



Citizenship and  
Immigration Canada

Citoyenneté et  
Immigration Canada



# A LOOK AT CANADA

2005 EDITION

Canada

C&I-143-02-05E



*O Canada!  
Our home and nat  
Glorious and free*

**2005 EDITION**

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**This booklet belongs to:**

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If you have any comments, please write to:

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*A Look at Canada* can also be found and downloaded from the Citizenship and Immigration Canada Web site at [www.cic.gc.ca](http://www.cic.gc.ca).

# Message to Our Readers



*Congratulations! It took courage to decide to move to a new country. Your decision to become a Canadian citizen is another big step.*

**To become a Canadian citizen, you must be able to speak English or French. You must also learn about voting procedures and Canada's history and geography, and know the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.**

Canadian citizens enjoy many rights, including equality rights, language rights and religious rights, just to name a few. But Canadians also have responsibilities. They must respect Canadian laws, and respect the rights and freedoms of others. Canadian citizens must also be willing to get involved in their communities to help make Canada a better place.

Canada has a long tradition of welcoming newcomers because they increase the diversity and richness of Canadian society. Canadians are proud of the peaceful and tolerant society they have built.

This booklet will help you prepare to become a Canadian citizen.  
Good luck!

**For information about Citizenship and Immigration Canada, visit our Web site at [www.cic.gc.ca](http://www.cic.gc.ca)**



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# Applying for Citizenship



*When you apply for citizenship, officials will check your documents. They will confirm your immigration status and make sure you don't have a criminal record. They will also make sure you meet the requirements of citizenship.*

**To become a Canadian citizen, you must**

- **be 18 years old or older;**
- **be a permanent resident of Canada;**
- **have lived in Canada for at least three of the four years before applying for citizenship;**
- **speak either English or French;**
- **know Canada's history and geography; and**
- **know about Canada's system of government and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.**

Your application may take several months. Make sure that the Call Centre (see page 41 for telephone numbers) always has your correct address during this time. The citizenship office will send you a "Notice to Appear" telling you where and when to go for your citizenship test or your interview with a citizenship official.

## **How to use this booklet to prepare for the citizenship test**

This booklet will help you prepare for the citizenship test. You should

- study this booklet;
- ask a friend or family member to help you practise answering questions about Canada;
- call a local school or school board, a college, a community centre or a local organization that provides services to immigrants and ask for information on citizenship classes;
- take language classes if you need to learn to speak English or French;
- use the questions at the back of the booklet to prepare for the test; and



- find the answers to the questions about the region where you live.

### **About the citizenship test**

The citizenship test is usually a written test, but it could be an interview. The test helps government officials decide if you can speak English or French well enough to become a Canadian citizen. It is also used to test your knowledge of Canada and the responsibilities and privileges of citizenship. **To pass the test, you must correctly answer all questions about the following topics**

- **the right to vote in elections in Canada;**
- **the right to run for elected office in Canada; and**
- **voting procedures and how to register yourself as a voter.**

You must also correctly answer questions chosen from the following topics

- **Canada's history;**
- **Canada's geography; and**
- **the rights and responsibilities of a citizen.**

### **After the test**

The Citizenship office will tell you about the results of your test. If you pass the test and meet all the other requirements, you will receive a "Notice to Appear to Take the Oath of Citizenship." This document tells you the date, time and place of your citizenship ceremony. This is the final step in becoming a Canadian citizen. At the ceremony, you will take the oath of citizenship, sign the oath form and receive your Canadian Citizenship Certificate. Many people bring their family and friends to share this occasion.



# What Does Canadian Citizenship Mean?



*Canadian values include freedom, respect for cultural differences and a commitment to social justice. We are proud of the fact that we are a peaceful nation. In fact, Canadians act as peacekeepers in many countries around the world.*

Canada is a large country with a small population. We have developed a unique federal style of government that is based on compromise and co-existence. We value our **democracy**, and every citizen is encouraged to do his or her share. Our laws are based on our **democratic values**.

Canadian values include:

**Equality**—We respect everyone’s rights. Everyone has the right to speak out and express ideas that others might disagree with. Governments must treat everyone with equal dignity and respect—two other fundamental Canadian values.

**Respect for cultural differences**—We try to understand and appreciate the cultures, customs and traditions of all Canadians, whether they were born in Canada or came here from another country.

**Freedom**—As Canadians, we enjoy basic freedoms, such as freedom of thought, freedom of speech, freedom of religion and freedom of peaceful assembly.

**Peace**—We are proud of our non-violent society and our international role as peacekeepers.

**Law and order**—We respect democratic decision making and the “rule of law.” We promote due process so that the courts and the police treat everyone fairly and reasonably. We ensure that our elected governments remain accountable to Canadians.

As you reflect on these values, ask yourself which **responsibilities** you will take on when you become a Canadian citizen.







# Introducing Canada

## Key Words

**Official languages**

**Multiculturalism**

**Volunteerism**

*Throughout Canada's history, millions of immigrants have helped build our country. We welcome people from more than 150 countries each year.*

As Canadians, we are proud that many different cultural and ethnic groups live and work here in harmony. The *Canadian Multiculturalism Act* recognizes our cultural diversity. It states that we are all free to maintain and share our cultural heritage and to participate fully and equally in our national life.

The only people originally from Canada are the Aboriginal peoples. They lived in Canada for thousands of years before the first immigrants came here. The Aboriginal peoples are an important part of Canada's population. They are working to protect and promote their languages, cultures and traditions, and to set up their own governments.

In a country as large and diverse as Canada, equality is very important. It is so important that the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* is part of our Constitution.

In Canada, we also believe in the importance of working together and helping one another. People who help others without being paid are called volunteers. There are millions of volunteers across Canada. Some people join community groups and help with local projects. Others help

friends and neighbours in need. There are many different ways you can help others in your community.

## Canada's official languages

English and French are Canada's two official languages. English- and French-speaking people have lived together in Canada for more than 300 years. This is an important part of our Canadian identity—more than 98 percent of Canadians speak either English or French or both. **You must be able to speak English or French to become a Canadian citizen.**

Legal documents like the Canadian Constitution and the *Official Languages Act* protect the rights of individual Canadians with regard to official languages. For example,

- English and French have equal status in the Parliament of Canada, in federal courts and in all federal institutions;
- everyone has the right to a criminal trial in either English or French;



- the public has the right, where there is sufficient demand, to receive federal government services in either English or French; and
- official language minority groups in most provinces and territories have the right to be educated in their language.

### Canada's economy

Canada's economy is made up of many different industries. There are three main types of industries in Canada: natural resources, manufacturing and services.

#### Natural resource industries

include forestry, fishing, agriculture, mining and energy. These industries have played an important part in the country's history and development. Today, the economy of many areas of the country still depends on developing natural resources.

**Manufacturing industries** make products to sell in Canada and around the world. Manufactured products include paper, technological equipment, automobiles, food, clothing and many other goods. Our largest international trading partner is the United States.

**Service industries** provide thousands of different jobs in areas like transportation, education, health care, construction, banking, communications and government. More than 70 percent of working Canadians now have jobs in service industries.

### Canada from coast to coast

Canada is a very large country with an area of 10 million square kilometres, but it has a fairly small population. About 31 million people live here. Most Canadians live in the southern parts of Canada.

### Provinces and territories

Canada has 10 provinces and three territories. Each province and territory has its own capital city. You should know the capital of Canada, as well as the capital of your province or territory. (See map of Canada on pages 16 and 17.)





# Protecting the Environment— Sustainable Development

## Key Words

Compost

Recycle

Plant trees

Environmentally  
friendly

*Economic growth is crucial for the future prosperity of Canada, but growth must be managed carefully so that it does not harm the environment. The Canadian government is committed to the goal of sustainable development, which means economic growth that is environmentally sound.*

A healthy environment is important to quality of life. All citizens should act in a responsible manner toward the environment so that our children have the opportunity to live in a country that is clean and prosperous.

All Canadian citizens have a responsibility to contribute to the social, economic and environmental well-being of our country. Both individual and collective action will help achieve progress toward the goal of sustainable development.

It takes time to learn about the environment and how to protect it. However, if we don't pay attention to environmental issues, our environment will suffer.

Achieving sustainable development is a long-term goal. Reaching it will require many changes in the way people act. Individuals can do many things in their daily lives to help protect the environment and move toward sustainable development. Here are some examples:

- Throw waste paper or other garbage in designated public garbage containers.
- Compost, recycle and re-use as many products as possible, such as paper, glass and cans.
- Conserve energy and water by turning off lights and taps when they are not being used.
- Walk, join a car pool, or use a bicycle or public transit whenever possible.



- Use products that are environmentally friendly.
- Plant trees and grow a garden. Avoid using chemicals.
- Get involved with a local group to protect our natural and cultural heritage.

Good environmental citizenship means making sure that groups and individuals have the information they need and understand how to use it to take responsible environmental action. We are accountable for our environment. We must protect it. This way, we take responsibility for the quality of our lives and the lives of future generations.





# Canada's History and Symbols

## Key Words

### Confederation

**Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms**

**British North America Act**

**Governor General**

**Constitution**

**Head of State**



The beaver is one of the symbols of Canada. It appears on the five-cent coin.

## Confederation

On July 1, 1867, the provinces we now know as **Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick** and **Nova Scotia** joined together to create the new country of Canada. This is known as Confederation. Confederation was made official by the *British North America Act* of 1867.

As time passed, other provinces and territories joined Confederation and became part of Canada.

## Dates when provinces and territories joined Confederation

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| <b>1867</b> | Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick |
| <b>1870</b> | Manitoba, Northwest Territories             |
| <b>1871</b> | British Columbia                            |
| <b>1873</b> | Prince Edward Island                        |
| <b>1898</b> | Yukon Territory                             |
| <b>1905</b> | Alberta, Saskatchewan                       |
| <b>1949</b> | Newfoundland                                |
| <b>1999</b> | Nunavut                                     |

When did your province or territory join Confederation?

## The maple leaf

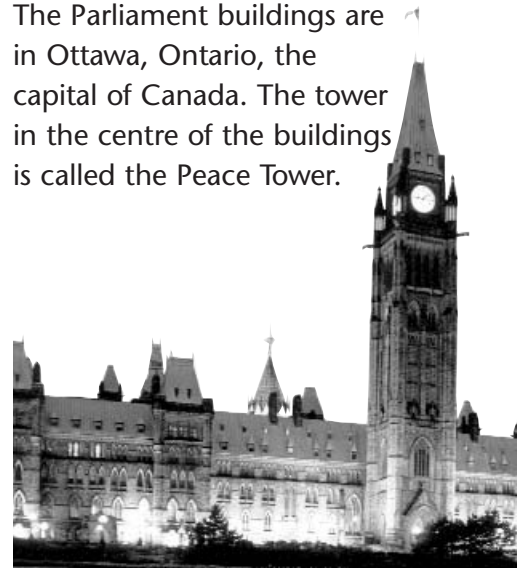


The maple leaf is a popular symbol of Canada. It was used as a symbol of Canada as early as 1700. It is on the penny, our one-cent coin, where its design has hardly changed since 1937.

Since February 15, 1965, a red maple leaf has been on the national flag of Canada. It has become our most prominent symbol.

## The Parliament buildings

The Parliament buildings are in Ottawa, Ontario, the capital of Canada. The tower in the centre of the buildings is called the Peace Tower.



## Canada's first Prime Minister

In 1867, Sir John A. Macdonald became the first Prime Minister of Canada. His picture is on the ten-dollar bill.



## Canada's Constitution

Canada's Constitution is the system of laws and conventions that we Canadians use to govern ourselves. Until 1982, changes to the Constitution had to be approved by the British Parliament. The *Constitution Act, 1982* gave the Parliament of Canada the power to change our Constitution. The *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* also became part of the Canadian Constitution in 1982.

## Canada Day

Each year on July 1, we celebrate Canada Day, the anniversary of Confederation.

## The Queen



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is the Queen of Canada and Canada's Head of State. This means that the Queen is the formal head of Canada.

**The Governor General is the Queen's representative in Canada.** The provinces also have representatives of the Queen, known as lieutenant governors.

## Where does the name Canada come from?

In 1535, two Aboriginal youths used the Huron-Iroquois word "kanata," which means "village" or "settlement," to tell Jacques Cartier the way to Stadacona (site of present-day Québec City). Cartier used "Canada" to refer not only to Stadacona, but also to the entire area subject to Donnacona, Chief at Stadacona.

By 1547, the first world map to show the discoveries made on Cartier's second voyage applied the word "Canada" to the area north of the St. Lawrence gulf and river. By 1550, maps were also placing the name south of the river. The first use of "Canada" as an official name came in 1791 when the *Constitutional Act (or Canada Act)* divided Quebec, then considerably larger, into the provinces of Upper Canada and Lower Canada. In 1841, they were united to become the Province of Canada. At the time of Confederation, the new country took the name of Canada.



*In 1965, Canada adopted its official red and white flag with the maple leaf. All federal government buildings fly the Canadian flag.*

## Canada's national anthem

### O Canada

O Canada! Our home  
and native land!

True patriot love in all  
thy sons command

With glowing hearts we  
see thee rise

The true North strong  
and free!

From far and wide,  
O Canada

We stand on guard  
for thee

God keep our land  
glorious and free!

O Canada, we stand on  
guard for thee

O Canada, we stand on  
guard for thee



# Aboriginal Peoples of Canada

## Key Words

Inuit

Métis

First Nations

Land claim settlements

Self-government

*The Aboriginal peoples were the first people to live in Canada. They had many different spiritual beliefs and cultural traditions that have been passed down from generation to generation. Today, they live in every region of the country.*

Aboriginal peoples developed a special relationship with nature, since they depended on it for survival. Those who lived on Canada's coasts depended on fishing and hunting. Those who lived in central and eastern Canada hunted and grew vegetable crops.

The *Constitution Act* of 1982 recognizes three main groups of Aboriginal peoples in Canada: the First Nations, the Inuit and the Métis. Today, there are more than 50 different languages spoken by Aboriginal peoples, most of which are spoken only in Canada.

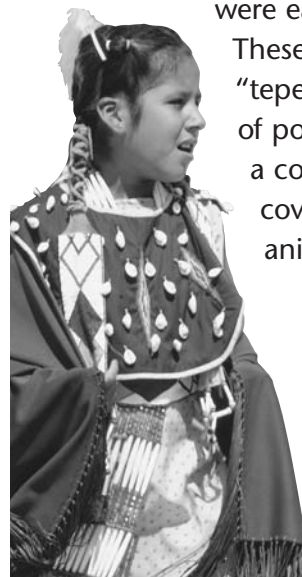
The Aboriginal population is growing almost twice as fast as the rest of the population in Canada. Aboriginal peoples make up about three percent of all Canadians, or roughly 790,000 people. About 69 percent are First Nations, 26 percent are Métis and five percent are Inuit.

## First Nations

The term "First Nations" has been used since the 1970s instead of "Indian." First Nations describes all Aboriginal people in Canada who are not Inuit or Métis. Different First Nations communities have different languages, cultures and traditions, depending largely on where they are located.

First Nations people living in eastern North America invented bark canoes to travel on rivers and lakes. Some First Nations people lived on the plains, and moved with the buffalo herds, which they hunted for food, clothing and tools. They made lightweight, solid homes that were easy to move.

These homes, called "tepees," were made of poles arranged in a cone shape and covered with animal skins.



## Inuit

Inuit are Aboriginal people who live in Canada's North, which includes Nunavut, the Northwest Territories, Northern Quebec and Labrador. They have a close connection with the land and all the plants and animals that share it. They adjusted to the cold northern weather and lived by hunting seals, whales, caribou and polar bears. Some Inuit people still hunt for food and clothing.



## Métis

Many early French fur traders and some English traders married First Nations women. Their descendants are called the Métis people. The Métis, who developed their own distinct culture on the Prairies, played an important role in the fur trade.

Today, the majority of Métis people live in the western regions of Canada.

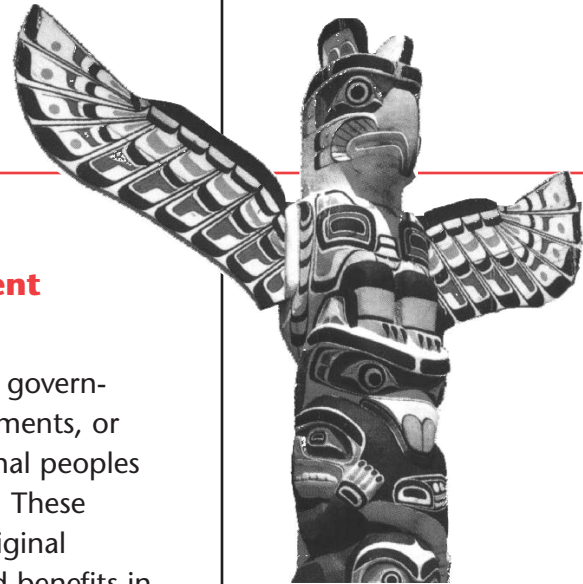
## Treaties—past, present and future

The British and Canadian governments made many agreements, or treaties, with the Aboriginal peoples between 1701 and 1923. These treaties granted the Aboriginal peoples certain rights and benefits in exchange for giving up their title to the land. Each treaty is unique and is seen as a solemn promise.

Aboriginal groups and the Canadian government are still negotiating new agreements for land and other rights. These modern agreements are known as land claim settlements. Nunavut, Canada's newest territory, was created as a result of a land claim settlement.

The Canadian government continues to negotiate with Aboriginal peoples so that they can regain control over decisions that affect them and manage their own affairs. This is known as self-government. Canada is also working with them to improve their economic situation and general quality of life.

Aboriginal peoples have unique histories, cultures and languages. They continue to play an active role in Canadian society.





# Map of Canada

Three oceans line Canada's borders: the **Pacific Ocean** on the west, the **Atlantic Ocean** on the east, and the **Arctic Ocean** to the north.

## The regions of Canada

Canada is a country of 10 million square kilometres. It includes many different geographical areas and five distinct regions:

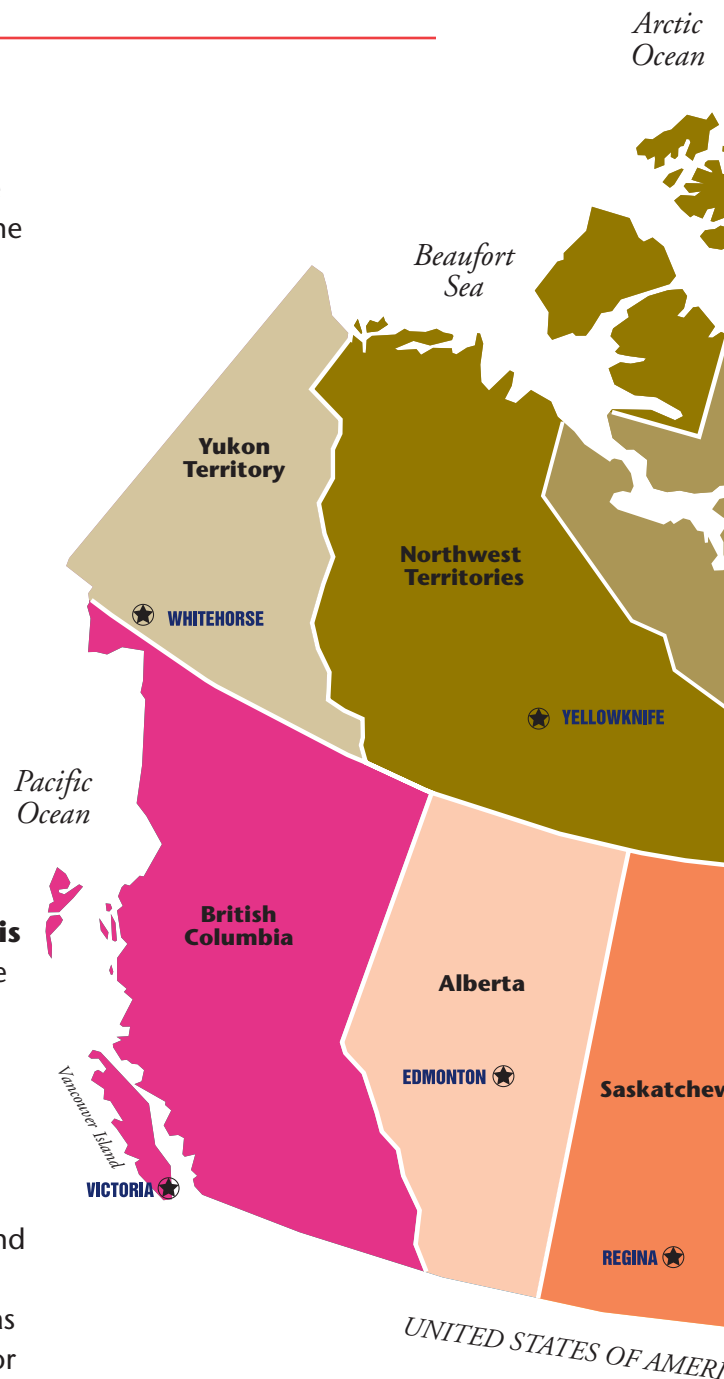
- the Atlantic Region;
- Central Canada;
- the Prairie Provinces;
- the West Coast; and
- the North.

## The national capital

**The national capital of Canada is Ottawa, Ontario.** This is where the federal government and the Parliament buildings are located.

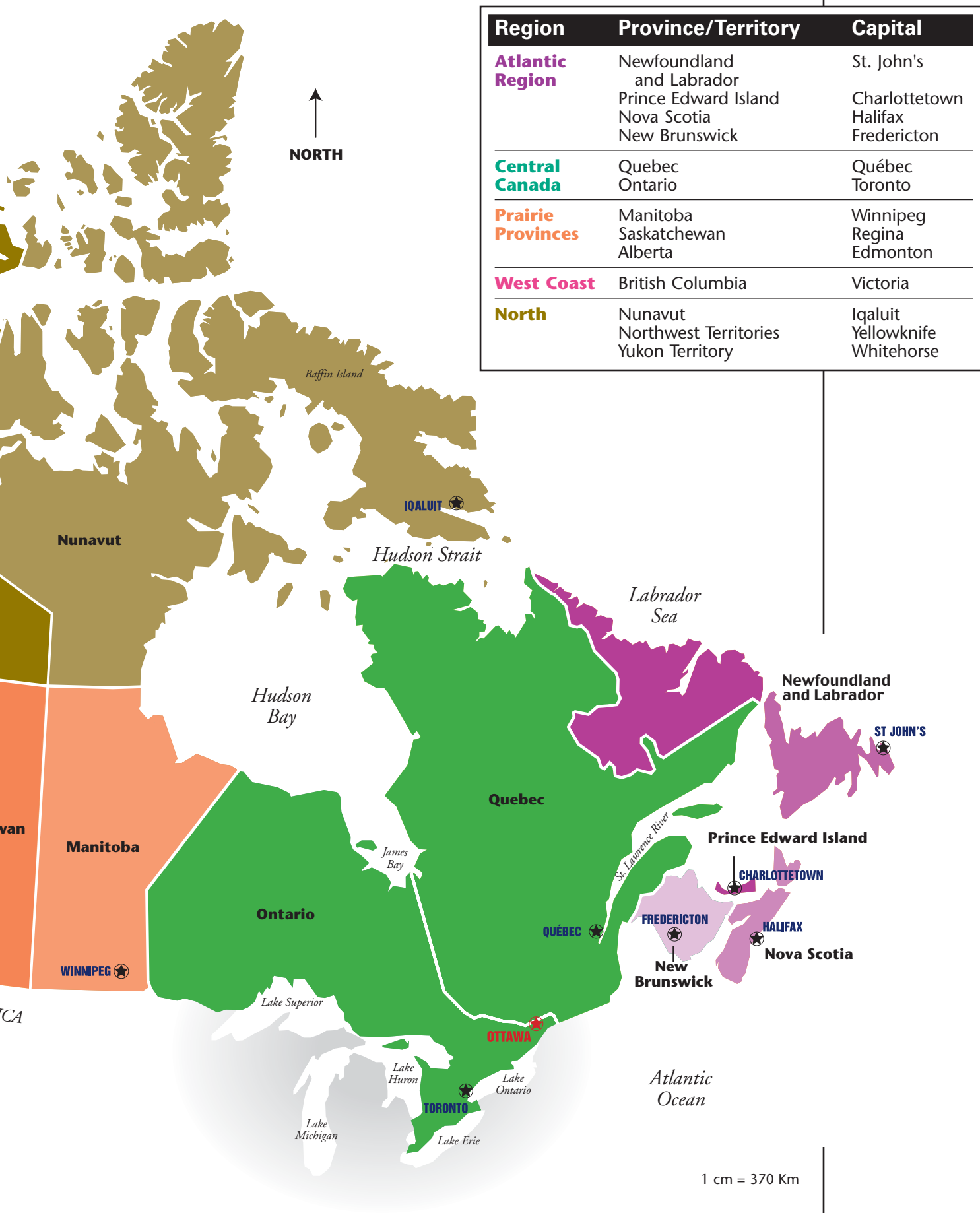
## Provinces and territories

**Canada has 10 provinces and three territories.** Each province and territory has its own capital city. You should know the capital of Canada as well as the capital of your province or territory.



## Population

Canada has a fairly small population. About 31 million people live here. Most Canadians live in the southern parts of Canada.







# The Atlantic Region

## Key Words

**Nova Scotia**

**New Brunswick**

**Newfoundland  
and Labrador**

**Prince Edward  
Island**

**Acadians**

**United Empire  
Loyalists**

**Hibernia**

*Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Prince Edward Island are Canada's Atlantic provinces. Early European explorers first came to this part of Canada to fish and trade with Aboriginal peoples. Later, settlers built strong communities that thrived on farming, fishing and shipbuilding. The region's coasts and natural resources have made the Atlantic provinces an important part of Canada's history and development.*

### **The people**

Italian explorer John Cabot reached Newfoundland in 1497, while French explorer Jacques Cartier explored the region in the 1500s. In the 1600s, French settlers, who became known as Acadians, were the first Europeans to settle permanently in Canada. Over time, they were joined by settlers from the British Isles and Germany.

During and after the American Revolution (1775–1783), thousands of people left the United States. They became known as United Empire Loyalists. Many of them settled in the Atlantic region. They had various ethnic backgrounds, including English, Irish, Scottish, German, Swiss, Dutch, Italian, Jewish and African-American. Today, people of many different cultures and ethnic backgrounds live in the Atlantic region. Many are descendants of the earliest arrivals.

New Brunswick is the only officially bilingual province in Canada. About one-third of the population lives and works in French.

### **The economy**

Atlantic Canada's economy has traditionally relied on a strong resource sector, including fishing, farming, forestry and mining. The economy has grown and diversified in recent years. This has led to the development of other sectors, including information technology, professional services, advanced manufacturing, aquaculture, and oil and gas exploration. Trade has also increased.



Potatoes and fruit from Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are sold across Canada and to other countries. The food processing industry is another important sector of the economy.

New Brunswick and Nova Scotia have extensive forests that allow them to produce valuable products like pulp, paper and lumber. Forest products are the most valuable manufacturing industry in New Brunswick. Many of these products are exported to other countries.

Newfoundland and Labrador, traditionally dependent on the fishing industry, is developing other natural resources such as oil, nickel, copper and cobalt. Hibernia, off the coast of Newfoundland and Labrador, is the fifth largest oil field in Canada. Manufacturing and other industries continue to grow.

The service industry is also very important to the Atlantic economy. As in the rest of Canada, more people work in banking, government, and financial and personal services than in traditional resource industries.

The Gulf of the St. Lawrence River and the Atlantic Ocean are important tourist attractions in the region. Thousands of tourists visit the Atlantic provinces each year for the spectacular scenery, natural coastlines, warm beaches and world-class golf courses. About 85,000 Atlantic Canadians work in the tourism industry.

#### Population (approximate)

|                           |           |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 534,000   |
| Nova Scotia               | 943,000   |
| Prince Edward Island      | 139,000   |
| New Brunswick             | 757,000   |
| Atlantic Provinces        | 2,373,000 |



*Lobster traps*



# Central Canada

## Key Words

**Ontario**

**Quebec**

**St. Lawrence Seaway**

**Canadian Shield**

**Niagara Falls**



*Central Canada is made up of Ontario and Quebec. More than half the people in Canada live in cities and towns in southern Quebec and Ontario, close to the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River. This area is the industrial and manufacturing heartland of Canada. Together, Ontario and Quebec produce more than three-quarters of all Canadian manufactured goods.*

### **The Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence Seaway**

There are five Great Lakes between Canada and the United States. They are Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, Lake Huron, Lake Michigan and Lake Superior. Lake Superior is the largest freshwater lake in the world. The Great Lakes have been an important waterway for thousands of years. Aboriginal peoples and fur traders first used them to create trading networks in North America. Ships from all over the world reach the Great Lakes from the Atlantic Ocean by travelling along the St. Lawrence Seaway. The Great Lakes also provide freshwater for people and industries around their shores.

### **The Canadian Shield**

The land in northern Quebec and Ontario is part of the Canadian Shield, a rock formation that is millions of years old. Canada is one of the world's leading producers of minerals because of the rich deposits of gold, silver, nickel, zinc, copper and

iron ore found in the ancient rock of the Shield. The Shield is covered by forests, and part of Canada's major pulp and paper industry relies on the trees of this region. Some of the vast freshwater resources of the Shield are used to generate electricity.

### **The Province of Quebec**

#### ***The people***

The first people to live in Quebec were the First Nations people and the Inuit. The Aboriginal peoples who lived near the St. Lawrence River were fur traders who taught the early settlers how to survive. There are still many Aboriginal communities throughout Quebec today.

Settlers from France first established communities along the St. Lawrence River in the early 1600s. Today, Quebec society reflects this heritage. More than three-quarters of the Canadians who live in Quebec speak French as their first language. Over one-third of the population in Quebec speak both French and English,

making it the province with the highest number of bilingual Canadians. The province preserves and promotes the historic language and culture of its French-speaking citizens.

About seven million people live in Quebec. It is Canada's largest province.

### ***The economy***

Quebec is highly industrialized and its economy is quite diverse. The Montréal region has been an important financial, service and industrial centre since Confederation. Workers produce fabric, clothing, food, paper, metal, and chemical and wood products. Montréal is the main commercial centre of Quebec, and has developed competitive industries in space and aeronautics, energy and pharmaceuticals. It is also the centre of a vast transportation network.

The resources of the Canadian Shield have helped Quebec develop important industries, including forestry, energy and mining. Quebec is Canada's main producer of pulp and paper and a major producer of minerals such as asbestos, gold, copper, silver and iron ore. The province's huge supply of freshwater has allowed it to become Canada's largest producer of hydroelectricity.

There are many farms around the lowland areas of the St. Lawrence, where vegetables, fruit and feed crops are grown. Dairy farms are common. Quebec has the largest dairy farming industry in Canada.

Quebec's provincial parks, the Laurentian Mountains and its many historic sites play an important role in its tourism industry.

## **The Province of Ontario**

### ***The people***

Ontario is the Canadian province with the largest population. Over 11 million people, or roughly one third of Canada's population, live in Ontario. Most people in Ontario speak English, but the province also has the largest French-speaking population outside of Quebec.

The Algonquin and Iroquois First Nations were the earliest people to live in the area now known as Ontario. By the late 1700s, the population began to grow rapidly. The arrival of thousands of United Empire Loyalists was followed by waves of other newcomers from the United States and Britain. Newcomers from all over the world continue to settle in Ontario.



*Street in the old town.  
Quebec City, Quebec*



*St. Joseph's Oratory,  
Montréal, Quebec.*





*The province's numerous rivers are a vital source of electric power. In Ontario, Niagara Falls is a well-known example of waterpower that generates electricity.*

### **The economy**

Throughout Canada's history, the large population, rich resources and strategic location of Ontario have helped the province build Canada's biggest provincial economy. Most people in Ontario work in the service or manufacturing industries.

More than 140,000 people work in the province's automobile industry, which accounts for more than one third of Canada's total exports. Other manufactured goods include steel, machinery, metal, plastic and chemical products, and food.

Ontario mines are the biggest producers of metal in Canada. These metals include nickel, gold, silver, platinum, uranium, zinc and copper. Ontario's forestry industry produces

pulp, lumber, newsprint and other paper products. The province's numerous rivers are a vital source of electric power. In Ontario, Niagara Falls is a well-known example of waterpower that generates electricity.

More than 400,000 Ontario workers depend on tourism, the province's third largest industry.

Southern Ontario has rich farmland. The Niagara Peninsula is a major producer of peaches, apples, grapes and other fruit

crops. Ontario farmers also raise dairy and beef cattle, poultry, and vegetable and grain crops.



### **Population (approximate)**

|                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| Quebec         | 7.4 million  |
| Ontario        | 11.9 million |
| Central Canada | 19.2 million |

*Toronto, Canada's largest city, is one of the most multicultural cities in the world. It is also the capital of Ontario.*



# The Prairie Provinces



*Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta are called the Prairie provinces. This region of Canada is known for its fertile agricultural land and valuable energy resources.*

## The Prairies

The Prairies are flat plains that stretch across the southern part of the region. This area has few trees and very fertile soil. Most of what was open grasslands is now used for farming, particularly grain crops, and for raising cattle.

The Prairie region, however, is not all flat farmland. The northern and western parts of the region include gently rolling hills, valleys and rivers. In southern Alberta, the open prairies gradually rise to meet the Rocky Mountains along the border of British Columbia.

## The people

The First Nations people, the earliest inhabitants of the Prairies, were skilled buffalo hunters. Their descendants and the Métis people became important suppliers, traders, guides and interpreters for the fur trade.

French-speaking people have lived in the Prairie provinces since the early days of the fur trade. Descendants of these early settlers still live in the Prairie region.

During the late 1800s, the Canadian government built a railway across the Prairies to the Pacific coast. This made immigration to western Canada much easier. In the early 1900s, about three million people came to the Prairies from Europe and Britain. Many settled on land that the government offered at cheap prices to encourage settlement in the West.

## The economy

The Prairies are rich in energy resources. About one-half of all the energy used in Canada comes from oil and natural gas. Alberta is the country's major producer of these fuels. Alberta also has an important coal mining industry. Saskatchewan is a large producer of oil, natural gas, uranium and potash. Manitoba, known as the Land of 100,000 Lakes, is the most important source of hydroelectric power in the Prairie region.

The majority of people in the Prairie provinces work in service industries. This includes business and financial services, transportation, tourism, the retail industry, and health and education.

## Key Words

**Manitoba**

**Saskatchewan**

**Alberta**



*Traditionally dressed Aboriginal youth at Calgary Stampede.*



The Prairies have some of the most fertile farmland in the world. Prairie farmers and ranchers produce grains (such as wheat, barley or oats), meat and other food products for markets in Canada and other countries. In Manitoba, the agricultural industry benefits from heavy rainfall and farmers produce a wide variety of grain crops and livestock. Saskatchewan, the leading wheat producer in Canada, is one of the most productive agricultural regions in the world. Alberta leads the country in beef cattle and feed grain production.

Manitoba's manufacturing industries produce a variety of goods, including food, transportation equipment, metal products, electrical goods and clothing. The manufacturing, mining and forestry sectors play an important role in Saskatchewan's economy. Food and beverage processing is the largest manufacturing industry in Alberta.

#### Population (approximate)

|                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Manitoba          | 1.2 million |
| Saskatchewan      | 1 million   |
| Alberta           | 3 million   |
| Prairie Provinces | 5.2 million |



*Stampede  
Morris, Manitoba*

# The West Coast



*British Columbia, on the Pacific Ocean, is known for its majestic mountains. There are three major mountain ranges in the province: the Rocky Mountains, the Columbia Mountains and the Coast Mountains.*

## **The people**

First Nations people lived in British Columbia for thousands of years before European settlers arrived. Their cultures and languages were influenced by the wide range of geography in British Columbia, from seashore to mountains. They developed a unique form of art, best known as totem poles. Their art is popular around the world. It often represents animals, including salmon, bears, whales, ravens and eagles.



British Columbia was settled by Europeans when the fur trade spread to the west in the early 1800s. In the late 1800s, thousands of Chinese came to British Columbia to help build the final section of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Many of their descendants still live in the province. Many people come to live in British Columbia from Asia. Today, about one-third of the population of the Lower British Columbia Mainland is of Chinese origin. The total population of British Columbia is about four million people.

## **The economy**

British Columbia's rich natural resources have always been important to the economy. The province has the most valuable forestry industry in Canada. About one-half of all the goods produced in British Columbia are forestry products, including lumber, newsprint, and pulp and paper products. Mining is also an important industry.

Tourism is the second largest industry in British Columbia. The natural beauty of the West Coast and the

## **Key Words**

**Rocky Mountains**

**Totem poles**

**Forests**

**Shipping**



*Cherries, Okanagan Valley, British Columbia.*

Rocky Mountains bring thousands of tourists to the province to fish, hike, camp and ski in the mountains.

Steady rainfall and steep mountain slopes in the province create ideal conditions for generating electricity. British Columbia is Canada's second largest producer of hydroelectric power.

Fishing is also a valuable industry on the West Coast, but it is going through a major restructuring because of a downturn in the salmon fishery. The Okanagan Valley, which is located between the mountain ranges in the central area of the province, is famous for its fruit orchards and its wine industry.



#### **Population (approximate)**

|                         |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| <b>British Columbia</b> | 4.1 million |
|-------------------------|-------------|



*Vancouver is the third largest city in Canada, and has North America's second largest Chinese community. It provides important shipping and air links between Canada and other countries across the Pacific Ocean, such as China and Japan.*

# The North



*Canada's northern region is divided into the Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Together, they cover more than one-third of Canada. The Canadian government is responsible for the territories but elected legislatures make decisions on most issues. The people in the Northwest Territories voted to make the eastern region into a new, separate territory called Nunavut. It came into existence on April 1, 1999.*

## **The people**

Aboriginal people have lived in the North for thousands of years and have developed a special relationship with the land. They use their skills as hunters, fishers and trappers to survive in the harsh northern climate.

The Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut make up more than one-third of Canada's land mass, but only about 100,000 people live there.



Aboriginal people make up about half the population in the North. The territorial governments have also given legal recognition to several Aboriginal languages.

Land claim settlements and self-government agreements have played a major role in the development of the North in recent years. Through these agreements, First Nations people have gained greater control over their land and decisions that affect them.

## **The economy**

Europeans first came to the North in the late 1600s because of the fur trade. The Hudson's Bay Company controlled the northern lands and fur trade for 300 years. Some northern people, including many Aboriginal peoples, still earn money and obtain food through hunting, fishing and trapping.

## **Key Words**

**Northwest Territories**

**Nunavut**

**Yukon**

**Gold Rush**

**"Land of the Midnight Sun"**





Mining, oil and gas are very important to the northern economy. Thousands of miners first came to the Yukon during the Gold Rush at the end of the 1800s. There are gold, lead, diamond and zinc mines in the territories today. Oil and gas deposits are being developed and people continue to explore for more of these valuable resources.

Inuit prints and soapstone carvings are sold throughout Canada and around the world. In the Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, many Aboriginal people work in cooperative businesses to produce Aboriginal arts and crafts. Tourism is also a growing industry.

Economic development in the North is welcome, but it must be carefully managed so it does not threaten the fragile Arctic ecosystem and the traditional lifestyles of the northern people.

### ***The climate***

The North is sometimes called the “Land of the Midnight Sun.” At the height of summer, daylight can last up to 24 hours. In winter, the sun disappears, and darkness sets in for three months. Winters in the North are long and cold. During the brief summers, the land blossoms.

The Yukon holds the record for the coldest temperature ever recorded in Canada (-63°C). Most of the North is made up of tundra, the vast rocky Arctic plain. Because of the cold Arctic climate, there are no trees on the tundra, and the soil is permanently frozen.

| <b>Population (approximate)</b> |        |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| Nunavut                         | 28,000 |
| Northwest Territories           | 41,000 |
| Yukon Territory                 | 30,000 |
| The North                       | 99,000 |



*Building a log cabin,  
Yukon Territory.*

# Government in Canada



*There are federal, provincial, territorial and municipal (or local) levels of government in Canada. The responsibilities of the federal and provincial governments were first defined in 1867 in the British North America Act.*

In general, the federal government takes major responsibility for matters that affect all of Canada. These include national defence, foreign policy and citizenship. Provincial and territorial governments look after such matters as education, health care and highways. They share responsibilities with the federal government in some areas.

The municipal (or local) governments of each city or community are responsible for matters such as firefighting, snow removal and recycling programs. Canadian citizens can vote in elections for all levels of government.

## The Parliament of Canada

**Canada is a democracy.** It has a system of **parliamentary government.** Parliament has three parts: the Queen, the House of Commons and the Senate.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is our Head of State. The Governor General of Canada is the Queen's representative in Canada.

Canadians elect representatives, called members of Parliament (or MPs), to sit in the House of Commons. The

people who serve in the Senate are chosen by the Prime Minister and appointed by the Governor General. They are called senators. The Prime Minister is the leader of the political party with the most elected members of Parliament sitting in the House of Commons.

## Making laws

When the government proposes a new law to Parliament, it is called a bill. MPs and senators have several opportunities to debate each new bill in the House of Commons and the Senate. Then the MPs and senators vote on the bill. To become law, a bill must be approved by majorities in both the House of Commons and the Senate. Once a majority of MPs and senators have approved a bill, the Governor General gives final approval and the bill becomes law.



**The Queen**  
(represented by the Governor General)

### The House of Commons

(members of Parliament, elected by voters)

### The Senate

(senators, appointed)



# Other Levels of Government in Canada

*Each provincial and territorial government has an elected legislature where provincial and territorial laws are passed. The members of the legislature are called members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs), members of the National Assembly (MNAs), members of the Provincial Parliament (MPPs) or members of the House of Assembly (MHAs), depending on the province or territory.*

Municipal governments usually have a council that passes laws. These laws are called by-laws, and affect only the local community. The council includes a mayor and other elected representatives, often called councillors.

Provincial, territorial and municipal elections are held by secret ballot, but the rules are not the same as those for federal elections. It is important to find out the rules for voting in provincial, territorial and local elections so that you can exercise your right to vote.

| Levels of Government       | Elected Officials   | Some Responsibilities   |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| Federal                    | Members of Parliament (MPs)   | National Defence<br>Foreign Policy<br>Citizenship<br>Policing |
| Provincial and Territorial | Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLA)<br>or<br>Members of the National Assembly (MNA)<br>or<br>Members of the Provincial Parliament (MPP)<br>or<br>Members of the House of Assembly (MHA) | Education<br>Health Care<br>Highways<br>Policing              |
| Municipal (local)          | Mayor<br>Councillors  | Policing<br>Firefighting<br>Snow Removal                      |

# Do You Know Your Elected Representatives?



## Federal Government

Head of State: the representative of the Queen for all Canada is the Governor General: \_\_\_\_\_

Head of government in power: the Prime Minister is \_\_\_\_\_

The party in power is \_\_\_\_\_

The leader of the opposition is \_\_\_\_\_

The official opposition is \_\_\_\_\_

The other opposition parties and leaders are \_\_\_\_\_

My member of Parliament (MP) in Ottawa is \_\_\_\_\_

My federal electoral district is \_\_\_\_\_

## Provincial Government

Head of State: the representative of the Queen for my province is the Lieutenant Governor: \_\_\_\_\_

Head of the government: the Premier is \_\_\_\_\_

The provincial party in power is \_\_\_\_\_

The provincial opposition parties and leaders are \_\_\_\_\_

My provincial representative is \_\_\_\_\_

## Territorial Government

Head of State: the Commissioner for my territory is \_\_\_\_\_

Head of the government: the Premier is \_\_\_\_\_

My territorial representative is \_\_\_\_\_

## Municipal Government

The name of the municipality where I live is \_\_\_\_\_

The head of the municipal government (mayor or reeve) is \_\_\_\_\_

**Use this page to list the names of your government representatives and other important information.**



# Federal Elections

## Key Words

Federal elections

Political parties

Voting

Electoral districts

Candidates

National Register of Electors

Voter information card

Ballot

Polling stations

*Canadians vote in elections for the people they want to represent them in the House of Commons. In each election, voters may re-elect the same members of the House of Commons or choose new ones.*

Federal elections are usually held every four years. The Prime Minister may ask the Governor General to call an earlier election. According to Canada's Constitution, an election must be held within five years of the last election.

Canada is divided into 308 electoral districts. An electoral district is a geographical area represented by a member of the House of Commons. The citizens of each electoral district elect one member of the House of Commons who sits in the House of Commons.

Canadian citizens who are at least 18 years old may run in a federal election. **The people who run for office are called candidates.** There can be many candidates in an electoral district.

The people in each electoral district vote for the candidate of their choice. The candidate who receives the most votes becomes the member of the House of Commons for that electoral district.

A member of the House of Commons represents everyone who lives in his or

her electoral district, even the people who did not vote for him or her. Your member of the House of Commons is your link to the federal government. Your member of the House of Commons helps you by

- representing your ideas when new laws are being proposed;
- asking questions about the federal government on your behalf; and
- helping you if you need information from the federal government or if you have any problems with the government.

It is easy to contact your member of the House of Commons. To find his or her name, look in the blue pages of the telephone book under "Government of Canada." Call the toll-free number under "Information on the Government of Canada." Give your address to the information officer who answers your call and he or she will give you the name and telephone number of your member of the House of Commons.

You can also find out about your member of the House of Commons



by calling Elections Canada toll-free at 1 800 463-6868, or if you have access to Internet, by visiting its Web site at [www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca).

Your member of the House of Commons has an office in your electoral district. You can also write to your member of the House of Commons by sending your letter to:

House of Commons  
Name of your member of  
the House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

You don't need to put a stamp on a letter you send to the House of Commons.

### **Political parties**

Most candidates in federal elections belong to a political party. A political party is a group of people who share ideas about how the government should work. Some political parties have been around for a long time, but Canadians can create new political parties at any time.

Members of political parties hold meetings where they discuss their ideas and opinions. They develop plans for what they would do if their candidates were elected to form the government. The plans they make are called the party platform.

Members of political parties help to

- decide on the party platform;
- choose the party leader;
- choose the party's candidates; and
- campaign for party candidates in elections.

Candidates who do not belong to a political party are called independents.

### **Voting**

One of the privileges and responsibilities of Canadian citizenship is the right to vote. Elections Canada is the non-partisan agency of Parliament responsible for conducting federal elections and referendums.

**You are eligible to vote in a federal election or cast a ballot in a federal referendum if you are**

- **a Canadian citizen; and**
- **at least 18 years old on voting day; and**
- **on the voters list.**

The voters lists used during federal elections and referendums are produced from the National Register of Electors, a permanent database of Canadian citizens 18 years of age and older, who are qualified to vote in federal elections and referendums.

**The right to vote is a privilege and a responsibility of Canadian citizenship.**

**Voters lists are produced from the National Register of Electors.**

**As soon as you are granted citizenship, you are eligible to vote. Make sure your name is on the National Register of Electors.**

**Once an election is called, you will receive a voter information card.**

**Your vote is secret.**

**For more information on voting, visit Elections Canada's Web site at [www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca)**

The National Register of Electors contains the name, address, sex and date of birth of each elector. Elections Canada updates the National Register of Electors through existing data sources, including Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

It is important to add your name to the National Register of Electors as soon as your citizenship is granted and you become eligible to vote.

When you apply for citizenship, you can check a box on the application form to show your consent to the transfer of your name, address, sex and date of birth to Elections Canada.

This information will only be sent to Elections Canada and added to the National Register of Electors if you check the box to show that you agree. The information can be used only for electoral purposes.

Eligible Canadians are also able to indicate their consent to being added to the National Register of Electors on their federal income tax form.

Once an election has been called, Elections Canada mails **a voter information card** to each elector whose name is in the National Register of Electors. The card tells you when and where to vote. If you require an interpreter or other special services, it tells you the number to call.

Even if you choose not to be listed in the National Register of Electors or do not receive a voter information card, you can still be added to the voters list right up to election day. For information on how to do this, call Elections Canada toll-free at 1 800 463-6868 or visit their Web site at [www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca).

To vote either on election day or at advance polls, go to the polling station listed on your voter information card. An election officer will give you a ballot. The ballot lists the names of the candidates in your electoral district in alphabetical order.

Mark the ballot by writing an "X" in the circle beside the name of your chosen candidate. Next, fold the ballot so that no one can see how you voted. Give the folded ballot to the election officer, who tears off the ballot number and hands your ballot back to you. Then, either put the ballot in the ballot box or ask the election officer to do it for you.

Canada's election laws say that your vote is secret. This means that no one can watch you vote and no one should look at your marked ballot. You may choose to discuss how you voted with others, but no one has the right to insist that you tell them how you voted.

Immediately after the polling stations close, election officers count the

ballots, and the results are announced on radio and television, and in the newspapers. You can also see the results on Elections Canada's Web site at [www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca).

### **After an election**

After an election, the party with the most elected representatives becomes the party in power. The leader of this party becomes the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister and the party in power run the government as long as they have the support of the majority of the members of the House of Commons.

The Prime Minister chooses members of the House of Commons to become Cabinet ministers. Cabinet ministers are responsible for running the federal government departments. The Prime Minister and the Cabinet ministers are called the Cabinet, and they make important decisions about how to run the country. They also propose most new laws. Their decisions can be questioned by all members of the House of Commons.

If a majority of the members of the House of Commons vote against a major government decision, the party in power is defeated. The Prime Minister resigns and a new election is usually held.

The parties that are not in power are called the opposition parties. The opposition party with the most members of the House of Commons is the official opposition. The role of the opposition parties is to oppose or try to improve government proposals.

### **About the citizenship test**

To pass the test, you must correctly answer all questions about the following topics

- the right to vote in elections in Canada;
- the right to run for elected office in Canada; and
- voting procedures and how to register yourself as a voter.

**Your member of the House of Commons has an office in your electoral district.**

**The party with the most elected representatives becomes the party in power.**

**The leader of this party becomes the Prime Minister.**


**The parties that are not in power are called the opposition parties.**

**The opposition party with the most members of the House of Commons is the official opposition.**




# Voting Procedures During an Election Period

**1**




**Voter information card**  
Electors whose information is in the National Register of Electors will receive a voter information card. This confirms that your name is on the voters list and tells you when and where to vote.

**2**



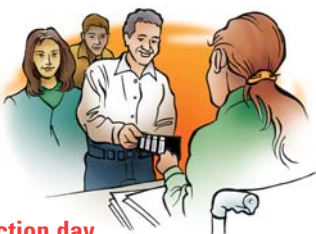
**I did not get a card**  
If you do not receive a voter information card, call your local elections office to make sure you are on the voters list. If you do not have the number, call Elections Canada, in Ottawa, at 1 800 463-6868.

**3**




**Advance poll and special ballot**  
If you cannot or do not wish to vote on election day, you can vote at the advance polls (the dates and location are on your voter information card) or by special ballot.

**4**




**On election day**  
Go to your polling station. The location is on your voter information card. The poll officials will confirm that you are on the voters list by asking for your name and address and will give you a ballot.

**5**




**Marking the ballot**  
Mark an "X" in the circle next to the name of the candidate of your choice.

**6**




**Voting is secret**  
Your vote is secret. You will be invited to go behind the screen to mark your ballot. Once marked, fold it and present it to the poll officials.

**7**



**The ballot box**  
The poll official will tear off the counterfoil and hand you back the ballot for you to deposit in the ballot box.

**8**



**The election results**  
When the polls close, every ballot is counted and the results are made public. You can see the results on television or on the Elections Canada Web site ([www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca)).

**1 800 463-6868    [www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca)**

# The Canadian Justice System



*The Canadian justice system guarantees everyone legal rights and equality. Everyone has equal access to the justice system.*

Canadian laws are the written rules intended to guide people in our society. They are made by elected government representatives. The police and the courts enforce the laws.

Canadians have rights and freedoms that are protected under the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* through the justice system. Some of the rights and freedoms protected by the justice system include:

- fundamental freedoms, such as freedom of religion, thought, belief, opinion and expression;
- legal rights, including the right to life, liberty and security of the person; and
- equality under the law. Every Canadian has an equal right to the protection and services of the police and the courts.

## Getting legal help

Lawyers can help you with legal problems and act for you in court. If you cannot pay for a lawyer, there are legal aid services available free of charge or at low cost in most communities.







# Citizenship Rights and Responsibilities

*All Canadians have certain rights and responsibilities. They are based on Canadian laws, traditions and shared values.*

## About the citizenship test

You will be asked questions about the rights and responsibilities of being a Canadian citizen.

As Canadians, our rights are defined in the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

Voting in elections is both a right and a responsibility.

Many of these rights are defined in the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, which is part of Canada's Constitution. The *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* legally protects the basic rights and freedoms of everyone in Canada. **Some of these rights and freedoms are**

- **democratic rights, such as the right to vote;**
- **legal rights, such as the right to a fair trial;**
- **equality rights, such as the right to protection against discrimination;**
- **mobility rights, such as the right to live and work anywhere in Canada;**
- **Aboriginal peoples' rights; and**
- **basic freedoms, such as freedom of thought, speech, religion and peaceful assembly.**

Some citizenship rights are defined in Canadian laws. One such right is the right to be given preference for jobs in the federal government.

Many of these rights and freedoms existed in earlier laws. However, with the creation of the Charter in 1982, they became better defined and better protected.

With these rights come responsibilities for everyone in Canada. Individual Canadians and all levels of Canadian government have the responsibility to respect the rights and freedoms of all Canadians. However, it is important to realize that the rights of a single Canadian or a group of Canadians cannot interfere with the rights of any other. For this reason, courts must interpret the Charter from time to time to make sure that it is applied fairly in all situations.



## **Citizenship rights**

**Under the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, Canadian citizens have the right to**

- **be candidates in federal, provincial and territorial elections;**
- **be educated in either official language;**
- **apply for a Canadian passport;**
- **vote in federal and provincial or territorial elections; and**
- **enter and leave Canada freely.**

Citizenship also brings responsibilities. For example, voting in elections is both a right and a responsibility. Before you read the next section, review the list of rights and try to think of the responsibilities that come with them.

## **Citizenship responsibilities**

**All Canadian citizens have the responsibility to**

- **vote in elections;**
- **help others in the community;**
- **care for and protect our heritage and environment;**
- **obey Canada's laws;**

- **express opinions freely while respecting the rights and freedoms of others; and**
- **eliminate discrimination and injustice.**

## **Getting involved in Canada**

Being a Canadian citizen is more than voting and obeying laws. Being a citizen also means getting involved in your community and your country. Everyone has something to give to make Canada a better place. Here are some ways to participate:

- join a community group such as an environmental group;
- volunteer to work on an election campaign for a candidate of your choice;
- help your neighbours;
- work with others to solve problems in your community; and
- become a candidate in an election.



## **Oath of Citizenship**

To become a Canadian citizen you will be required to repeat the Oath after the presiding officer.

### **Oath of Citizenship**

*I swear (or affirm) that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, Queen of Canada, Her Heirs and Successors, and that I will faithfully observe the laws of Canada and fulfil my duties as a Canadian citizen.*

### **Serment de citoyenneté**

*Je jure fidélité et sincère allégeance à Sa Majesté la Reine Elizabeth Deux, Reine du Canada, à ses héritiers et successeurs et je jure d'observer fidèlement les lois du Canada et de remplir loyalement mes obligations de citoyen canadien.*

### **Affirmation solennelle**

*J'affirme solennellement que je serai fidèle et porterai sincère allégeance à Sa Majesté la Reine Elizabeth Deux, Reine du Canada, à ses héritiers et successeurs, que j'observerai fidèlement les lois du Canada et que je remplirai loyalement mes obligations de citoyen canadien.*

# For More Information



## Canadian citizenship

Obtain a copy of the pamphlet *How to Become a Canadian Citizen* and other citizenship application information.

### By telephone

Call Centre Numbers

In Montréal (514) 496-1010  
In Toronto (416) 973-4444  
In Vancouver (604) 666-2171

For all other areas within Canada, call 1 888 242-2100 (toll-free).

**Note:** If you are calling from outside Canada, contact the Canadian embassy, high commission or consulate in your region.

### On-line

Visit the Citizenship and Immigration Web site at [www.cic.gc.ca](http://www.cic.gc.ca). *A Look at Canada* can be downloaded from this Web site.

### Citizenship classes

- Contact schools and colleges in your area.
- Go to your local library or community centre.
- Contact local settlement agencies or ethnocultural associations.

## Canada

Ask a librarian to help you find books and videotapes about Canada. You could begin by asking for these books:

- *The Canada Yearbook* (published by Statistics Canada)
- *Canada: A Portrait* (published by Statistics Canada)
- *How Canadians Govern Themselves* (written by Eugene Forsey, published by Public Works and Government Services Canada. It can also be found on-line at the Library of Parliament at [www.parl.gc.ca](http://www.parl.gc.ca))
- *The Canadian Encyclopedia* (published by McClelland & Stewart)
- *The Junior Encyclopedia of Canada* (published by Hurtig Publishers, distributed by McClelland & Stewart)
- *The Story of Canada* (written by Janet Lunn and Christopher Moore, published by Lester Publishing Ltd.)
- *Symbols of Nationhood* (published by Public Works and Government Services Canada)
- *Canada: A People's History* (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation). A variety of resources based on the CBC series that began airing in October 2000 are available. Ask the public library if they have the VHS videos, the DVDs, the CDs, or the books for adults and children.

## Federal programs and services

You can obtain information about Canada by telephone or on the Internet:

### Telephone:

1 800 0-Canada  
(1 800 622-6232)  
(toll-free)

TTY 1 800 465-7735  
(toll-free)

### Internet:

The Government of Canada Web site contains information about all government programs and services. It can be found at [www.canada.gc.ca](http://www.canada.gc.ca)



# Citizenship Test: Questions

The questions in the citizenship test are based on information provided in this booklet. The test includes questions about

- the right to vote in elections in Canada;
- the right to run for elected office;
- voting procedures in Canada and how to register yourself as a voter;
- Canada's main historical and geographical features;
- the rights and responsibilities of a citizen;
- the structure of Canadian government; and
- Confederation.

You should also be ready to answer more specific questions about your region's economy, geography and history. Use the questions below to prepare for your test. All the answers to the questions in Section I can be found in this booklet.

Section II contains questions about your region. You will have to find the answers to these questions yourself.

## **Section I: Questions about Canada**

### ***Aboriginal Peoples***

1. Who are the Aboriginal peoples of Canada?
2. What are the three main groups of Aboriginal peoples?
3. From whom are the Métis descended?
4. Which group of Aboriginal peoples make up more than half the population of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut?
5. Why are the Aboriginal peoples of Canada working toward self-government?

### ***History (answers can be found in the sections on regions of Canada)***

1. Where did the first European settlers in Canada come from?
2. Why did the early explorers first come to Atlantic Canada?
3. What three industries helped the early settlers build communities in the Atlantic region?
4. Who were the United Empire Loyalists?
5. When did settlers from France first establish communities on the St. Lawrence River?





6. Which trade spread across Canada, making it important to the economy for over 300 years?
7. What form of transportation did Aboriginal peoples and fur traders use to create trading networks in North America?
8. What important trade did the Hudson's Bay Company control?
9. What did the government do to make immigration to western Canada much easier?

### **Confederation/Government**

1. What does Confederation mean?
2. What is the Canadian Constitution?
3. What year was Confederation?
4. When did the *British North America Act* come into effect?
5. Why is the *British North America Act* important in Canadian history?
6. Which four provinces first formed Confederation?
7. Which was the last province to join Canada?
8. When is Canada Day and what does it celebrate?
9. Who was the first Prime Minister of Canada?
10. Why is the *Constitution Act, 1982* important in Canadian history?

### **Rights and Responsibilities**

1. What part of the Constitution legally protects the basic rights and freedoms of all Canadians?
2. When did the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* become part of the Canadian Constitution?
3. Name two fundamental freedoms protected by the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.
4. Name three legal rights protected by the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.
5. List three ways in which you can protect the environment.
6. Who has the right to apply for a Canadian passport?
7. What does equality under the law mean?
8. Name six responsibilities of citizenship.
9. Give an example of how you can show responsibility by participating in your community.
10. List four rights Canadian citizens have.
11. What will you promise when you take the Oath of Citizenship?



### **Languages**

1. What are the two official languages of Canada?
2. Give an example of where English and French have equal status in Canada.
3. Where do most French-speaking Canadians live?
4. Which province has the most bilingual Canadians?
5. Which province is the only officially bilingual province?

### **Symbols**

1. What does the Canadian flag look like?
2. What song is Canada's national anthem?
3. Give the first two lines of Canada's national anthem.
4. Where does the name "Canada" come from?
5. Which animal is an official symbol of Canada?
6. What is the tower in the centre of the Parliament buildings called?

### **Geography**

1. What is the population of Canada?
2. What three oceans border on Canada?
3. What is the capital city of Canada?
4. Name all the provinces and territories and their capital cities.
5. Name the five regions of Canada.
6. Which region covers more than one-third of Canada?
7. In which region do more than half the people in Canada live?
8. One-third of all Canadians live in which province?
9. Where are the Canadian Rockies?
10. Where are the Great Lakes?
11. Which mountain range is on the border between Alberta and British Columbia?
12. Where are the Parliament buildings located?
13. Which country borders Canada on the south?
14. What are the Prairie provinces?
15. Which province in Canada is the smallest in land size?
16. What is a major river in Quebec?
17. On what date did Nunavut become a territory?



### ***Economy***

1. What are the three main types of industries in Canada?
2. In what industry do most Canadians work?
3. What country is Canada's largest trading partner?
4. Which region is known as the industrial and manufacturing heartland of Canada?
5. Which region of Canada is known for both its fertile agricultural land and valuable energy resources?
10. Who do members of Parliament represent?
11. How does a bill become law?
12. What are the three levels of government in Canada?
13. Name two responsibilities for each level of government.
14. What is the government of all of Canada called?

### ***Federal Government***

1. Who is Canada's Head of State?
2. Who is the Queen's representative in Canada?
3. What is the name of the Governor General?
4. What do you call the Queen's representative in the provinces?
5. What is Canada's system of government called?
6. What are the three parts of Parliament?
7. Explain how the levels of government are different.
8. What do you call a law before it is passed?
9. How are members of Parliament chosen?
4. What three requirements must you meet in order to vote in a federal election?
5. What is written on a federal election ballot?
6. What do you mark on a federal election ballot?
7. How is the government formed after an election?
8. How is the Prime Minister chosen?
9. When does an election have to be held according to the Constitution?



10. Name all the federal political parties in the House of Commons and their leaders.
11. Which party becomes the official opposition?
12. What is the role of the opposition parties?
13. Which party is the official opposition at the federal level?
14. Name the Prime Minister of Canada and his party.
15. Name your member of Parliament and the party he or she belongs to.
16. What is a voter information card?
17. Who has the right to run as a candidate in federal elections?
18. Who do Canadians vote for in a federal election?
19. What do political parties do?
20. Which federal political party is in power?
21. How are senators chosen?
22. What should you do if you do not receive a voter information card telling you when and where to vote?
23. After a federal election, which party forms the new government?

## **Section II. Questions about your region**

1. What is the capital city of the province or territory in which you live?
2. List three natural resources important to your region's economy today.
3. Who is your city councillor, alderperson, reeve or regional councillor?
4. What is the name of your mayor?
5. What is the name of your provincial representative (member of the Legislative Assembly, member of the provincial Parliament, member of the National Assembly or member of the House of Assembly)?
6. What is the name of the premier of your province or territory?
7. Which political party is in power in your province or territory?
8. What is the name of the leader of the opposition in your province?
9. What is the name of your lieutenant governor or commissioner?



***These questions have been developed as a study guide. Your citizenship test is made up of similar questions.***

***Sample Question***

Answer this question. Draw a circle around the letter beside the correct answer.

What are the colours of the Canadian flag?

- a) red, white and blue
- b) red and white
- c) blue and white
- d) red, orange and green

The answer to this question is (b). You should have put a circle around the (b) like this:

- a) red, white and blue
- b) red and white
- c) blue and white
- d) red, orange and green

There is only one correct answer to each question.