

CHV20 Unit 1: Citizenship and Government

Activity 5: Levels of Government

Overview

In this activity, you will consider how the shape of Canadian Federalism divides responsibilities between the federal, provincial and municipal governments.

Lesson

Levels of Government: Municipal, Provincial and Federal

Canada is the second largest country in geographic area in the world today, literally spreading across thousands and thousands of kilometers. With a population of approximately 32 million people across thousands of kilometers, it is very difficult for a single government to take care of all the responsibilities that exist throughout the nation. In 1867, because Canada was physically such a large country with so many different needs, we adopted a federal system of government that had three levels: federal, provincial and municipal. This style of government involves dividing the powers into national and various regional levels. This allows the country to address the needs of various areas that may have specific expectations from their government. Canada, possibly more than any other country, benefits from a federal style of government. There are certain aspects of Canadian society that simply could not be addressed by one level of government. For instance, Nunavut (the newest territory) has completely different needs from a government than does Windsor.

Each level of government deals with different areas. The federal government, for example, is responsible for services that affect the entire country, such as money or the armed forces. The provincial government deals with services that affect its particular areas, such as licensing drivers and hospitals. Finally, municipal governments deal with services that are needed by each individual community, such as police, fire, and garbage services.

Political Leaders



You should become familiar with the political leaders who hold office at each level of government. Pictured from left to right are Prime Minister (federal leader) **Justin Trudeau**, the Premier of Ontario (provincial leader) **Kathleen Wynne**, and the Mayor of Windsor (municipal leader) **Drew Dilkens**.

The chart below shows more specifically the responsibilities of each level of government.

Levels of Government and Their Assigned Responsibilities		
Federal: Canadian	Provincial: Ontario	Municipal: Windsor
Financial	Welfare	Parks and Recreation
Canada Post	Natural Resources	Fire Service
Foreign Affairs	Supervision of Municipalities	Local Police Service
Citizenship	Provincial Taxation	Water Services
Economic Policy	Provincial Prisons	Snow Clearance
Taxation	Health Care	Local Schools
Penitentiaries	Worker's Compensation	Road Maintenance
Sea Coast / Inland Fishing	Education Funding	Libraries
Aboriginal Affairs	O.P.P.	Recycling
Marriage and Divorce	Drivers Licensing	Sewage
Employment Insurance	Highways	Garbage Collection
Government Spending		Public Transit
Shipping and Navigation		
National Defense		
Criminal Laws		

Assignment

1. What are the 3 levels of Government in Canada?
2. Why is there a need for 3 levels of government?
3. List 5 responsibilities for each level of government.
4. Who are the political leaders that hold office in each level of government?
5. Write a brief letter to the Mayor of Windsor about an important issue that you think should be addressed by the city. Make sure the issue is part of the municipal government's responsibilities.