

A LOOK — at — CANADA



Citizenship and
Immigration Canada

Citoyenneté et
Immigration Canada

This book belongs to

© Minister of Government Services Canada 1995
Cat. No. Ci 51-61/1995OCTE
ISBN 0-662-21457-9

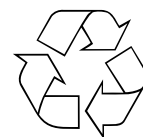
A Look at Canada is produced for the use of persons applying for Canadian citizenship. Distribution to other users is limited.

This book may be reproduced in whole or in part for any non-commercial purpose relating to citizenship education.

If you have any comments, please write to:

Citizenship Registration Branch
Education and Development Unit
Citizenship and Immigration Canada
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 1L1

This publication is available on audio cassette.
Exemplaires en français disponibles également.



Printed on paper
containing recovered waste.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

What does Canadian citizenship mean?	1
What this book is for	2
Applying for citizenship	2
Introducing Canada	4
Symbols of Canada	6
Aboriginal peoples of Canada	8
Map of Canada	10
The Regions of Canada	12
The Atlantic Region	12
Central Canada	14
The Prairie Provinces	18
The West Coast	20
The North	22
Government in Canada	24
Federal elections	26
Making laws	30
Other levels of government in Canada	31
Find out more about your government	32
Citizenship rights and responsibilities	33
Citizenship rights	34
Citizenship responsibilities	35
To find more information	37
Study questions	38

WHAT DOES CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP MEAN?

Canadian citizenship means being a part of Canada. Take a moment to think about what becoming a Canadian citizen means to you.

You could, for example, ask yourself the following questions:

What would make me proud to be a Canadian citizen?

What responsibilities will I have when I am a Canadian citizen?

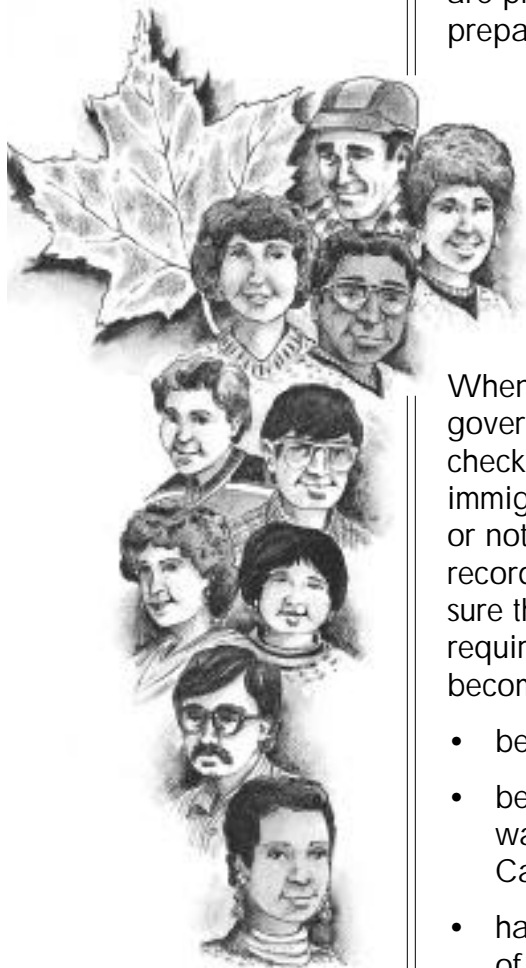
What can I do to show that citizenship is important to me?



A citizenship ceremony.



If you would like to have more information about Canada for your own interest, a librarian can help you to find the resources listed at the end of this book.



WHAT THIS BOOK IS FOR

This book is meant to help you to prepare for your citizenship test. It is also for anyone who would like a basic introduction to Canada.

A Look at Canada tells you how citizenship applications are processed and how to prepare for your test.

It provides the information about Canadian history, geography, government, and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship which you may be asked about on your citizenship test. Remember to look at the map on page 10. It can help you to understand the contents of this book.

APPLYING FOR CITIZENSHIP

When you apply for citizenship, government officials will check your documents, your immigration status and whether or not you have a criminal record. They will also make sure that you understand the requirements for citizenship. To become a Canadian, you must:

- be 18 years of age or older;
- be a permanent resident who was lawfully admitted to Canada;
- have lived here for three out of the previous four years;
- speak either English or French; and
- know the information about Canada contained in this book.

Your application may take several months to process. Make sure that the citizenship office always has your correct address during this time. If you move, please fill out the change of address card inside the back cover of this book and mail it to the citizenship office.

The citizenship office will send you a "Notice to Appear" telling you where and when to appear for your citizenship test.

At the citizenship test, you will be asked questions to check your knowledge of Canada, your understanding of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, and your ability to speak either English or French.

How to prepare for your citizenship test

Study this book and ask a friend to help you practice answering questions about the information in this book. Call the nearest citizenship office, local school or college for information about citizenship classes and language classes in your community.

This is a written test. When it is time for your test, try not to be nervous. If you can relax before your test, it will be easier to understand the questions and to think of the answers.

At your citizenship test

The test will ask you questions about voting, about Canada's history, geography and government and about the rights and responsibilities of Canadian citizenship. For example, one question might be, "How many provinces and territories does Canada have?". There are questions at the end of this book. You may use them to practise for your test.

After your successful test

The office will tell you if you have been successful. Later on, you will receive a "Notice to Appear to Take the Oath of Citizenship" telling you the date, time and location of your citizenship ceremony.

The ceremony is the final step in becoming a Canadian citizen. At the ceremony, you take the Oath of Citizenship, sign the Oath form and receive your certificate of Canadian citizenship.



The history, geography and citizenship information you need to know in order to answer the questions on the test is in this book. You will have to find out some information yourself to complete the sections on page 32 about the federal, provincial and territorial governments.

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.



KEY WORDS

Official
Languages
•
Multiculturalism

See page 8 for more
information about
Aboriginal peoples.



INTRODUCING CANADA

Throughout Canada's history, millions of immigrants have come to build this country. Today, Canada, a country with two **official languages**, welcomes people from more than 150 countries each year.

As Canadians, we are proud that many different cultural and ethnic groups live and work here together in harmony. The *Canadian **Multiculturalism** Act* recognizes our cultural diversity and 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 who are originally from Canada are the Aboriginal peoples. Aboriginal peoples lived in Canada for thousands of years before the first immigrants came here. The Aboriginal peoples of Canada are an important part of Canada's population. They are working to protect and promote their languages, cultures and traditions and to become self-governed.

In a country as large and diverse as Canada, the idea of equality is very important. We have shown how much we value this idea by having it written into the Constitution as the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

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 Canadian volunteers across Canada. Some people join community groups and help with local projects. Others help friends and neighbours in need. There are hundreds of different ways you can help others in your community.

Canada's official languages

English and French-speaking people have lived together in Canada for more than 230 years, and English and French are Canada's two official languages. Linguistic duality is an important aspect of our Canadian identity — over 98 per cent of Canadians speak either English or French or both. You must know either English or French to become a Canadian citizen.

Legal documents like the *Canadian Constitution* and the *Official Languages Act* show how the federal government protects the official language rights of individual Canadians.

For example:

- English and French have equal status and rights regarding their use 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 every province and territory have the right to be educated in their language.

Canada's economy

Canada's economy is a combination of many industries. There are three main types of industry in Canada: natural resource, manufacturing and service.

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 things like paper, technological equipment, automobiles, food, clothing and many other goods. Our largest international trading partner is the United States of America (USA).

Service industries provide thousands of different jobs in areas like transportation, education, health care, construction, banking, communications and government. Over 70% 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 29 million people live here. Most Canadians live in the southern parts of Canada.

Canada is bordered by three oceans — the Pacific Ocean on the west, the Atlantic Ocean on the east, and the Arctic Ocean to 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 two 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 page 10).



Look at the map of Canada on page 10 to get a better idea of Canada's geography. Find your province or territory and its capital on the map.



KEY WORDS

Confederation

Symbols of Canada

Confederation

On July 1, 1867, the provinces we know now as Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia joined together in **Confederation** to create the new country of Canada. The *British North America Act* of 1867 made this Confederation legal.

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

Canada's first prime minister

In 1867, Sir John A. Macdonald became the first Prime Minister of Canada. His picture appears on the 10 dollar bill.

Dates when Provinces and Territories joined Confederation

1867	
Ontario	Quebec
Nova Scotia	New Brunswick
1870	
Manitoba	Northwest Territories
1871	
British Columbia	
1873	
Prince Edward Island	
1898	
Yukon	
1905	
Alberta	Saskatchewan
1949	
Newfoundland	



The beaver is one of the symbols of Canada. It appears on Canada's 5-cent coin.



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



When did your province/territory join Confederation?

Canada's Constitution

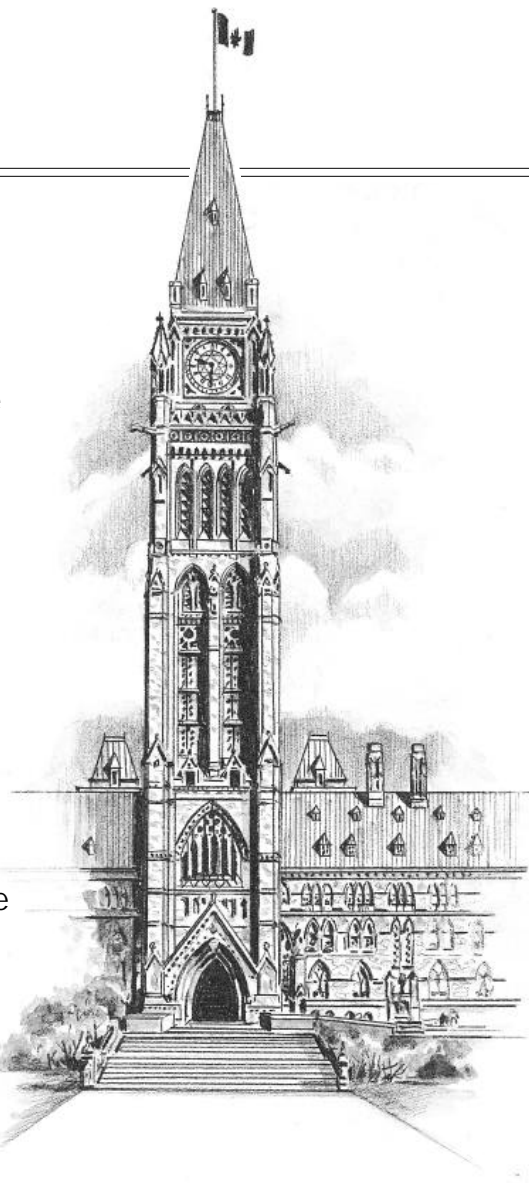
Canada's **Constitution** is the system of laws and conventions by which our country governs itself. Until 1982, changes to the Constitution had to be approved by the British government. In 1982, the new *Constitution Act* allowed us to change our Constitution without asking the British government for approval. This is the year when the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* became part of the *Canadian Constitution*.

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 Queen is also represented in the provinces by Lieutenant-Governors and in the territories by a Commissioner.



KEY WORDS

Constitution
•
Charter
•
Head of State
•
Governor General

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

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.



KEY WORDS

First Nations

•
Inuit
•
Métis

There are 3 main groups of Aboriginal peoples in Canada. The group we once called "Indians" are now known as "First Nations".

Aboriginal Peoples of Canada

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. They lived in every region of the country. Often their survival in Canada's harsh climate depended on cooperation, sharing and respect for the environment.

The *Constitution Act of 1982* recognizes three main groups of Aboriginal peoples in Canada: the **First Nations** and the **Inuit**, who were the first Aboriginal groups in Canada, and the **Métis**, who emerged after the settlement of Canada. Today, there are more than 53 distinct languages spoken by Aboriginal peoples. Most of these languages are found only in Canada.

People of the First Nations lived in all areas of Canada. Those who lived on Canada's coasts depended on fishing and hunting

while those who lived on the prairies moved with the buffalo herds which they hunted for food, clothing and tools. First Nations people who lived in central and eastern Canada hunted and grew vegetable crops. Today, more than half of the First Nations people live on reserves. Others live and work in cities across Canada.

The Inuit lived and settled throughout the northern regions of Canada. They adjusted to the cold northern climate and lived by hunting seals, whales, caribou and polar bears. The majority of Inuit people live in the North today and some still hunt for food and clothing.

Many of the early French fur traders and some English traders married First Nations women. Their children and descendants are the Métis people. The Métis were an important part of the fur trade and they developed their own distinct culture on the prairies.

When Europeans arrived in what is now Canada, they began to make agreements, or treaties, with Aboriginal peoples. The treaty making process meant that Aboriginal people gave up their title to lands in exchange for certain rights and benefits. Most of the agreements included reserving pieces of land to be used only by Aboriginal peoples. These pieces of land are called "reserves". Today, Aboriginal groups and the Canadian government continue to negotiate new agreements for land and the recognition of other rights.

Aboriginal peoples in Canada are working to keep their unique cultures and languages alive. They are trying to regain control over decisions that affect their lives — in other words, to become self-governed. Aboriginal peoples continue to play an active role in building the future of Canada.



Indian and Northern Affairs Photo

Aboriginal peoples and the Canadian government continue to meet and negotiate.

See printed version for copy of map

See printed version for copy of map

THE REGIONS OF CANADA

Canada is a country of 10 million square kilometres covering many different geographical areas or regions. These regions may include only one or several different

provinces. The regions of Canada are The Atlantic Region, Central Canada, The Prairie Provinces, The West Coast, and The North.

The Atlantic Region

Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland are Canada's Atlantic provinces. The early European explorers first came to this part of Canada to fish and trade with Aboriginal peoples. Later, settlers built strong communities based on farming, fishing and shipbuilding.

The region's coastal location and natural resources have made the Atlantic provinces an important part of Canada's history and development.

The people

People of the First Nations fished and hunted along the Atlantic coast for thousands of years before the French explorer, Jacques Cartier, arrived 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.

In the late 1700s, thousands of British settlers moved to the Atlantic region from the United States. These people were known as United Empire Loyalists because of their loyalty to England. Some of the earliest Black settlers also moved to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick at this time.

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, and about one-third of the population lives and works using French.

The economy

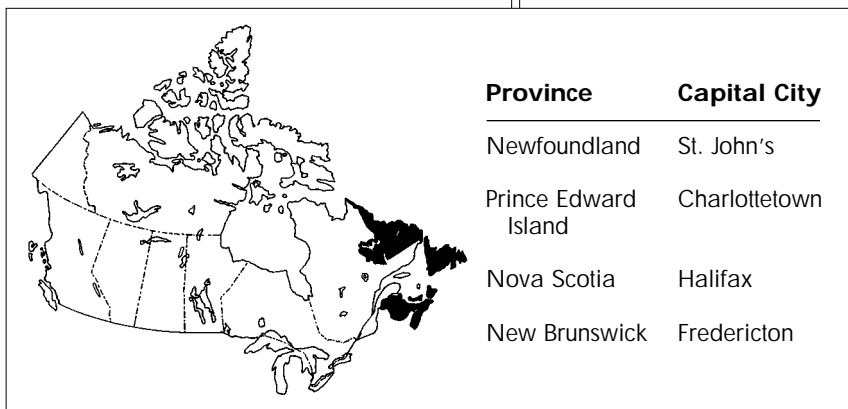
Resource industries, including fishing, farming, forestry and mining, have always played an important role in the economy of the Atlantic region.

The Atlantic fishery is the oldest industry in the region. Protecting the fish stocks and preventing over-fishing is now a vital issue in the Atlantic provinces.

Today, most manufacturing in the Atlantic region involves processing timber, agricultural crops and fish.

In Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, agricultural crops such as potatoes and fruit are sold as fresh or frozen food products in Canada and to other countries. New Brunswick and Nova Scotia have extensive forests that allow these provinces to produce valuable products like pulp, paper and lumber. Forest products are the most valuable manufacturing industry in New Brunswick. Newfoundland, traditionally dependent on the fishing industry, is developing its other natural resources such as oil, nickel, copper and cobalt.

Service industries are also very important to the Atlantic economy and the majority of people have jobs delivering these services. As in the rest of Canada, more people work in financial services, banking, government, and



personal services than in traditional resource industries.

The Atlantic Ocean is also important as a tourist resource in the region. The spectacular scenery and the beautiful coastlines and beaches attract thousands of tourists to the Atlantic provinces each year, creating many service industry jobs.

Its deep natural harbour has made Halifax, Nova Scotia, the major port on Canada's east coast.



Industry, Science and Technology Canada Photo

Central Canada

Central Canada is made up of Ontario and Quebec. More than half of the people in Canada live in cities and towns in the southern parts of 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. The names of the lakes are Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie and Ontario. These lakes have been an important waterway for thousands of years. Aboriginal peoples and fur

traders first used the lakes to create trading networks in North America.

Ships from all over the world reach the Great Lakes from the Atlantic Ocean by using the St. Lawrence Seaway. The Seaway makes it possible for ocean going ships to travel on the St. Lawrence River and the small rivers between the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes also provide fresh water 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 mineral deposits of gold, silver, nickel, zinc, copper, and iron ore which are found in the ancient rock of the Shield.

The Shield is covered by forests and part of Canada's major pulp and paper industry is based on the trees of this region. Some of the vast freshwater resources of the Shield are used to generate electricity.



Province	Capital City
Quebec	Québec City
Ontario	Toronto

THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

The people

The first inhabitants of Quebec were First Nations people and Inuit. Some of the First Nations people were the first to raise vegetable crops in the fertile lands along the St. Lawrence River. Aboriginal peoples in this region were fur traders and taught early settlers how to survive. Today, many Aboriginal communities remain throughout the province.

Settlers from France first established communities along the St. Lawrence River in the early 1600s. Quebec society today reflects this heritage.

More than three-quarters of 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.



Industry, Science and Technology Canada Photo

The economy

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 is a major producer of minerals like 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.

The lowland areas of the St. Lawrence are a fertile farming region where vegetables, fruit and feed crops are grown. Dairy farms are common and Quebec has the largest dairy farming industry in Canada.

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

Montreal is the largest city in Quebec and the second largest in Canada. It is a leading centre for culture, fashion and cuisine.



Québec City is the capital of Quebec and is one of the oldest cities in Canada. The French explorer Samuel de Champlain established the city as a fur trading post and military base in the early 1600s.

The region around Montreal has been an important financial, service and industrial centre since Confederation. Workers produce fabric, clothing, food, paper, metal and chemical and wood products. Montreal is also the centre of a vast transportation network and many transportation companies are located in this region, including more than half of Canada's aeronautics and space industry.

THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

The people

About one-third of all Canadians live in Ontario. Although most people in Ontario speak English, the province also has the most French-speaking citizens of all the provinces except Quebec.

The Algonquin and Iroquois First Nations were the earliest people to live in the province we now know 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.

The economy

Throughout Canada's history, the large population, rich resources and strategic location of Ontario have helped the province build a powerful economy. The majority of people work in the service and manufacturing industries.

In southern Ontario, the auto industry produces cars, auto parts and other transportation

CANADA

Where does the name Canada come from?

In the early 1500s, Jacques Cartier used a First Nations word for village, "kanata", to refer to the whole country. European map makers later used "Canada" as a name for all the land north of the St. Lawrence River.

equipment. Products from the auto industry are one of Canada's key exports. Other manufactured goods include steel, machinery, metal, plastic and chemical products and food.

Ontario mines are the biggest producers of metals in Canada. These metals include nickel, gold, silver, platinum, uranium, zinc and copper.

Ontario's forestry industry produces pulp, newsprint, lumber

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 water power that generates electricity.

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.

Industry, Science and Technology Canada Photo



Toronto is the largest city in Canada and is the capital of Ontario. It is the financial centre of Canada.

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 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.

Calgary is the centre of Canada's petroleum industry.

The people

The First Nations people were the earliest inhabitants of the Prairies and 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 arrivals still live in the Prairie region.

During the late 1800s, the Canadian government built a railway across the Prairies to the Pacific coast that 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

As in the rest of Canada, the majority of people in the Prairie provinces work in service industries.

Manitoba's manufacturing industries produce a variety of products, including food, machinery, transportation equipment, metal products and clothing. In Saskatchewan the



Industry, Science and Technology Canada Photo

most important manufacturing industries produce food and chemical products.

Agriculture

The Prairies have some of the most fertile farmland in the world. Prairie farmers and ranchers produce grains (such as wheat), meat and other food products for markets in Canada and other countries.

In Manitoba, the agricultural industry benefits from high rainfall and farmers produce a wide variety of grain crops and livestock. Saskatchewan is the leading wheat producer in Canada and is one of the most productive agricultural regions in the world. Alberta leads the country in beef cattle and feed grain production.

Energy resources

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, has the most important source of hydroelectric power in the Prairie region.



Province	Capital City
Manitoba	Winnipeg
Saskatchewan	Regina
Alberta	Edmonton



The Prairie region is rich in energy resources like oil.

The fertile farmland of the Prairies produces grain crops such as wheat.



The West Coast

Vancouver is the third largest city in Canada.

The city provides important shipping and air links between Canada and other countries across the Pacific Ocean such as China and Japan.

British Columbia (B.C.) borders the Pacific Ocean and 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 on Canada's West Coast developed a unique form of art which is best known through totem poles. Their art often represents whales, fish, bears and other animals.

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.

Today, the population of British Columbia includes many people from Asia and other parts of the world.



Industry, Science and Technology Canada Photo

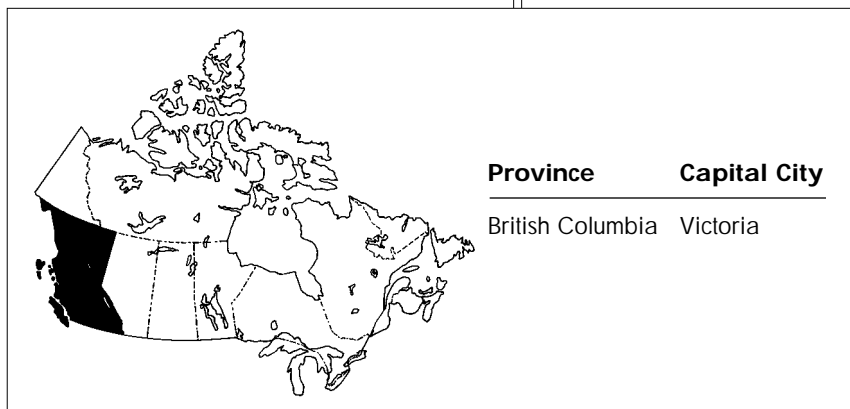
The economy

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.

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

Salmon fishing is also a valuable industry on the West Coast and Pacific salmon are sold all over the world. The famous fruit orchards of the Okanagan Valley lie between the mountain ranges in the central area of B.C.

The natural beauty of the West Coast brings thousands of tourists to the province to fish, hike, camp and ski in the mountains.



Industry, Science and Technology Canada Photo

Rocky Mountains.

The North

Canada's northern region is divided into the Yukon and the Northwest Territories (NWT). 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

The North is a vast land area but has a small population. More than half of the people who live in the Northwest Territories, and about one quarter of the Yukon's population, are Aboriginal peoples. In recognition of this fact, the territorial governments have given several Aboriginal languages the same official status as English and French.

Territory	Capital City
Northwest Territories	Yellowknife
Yukon	Whitehorse



The economy

Europeans first came to the North in the late 1600s because of the fur trade. The Hudson Bay Company controlled the northern lands and fur trade for 200 years. Some northern people, including many Aboriginal peoples, still earn money and obtain food through hunting and trapping.



An Inuit man with some of his work.

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 and zinc mines in both 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 the world. In the Yukon and the Northwest Territories, a large number of Aboriginal people produce Aboriginal arts and crafts and many work in co-operative businesses for this purpose.

Climate

The North is sometimes called the "Land of the Midnight Sun." In the height of summer the daylight can last for up to 24 hours. During the brief summers the land blossoms. Winters in the north are long, cold and dark. The Yukon holds the record for the coldest temperature ever recorded in Canada (-63° C).



The people in the Northwest Territories have voted to make the eastern region into a separate territory called Nunavut. An Act of Parliament is required to make Nunavut a new territory in 1999.



KEY WORDS

Federal
•
Provincial
•
Territorial
•
Municipal

GOVERNMENT IN CANADA

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

In general, the **federal** government takes major responsibility for things that affect all of Canada. These include national defense, foreign policy and citizenship.

Provincial and territorial governments look after things like education, health care and highways. They share responsibilities with the federal government in some areas.

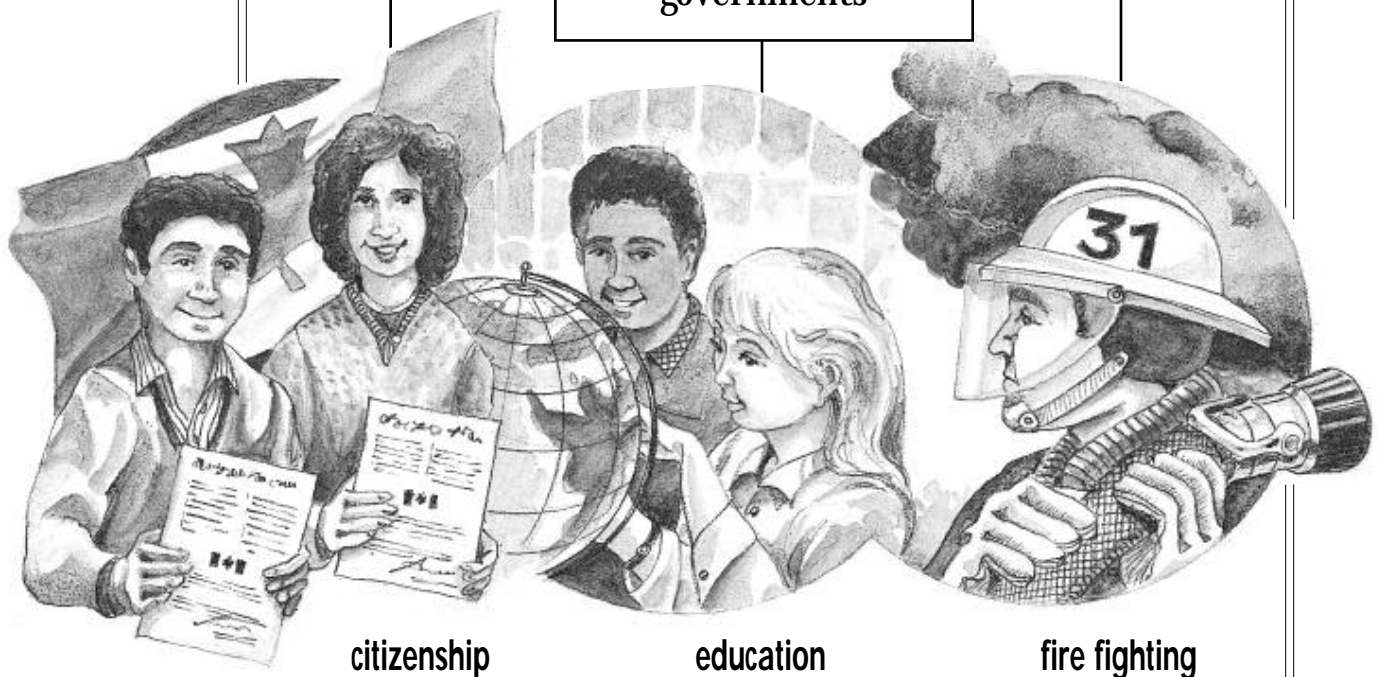
Municipal (or local) governments in each city or community are responsible for things like policing, fire fighting, snow removal and recycling programs.

Canadian citizens can vote in elections for all three levels of government.

**Federal
government**

**Provincial and
territorial
governments**

**Municipal
governments**





KEY WORDS

Parliament

The Parliament of Canada

Canada is a democracy and 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.

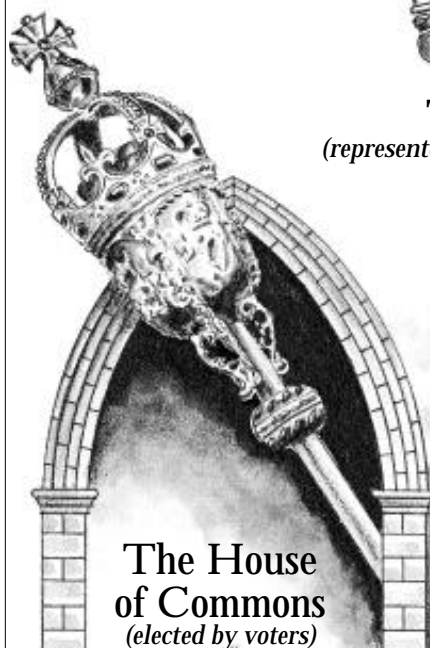
Canadians elect representatives to the House of Commons. The elected representatives are called Members of Parliament (or MPs). The people who serve in the Senate are chosen by the Prime Minister and appointed by the Governor General. They are called Senators.

The Prime Minister is the leader of the political party with the most elected Members of Parliament sitting in the House of Commons.



The Queen

(represented by the Governor General)



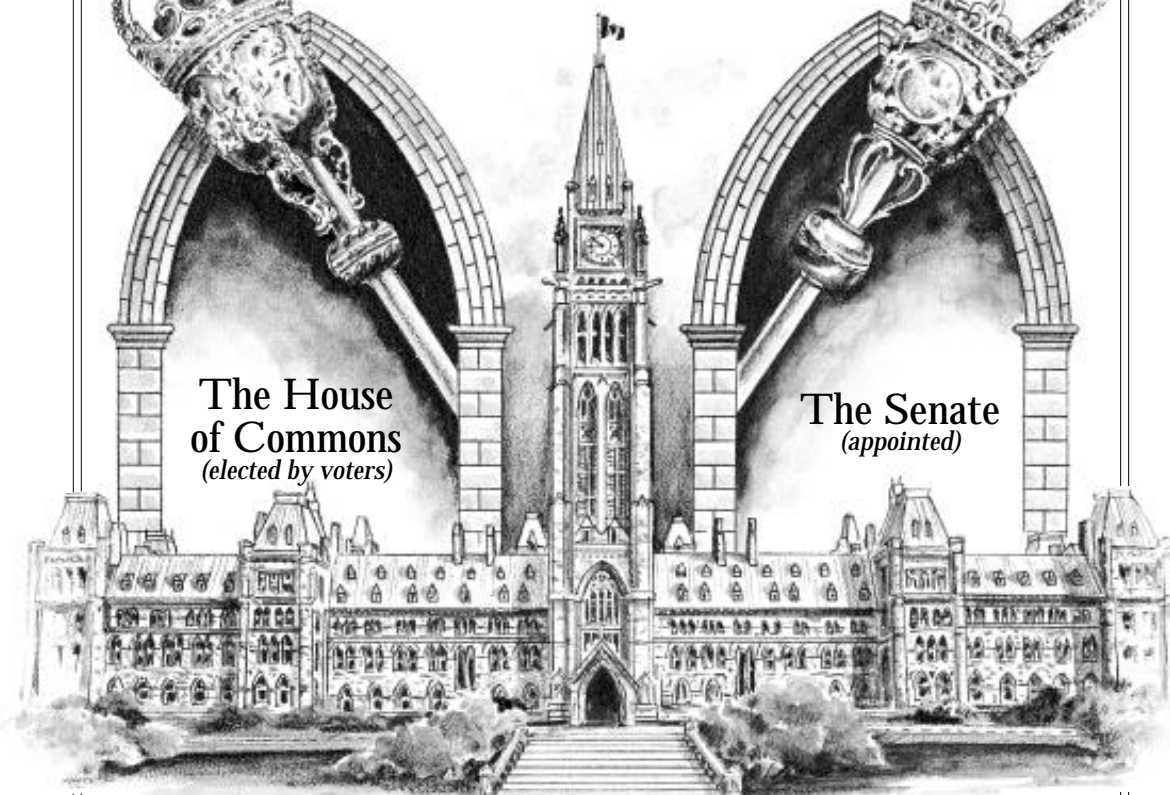
The House of Commons

(elected by voters)



The Senate

(appointed)





KEY WORDS

Electoral Districts • Candidates

Federal Elections

Canadians vote in elections for the people they want to represent them in Parliament. With each election, the people may re-elect the same Members of Parliament (MPs) or choose new ones. Federal elections are usually held about four years apart. 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 about 300 **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 Parliament who sits in the House of Commons.

Any Canadian citizen who is at least 18 years old can 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 a candidate of their choice. The candidate who receives the most votes becomes the MP for that electoral district.

An elected MP represents everyone who lives in his or her electoral district, even the people who did not vote for the MP. Your MP is your link to the federal government. Your MP helps you by:

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

It is easy
to contact your MP.

To find the name of your MP, look in the telephone book under Government of Canada. Call the number under "Information and referrals to Federal Government Programs and Services" or "Reference 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 MP.

Your MP has an office in your electoral district. You can also write to your MP by sending your letter to:

**House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ontario,
K1A 0A6.**

Remember, letters to MPs do not need stamps.

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 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

You can vote in a federal election if you are:

- a Canadian citizen;
- at least 18 years old; and
- on the list of electors.

You can also vote if you meet the above requirements but have

been living outside Canada for less than 5 years or are working for the federal government, the Canadian Forces, or certain organizations outside Canada.

Generally, before every election, Elections Canada does an **enumeration**. This means that they hire people called **enumerators** to make a list of all the people in Canada who can vote. Before Polling Day, enumerators will come to your home and ask for the names of everyone in your household who is eligible to vote. The enumerators will give you an Elector Information Card for each eligible voter at your address.

The Elector Information Card confirms that your name is on the list of electors. The card will also tell you where and when you can vote.

If you are not enumerated, or if the information about you on the card has a mistake in it, call the Elections Canada office for your area right away. During the election period, the telephone number for the Elections Canada office in your electoral district is listed in the newspaper. If you cannot find the number, call the operator at 411, or Elections Canada at 1-800-267-8683.

If you are going to be away from your electoral district on Polling Day, or if you are unable to go to the polls on Polling Day you can vote before Polling Day. To do this, you must make sure your name is on the list of electors.



KEY WORDS

Enumeration
•
Enumerators



There is no long
distance charge
for this call.



KEY WORDS

Polling Station • Ballot

Then check your Elector Information Card to find out where to vote in advance or how to vote in advance by special ballot.

To vote on Polling Day, go to the **polling station** listed on your Elector Information Card. An election officer there will give you a form for voting called a **ballot**. The ballot lists the names of the candidates in your electoral district in alphabetical order from "A" to "Z".

You will mark the ballot by writing an "X" in the circle beside the name of your chosen candidate. Afterwards, fold the ballot so no one can see your vote and either put your ballot in the ballot box or ask the deputy returning officer to do it for you.

Canada's election laws say that voting is by secret ballot. 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 polling stations close, election officers count the ballots, and the results are announced on radio, television and in newspapers.

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 a majority of the MPs in the House of Commons.

The Prime Minister chooses several MPs to become cabinet ministers. Cabinet ministers are responsible for running federal government departments. The Prime Minister and 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 MPs in the House of Commons.

If a majority of the MPs 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 MPs is the Official Opposition. The role of the opposition parties is to oppose or try to improve government proposals.

VOTING PROCEDURE

1

Enumerators will visit your home during the election period.



2

They will record the names of all eligible voters and give you an **Elector Information Card** for each voter.



3

The Elector Information Card confirms that your name is on the **list of electors**.



4

If you do not receive an Elector Information Card, call the Elections Canada office for your electoral district.



5

If you need to, you can vote **in advance** at the advance poll or by special ballot.



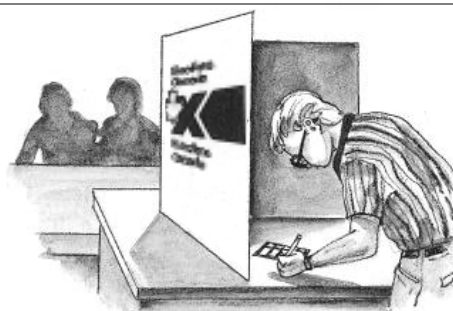
6

On **Polling Day**, go to your **polling station**. You will be given a ballot paper.



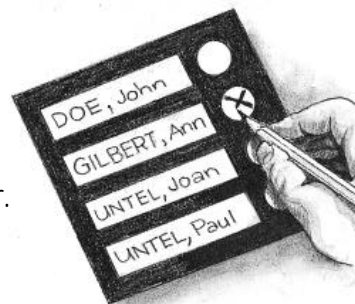
7

You vote by **secret ballot**.



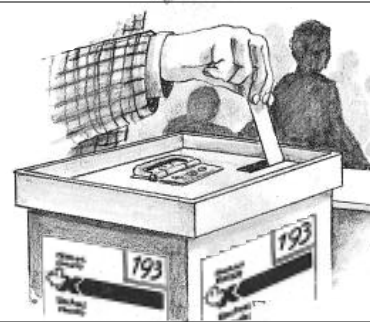
8

Mark an "X" in the circle to the right of the name of the candidate you prefer.



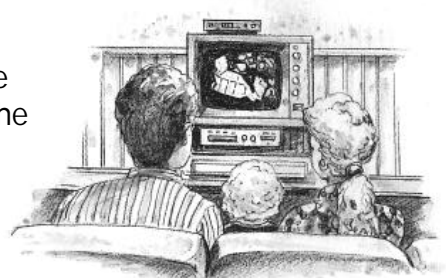
9

You or a polling station officer will put your secret ballot in the ballot box.



10

The ballots are counted and the results are announced to the public.



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 the House of Commons and in the Senate. Once a majority of MPs and Senators has approved the bill, the Governor General gives final approval and the bill becomes law.

The Canadian justice system

The Canadian justice system guarantees every Canadian resident political and legal rights and equality. Every Canadian, whether a citizen or a landed immigrant, has equal access to the justice system.

The laws, or written rules intended to guide people in our society, are made by our elected government representatives. The police and courts exist to enforce the law.

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 judicial system include:

- Fundamental freedoms — like freedom of religion, thought, belief, opinion and expression;
- Legal Rights — like 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 courts.

Getting legal help

Lawyers can help you with your 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.



To find out about these services, contact immigrant service groups, community agencies, lawyers' groups or legal aid offices.

Other levels of government in Canada

Each provincial and territorial government has an elected legislature where provincial/territorial laws are passed. The members elected to the legislature are called Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLA), Members of the National Assembly (MNA), Members of Provincial Parliament (MPP), or Members of the House of Assembly depending on the province or territory.

In the provinces, Lieutenant-Governors represent the Queen. In the territories, Commissioners represent the Queen.

Municipal governments usually have a Council that passes laws (called by-laws) affecting 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 other rules are not the same as 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.

Provincial and Territorial Governments

LEGISLATURE

Members of the
Legislative Assembly
(MLA)
or
Members of the
National Assembly
(MNA)
or
Members of
Provincial Parliament
(MPP)
or
Members of the
House of Assembly
(MHA)

Municipal Governments

COUNCIL

Mayor
and
Councillors



Ask your librarian or citizenship teacher for help in finding more information about government in the province or territory where you live and in your municipality.



At your citizenship test, you may be asked about government representatives and political parties in Canada.

To prepare for the test, find the answers for the questions on this page. If you need help, ask a friend or librarian.



Find out more about your government

Federal Government

The name of the Prime Minister is: _____

The political party in power is: _____

The name of my MP is: _____

The political party my MP belongs to is: _____

My electoral district is: _____

The name of the Governor General is: _____

The names of the federal political parties and their leaders are:

Political Party

Leader of the Party

Provincial/Territorial Government

There are also political parties in provincial and territorial governments. It is important to know the following information for your province or territory:

Premier/Government Leader

Political Party

MPP/MLA/MNA/MHA

Political Party

CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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

The *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* is the part of the Constitution that legally protects the basic rights and freedoms of all Canadians. Some of the rights and freedoms that the *Charter* protects include:

- 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, freedom of speech, and freedom of peaceful assembly.

Some citizenship rights are defined in Canadian laws, such as the right to be considered first (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.

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

Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.



Citizenship Rights

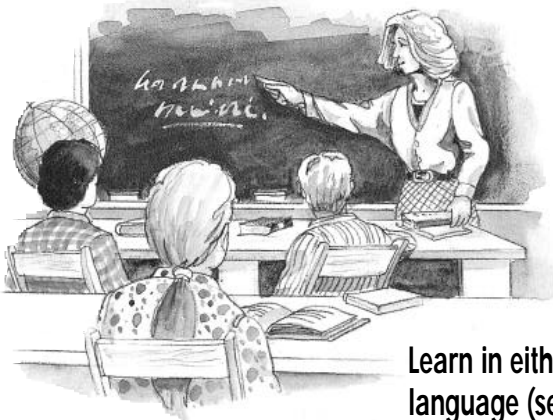
Under the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, Canadian citizens are guaranteed the right to:



Be a candidate in federal and provincial/territorial elections.



Vote in federal and provincial/territorial elections.



Learn in either official language (see page 4).



Enter and leave Canada freely.

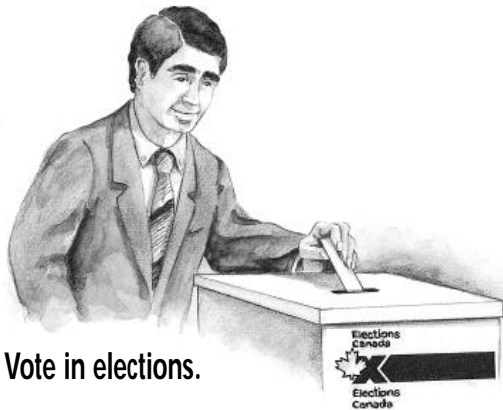


Apply for a Canadian passport.

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

Citizenship Responsibilities

As Canadian citizens, we share the responsibility to:



Vote in elections.

Obey Canada's laws.



Express opinions freely while respecting the rights and freedoms of others.



Work to help others in the community.

Eliminate discrimination and injustice.



Care for Canada's heritage.

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.

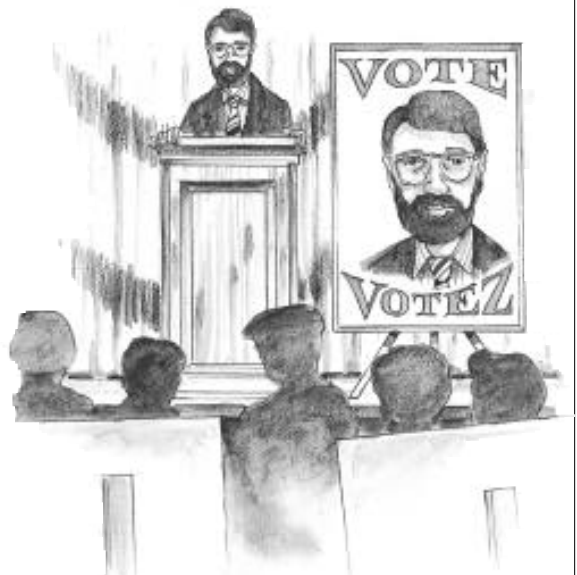


Help your neighbours.



Work with others to solve problems in your community.

Volunteer to work on an election campaign for a candidate of your choice.



Become a candidate in an election.

TO FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT . . .

Canadian citizenship

- Look for the pamphlet *How to Become a Canadian Citizen*
- Call the citizenship office in your area. Look in the blue pages of your telephone book in the **Government of Canada** section under **Citizenship Registration and Promotion Branch** or **Court of Canadian Citizenship**
- Write to the Registrar of Canadian Citizenship, P.O. Box 7000, Sydney, Nova Scotia B1P 6V6
- *The Canada Yearbook* (published by Statistics Canada)
- *Canada: A Portrait* (published by Statistics Canada)
- *How Canadians Govern Themselves* (written by Eugene Forsey, published by Supply and Services Canada)
- *The Canadian Encyclopedia* (published by McClelland and Stewart)
- *The Junior Encyclopedia of Canada* (published by Hurtig Publishers, distributed by McClelland and Stewart)

Citizenship classes

- Contact schools and colleges in your area
- Call the nearest citizenship office
- Go to your local library or community centre
- Contact local settlement agencies or ethnocultural associations
- *The Story of Canada* (written by Janet Lunn and Christopher Moore, published by Lester Publishing Ltd.)
- *Symbols of Nationhood* (published by Canada Communications Group)

Canada

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

Federal programs and services

- Contact Reference Canada at 1-800-667-3355



There is
no charge
for calling
this number

STUDY QUESTIONS

The questions on the citizenship test are based on the information in this book. The test will ask you questions about Canada's electoral (voting) process, government structure, Confederation, main historical and geographical features and about the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. You should also be prepared to answer more specific questions about the economy, geography and history in your region. Use the questions on the following pages to help you prepare for your test. All answers can be found in the book.

Section I. Questions about Canada.

1. Who are the Aboriginal peoples in Canada?
2. What are the three main groups of Aboriginal peoples?
3. In which parts of Canada did the Aboriginal peoples first live?
4. What did the Aboriginal peoples living in your region depend on for survival?
5. From whom are the Métis descended?
6. In what industry did the Métis first work with European settlers?
7. Which group of Aboriginal peoples make up more than half of the population in the Northwest Territories?
8. Why are the Aboriginal peoples of Canada working to be self-governed?
9. From where did the first European settlers in Canada come?
10. Why did early explorers first come to Atlantic Canada?
11. Who were the Acadian people?
12. What three industries helped early settlers build communities in the Atlantic region?
13. Who were the United Empire Loyalists?
14. When did the United Empire Loyalists come to Canada?
15. When did settlers from France first establish communities on the St. Lawrence River?
16. In which type of industry did most early European settlers work?
17. Which trade spread across Canada making it important to the economy for over 300 years?
18. What form of transportation did Aboriginal peoples and fur traders use to create trading networks in North America?
19. For how long did the Hudson Bay Company control the northern lands?
20. What important trade did the Hudson Bay Company control?
21. When did thousands of miners first come to the Yukon?
22. What did the government do to make immigration to western Canada much easier?

23. Which group of people were important in the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway?
24. When was the Canadian Pacific Railway finished?
25. What did the federal government do to encourage people to settle in the Prairie provinces during the early 1900s?
26. What does Confederation mean?
27. What is the Canadian Constitution?
28. In what year did Canada become a country?
29. What document made Confederation legal?
30. Which document first defined the responsibilities of federal and provincial governments?
31. When did the British North America Act come into effect?
32. Why is the British North America Act important in Canadian history?
33. Which four provinces joined together in Confederation?
34. List each province and territory and tell when each one joined Confederation.
35. Which was the last province to join Canada?
36. When is Canada Day and what does it celebrate?
37. Who was the first Prime Minister of Canada?
38. Why is the Constitution Act of 1982 important in Canadian history?
39. What is the part of the Constitution which legally protects the basic rights and freedoms of all Canadians?
40. When did the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms become part of the Canadian Constitution?
41. Name two fundamental freedoms protected by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.
42. Name three legal rights protected by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.
43. List four rights Canadian citizens have.
44. Who has the right to apply for a Canadian passport?
45. Who has the right to enter and leave Canada at will?
46. Who has the right to be considered first for a job in the Federal government?
47. What does equality under the law mean?
48. What does “mobility rights” mean?
49. Name six responsibilities of citizenship.
50. Give an example of how you can care for Canada’s natural heritage.
51. What will you promise when you take the Oath of Citizenship?

52. Explain how a citizenship right can also be seen as a citizenship responsibility, for example, the right to vote.
53. Give an example of how you can show responsibility by participating in your community.
54. Which legal document recognizes the cultural diversity of Canadians?
55. What are the two official languages of Canada?
56. Which legal documents protect the official language rights of Canadians?
57. Give an example of where English and French have equal status in Canada.
58. Where do most French speaking Canadians live?
59. Which province has the most bilingual Canadians?
60. Which province is the only officially bilingual province?
61. What does the Canadian flag look like?
62. What song is Canada's national anthem?
63. Write the first two lines of Canada's national anthem.
64. From where does the name "Canada" come?
65. Which animal is an official symbol of Canada?
66. What is the tower in the centre of the Parliament buildings called?
67. What unique art form was developed by First Nations people on the West Coast?
68. Why is the North sometimes called the Land of the Midnight Sun?
69. An Act of Parliament is required to make a new territory in Canada's North. What will be the name of the new territory?
70. What is the population of Canada?
71. What three oceans border Canada?
72. How many provinces and territories are there in Canada?
73. What is the capital city of Canada?
74. Name all the provinces and territories and their capital cities.
75. Name the five regions of Canada.
76. What are the provinces of Central Canada?
77. Which are the provinces of the Atlantic region?
78. Which are the Prairie provinces?
79. What are the territories of northern Canada?
80. Name one province which is on the Atlantic coast of Canada.
81. Name a province on the Pacific coast of Canada.
82. Which region covers more than one-third of Canada?
83. Where do more than half of the people in Canada live?

84. One third of all Canadians live in which province?
85. What is the Canadian Shield?
86. Where is the Canadian Shield?
87. Where are the Canadian Rockies?
88. Where are the Great Lakes?
89. What are the names of the Great Lakes?
90. Where is the St. Lawrence Seaway?
91. Name two mountain ranges in Canada.
92. Which territory shares a border with another country?
93. Which province is known as the Land of 100,000 Lakes?
94. Which provinces are joined to New Brunswick by land?
95. To what ocean is Newfoundland closest?
96. Which mountain range forms a border between Alberta and British Columbia?
97. Which two provinces are closest to Prince Edward Island?
98. Which province in Canada is the smallest in land size?
99. Where are the Parliament Buildings located?
100. Which country lies on Canada's southern border?
101. What are the three main types of industry in Canada?
102. In what sorts of jobs do most Canadians work?
103. What country is Canada's largest trading partner?
104. Why are the Great Lakes important to Canada?
105. Why is the St. Lawrence Seaway important to Canada?
106. Why is the Canadian Shield important to Canada's economy?
107. List four important minerals found in the Canadian Shield.
108. Which province is one of the most productive agricultural regions in the world?
109. Which region is known as the industrial and manufacturing heartland of Canada?
110. Which region of Canada is known for both its fertile agricultural land and valuable energy resources?
111. Which two provinces produce more than three quarters of Canadian manufactured goods?
112. Which province is the biggest producer of metals in Canada?
113. Which province is Canada's main producer of pulp and paper.
114. Which province has the largest dairy farming industry in Canada?
115. Which province has the most valuable forest industry in Canada?
116. Which province is Canada's major producer of oil and gas?

117. Which province is Canada's leading wheat producer?
118. Which province is Canada's largest producer of hydro-electricity?
119. Which two fuels provide about one half of all the energy used in Canada?
120. Which products from Southern Ontario are one of Canada's key exports?
121. What are three minerals still being mined in both territories today?
122. Which city provides important shipping and air links between Canada and other countries across the Pacific Ocean?
123. What products are produced in the Niagara Peninsula?
124. More than half of Canada's aeronautics and space industry are located in which province?
125. For what is the Okanagan Valley famous?
126. What fish is a valuable industry on the West Coast?
127. Who is Canada's Head of State?
128. Who is the Queen's representative in Canada?
129. What is the name of the Governor General?
130. What do you call the Queen's representative in the provinces and territories?
131. What is Canada's system of government called?
132. What are the three parts of Parliament.
133. What are the three levels of government in Canada called?
134. Explain how the three levels of government are different.
135. Name two levels of government and explain how they are different.
136. Name two responsibilities of each level of government.
137. What do you call a law before it is passed?
138. How does a bill become a law?
139. What is the final step before a bill becomes a law?
140. What do the initials MP stand for in Canadian politics?
141. How are Members of Parliament chosen?
142. Who do Members of Parliament represent?
143. What does a Member of Parliament do?
144. What is an "electoral district"?
145. How many electoral districts are there in Canada?
146. In what electoral district do you live?
147. What four requirements must you meet in order to vote in a federal election?
148. What does enumeration mean?
149. What do enumerators do?

150. What is an Elector Information Card?
151. How do you get your name on the Electors' List?
152. What government agency do you call if your are not enumerated?
153. What is a polling station?
154. What is a ballot?
155. What is written on an election ballot?
156. What do you mark on a federal election ballot?
157. What does voting by secret ballot mean?
158. Who has the right to vote in federal elections?
159. Who has the right to run as a candidate in federal elections?
160. Who do Canadians vote for in a federal election?
161. How is the government formed after an election?
162. How is the Prime Minister chosen?
163. When does an election have to be held according to the constitution?
164. What do political parties do?
165. What does "party platform" mean?
166. Name all the federal political parties represented in the House of Commons and their leaders.
167. Which federal political party is in power?
168. To which party does your Member of Parliament belong?
169. What does it mean for a political party to "be in power"?
170. What are the parties that are not in power called?
171. Which party becomes the Official Opposition?
172. What is the role of the opposition parties?
173. What party is the Official Opposition at the federal level?
174. What is a political candidate?
175. What do you call a candidate who does not belong to a political party?
176. What is a Cabinet Minister?
177. How are Senators chosen?
178. How can a party in power be defeated in Parliament?
179. What is the name of the Prime Minister of Canada?
180. What is the name of your Member of Parliament?
181. How can you contact your Member of Parliament?
182. Who do provincial members of the legislative or national assemblies represent?
183. What level of government passes "by-laws"?

Section II. Questions about your region.

184. When did settlers from Europe first come to your region?
185. Who were the first settlers in the area where you live?
186. Why did the early Europeans come to your region in the 1600s, 1700s, 1800s or early 1900s?
187. What is the capital city of the province or territory in which you live?
188. What are the major industries of your city, province, region today?
189. What is the most valuable manufacturing industry in your region today?
190. List three minerals found in your province or territory.
191. List three natural resources important to your region's economy today.
192. List the activities which are important to the tourism industry in your region.
193. What has always been important to the economy in your region?
194. Who is your city councillor, alderperson, reeve or regional councillor?
195. What is the name of your mayor?
196. What is the name of your provincial representative (Member of Legislative Assembly, Member of Provincial Parliament, Member of National Assembly or Member of House of Assembly)?
197. What is the name of the Premier of your province?
198. Which political party is in power in your province or territory?
199. What is the name of the leader of the opposition in your province?
200. What is the name of your Lieutenant-Governor or Commissioner?

These questions have been developed as a study guide. You may be asked questions similar to these when you go for your citizenship test.

NOTES

NOTES

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

If you move, please complete this form and mail it to the office where you originally applied for citizenship.



Family Name: _____

Date of Birth: (Year/Month/Day) _____

Date you filed your application: (Year/Month/Day) _____

Old Address:

Name _____

Street _____

City, Province _____

Postal Code _____

New Address:

Name _____

Street _____

City, Province _____

Postal Code _____

Telephone Number: () _____

Area code

