The Canadian Government

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| What type of government does Canada have?  What is the difference between a Direct and Representative democracy?  What is a constitutional Monarchy?  What dos the concept of a Constitutional Monarchy look like in Canada?  Who is the Governor General?  What is the “Power of the crown”?  What is the History of the Constitution in Canada?  What is the written Constitution?  What is an Unwritten Constitution?  What is the Federal System of government?  What are the LEVELS of Government?  What are the Powers of Each Level?  What is the Municipal Government in charge of? | 1. Canada is a **representative democracy** (rather than a direct democracy) 2. Canada is a **Constitutional Monarchy** 3. Canada has both 4. a **written and unwritten Constitution** 5. Canada has a **Federal System** of Government   1. Representative Democracy   * **Direct Democracy means we all vote on every issue. Representative means we vote for someone to represent us in, parliament and they deal with the issues on our behalf (for a set term)**   2. Constitutional Monarchy   * Constitutional monarchy: have both a parliament elected by the people and a monarch. Powers and responsibilities of monarch are set in a constitution (not even queen is above this law) * An **elected Parliament**, responsible and representative, with the power to create and enforce the law * A **governor general** with the “power of the crown” who must sign all bills to make them law * **The Governor General is Queen’s representative in Canada** * Queen (and governor general) has “powers of the crown” – the ultimate authority to ensure no one, not even the prime minister, can **ignore the law** – this is our democratic protection. |
| 3. Written and Unwritten Constitution   1. Began in 1867 with the **British North America Act**    * BNA Act set out responsibilities of all levels of government, and created the dominion of Canada 2. **Statute of Westminster 1931**: Britain granted Canada full independence and legislative autonomy 3. Created written **Constitution**, and Charter of Rights and Freedoms, for Canada in **1982**  * Written Constitution: Actually, physically written down into law   + Federal and **Provincial powers**   + **Charter of rights and freedoms**   + **Amending formula**, to change constitution, in which the federal gov. + min. 7 provinces (and ½ Canada’s population) must agree * Unwritten Constitution: Based on law/ tradition / “what is always done”   + Based on **British tradition** – British Constitution is entirely Unwritten   + Ex. **Political parties** and **elections** are Tradition - unwritten   4. Federal System   * Having Both a  **Central government** for issues concerning the Nation , and **strong Regional governments** (keep regional differences – French Quebec, Western, Maritimes) * **Federal** and **Provincial**   + Municipal is created by the Provincial government to serve local needs   **P. 224**   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Federal** | **shared** | **Provincial** |  * Powers are decided by the Provincial Government * **Local, essential services**: garbage collection, sewage, urban planning, schools (like Langley school district), parking costs, etc. |
| **3 Branches of Government** | |
| What are the 3 branches of the Federal (and Provincial) Government?  What is the Role/ Power of Each?  Examples:  Issue: Children being bullied by an older student in the schoolyard  Issue: Driving too fast in front of a park puts children at risk  Issue: Rats in a kitchen of a local Restaurant | 1. Executive 2. Legislative 3. Judicial   Executive: **Administer and carry out the laws**   * Example: Sets national Budget, High School requirements, inspects restaurants,\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   Legislative: **Make and Amend the laws (creation)**   * Example: E.I. payments levels, “hands free” while driving law, waste disposal by-laws   Judicial: **decide who has broken the law and set punishment**   * Judges/ Court System – appointed and separate from Parliament   Legislative:  Executive:  Judicial:  Legislative:  Executive:  Judicial:  Legislative:  Executive:  Judicial: |

**The Executive Branch**

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| What is the Executive Branch? | 1. Governor General 2. Prime Minister 3. Cabinet 4. Public Service 5. **Governor general**    * Representative of the Queen in Canada (power of the crown)    * Gives formal assent to a bill before it becomes law    * Advisor to keep government following the constitution    * Ceremonial duties 6. **Prime Minister**    * Leader of the political party that got most votes (elected by party),    * Governor General makes it official   Role:   * + Head of government: asks governor general to name judges and call elections, chooses cabinet members, final say in policies of party   + National leader: represents Canada to other nations, meets with premiers   + Party leader: spokesperson for party, gives senate positions for loyalty, etc.  1. **Cabinet**    * Selected by Prime Minister from the **elected house of commons**      1. Must maintain support of ruling party, reflect culture/ linguistic/ social diversity of country, equal gender, represent regions and ethnic groups properly    * Each member in charge of gov. **department** (ex. Finance)    * In public/ house of commons meeting – support party and PM (even if disagree in private) = **Cabinet Solidarity**    * **Party Whip** = enforces Cabinet solidarity = all present to support bills/ votes 2. **Public Service**    * Permanent bureaucracy / civil servants    * Keep it all running    * Ex. Inspectors, postal workers, tax collectors, passport processors, firefighters, police, etc. |