPERIENCES CANADA:**

[Experiences Canada](#) is a national registered charity that helps young Canadians to explore their country in ways they never may have imagined through reciprocal exchanges, forums, conferences and other opportunities to connect with one another.

For 85 years, Experiences Canada has opened young people's minds and involved them in a broader world. We offer transformative learning opportunities accessible to youth across Canada – creating fun, safe, memorable experiences that deepen their connection to their community and their country, enrich personal relationships, and build confidence and skills.

