



Citizenship and Immigration Canada
Citoyenneté et Immigration Canada

STUDY GUIDE



Discover Canada

The Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship



Canada

C&I-1049-E-09-09



The 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.

Le serment de citoyenneté

Je jure (ou 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.

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Message to Our Readers

Welcome! It took courage to move to a new country. Your decision to apply for citizenship is another big step. You are becoming part of a great tradition that was built by generations of pioneers before you. Once you have met all of the legal requirements, we hope to welcome you as a new citizen with all the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.



Canada has welcomed generations of newcomers to our shores to help us build a free, law-abiding, and prosperous society. For 400 years, settlers and immigrants have contributed to the diversity and richness of our country, which is built on a proud history and a strong identity.

Canada is a constitutional monarchy, a parliamentary democracy, and a federal state. Canadians are bound together by a shared commitment to the rule of law and to the institutions of parliamentary government.

Canadians take pride in their identity and have made sacrifices to defend their way of life. By coming to Canada and taking this important step toward Canadian citizenship, you are helping to write the continuing story of Canada.

Immigrants between the ages of 18 and 54 must have adequate knowledge of English or French in order to become Canadian citizens. You must also learn about voting procedures, Canada's history, symbols, democratic institutions, geography, and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

Canadian citizens enjoy many rights, but Canadians also have responsibilities. They must obey Canada's laws and respect the rights and freedoms of others.

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

For information about Citizenship and Immigration Canada, visit our website at www.cic.gc.ca.

Discover Canada

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Discover Canada

Applying for Citizenship

When you apply for citizenship, officials will check your status, verify that you are not prohibited from applying, and ensure that you meet the requirements.

Your application may take several months. Please ensure that the Call Centre always has your correct address while your application is being processed.

See page 52 for telephone numbers.

Citizens take the oath



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 guide;
- 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 English or French language classes, which the Government of Canada offers free of charge.

ABOUT THE CITIZENSHIP TEST

The citizenship test is usually a written test, but it could be an interview. You will be tested on two basic requirements for citizenship: 1) adequate knowledge of English or French, and 2) knowledge of Canada and of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. People between the ages of 18 and 54 must write the citizenship test. Anyone under the age of 18 or over the age of 54 does not need to write the test.

You must also answer enough questions correctly to achieve a passing mark. The questions are chosen from the following topics:

- The rights and responsibilities of citizenship;
- Canada's government, history, symbols, and geography;
- Voting procedures and how to register yourself as a voter.



AFTER THE 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.

At the ceremony, you will:

- Take the Oath of Citizenship;
- Sign the oath form; and
- Receive your Canadian Citizenship Certificate.

If you do not pass the test, you will receive a notification indicating the next steps.

You are encouraged to bring your family and friends to celebrate this occasion.



Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship

Canadian citizens have rights and responsibilities. These come to us from our history, are secured by Canadian law, and reflect our shared traditions, identity, and values.

Canadian law has several sources, including laws passed by Parliament and the provincial legislatures, English common law, the civil code of France, and the unwritten constitution that we have inherited from Great Britain.

Together, these secure for Canadians an 800-year-old tradition of ordered liberty, which dates back to the signing of **Magna Carta** in 1215 in England (also known as the Great Charter of Freedoms), including:

- **Freedom of conscience and religion;**
- **Freedom of thought, belief, opinion, and expression, including freedom of speech and of the press;**
- **Freedom of peaceful assembly; and**
- **Freedom of association.**

Habeas corpus, the right to challenge unlawful detention by the state, comes from English common law.

The Constitution of Canada was amended in 1982 to entrench the *Canadian Charter of Rights*

and *Freedoms*, which begins with the words, “Whereas Canada is founded upon principles that recognize the supremacy of God and the rule of law.” This phrase underlines the importance of religious traditions to Canadian society and the dignity and worth of the human person.

The Charter attempts to summarize fundamental freedoms while also setting out additional rights. The most important of these include:

- **Mobility Rights** – Canadians can live and work anywhere they choose in Canada, enter and leave the country freely, and apply for a passport.
- **Aboriginal Peoples’ Rights** – The rights guaranteed in the Charter will not adversely affect any treaty or other rights or freedoms of Aboriginal peoples.
- **Official Language Rights and Minority Language Educational Rights** – French and English have equal status in Parliament and throughout the Government.
- **Multiculturalism** – A fundamental characteristic of the Canadian heritage and identity. Canadians celebrate the gift of one another’s presence and work hard to respect pluralism and live in harmony.



Queen Elizabeth II proclaiming the amended Constitution, Ottawa, 1982

The Equality of Women and Men

In Canada, men and women are equal under the law. Canada's openness and generosity do not extend to barbaric cultural practices that tolerate spousal abuse, "honour killings," female genital mutilation, or other gender-based violence. Those guilty of these crimes are severely punished under Canada's criminal laws.



Citizenship Responsibilities

In Canada, rights come with responsibilities. These include:

- **Obeying the law** – One of Canada's founding principles is the rule of law. Individuals and governments are regulated by laws and not by arbitrary actions. No person or group is above the law.
- **Taking responsibility for oneself and one's family** – Getting a job, taking care of one's family and working hard in keeping with one's abilities, are important Canadian values. Work contributes to personal dignity and self-respect, and to Canada's prosperity.
- **Serving on a jury** – When called to do so, you are legally required to serve. Serving on a jury is a privilege that makes the justice system work, as it depends on impartial juries made up of citizens.
- **Voting in elections** – The right to vote comes with a responsibility to vote in federal, provincial or territorial, and local elections.
- **Helping others in the community** – Millions of volunteers freely donate their time to help others without pay – helping people in need, assisting at your child's school, volunteering at a food bank or other charity, or encouraging newcomers to integrate. Volunteering is an excellent way to gain useful skills and develop friends and contacts.
- **Protecting and enjoying our heritage and environment** – Every citizen has a role to play in avoiding waste and pollution while protecting Canada's natural, cultural, and architectural heritage for future generations.

Defending Canada

There is no compulsory military service in Canada. However, serving in the regular **Canadian Forces** (navy, army, and air force) is a noble way to contribute to Canada and an excellent career choice (www.forces.ca). You can serve in your local part-time navy, militia, or air reserves and gain valuable experience, skills, and contacts. Young people can learn discipline, responsibility, and skills by getting involved in the cadets (www.cadets.ca).

You may also serve in the Coast Guard or emergency services in your community such as a police force or fire department. By helping to protect your community, you follow in the footsteps of Canadians before you who made sacrifices in the service of our country.



Who We Are

Canada is known around the world as a strong and free country. Canadians are proud of their unique identity. We have inherited the oldest continuous constitutional tradition in the world. We are the only constitutional monarchy in North America. Our institutions uphold a commitment to *Peace, Order, and Good Government*, a key phrase in Canada’s original constitutional document in 1867, the *British North America Act*. A belief in ordered liberty, enterprise, hard work, and fair play have enabled Canadians to build a prosperous society in a rugged environment from our Atlantic shores to the Pacific Ocean and to the Arctic Circle – so much so that poets and songwriters have hailed Canada as the “**Great Dominion.**”

To understand what it means to be Canadian, it is important to know about our three founding peoples – **Aboriginal, French, and British.**

(From Top to Bottom)
Métis from Alberta
Cree dancer



ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

The ancestors of Aboriginal peoples are believed to have migrated from Asia many thousands of years ago. They were well established here long before explorers from Europe first came to North America. Diverse, vibrant First Nations cultures were rooted in religious beliefs about their relationship to the Creator, the natural environment, and each other.

Aboriginal and treaty rights are in the Canadian Constitution. Territorial rights were first guaranteed through the Royal Proclamation of 1763 by King George III, and established the basis for negotiating treaties with the newcomers – treaties that were not always fully respected.

From the 1800s until the 1980s, the federal government placed many Aboriginal children in

residential schools to educate and assimilate them into mainstream Canadian culture. The schools were poorly funded and inflicted hardship on the students; some students were physically abused. Aboriginal languages and cultural practices were mostly prohibited. In 2008, Ottawa formally apologized to the former students.

In today’s Canada, Aboriginal peoples enjoy renewed pride and confidence, and have made significant achievements in agriculture, the environment, business, and the arts.

Today, the term *Aboriginal peoples* refers to three distinct groups:

Indian refers to all Aboriginal people who are not Inuit or Métis. In the 1970s, the term First Nations began to be used. Today, about half of First

(From Left to Right)
Inuit children in Iqaluit,
Nunavut
Haida artist Bill Reid
carves a totem pole



Unity in Diversity

John Buchan, the 1st Baron Tweedsmuir, was a popular Governor General of Canada (1935-40). Immigrant groups, he said, “should retain their individuality and each make its contribution to the national character.” Each could learn “from the other, and ... while they cherish their own special loyalties and traditions, they cherish not less that new loyalty and tradition which springs from their union.” (Canadian Club of Halifax, 1937). The 15th Governor General is shown here in Blood (Kainai First Nation) headdress.



Nations people live on reserve land in about 600 communities while the other half live off-reserve, mainly in urban centres.

The **Inuit**, which means “the people” in the Inuktitut language, live in small, scattered communities across the Arctic. Their knowledge of the land, sea, and wildlife enabled them to adapt to one of the harshest environments on earth.

The **Métis** are a distinct people of mixed Aboriginal and European ancestry, the majority of whom live in the Prairie provinces. They come from both French- and English-speaking backgrounds and speak their own dialect, Michif.

About 65% of the Aboriginal people are First Nations, while 30% are Métis, and 4% Inuit.



(From Left to Right)
St Patrick's Day Parade, Montreal, Quebec
Highland Dancer at Glengarry Highland Games, Maxville, Ontario
Celebrating *Fête Nationale*, Gatineau, Quebec
Acadian Fiddler, Village of Grande-Anse, New Brunswick

ENGLISH AND FRENCH

Canadian society today stems largely from the English-speaking and French-speaking Christian civilizations that were brought here from Europe by settlers. English and French define the reality of day-to-day life for most people and are the country's official languages. The federal government is required by law to provide services throughout Canada in English and French.

Today, there are 18 million Anglophones – people who speak English as a first language – and 7 million Francophones – people who speak French as their first language. While the majority of Francophones live in the province of Quebec, one million Francophones live in Ontario, New

Brunswick, and Manitoba, with a smaller presence in other provinces. New Brunswick is the only officially bilingual province.

The **Acadians** are the descendants of French colonists who began settling in what are now the Maritime provinces in 1604. Between 1755 and 1763, during the war between Britain and France, more than two-thirds of the Acadians were deported from their homeland. Despite this ordeal, known as the “Great Upheaval,” the Acadians survived and maintained their unique identity. Today, Acadian culture is flourishing and is a lively part of French-speaking Canada.

Quebecers are the people of Quebec, the vast majority French-speaking. Most are descendants

of 4,500 French settlers from the 1600s and 1700s and maintain a unique identity, culture, and language. The House of Commons recognized in 2006 that Quebecois form a nation within a united Canada. One million **Anglo-Quebecers** have a heritage of 250 years and form a vibrant part of the Quebec fabric.

The basic way of life in English-speaking areas was established by hundreds of thousands of **English, Welsh, Scottish** and **Irish** settlers, soldiers and migrants from the 1600s to the 20th century. Generations of pioneers and builders of British origins, as well as other groups, invested and endured hardship in laying the foundations of our country. This helps explain why Anglophones (English speakers) are generally referred to as *English Canadians*.

Celebration of Cultures,
Edmonton, Alberta



(From Left to Right)

Ismaili Muslims in the
Calgary Stampede, Alberta
Caribbean cultural festival,
Toronto, Ontario

Ukrainian Pysanka
Festival, Vegreville, Alberta

Young Polish dancers in
Oliver, British Columbia



DIVERSITY IN CANADA

The majority of Canadians were born in this country and this has been true since the 1800s. However, Canada is often referred to as a *land of immigrants* because, over the past 200 years, millions of newcomers have helped to build and defend our way of life.

Today, many ethnic and religious groups live and work in peace as proud Canadians. The largest groups are the English, French, Scottish, Irish, German, Italian, Chinese, Aboriginal, Ukrainian, Dutch, South Asian, and Scandinavian. Since the 1970s, most immigrants have come from Asian countries.

Pipes and drums in
Ottawa





Non-official languages are widely spoken in Canadian homes. Chinese languages are the second most-spoken at home, after English, in two of Canada's biggest cities. In Vancouver, 13% of the population speaks Chinese languages at home; in Toronto, the number is 7%.

The great majority of Canadians identify as Christians. The largest religious affiliation is Roman Catholic, followed by various Protestant churches. The numbers of Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Sikhs, and

members of other religions, as well as atheists, are also growing. In Canada the state has traditionally partnered with faith communities to promote social welfare, harmony, and mutual respect; to provide schools and health care; to resettle refugees; and to uphold religious freedom and freedom of conscience.

Together, these diverse groups, sharing a common Canadian identity, make up today's multicultural society.



(From Left to Right)
 Christmas in Gatineau | Chinese-Canadian war veterans |
 Notre-Dame-des-Victoires, Quebec City | Chinese New Year
 celebration, Vancouver



Olympian Marjorie Turner-Bailey of Nova Scotia is a descendant of black Loyalists, escaped slaves and freed men and women of African origin who in the 1780s fled to Canada from America, where slavery remained legal until 1865

Canada's History



ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

When Europeans explored Canada they found all regions occupied by native peoples they called Indians, because the first explorers thought they had reached the East Indies. The native people lived off the land, some by hunting and gathering, others by raising crops. The Huron-Wendat of the Great Lakes region, like the Cree and Dene of the Northwest, were hunter-gatherers. The Iroquois were hunters and farmers. The Sioux were nomadic, following the bison (buffalo) herd. The Inuit lived off Arctic wildlife.

West Coast natives preserved fish by drying and smoking. Warfare was common among Aboriginal groups as they competed for land, resources, and prestige.

The arrival of European traders, missionaries, soldiers, and colonists changed the native way of life forever. Large numbers of Aboriginals died of European diseases to which they lacked immunity. However, Aboriginals and Europeans formed strong economic and military bonds in the first 200 years of coexistence, which laid the foundations of Canada.

(Top)
Indian encampment,
fur trade era

(Right)
John Cabot, an Italian
immigrant to England,
was the first to map
Canada's Atlantic
shore, setting foot on
Newfoundland or Cape
Breton Island in 1497 and
claiming the *New Founde
Land* for England. English
settlement did not begin
until 1610



Jacques Cartier was the
first European to explore
the St. Lawrence River
and to set eyes on
present-day Quebec City
and Montreal

THE FIRST EUROPEANS

The Vikings from Iceland who colonized Greenland 1,000 years ago also reached Labrador and the island of Newfoundland. The remains of their settlement, l'Anse aux Meadows, are a World Heritage site.

European exploration began in earnest in 1497 with the expedition of John Cabot, who was the first to draw a map of Canada's east coast.

EXPLORING A RIVER, NAMING *CANADA*

Between 1534 and 1542, Jacques Cartier made three voyages across the Atlantic, claiming the land for King Francis I of France. Cartier heard two captured guides speak the Iroquoian word *kanata*, meaning "village." By the 1550s, the name of *Canada* began appearing on maps.



ROYAL NEW FRANCE

In 1604, the first European settlement north of Florida was established by French explorers Pierre de Monts and Samuel de Champlain, first on St. Croix Island (in present-day Maine), then at Port-Royal, in Acadia (present-day Nova Scotia). In 1608 Champlain built a fortress at what is now Quebec City. The colonists struggled in the harsh climate. Champlain allied the colony with the Algonquin, Montagnais and Huron, historic enemies of the Iroquois, a confederation of five (later six) First Nations who battled with the French settlements for a century. The French and the Iroquois made peace in 1701.

The French and Aboriginal people collaborated in the vast fur-trade economy, driven by the demand for beaver pelts in Europe. Outstanding leaders like Jean Talon, Bishop Laval, and Count Frontenac built a French Empire in North America that reached from Hudson Bay to the Gulf of Mexico.

STRUGGLE FOR A CONTINENT

In 1670, King Charles II of England granted the Hudson’s Bay Company exclusive trading rights over the watershed draining into Hudson Bay. For the next 100 years the Company competed with Montreal-based traders. The skilled and courageous men who travelled by canoe were called *voyageurs* and *coureurs des bois*, and formed strong alliances with First Nations.

English colonies along the Atlantic seaboard, dating from the early 1600s, eventually became richer and more populous than New France. In the 1700s France and Great Britain battled for control of North America. In 1759, the British defeated the French in the Battle of the Plains of Abraham at Quebec City – marking the end of France’s empire in America. The commanders of both armies, Brigadier James Wolfe and the Marquis de Montcalm, were killed leading their troops in battle.

THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

Following the war, Great Britain renamed the colony the “Province of Quebec.” The French-speaking Catholic people, known as *habitants* or *Canadiens*, strove to preserve their way of life in the English-speaking, Protestant-ruled British Empire.

A TRADITION OF ACCOMMODATION

To better govern the French Roman Catholic majority, the British Parliament passed the *Quebec Act* of 1774. One of the constitutional foundations of Canada, the *Quebec Act* accommodated the principles of British institutions to the reality of the province. It allowed religious freedom for Catholics and permitted them to hold public office, a practice not then allowed in Britain. It established English criminal law and French civil law.

UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS

In 1776, the thirteen British colonies to the south of Quebec declared independence and formed the United States. North America was again divided by war. More than 40,000 people loyal to the Crown, called “Loyalists,” fled the oppression of the American Revolution to settle in Nova Scotia and Quebec. Joseph Brant led thousands of Loyalist Mohawk Indians into Canada. The Loyalists came from Dutch, German, British, Scandinavian, Aboriginal, and other origins and from Presbyterian, Anglican, Baptist, Methodist, Jewish, Quaker, and Catholic religious backgrounds. About 3,000 black Loyalists, freedmen and slaves, came north seeking a better life. In turn, in 1792, some black Nova Scotians, who were given poor land, moved on to establish Freetown, Sierra Leone (West Africa), a new British colony for freed slaves.

(From Left to Right)

Count Frontenac refused to surrender Quebec to the English in 1690, saying: “My only reply will be from the mouths of my cannons!”

Pierre Le Moyne, Sieur d’Iberville, was a great hero of New France, winning many victories over the English, from James Bay in the north to Nevis in the Caribbean, in the late 17th and early 18th centuries

Sir Guy Carleton (Lord Dorchester), as Governor of Quebec, defended the rights of the *Canadiens*, defeated an American military invasion of Quebec in 1775, and supervised the Loyalist migration to Nova Scotia and Quebec in 1782-83

The first elected Assembly of Lower Canada, in Quebec City, debates whether to use both French and English, January 21, 1793



The Beginnings of Democracy

Democratic institutions developed gradually. The first representative assembly was elected in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in 1758. Prince Edward Island followed in 1773, New Brunswick in 1785. The *Constitutional Act* of 1791 divided the Province of Quebec into Upper Canada (later Ontario), which was mainly Loyalist, Protestant, and English-speaking, and Lower Canada (later Quebec), heavily Catholic and French-speaking.

The Act also granted to the Canadas, for the first time, legislative assemblies elected by the people. The name Canada also became official at this time and has been used ever since. The Atlantic colonies and the two Canadas were known collectively as British North America.

ABOLITION OF SLAVERY

Slavery has existed all over the world, from Asia, Africa, and the Middle East to the Americas. The first movement to abolish the transatlantic slave trade emerged in the British Parliament in the late 1700s. In 1793, Upper Canada, led by Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe, a Loyalist military officer, became the first province in the Empire to move toward abolition. In 1807, the British Parliament prohibited the buying and selling of slaves, and in 1833 abolished slavery throughout the Empire. Thousands of slaves escaped from the United States, followed “the North Star,” and settled in Canada via the Underground Railroad, a Christian anti-slavery network.



(Bottom, from Left to Right) Lieutenant Colonel John Graves Simcoe was Upper Canada’s first Lieutenant Governor and founder of the City of York (now Toronto). Simcoe also made Upper Canada the first province in the British Empire to abolish slavery

Mary Ann (Shadd) Carey was an outspoken activist in the movement to abolish slavery in the USA. In 1853 she became the first woman publisher in Canada, helping to found and edit *The Provincial Freeman*, a weekly newspaper dedicated to anti-slavery, black immigration to Canada, temperance (urging people to drink less alcohol), and upholding British rule

A GROWING ECONOMY

The first companies in Canada were formed during the French and British regimes and competed for the fur trade. The Hudson’s Bay Company, with French, British, and Aboriginal employees, came to dominate the trade in the northwest from Fort Garry (Winnipeg) and Fort Edmonton to Fort Langlely (near Vancouver) and Fort Victoria – trading posts that later became cities.

The first financial institutions opened in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The Montreal Stock Exchange opened in 1832. For centuries Canada’s economy was based mainly on farming and on exporting natural resources such as fur, fish, and timber, transported by roads, lakes, rivers, and canals.



(From Left to Right)
HMS *Shannon*, a Royal Navy frigate, leads the captured USS *Chesapeake* into Halifax harbour, 1813. There were also naval battles on the Great Lakes
Major General Sir Isaac Brock and Chief Tecumseh. Together, British troops, First Nations, and Canadian volunteers defeated an American invasion in 1812-14

The War of 1812

After the defeat of Napoleon's fleet in the Battle of Trafalgar (1805), the Royal Navy ruled the waves. But Americans resented British interference with their shipping. The USA believed that it would be easy to conquer Canada and launched an invasion in June 1812. Canadian volunteers and First Nations, including Shawnee led by Chief Tecumseh, supported British soldiers in Canada's defence. In July, Major-General Sir Isaac Brock captured Detroit but was killed while defeating an American attack at Queenston Heights, near Niagara Falls. In 1813, Lieutenant-Colonel Charles de Salaberry and 460 soldiers, mostly *Canadiens*, turned back 4,000 American invaders at Châteauguay, south of Montreal. The Americans burned Government House and the Parliament Buildings in York (now Toronto). In retaliation in 1814, the British burned down the White House and other public buildings in Washington, D.C. The leader of that expedition, Major General Robert Ross, died in battle soon afterwards and was buried in Halifax with full military honours.

(Below)
French-Canadian militiamen helped defend Canada in the War of 1812

The war ended in 1814, when both sides gave back any territory they had captured. The British paid for a costly defence system including the Citadels at Halifax and Quebec City, the naval drydock at Halifax, Fort Henry at Kingston, and the Rideau Canal between Kingston and Ottawa. Today these are important historic sites and popular tourist attractions. The present-day Canada-U.S. border is partly an outcome of the War of 1812, which ensured that Canada would remain independent of the United States.

REBELLIONS OF 1837-38

In the 1830s, reformers in Upper and Lower Canada believed that progress toward full democracy was too slow. Some believed Canada should adopt American republican values or even try to join the United States. When armed rebellions occurred in 1837-38 in the area outside Montreal and in Toronto, the rebels did not have enough public support to succeed. They were defeated by British troops and Canadian

volunteers. A number of rebels were hanged or exiled; some exiles later returned to Canada.

Lord Durham, an English reformer sent to report on the rebellions, recommended that Upper and Lower Canada be merged and given *Responsible Government*. This means that the ministers of the Crown must have the support of a majority of the elected representatives in order to govern. Controversially, Lord Durham also said that the quickest way for the *Canadiens* to achieve



Discover Canada

The Fathers of Confederation established the Dominion of Canada on July 1, 1867, the birth of the country that we know today

progress was to assimilate into English-speaking Protestant culture. This recommendation showed a complete lack of understanding of French Canadians, who sought to uphold the distinct identity of French Canada.

Some reformers, including Sir Étienne-Paschal Taché and Sir George-Étienne Cartier, later became Fathers of Confederation, as did a former member of the voluntary government militia in Upper Canada, Sir John A. Macdonald.



RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

In 1840, Upper and Lower Canada were united as the Province of Canada. Reformers such as Sir Louis-Hippolyte La Fontaine and Robert Baldwin, in parallel to Joseph Howe in Nova Scotia, worked with British governors toward responsible government.

The first British North American colony to attain full responsible government was Nova Scotia in 1847-48. In 1848-49 the governor of United Canada, Lord Elgin, with encouragement from London, introduced responsible government.

This is the system that we have today: if the government loses a confidence vote in the assembly it must resign. La Fontaine, a champion of democracy and French language rights, became the first leader of a responsible government in the Canadas.

Dominion of Canada \$1 bill, 1923, showing King George V, who assigned Canada's national colours (white and red) in 1921, the colours of our national flag today

CONFEDERATION

From 1864 to 1867, representatives from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and the Province of Canada, with British support, established a new country called the Dominion of Canada. There would be two levels of government, federal and provincial. Each province would keep its own legislature and have control of such areas as education and health. The British Parliament passed the *British North America Act* in 1867, after three conferences of representatives of the colonies held in Charlottetown, Quebec City and London.

The birth of Canada, on July 1, 1867, is known as Confederation. The men who established Canada are called the Fathers of Confederation. Until 1982, July 1 was celebrated as “Dominion Day” to commemorate the day that Canada became a self-governing Dominion. Today it is officially known as Canada Day.



Dominion from Sea to Sea

Sir Leonard Tilley, an elected official and Father of Confederation from New Brunswick, suggested the term *Dominion of Canada* in 1864. He was inspired by Psalm 72 in the Bible which refers to “dominion from sea to sea and from the river to the ends of the earth.” This phrase embodied the vision of building a powerful, united, wealthy, and free country that spanned a continent. The title was written into the Constitution, was used officially for about 100 years, and remains part of our heritage today.

Sir Louis-Hippolyte La Fontaine, a champion of French language rights, became the first head of a responsible government (similar to a prime minister) in Canada in 1849



Timeline of Provinces and Territories

- 1867 – Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick
- 1870 – Manitoba, Northwest Territories (N.W.T.)
- 1871 – British Columbia
- 1873 – Prince Edward Island
- 1880 – Transfer of the Arctic Islands (to N.W.T.)
- 1898 – Yukon Territory
- 1905 – Alberta, Saskatchewan
- 1949 – Newfoundland and Labrador
- 1999 – Nunavut

Did you know? In the 1920s, some believed that the British West Indies (British territories in the Caribbean Sea) should become part of Canada. This did not occur, though Canada and Commonwealth Caribbean countries and territories enjoy close ties today.

Canada's First Prime Minister

In 1867, **Sir John Alexander Macdonald**, a Father of Confederation, became Canada's first Prime Minister. Born in Scotland on January 11, 1815, he came to Upper Canada as a child. He was a lawyer in Kingston, Ontario, a gifted politician, and a colourful personality. Parliament has recognized January 11 as Sir John A. Macdonald Day. His portrait is on the \$10 bill.

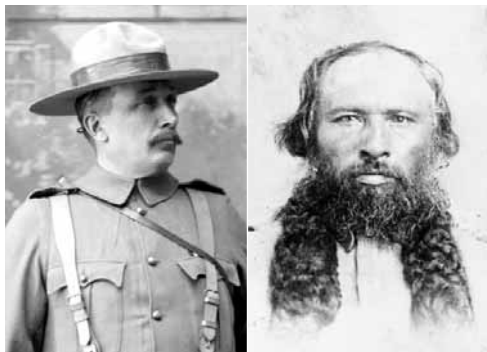
Sir George-Étienne Cartier was the key architect of Confederation from Quebec. A railway lawyer, Montrealer, close ally of Macdonald, and patriotic *Canadien*, Cartier led Quebec into Confederation and helped negotiate the entry of the Northwest Territories, Manitoba, and British Columbia into Canada.

Sir John A. Macdonald, the first Prime Minister of the Dominion of Canada



CHALLENGE IN THE WEST

When Canada took over the vast northwest region from the Hudson's Bay Company in 1869, the 12,000 Métis of the Red River were not consulted. In response, Louis Riel led an armed uprising and seized Fort Garry, the territorial capital. Canada's future was in jeopardy. How could the Dominion reach from sea to sea if it could not control the interior?



(From Left to Right)

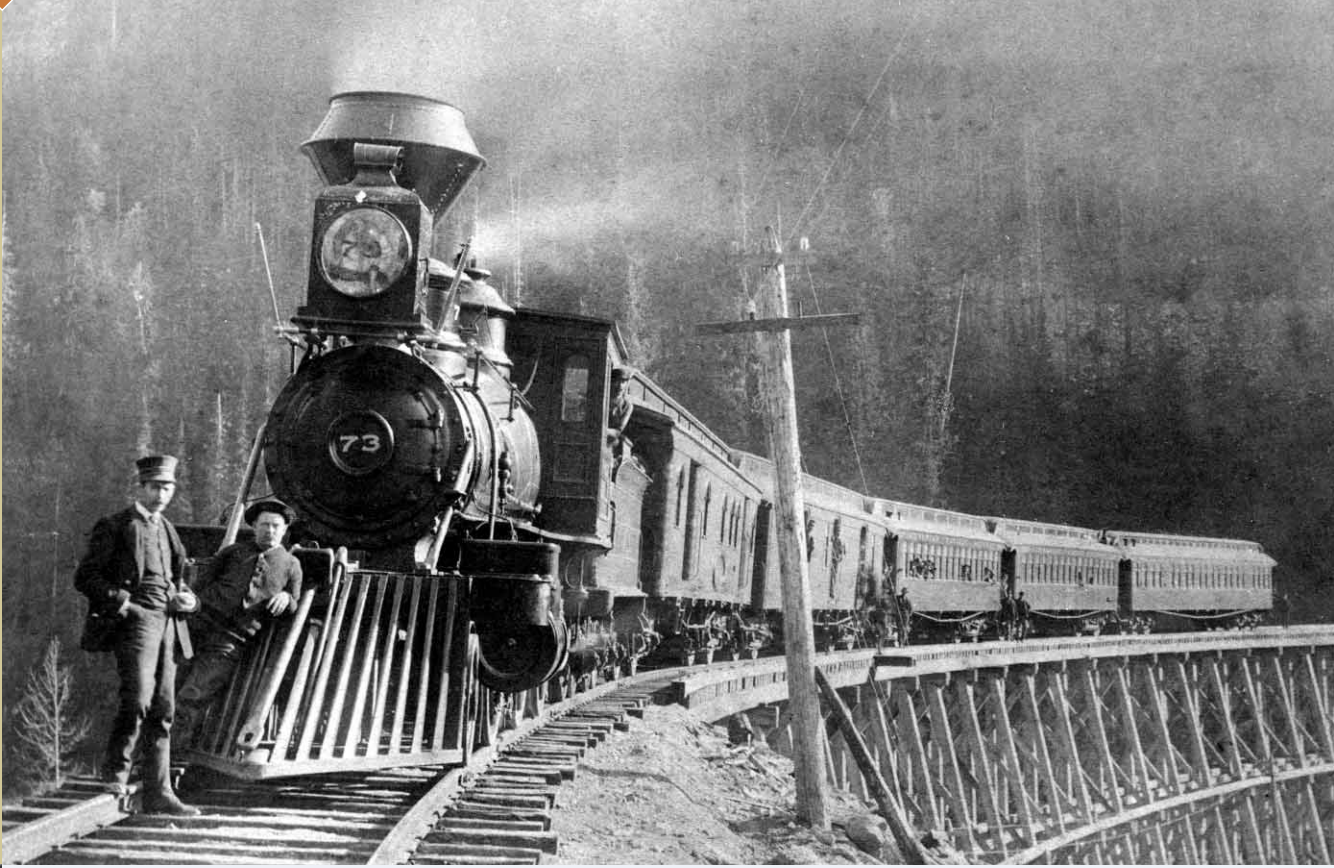
Sir Sam Steele: A great frontier hero, Mounted Policeman, and soldier of the Queen

Métis Resistance: Gabriel Dumont was the Métis' greatest military leader

Ottawa sent soldiers to retake Fort Garry in 1870. Riel fled to the United States, and Canada established a new province, Manitoba. Riel was elected to Parliament but never took his seat. Later, as Métis and Indian rights were again threatened by westward settlement, a second rebellion in 1885 in present-day Saskatchewan led to Riel's trial and execution for high treason, a decision that was strongly opposed in Quebec. Riel is seen by many as a hero, a defender of Métis rights, and the father of Manitoba.

After the first Métis uprising, Prime Minister Macdonald established the North West Mounted Police in 1873 to pacify the West and assist in negotiations with the Indians. The NWMP founded Fort Calgary, Fort MacLeod, and other centres that today are cities and towns. Regina became its headquarters. Today, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP or "the Mounties") are the national police force and one of Canada's best-known symbols. Some of Canada's most colourful heroes, such as Major General Sir Sam Steele, came from the ranks of the Mounties.

Members of the train crew pose with a west-bound Pacific Express, at the first crossing of the Illecillewaet River near Glacier, B.C., 1886



A Railway from Sea to Sea

British Columbia joined Canada in 1871 after Ottawa promised to build a railway to the West Coast. On November 7, 1885, a powerful symbol of unity was completed when Donald Smith (Lord Strathcona), the Scottish-born director of the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR), drove the last spike. The project was financed by British and American investors and built by both European and Chinese labour. Afterwards the Chinese were subject to discrimination including the Head Tax, a race-based entry fee; the Government of Canada apologized in 2006 for this discriminatory policy. After many years of heroic work, the CPR's "ribbons of steel" fulfilled a national dream.



Chinese workers' camp on the CPR, Kamloops, 1886

MOVING WESTWARD

Canada's economy grew and became more industrialized during the economic boom of the 1890s and early 1900s. One million British and one million Americans immigrated to Canada at this time.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier became the first French-Canadian prime minister since Confederation and encouraged immigration to the West. His portrait is on the \$5 bill. The railway made it possible for immigrants, including 170,000 Ukrainians, 115,000 Poles, and tens of thousands from Germany, France, Norway, and Sweden to settle in the West before 1914 and develop a thriving agricultural sector.



(From Left to Right)
Sergeant, Fort Garry Horse,
Canadian Expeditionary
Force, 1916
Sir Arthur Currie, a reserve
officer, became Canada's
greatest soldier



THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Most Canadians were proud to be part of the British Empire. Over 7,000 volunteered to fight in the South African War (1899-1902), popularly known as the Boer War, and over 260 died. In 1900, Canadians took part in the Battles of Paardeberg ("Horse Mountain") and Lillfontein, victories that strengthened national pride in Canada.

When Germany attacked Belgium and France in 1914 and Britain declared war, Ottawa formed the Canadian Expeditionary Force (later the Canadian Corps). More than 600,000 Canadians served in the war, most of them volunteers, out of a total population of 8 million.

On the battlefield, the Canadians proved to be tough, innovative soldiers. Canada shared in the tragedy and triumph of the Western Front. The Canadian Corps captured Vimy Ridge in April 1917, with 10,000 killed or wounded, securing the Canadians' reputation for valour as the "shock troops of the British Empire." One Canadian officer

said: "It was Canada from the Atlantic to the Pacific on parade. ... In those few minutes I witnessed the birth of a nation." April 9 is celebrated as Vimy Day.

Regrettably, from 1914 to 1920, Ottawa interned over 8,000 former Austro-Hungarian subjects, mainly Ukrainian men, as "enemy aliens" in 24 labour camps across Canada, even though Britain advised against the policy.

In 1918, under the command of General Sir Arthur Currie, Canada's greatest soldier, the Canadian Corps advanced alongside the French and British Empire troops in the last Hundred Days. These included the victorious Battle of Amiens on August 8, 1918 – which the Germans called "the black day of the German Army" – followed by Arras, Canal du Nord, Cambrai, and Mons. With Germany and Austria's surrender, the war ended in the Armistice on November 11, 1918. In total 60,000 Canadians were killed and 170,000 wounded. The war strengthened both national and imperial pride, particularly in English Canada.



(From Top to Bottom)
Maple leaf cap badge
from the First World War.
Canada's soldiers began
using the maple leaf in
the 1850s

The Vimy Memorial in France honours those who served and died in the Battle of Vimy Ridge on April 9, 1917, the first British victory of the First World War

WOMEN GET THE VOTE

At the time of Confederation, the vote was limited to property-owning adult white males. This was common in most democratic countries at the time. The effort by women to achieve the right to vote is known as the women's suffrage movement. Its founder in Canada was Dr. Emily Stowe, the first Canadian woman to practise medicine in Canada. In 1916, Manitoba became the first province to grant voting rights to women.

In 1917, thanks to the leadership of women such as Dr. Stowe and other suffragettes, the federal government of Sir Robert Borden gave women the right to vote in federal elections – first to nurses at the battle front, then to women who were related to men in active wartime service. In 1918,

most Canadian female citizens over 21 were granted the right to vote in federal elections. Due to the work of Thérèse Casgrain and others, Quebec granted women the vote in 1940.



More than 3,000 nurses,
nicknamed "Bluebirds,"
served in the Royal
Canadian Army Medical
Corps, 2,500 of them
overseas

Discover Canada

(From Left to Right)
Canadian soldiers
observe Remembrance
Day
Remembrance Day poppy
Canadian War Veteran



Scouts with
Remembrance Day
wreath

Canadians remember the sacrifices of our veterans and brave fallen in all wars up to the present day in which Canadians took part, each year on November 11: Remembrance Day. Canadians wear the red poppy and observe a moment of silence at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month to honour the sacrifices of over a million brave men and women who have served, and the 110,000 who have given their lives. Canadian medical officer Lt. Col. John McCrae composed the poem “In Flanders Fields” in 1915; it is often recited on Remembrance Day:

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*

BETWEEN THE WARS

After the First World War, the British Empire evolved into a free association of states known as the British Commonwealth of Nations. Canada remains a leading member of the Commonwealth to this day, together with other successor states of the Empire such as India, Australia, New Zealand, and several African and Caribbean countries.

The “Roaring Twenties” were boom times, with prosperity for businesses and low unemployment. The stock market crash of 1929, however, led to the Great Depression or “Dirty Thirties.” Unemployment reached 27% in 1933 and many businesses were wiped out. Farmers in Western Canada were hit hardest by low grain prices and a terrible drought.

There was growing demand for the government to create a social safety net with minimum wages, a standard work week, and programs such as unemployment insurance. The Bank of Canada, a central bank to manage the money supply and bring stability to the financial system, was created in 1934. Immigration dropped and many refugees were turned away, including Jews trying to flee Nazi Germany in 1939.



Phil Edwards was a Canadian track and field champion. Born in British Guiana, he won bronze medals for Canada in the 1928, 1932, and 1936 Olympics, then graduated from McGill University Medical School. He served as a captain in the Canadian Army during the Second World War, and, as a Montreal doctor, became an expert in tropical diseases.



In the Second World War, the Canadians captured Juno Beach as part of the Allied invasion of Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944

The D-Day Invasion, June 6, 1944

In order to defeat Nazism and Fascism, the Allies invaded Nazi-occupied Europe. Canadians took part in the liberation of Italy in 1943-1944. In the epic invasion of Normandy in northern France on June 6, 1944, known as D-Day, 15,000 Canadian troops stormed and captured Juno Beach from the German Army, a great national achievement shown in this painting by Orville Fisher. Approximately one in ten Allied soldiers on D-Day was Canadian. The Canadian Army liberated the Netherlands in 1944-45 and helped force the German surrender of May 8, 1945, bringing to an end six years of war in Europe.



THE SECOND WORLD WAR

The Second World War began in 1939 when Adolf Hitler, the National Socialist (Nazi) dictator of Germany, invaded Poland and conquered much of Europe. Canada joined with its democratic allies in the fight to defeat tyranny by force of arms.

More than one million Canadians and Newfoundlanders (Newfoundland was a separate British entity) served in the Second World War, out of population of 11.5 million. This was a high proportion, and of these 44,000 were killed.

The Canadians suffered losses in the unsuccessful defence of Hong Kong (1941) from attack by Imperial Japan, and in a failed raid on Nazi-controlled Dieppe on the coast of France (1942).

The Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) took part in the Battle of Britain and provided a high proportion of Commonwealth aircrew in bombers and fighter planes over Europe. Moreover, Canada contributed more to the Allied air effort than any other Commonwealth country, with over 130,000 Allied

air crew trained in Canada under the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan.

The Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) saw its finest hour in the Battle of the Atlantic, protecting convoys of merchant ships against German submarines. Canada's Merchant Navy helped to feed, clothe, and resupply Britain. At the end of the Second World War, Canada had the third-largest navy in the world.

In the Pacific war, Japan invaded the Aleutian Islands, attacked a lighthouse on Vancouver Island, launched fire balloons over B.C. and the Prairies, and grossly maltreated Canadian prisoners of war captured at Hong Kong. Regrettably, the state of war and public opinion in B.C. led to the relocation of West Coast Japanese Canadians by the Canadian government, and the forcible sale of their property. This occurred even though some local officials and the RCMP told Ottawa that they posed little danger to Canada. The Government of Canada apologized in 1988 for wartime wrongs inflicted on Japanese Canadians. Japan surrendered on August 14, 1945 – the end of four years of war in the Pacific.

Modern Canada

TRADE AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Postwar Canada enjoyed record prosperity and material progress. The world's restrictive trading policies in the Depression era were opened up by such treaties as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), now the World Trade Organization (WTO). In 1951, for the first time, a majority of Canadians were able to afford adequate food, shelter, and clothing. Between 1945 and 1970, as Canada drew closer to the United States and other trading partners, the country enjoyed one of the strongest economies among industrialized nations. Today, Canadians enjoy one of the world's highest standards of living – maintained by the hard work of Canadians and by trade with other nations, in particular the United States.

INTERNATIONAL ROLES

The Cold War began when several liberated countries of eastern Europe became part of a Communist bloc controlled by the Soviet Union under the dictator Josef Stalin. Canada joined with other democratic countries of the West to form the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), a military alliance, and with the United States in the North American Aerospace Defence Command (NORAD).

Canada joined international organizations such as the United Nations (UN). It participated in the UN operation defending South Korea in the Korean War (1950-53), with the loss of 500 dead and 1,000 wounded. Canada has taken part in numerous UN peacekeeping missions in places as varied as Egypt, Cyprus, and Haiti, as well as in other international security operations such as those in the former Yugoslavia and Afghanistan.

Like Australia, New Zealand, and other countries, Canada developed its national independence gradually with a capacity to make significant contributions.



Toronto's business district: Canada's financial capital

A MODERN SOCIETY

As social values changed in the postwar economic boom, Canada became a more flexible and open society. Canadians believe in the equality of men and women. Many took advantage of expanding secondary and post-secondary educational opportunities and a growing number of women entered the professional work force.

Most Canadians of Asian descent had in the past been denied the vote in federal and provincial elections. In 1948 the last of these, the Japanese-Canadians, gained the right to vote. Aboriginal people were granted the vote in 1960. Canada welcomed thousands of refugees from Communist oppression, including 50,000 who escaped Soviet tyranny in Hungary in 1956. Rules that gave preference to Europeans were removed from immigration laws in the 1960s. With the victory of North Vietnam in 1975, many Vietnamese fled from Communism, including over 50,000 who sought refuge in Canada.

As prosperity grew, so did the ability to expand social assistance programs. The *Canada Health Act* ensures common elements and a basic standard of coverage. Unemployment insurance



A medical researcher



(From Left to Right)
Vietnamese Canadian
parade
F-86 Sabre, Royal
Canadian Air Force
Cirque du Soleil

(now called “employment insurance”) was introduced by the federal government in 1940. Old Age Security was devised as early as 1927, and the Canada and Quebec Pension Plans since 1965. Publicly funded education is provided by the provinces and territories.

The movement for Quebec sovereignty gained strength but was defeated in two referendums in the province in 1980 and 1995. The autonomy of Quebec within Canada remains a lively topic – part of the dynamic that continues to shape our country.

At the same time the idea of multiculturalism, as a result of 19th and 20th century immigration, gained a new impetus. By the 1960s, one-third of Canadians had origins that were neither British nor French, and took pride in preserving their distinct culture in the Canadian fabric. Today, diversity enriches Canadians’ lives, particularly in our cities.

ARTS AND CULTURE IN CANADA

Canadian artists have a long history of achievement in which Canadians take pride. Artists from all regions reflect and define our culture and forms of creative expression and have achieved greatness both at home and abroad.

Canadians have made significant contributions to literature in English and in French. Novelists, poets, historians, singers, and songwriters have brought Canadian stories to light.

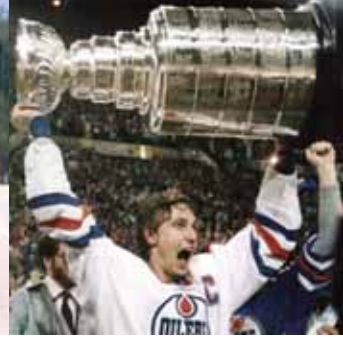
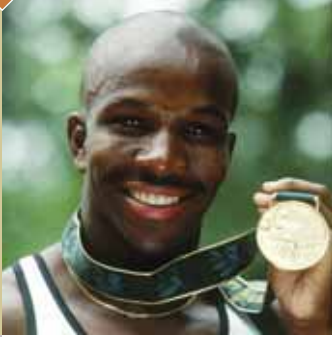
In the visual arts, Canada is historically perhaps best known for the Group of Seven, founded in 1920, who developed a style of painting to capture the rugged wilderness landscapes. Emily Carr painted the forests and Aboriginal artifacts of the West Coast. *Les Automatistes* of Quebec were pioneers of modern abstract art in the 1950s, most notably Jean-Paul Riopelle. Kenojuak Ashevak pioneered modern Inuit art with etchings, prints, and soapstone sculptures.



The Jack Pine, Tom Thomson

French Canadian society and culture flourished in the postwar years. Quebec experienced an era of rapid change in the 1960s known as the Quiet Revolution. Many Quebecers sought to separate from Canada. In 1963 Parliament established the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism. The result was the *Official Languages Act* (1969), which guarantees French-language rights and services in the federal government across Canada. In 1970 Canada helped found *La Francophonie*, an international association of French-speaking countries.

(From Left to Right)
 Donovan Bailey
 Chantal Petitclerc
 Terry Fox
 Wayne Gretzky



Mark Tewksbury, Olympic gold medalist and prominent activist for gay and lesbian Canadians

Canada has a long and respected performing arts history, with a network of regional theatres and world-renowned performing arts companies.

The films of Denys Arcand have been popular in Quebec and across the country, and have won international awards. Other noteworthy Canadian filmmakers include Norman Jewison and Atom Egoyan. Canadian television has had a popular following.

Sports have flourished as all provinces and territories have produced amateur and professional star athletes and Olympic medal winners. Basketball was invented by Canadian James Naismith in 1891. Many major league sports boast Canadian talent, and in the national winter sport of ice hockey Canadian teams have dominated the world. In 1996 at the Olympic Summer Games, Donovan Bailey became a world record sprinter and double Olympic gold medalist. Chantal Petitclerc became a world wheelchair racer and Paralympic champion. One of the greatest hockey players of all time, Wayne Gretzky, played for the Edmonton Oilers from 1979 to 1988.

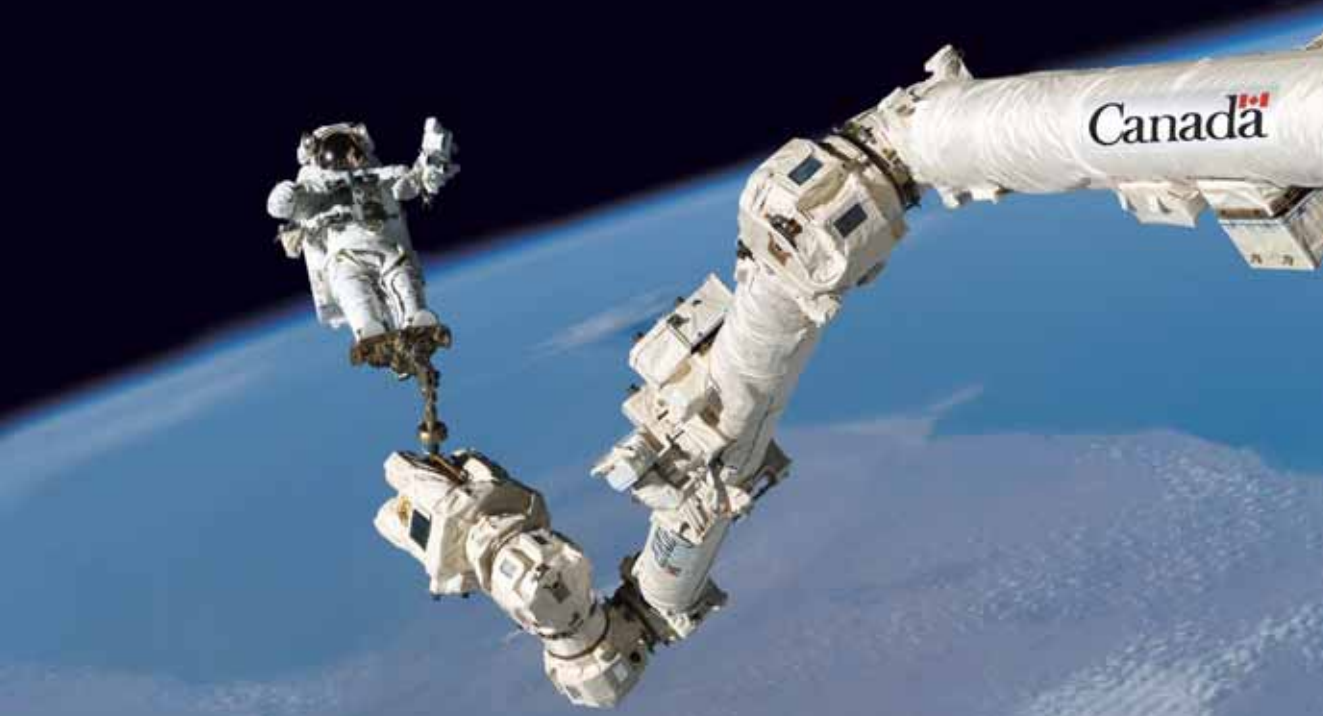
In 1980, Terry Fox, a British Columbian who lost his right leg to cancer at the age of 18, began a cross-country run, the “Marathon of Hope,” to raise money for cancer research. He became a hero to Canadians. While he did not finish and ultimately lost his battle with cancer, his legacy continues through yearly fundraising runs in his name. In 1985, fellow British Columbian Rick Hansen circled the globe in a wheelchair to raise funds for spinal cord research.

Canadian advances in science and technology are world renowned and have changed the way the world communicates and does business. Marshall McLuhan and Harold Innis were pioneer thinkers. Science and research in Canada have won international recognition and attracted world-class students, academics and entrepreneurs engaged in medical research, telecommunications, and other fields. Since 1989, the Canadian Space Agency and Canadian astronauts have participated in space exploration, often using the Canadian-designed and built Canadarm. Gerhard Herzberg, a refugee from Nazi Germany, John Polanyi, Sidney Altman, Richard E. Taylor, Michael Smith, and Bertram Brockhouse were Nobel Prize-winning scientists.

Canadian Football

Canadian football is a popular game that differs in a number of ways from American football. Professional teams in the Canadian Football League (CFL) compete for the championship Grey Cup, donated by Lord Grey, the Governor General, in 1909.





GREAT CANADIAN DISCOVERIES AND INVENTIONS

Canadians have made various discoveries and inventions. Some of the most famous are listed below.

- **Alexander Graham Bell** – hit on the idea of the telephone at his summer house in Canada.
- **Joseph-Armand Bombardier** – invented the snowmobile, a light-weight winter vehicle.
- **Sir Sandford Fleming** – invented the worldwide system of standard time zones.
- **Mathew Evans and Henry Woodward** – together invented the first electric light bulb and later sold the patent to Thomas Edison who, more famously, commercialized the light bulb.
- **Reginald Fessenden** – contributed to the invention of radio, sending the first wireless voice message in the world.
- **Dr. Wilder Penfield** – was a pioneering brain surgeon at McGill University in Montreal, and was known as “the greatest living Canadian.”
- **Dr. John A. Hopps** – invented the first cardiac pacemaker, used today to save the lives of people with heart disorders.
- **SPAR Aerospace / National Research Council** – invented the Canadarm, a robotic arm used in outer space.
- **Mike Lazaridis and Jim Balsillie** – Co-founders of Research in Motion (RIM), a wireless communications company known for its most famous invention – the BlackBerry.



Sir Frederick Banting of Toronto and Charles Best discovered Insulin, a hormone to treat diabetes that has saved 16 million lives worldwide.

Want to learn more about Canada’s history? Visit a museum or national historic site! Through artifacts, works of art, stories, images, and documents, museums explore the diverse events and accomplishments that formed Canada’s history. Museums can be found in almost every city and town across Canada. National historic sites are located in all provinces and territories and include such diverse places as battlefields, archaeological sites, buildings, and sacred spaces. To find a museum or national historic site in your community or region, visit the websites of the Virtual Museum of Canada and Parks Canada listed at the end of this guide.

The prosperity and diversity of our country depend on all Canadians working together to face challenges of the future. In seeking to become a citizen, you are joining a country that, with your

active participation, will continue to grow and thrive.

How will you make your contribution to Canada?

How Canadians Govern Themselves

There are three key facts about Canada's system of government: our country is a federal state, a parliamentary democracy and a constitutional monarchy.



(From Left to Right)
Queen Elizabeth II
opening the 23rd
Parliament (1957)
Parliament Hill, Ottawa



FEDERAL STATE

There are federal, provincial, territorial and municipal governments in Canada. The responsibilities of the federal and provincial governments were defined in 1867 in the British North America Act, now known as the Constitution Act, 1867.

In our *federal state*, the federal government takes responsibility for matters of national and international concern. These include defence, foreign policy, interprovincial trade and communications, currency, navigation, criminal law, and citizenship. The provinces are responsible for municipal government, education, health, natural resources, property and civil rights, and highways. The federal government and the provinces share jurisdiction over agriculture and immigration. Federalism allows different provinces to adopt policies tailored to their own populations, and gives provinces the flexibility to experiment with new ideas and policies.

Every province has its own elected Legislative Assembly, like the House of Commons in Ottawa. The three northern territories, which have small populations, do not have the status of provinces, but their governments and assemblies carry out many of the same functions.

PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY

In Canada's *parliamentary democracy*, the people elect members to the House of Commons in Ottawa and to the provincial and territorial legislatures. These representatives are responsible for passing laws, approving and monitoring expenditures, and keeping the government accountable. Cabinet ministers are responsible to the elected representatives, which means they must retain the "confidence of the House" and have to resign if they are defeated in a non-confidence vote.

Parliament has three parts: the Sovereign (Queen or King), the Senate, and the House of Commons. Provincial legislatures comprise the Lieutenant Governor and the elected Assembly.

In the federal government, the **Prime Minister** selects the Cabinet ministers and is responsible for the operations and policy of the government. The **House of Commons** is the representative chamber, made up of Members of Parliament elected by the people, traditionally every four years. **Senators** are appointed on the advice of the Prime Minister and serve until age 75. Both the House of Commons and Senate consider and review **bills** (proposals for new laws). No bill can become law in Canada until it has been passed by both chambers and has received Royal Assent, granted by the Governor General on behalf of the Sovereign.

MAKING LAWS

HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW – The Legislative Process

- STEP 1 First Reading** – The bill is considered read for the first time and is printed.
- STEP 2 Second Reading** – Members debate the bill's principle.
- STEP 3 Committee Stage** – Committee members study the bill clause by clause.
- STEP 4 Report Stage** – Members can make other amendments.
- STEP 5 Third Reading** – Members debate and vote on the bill.
- STEP 6 Senate** – The bill follows a similar process in the Senate.
- STEP 7 Royal Assent** – The bill receives Royal Assent after being passed by both Houses.

Living in a democracy, Canadian citizens have the right and the responsibility to participate in making decisions that affect them. It is important for Canadians aged 18 or more to participate in their democracy by voting in federal, provincial or territorial and municipal elections.

CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY

As a *constitutional monarchy*, Canada's **Head of State** is a hereditary **Sovereign** (Queen or King), who reigns in accordance with the Constitution: the rule of law. The Sovereign is a part of Parliament, playing an important, non-partisan role as the focus of citizenship and allegiance, symbol of Canadian sovereignty, guardian of Constitutional freedoms, reflection of our history and an encouragement for Canadians to give their best to their country, most visibly during Royal visits to Canada. As Head of the Commonwealth, the Sovereign links Canada to 52 other nations which cooperate to advance social, economic, and cultural progress. Other constitutional monarchies include Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Australia, New Zealand, The Netherlands, Spain, Thailand, Japan, Jordan, and Morocco.

There is a clear distinction in Canada between the *head of state* – the Sovereign – and the *head of government* – the Prime Minister, who actually directs the governing of the country.

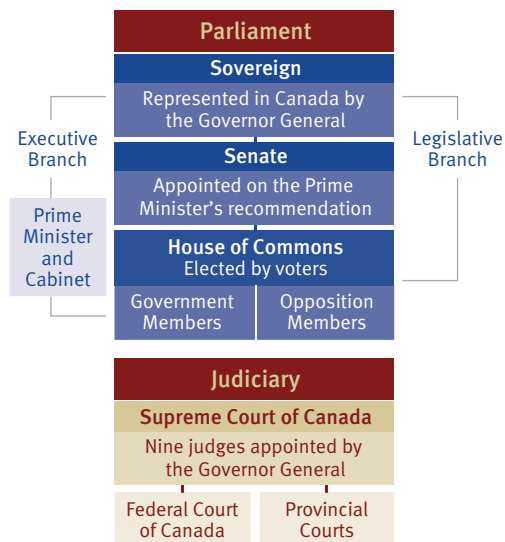
The Sovereign is represented in Canada by the **Governor General**, who is appointed by the Sovereign on the advice of the Prime Minister, usually for five years. In each of the ten provinces the Sovereign is represented by the **Lieutenant Governor**, who is appointed by the Governor General on the advice of the Prime Minister, also normally for five years.

The interplay between the three branches of government – the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial – which work together but also sometimes in creative tension, helps to secure the rights and freedoms of Canadians.

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.

In each province, the **Premier** has a role similar to that of the Prime Minister in the federal government, just as the Lieutenant Governor has a role similar to that of the Governor General. In the three territories, the **Commissioner** represents the federal government and plays a ceremonial role.

Canada's System of Government



Michaëlle Jean, the 27th Governor General since Confederation

Federal Elections

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. Members of the House of Commons are also known as Members of Parliament or MPs.



House of Commons chamber

Under legislation passed by Parliament, federal elections must be held on the third Monday in October every four years following the most recent general election. The Prime Minister may ask the Governor General to call an earlier election.

Canada is divided into 308 electoral districts, also known as ridings or constituencies. An electoral district is a geographical area represented by a Member of Parliament (MP). The citizens in each electoral district elect one MP who sits in the House of Commons to represent them, as well as all Canadians.

Canadian citizens who are 18 years or older 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 and political party of their choice. The candidate who receives the most votes becomes the MP for that electoral district.

VOTING

One of the privileges of Canadian citizenship is the right to vote.

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 by a neutral agency of Parliament called Elections Canada. This is a permanent database of Canadian citizens 18 years of age and older who are qualified to vote in federal elections and referendums.

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

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 lists when and where you vote and the number to call if you require an interpreter or other special services.

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 until election day.

To vote either on election day or at advance polls, go to the polling station listed on your voter information card. See page 32 for voting procedures.



SECRET BALLOT

Canadian law secures the right to a secret ballot. This means that no one can watch you vote and no one should look at how you voted. You may choose to discuss how you voted with others, but no one, including family members, your employer, or union representative, 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.

AFTER AN ELECTION

After an election, the leader of the political party with the most seats in the House of Commons is invited by the Governor General to form the government. After being appointed by the Governor General, the leader of this party becomes the Prime Minister. If the party in power holds at least half of the seats in the House of Commons, this is called a *majority government*. If the party in power holds less than half of the seats in the House of Commons, this is called a *minority government*.

The Prime Minister and the party in power run the government as long as they have the support or *confidence* of the majority of the MPs. When the

House of Commons votes on a major issue such as the Budget, this is considered a matter of confidence. If a majority of the members of the House of Commons votes against a major government decision, the party in power is defeated – this usually results in the Prime Minister asking the Governor General, on behalf of the Sovereign, to call an election.

The Prime Minister chooses the ministers of the Crown, most of them from among members of the House of Commons. 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 the country is governed. They prepare the budget and propose most new laws. Their decisions can be questioned by all members of the House of Commons.

The opposition party with the most members of the House of Commons is the Official Opposition or Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition. The role of opposition parties is to peacefully oppose or try to improve government proposals. The other parties that are not in power are known as opposition parties. There are four major political parties currently represented in the House of Commons: the Bloc Québécois, Conservative Party, Liberal Party, and New Democratic Party.



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 states when and where you vote.



2. I did not get a card

If you do not receive a voter information card, call your local elections office to ensure that 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 or by special ballot. The dates and location are on your voter information card.

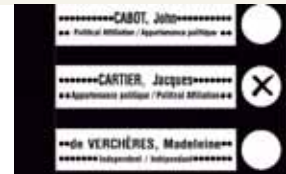


4. On election day

Go to your polling station. The location is on your voter information card. Bring this card and proof of your identity and address to the polling station.

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 ballot number and give your ballot back to 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 website (www.elections.ca).



OTHER LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT IN CANADA

Local or *municipal* government plays an important role in the lives of our citizens. Municipal governments usually have a council that passes laws called “by-laws” that affect only the local community. The council usually includes a mayor (or a reeve) and councillors or aldermen. Municipalities are normally responsible for urban or regional planning, streets and roads, sanitation (such as garbage removal), snow-

removal, firefighting, ambulance and other emergency services, recreation facilities, urban transit, and some local health and social services. Most major urban centres have municipal police forces.

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.

Government	Elected Officials	Some Responsibilities	
Federal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of Parliament (MPs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Defence • Foreign Policy • Citizenship • Policing • Criminal Justice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Trade • Aboriginal Affairs • Immigration (shared) • Agriculture (shared) • Environment (shared)
Provincial and Territorial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) <i>or</i> • Members of the National Assembly (MNA) <i>or</i> • Members of the Provincial Parliament (MPP) <i>or</i> • Members of the House of Assembly (MHA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Health Care • Natural Resources • Highways • Policing • Property and Civil Rights • Immigration (shared) • Agriculture (shared) • Environment (shared) 	
Municipal (local)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor or Reeve • Councillors or Aldermen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social and Community Health • Recycling Programs • Transportation and Utilities • Snow Removal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policing • Firefighting • Emergency Services

The **First Nations** have band chiefs and councillors who have major responsibilities on First Nations reserves, including housing, schools, and other services. There are a number of provincial,

regional, and national Aboriginal organizations which are a voice for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people in their relationships with the federal, provincial, and territorial governments.

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT YOUR GOVERNMENT?

Use this page to take notes and to study important information.

Federal Government

Head of State: _____

The name of the representative of the Queen of Canada, the Governor General, is _____

The Head of Government, the Prime Minister, is _____

The name of the political party in power is _____

The name of the Leader of the Opposition is _____

The name of the party representing Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition is _____

The names of the other opposition parties and leaders are _____

My Member of Parliament (MP) in Ottawa is _____

My federal electoral district is called _____

Provincial Government

The representative of the Queen in my province, the Lieutenant Governor, is _____

The Head of Government (the Premier) is _____

The name of the provincial party in power is _____

The names of the provincial opposition parties and leaders are _____

My provincial representative is _____

Territorial Government

The name of the Commissioner, who represents the federal government in my territory, is _____

The name of the Premier is _____

The name of my territorial representative is _____

Municipal Government

The name of the municipality where I live is _____

The name of the head of the municipal government (mayor or reeve) is _____

The Justice System

The Canadian justice system guarantees everyone due process under the law. Our judicial system is founded on the **presumption of innocence** in criminal matters, meaning everyone is innocent until proven guilty.

Canada's legal system is based on a heritage that includes the rule of law, freedom under the law, democratic principles, and due process. Due process is the principle that the government must respect all of the legal rights a person is entitled to under the law.



Scales of Justice, Vancouver Law Courts. The blindfolded Lady Justice symbolizes the impartial manner in which our laws are administered: blind to all considerations but the facts



Border guard with sniffer dog inspects the trunk of a car at the Canada-US border

Canada is governed by an organized system of laws. These laws are the written rules intended to guide people in our society. They are made by elected representatives. The courts settle disputes and the police enforce the laws. The law

in Canada applies to everyone, including judges, politicians, and the police. Our laws are intended to provide order in society, to provide a peaceful way to settle disputes, and to express the values and beliefs of Canadians.



(From Left to Right)

Jury benches

Ottawa police constable helping a young boy at the Aboriginal Day Flotilla

Prisons have an essential role in punishing criminals and deterring crime

COURTS

The Supreme Court of Canada is our country's highest court. The Federal Court of Canada deals with matters concerning the federal government. In most provinces there is an appeal court and a trial court, sometimes called the Court of Queen's Bench or the Supreme Court. There are also provincial courts for lesser offences, family courts, traffic courts, and small claims courts for civil cases involving small sums of money.

POLICE

The police are there to keep people safe and to enforce the law. You can ask the police for help in all kinds of situations – if there's been an accident, if someone has stolen something from you, if you are a victim of assault, if you see a crime taking place, or if someone you know has gone missing.

There are different types of police in Canada. There are provincial police forces in Ontario and Quebec and municipal police departments in all provinces. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police

(RCMP) enforce federal laws and serve as the provincial police in all provinces and territories except Ontario and Quebec, as well as in some municipalities. Remember, the police are there to help you.

You can also question the police about their service or conduct if you feel you need to. Almost all police forces in Canada have a process by which you can bring your concerns to the police and seek action.

GETTING LEGAL HELP

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

Canadian Symbols

Canada has many important symbols – objects, events, and people that have special meaning. Together they help explain what it means to be Canadian and express our national identity. Important Canadian symbols appear throughout this booklet.

(From Left to Right)
Mace of the House of Commons, Ottawa
Canadian Flag of 1965
The Royal Arms of Canada
Parliament at dusk



The Snowbirds (431 Air Demonstration Squadron) are a Canadian icon

THE CANADIAN CROWN

The Crown has been a symbol of the state in Canada for 400 years. Canada has been a constitutional monarchy in its own right since Confederation in 1867 during Queen Victoria's reign. Queen Elizabeth II has been Queen of Canada since 1952, marked her Golden Jubilee (50 years as Sovereign) in 2002, and celebrates her Diamond Jubilee (60 years as Sovereign) in 2012. The Crown is a symbol of government, including Parliament, the legislatures, courts, police services and the armed forces.

THE NATIONAL FLAG

The National Flag was first raised on February 15, 1965. The red-white-red pattern comes from the flag of the Royal Military College, Kingston, founded in 1876. National Flag of Canada Day is February 15. The provinces and territories also have flags that embody their distinct traditions.

THE MAPLE LEAF

The maple leaf is Canada's most known and respected symbol. Maple leaves were adopted as a symbol by French Canadians in the 1700s, have

appeared on Canadian uniforms and insignia since the 1850s, and are carved into the headstones of our fallen soldiers buried overseas and in Canada.

COAT OF ARMS AND MOTTO

As an expression of national pride after the First World War, Canada adopted an official coat of arms and a national motto, *A Mari Usque Ad Mare*, which in Latin means "from sea to sea." The arms contain symbols of England, France, Scotland, and Ireland as well as red maple leaves. Today the arms can be seen on dollar bills, government documents, and public buildings.

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

The towers, arches, sculptures, and stained glass of the Parliament Buildings embody the French, English, and Aboriginal traditions and the Gothic Revival architecture popular in the time of Queen Victoria. The buildings were completed in the 1860s. The Centre Block was destroyed by an accidental fire in 1916 and rebuilt in 1922. The Library is the only part of the original building remaining. The Peace Tower was completed in 1927 in memory of the First World War. The Memorial Chamber within the Tower



(Left)

Montreal Canadiens
Stanley Cup Champions,
1978

contains the Books of Remembrance, in which are written the names of soldiers, sailors, and airmen who died serving Canada in wars or while on duty.

The provincial legislatures are architectural treasures. The Quebec National Assembly is built in the French Second Empire style, while the legislatures of the other provinces are Baroque, Romanesque, and neoclassical, reflecting the Greco-Roman heritage of Western civilization in which democracy originated.

POPULAR SPORTS

Hockey is Canada's most popular spectator sport and is considered to be the national winter sport. Ice hockey was developed in Canada in the 1800s. The National Hockey League plays for the championship Stanley Cup, donated by Lord Stanley, the Governor General, in 1892. The Clarkson Cup, established in 2005 by Adrienne Clarkson, the first Governor General of Asian origin, is awarded for women's hockey. Many young Canadians play hockey at school, in a hockey league, or on quiet streets – road hockey or street hockey – and are taken to the hockey rink by their parents. Canadian children have collected hockey cards for generations.

Canadian football is the second most popular sport (see page 26). Curling, an ice game introduced by Scottish pioneers, is popular. Lacrosse, an ancient sport first played by Aboriginals, is the official summer sport. Soccer has the most registered players of any game in Canada.

THE BEAVER

The beaver was adopted centuries ago as a symbol of the Hudson's Bay Company. It became an emblem of the St. Jean Baptiste Society, a French-Canadian patriotic association, in 1834, as well as other groups. This industrious rodent can be seen on the five-cent coin, on the coats of arms of Saskatchewan and Alberta, and of cities such as Montreal and Toronto.

CANADA'S OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

English and French are the two official languages, and are important symbols of identity. English speakers (Anglophones) and French speakers (Francophones) have lived together in partnership and creative tension for more than 300 years. **You must have adequate knowledge of English or French to become a Canadian citizen.** (People under the age of 18, and over the age of 54 are exempted from this requirement.)

Parliament passed the *Official Languages Act* in 1969. It has three main objectives:

- Establish equality between French and English in Parliament, the Government of Canada, and institutions subject to the Act;
- Maintain and develop official language communities in Canada; and
- Ensure equality of French and English in Canadian society.



(From Top to Bottom)
RCMP Musical Ride,
Ottawa, Ontario
A Beaver, Algonquin
Park, Ontario

NATIONAL ANTHEM

O Canada was proclaimed as the National Anthem in 1980. It was first sung in Quebec City in 1880. French and English Canadians sing different words to the 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*

Ô Canada!

*Ô Canada! Terre de nos aïeux,
Ton front est ceint de fleurons glorieux!
Car ton bras sait porter l'épée,
Il sait porter la croix!
Ton histoire est une épopée
Des plus brillants exploits.
Et ta valeur, de foi trempée,
Protégera nos foyers et nos droits.
Protégera nos foyers et nos droits.*



ROYAL ANTHEM

The Royal Anthem of Canada, “God Save the Queen (or King),” can be played or sung on any occasion when Canadians wish to honour the Sovereign.

God Save the Queen

*God Save our gracious Queen!
Long live our noble Queen!
God save The Queen!
Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save The Queen!*

Dieu protège la reine

*Dieu protège la Reine!
De sa main souveraine!
Vive la Reine!
Qu'un règne glorieux,
Long et victorieux,
Rende son peuple heureux,
Vive la Reine!*

Jazz pianist Oscar Peterson (left) receives the Order of Canada from Roland Michener (right), the 20th Governor General, in 1973. In the centre are Norah Michener and a portrait of Vincent Massey, the 18th Governor General



THE ORDER OF CANADA AND OTHER HONOURS

All countries have ways to recognize outstanding citizens. Official awards are called honours, consisting of *orders*, *decorations*, and *medals*. After using British honours for many years, Canada started its own honours system with the *Order of Canada* in 1967, the centennial of Confederation.

If you know of fellow citizens who you think are worthy of recognition, you are welcome to nominate them. Information on nominations for many of these honours can be found at www.gg.ca/honours/index-e.asp.



(From Left to Right)
 Col. Alexander Roberts
 Dunn, V.C.
 Able Seaman William Hall,
 V.C.
 Brig. Paul Triquet, V.C.
 Filip Konowal, V.C., was
 promoted Sergeant



The Victoria Cross

The Victoria Cross (V.C.) is the highest honour available to Canadians and is awarded for the most conspicuous bravery, a daring or pre-eminent act of valour or self-sacrifice, or extreme devotion to duty in the presence of the enemy. The V.C. has been awarded to 96 Canadians since 1854, including:

- Lieutenant Alexander Roberts Dunn, born in present-day Toronto, served in the British Army in the Charge of the Light Brigade at Balaclava (1854) in the Crimean War, and was the first Canadian to be awarded the Victoria Cross.
- Able Seaman William Hall of Horton, Nova Scotia, whose parents were American slaves, was the first black man to be awarded the V.C., for his role in the Siege of Lucknow during the Indian Rebellion of 1857.
- Corporal Filip Konowal, born in Ukraine, showed exceptional courage in the Battle of Hill 70 in 1917, and became the first member of the Canadian Corps not born in the British Empire to be awarded the V.C.
- Flying ace Captain Billy Bishop, born in Owen Sound, Ontario, earned the V.C. in the Royal Flying Corps during the First World War, and was later an honorary Air Marshal of the Royal Canadian Air Force.
- Captain Paul Triquet of Cabano, Quebec, earned the V.C. leading his men and a handful of tanks in the attack on Casa Berardi in Italy in 1943, during the Second World War, and was later a Brigadier.
- Lieutenant Robert Hampton Gray, a navy pilot born in Trail, B.C., was killed while bombing and sinking a Japanese warship in August 1945, a few days before the end of the Second World War, and was the last Canadian to receive the V.C. to date.



(From Top to Bottom)
 Air Marshal William A.
 Bishop, better known
 as flying ace Billy
 Bishop, V.C.
 Lieut. Robert Hampton
 Gray, V.C.

NATIONAL PUBLIC HOLIDAYS AND OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

New Year's Day	– January 1
Sir John A. Macdonald Day	– January 11
Good Friday	– Friday immediately preceding Easter Sunday
Easter Monday	– Monday immediately following Easter Sunday
Vimy Day	– April 9
Victoria Day	– Monday preceding May 25 (Sovereign's Birthday)
Fête Nationale (Quebec)	– June 24 (Feast of St. John the Baptist)
Canada Day	– July 1
Labour Day	– First Monday of September
Thanksgiving Day	– Second Monday of October
Remembrance Day	– November 11
Sir Wilfrid Laurier Day	– November 20
Christmas	– December 25
Boxing Day	– December 26



Canada's Economy

A TRADING NATION

Canada has always been a trading nation and commerce remains the engine of economic growth. As Canadians, we could not maintain our standard of living without engaging in trade with other nations.

In 1988, Canada enacted free trade with the United States. Mexico became a partner in 1994 in the broader North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), with over 444 million people and over \$1 trillion in merchandise trade in 2008.

Today, Canada has one of the ten largest economies in the world and is part of the G8 group of leading industrialized countries with the United States, Germany, the United Kingdom, Italy, France, Japan, and Russia.



(Above)

Lumber truck

(From Left to Right)

Oil pumpjacks in

southern Alberta

Atlantic lobster

Hydro-electric dam on the
Saguenay River, Quebec



CANADA'S ECONOMY INCLUDES THREE MAIN TYPES OF INDUSTRIES:

- **Service industries** provide thousands of different jobs in areas like transportation, education, health care, construction, banking, communications, retail services, tourism, and government. More than 75% of working Canadians now have jobs in service industries.
- **Manufacturing industries** make products to sell in Canada and around the world. Manufactured products include paper, high technology

equipment, aerospace, automobiles, machinery, food, clothing, and many other goods. Our largest international trading partner is the United States.

- **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, and a large percentage of Canada's exports are natural resource commodities.





(From Left to Right)
Car assembly plant in
Oakville, Ontario
Port of Vancouver



(From Left to Right)
Research laboratory
RIM's BlackBerry
Ice wine grapes, Niagara
Region, Ontario

Canada enjoys close relations with the United States and each is the other's largest trading partner. Over three-quarters of Canadian exports are destined for the U.S.A. In fact we have the biggest bilateral trading relationship in the world. Integrated Canada-U.S. supply chains compete with the rest of the world. Canada exports billions of dollars worth of energy products, industrial goods, machinery, equipment, and automotive manufactures, agriculture, fishing, and forestry products, and consumer goods every year.

Millions of Canadians and Americans cross every year and in safety what is traditionally known as "the world's longest undefended border."

At Blaine in the State of Washington, the Peace Arch, inscribed with the words "children of a common mother" and "brethren dwelling together in unity," symbolizes our close ties and common interests.

Canada's Regions

Canada is the second largest country on earth—10 million square kilometres. Three oceans line Canada's frontiers—the Pacific Ocean in the west, the Atlantic Ocean in the east, and the Arctic Ocean to the north. Along the southern edge of Canada lies the Canada-United States boundary. Both Canada and the USA are committed to a safe, secure, and efficient frontier.

The Regions of Canada

Canada includes many different geographical areas and five distinct regions.

- The Atlantic Provinces
- Ontario and Quebec
- The Prairie Provinces
- The West Coast
- The Northern Territories

The National Capital

Ottawa, located on the Ottawa River, was chosen as the capital in 1857 by Queen Victoria, the great-great-grandmother of Queen Elizabeth II. Today it is Canada's fourth largest metropolitan area. The

National Capital Region, 4,700 sq. km. surrounding Ottawa, preserves and enhances the area's built heritage and natural environment.

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 your province or territory as well as that of Canada.

Population

Canada has a population of about 33 million. While the majority live in cities, Canadians also live in small towns, rural areas, and everywhere in between.



(Above)

Ottawa's Rideau Canal, once a military waterway, is now a tourist attraction and winter skateway

Banff National Park, Alberta



(Right)

Peggy's Cove harbour, Nova Scotia

REGION	PROVINCE/TERRITORY	CAPITAL CITY
Atlantic region	Newfoundland and Labrador	St. John's
	Prince Edward Island	Charlottetown
	Nova Scotia	Halifax
	New Brunswick	Fredericton
Central Canada	Quebec	Quebec City
	Ontario	Toronto
Prairie Provinces	Manitoba	Winnipeg
	Saskatchewan	Regina
	Alberta	Edmonton
West Coast	British Columbia	Victoria
North	Nunavut	Iqaluit
	Northwest Territories	Yellowknife
	Yukon Territory	Whitehorse



★ Ottawa The Capital of Canada

THE ATLANTIC PROVINCES

Atlantic Canada's coasts and natural resources, including fishing, farming, forestry, and mining, have made these provinces an important part of Canada's history and development.

Newfoundland and Labrador



Newfoundland and Labrador is the most easterly point in North America and has its own time zone. In addition to its natural beauty, the province has a unique heritage linked to the sea. The oldest colony of the British Empire and a strategic prize in Canada's early history, the province has long been known for its fisheries, coastal fishing villages, and distinct culture. Today off-shore oil and gas extraction contributes a substantial part of the economy. Labrador also has immense hydro-electric resources.

Prince Edward Island



Prince Edward Island (P.E.I.) is the smallest province, known for its beaches, red soil, and agriculture, especially potatoes. P.E.I. is the birthplace of Confederation, connected to mainland Canada by one of the longest continuous multi-span bridges in the world, the 13-kilometre Confederation Bridge. *Anne of Green Gables*, set in P.E.I. by Lucy Maud Montgomery, is a much-loved story about the adventures of a little red-headed orphan girl.

Nova Scotia



Nova Scotia is the most populous Atlantic Province, with a rich history as the gateway to Canada. Known for the world's highest tides in the Bay of Fundy, the province's identity is linked to shipbuilding, fisheries, and shipping. As Canada's largest east coast port, deep-water and ice-free, the capital, Halifax, has played an important role in Atlantic trade and defence and is home to Canada's largest naval base. Nova Scotia has a long history of coal mining, forestry, and agriculture. Today there is also off-shore oil and gas exploration. The province's Celtic and Gaelic traditions sustain a vibrant culture. Nova Scotia is home to over 700 annual festivals, including the spectacular military tattoo in Halifax.

New Brunswick



Situated in the Appalachian Range, the province was founded by the United Empire Loyalists and has the second largest river system on North America's Atlantic coastline, the St. John River system. Forestry, agriculture, fisheries, mining, food processing, and tourism are the principal industries. Saint John is the largest city, port, and manufacturing centre; Moncton is the principal Francophone Acadian centre; and Fredericton, the historic capital. New Brunswick is the only officially bilingual province, and about one-third of the population lives and works in French. The province's pioneer Loyalist and French cultural heritage and history come alive in street festivals and traditional music.

ONTARIO AND QUEBEC

More than half the people in Canada live in cities and towns near the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River in southern Quebec and Ontario, known as Central Canada and the industrial and manufacturing heartland. Together, Ontario and Quebec produce more than three-quarters of all Canadian manufactured goods.

Quebec



Nearly eight million people live in Quebec, the vast majority along or near the St. Lawrence River. More than three-quarters speak French as their first language. The resources of the Canadian Shield have helped Quebec to develop important industries, including forestry, energy, and mining. Quebec is Canada's main producer of pulp and paper. The province's huge supply of fresh water has made it Canada's largest producer of hydroelectricity. Quebecers are leaders in cutting-edge industries such as pharmaceuticals and aeronautics. Quebec films, music, literary works, and food have international stature, especially in *La Francophonie*, an association of French-speaking nations. Montreal, Canada's second largest city and the second largest mainly French-speaking city in the world after Paris, is famous for its cultural diversity.

Ontario



At more than 12 million, the people of Ontario make up one-third of Canadians. The large and culturally diverse population, natural resources, and strategic location contribute to a vital economy. Toronto is the largest city in Canada and the country's main financial centre. Many people work in the service or manufacturing industries, which produce a large percentage of Canada's exports. The Niagara region is known for its vineyards, wines, and fruit crops. Ontario farmers raise dairy and beef cattle, poultry, and vegetable and grain crops. Founded by United Empire Loyalists, Ontario also has the largest French-speaking population outside of Quebec, with a proud history of preserving their language and culture. There are five Great Lakes located between Ontario and the United States: Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, Lake Huron, Lake Michigan (in the USA) and Lake Superior, the largest freshwater lake in the world.

THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES

Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta are the Prairie Provinces, rich in energy resources and some of the most fertile farmland in the world.

Manitoba



Manitoba's economy is based on agriculture, mining, and hydro-electric power generation. The province's most populous city is Winnipeg, whose Exchange District includes the most famous street intersection in Canada, Portage and Main. Winnipeg's French Quarter, St. Boniface, has Western Canada's largest Francophone community at 45,000. Manitoba is also an important centre of Ukrainian culture, with 14% reporting Ukrainian origins, and the largest Aboriginal population of any province, at over 15%.

Saskatchewan



Saskatchewan, once known as the "breadbasket of the world" and the "wheat province," has 40% of the arable land in Canada and is the country's largest producer of grains and oilseeds. It also boasts the world's richest deposits of uranium and potash, used in fertilizer, and produces oil and natural gas. Regina, the capital, is home to the training academy of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Saskatoon, the largest city, is headquarters of the mining industry and an important educational, research, and technology centre.

Alberta



Alberta is the most populous Prairie province. The province, and the world-famous Lake Louise in the Rocky Mountains, were both named after Princess Louise Caroline Alberta, fourth daughter of Queen Victoria. Alberta has five national parks, including Banff National Park, established in 1885. The rugged Badlands house some of the world's richest deposits of prehistoric fossils and dinosaur finds. Alberta is the largest producer of oil and gas, and the oil sands in the north are being developed as a major energy source. Alberta is also renowned for agriculture, especially for the vast cattle ranches that make Canada one of the world's major beef producers.

THE WEST COAST

British Columbia is known for its majestic mountains and as Canada's Pacific gateway. The Port of Vancouver, Canada's largest and busiest, handles billions of dollars in goods traded around the world.

British Columbia



British Columbia, on the Pacific coast, is Canada's westernmost province, with a population of 4 million. The Port of Vancouver is our gateway to the Asia-Pacific. About one-half of all the goods produced in B.C. are forestry products, including lumber, newsprint, and pulp and paper products – the most valuable forestry industry in Canada. B.C. is also known for mining, fishing, and the fruit orchards and wine industry of the Okanagan Valley. B.C. has the most extensive parks system in Canada, with approximately 600 provincial parks. The province's large Asian communities have made Chinese and Punjabi the most spoken languages in the cities after English. The capital, Victoria, is a tourist centre and headquarters of the navy's Pacific fleet.

THE NORTHERN TERRITORIES

The Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and Yukon contain one-third of Canada's land mass but have a population of only 100,000. There are gold, lead, copper, diamond, and zinc mines. Oil and gas deposits are being developed. The North is sometimes called the "Land of the Midnight Sun," because at the height of summer, daylight can last up to 24 hours. In winter, the sun disappears, and darkness sets in for three months. Much 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. Some continue to earn a living by hunting, fishing, and trapping. Inuit art is sold throughout Canada and around the world.

Yukon



Thousands of miners came to the Yukon during the Gold Rush of the 1890s, celebrated in the poetry of Robert W. Service. Mining remains a significant part of the economy. The White Pass and Yukon Railway, opened from Skagway in neighbouring Alaska to the territorial capital, Whitehorse, in 1900, provides a spectacular tourist excursion across precipitous passes and bridges. Yukon holds the record for the coldest temperature ever recorded in Canada (-63°C).

Northwest Territories



The Northwest Territories (NWT) were originally made up in 1870 from Rupert's Land and the North-Western Territory. The capital, Yellowknife (population 20,000), is called the "diamond capital of North America." More than half the population is Aboriginal (Dene, Inuit, and Métis). The Mackenzie River, at 4,200 km, is the second-longest river system in North America after the Mississippi and drains an area of 1.8 million sq. km.

Nunavut



Nunavut, meaning “our land” in Inuktitut, was established in 1999 from the eastern part of the Northwest Territories, including all of the former District of Keewatin. The capital is Iqaluit, formerly Frobisher Bay, named after the English explorer Martin Frobisher, who penetrated the uncharted Arctic for Queen Elizabeth I in 1576. The 19-member Legislative Assembly chooses a premier and ministers by consensus. The population is about 85% Inuit, and Inuktitut is an official language and the first language in schools.

The Canadian Rangers

Canada’s vast north brings security and sovereignty challenges. Dealing with harsh weather conditions in an isolated region, the Canadian Rangers, part of the Canadian Forces Reserves (militia), play a key role. Drawing on indigenous knowledge and experience, the Rangers travel by snowmobile in the winter and all-terrain vehicles in the summer from Resolute to the Magnetic North Pole, and keep the flag flying in Canada’s Arctic.



(Above, From Left to Right)

An Inuit boy in Sanikiluaq, Nunavut, uses a pellet gun to hunt for birds

The Caribou (reindeer) is popular game for hunters and a symbol of Canada’s North

For More Information

CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP

Obtain citizenship application information and take advantage of the many resources that are available.

By telephone

Call Centre Number

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

Online

Visit the Citizenship and Immigration website at www.cic.gc.ca. *Discover Canada* can be downloaded from this website.

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 videos 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. It can be found online at the Library of Parliament at www.parl.gc.ca)

- **The Canadian Encyclopedia**
(including The Youth Encyclopedia of Canada)
www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com
- **The Story of Canada**
(written by Janet Lunn and Christopher Moore, published by Lester Publishing Ltd.)
- **Symbols of Canada**
(published by Canadian Heritage)
- **A Crown of Maples**
(published by Canadian Heritage)
- **Canada: A People's History**
(Canadian Broadcasting Corporation)
- **The Beaver: Canada's History Magazine**
- **Kayak: Canada's Illustrated History Magazine for Kids**
(Published by Canada's National History Society)

FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

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

Telephone:

1 800 0-Canada (toll-free)

1 800 622-6232 (toll-free)

1 800 465-7735 – TTY (toll-free)

Internet:

The Government of Canada website contains information about many government programs and services. It can be found at

www.canada.gc.ca.

Other websites of interest that provide information on topics found in this guide:

About Canada

The Crown and the Governor General
www.gg.ca

Canadian Heritage
www.pch.gc.ca

Atlas of Canada
<http://atlas.nrcan.gc.ca/site/index.html>

Parks Canada
www.parkscanada.gc.ca

Institute for Canadian Citizenship
www.icc-icc.ca

The Historica-Dominion Institute
www.historica-dominion.ca

Canadian History

Canadian Confederation
www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/confederation/index-e.html

Confederation for Kids
www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/confederation/kids/index-e.html

First Among Equals: The Prime Minister in Canadian Life and Politics
www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/primeministers

Virtual Museum of Canada
www.virtualmuseum.ca

Canadian War Museum
www.warmuseum.ca

Military History and Remembrance

A Day of Remembrance
www.vac-acc.gc.ca/content/history/other/remember/dayremembrance.pdf

Heroes and Poppies – An Introduction to Remembrance
Available in hard copy version only. Order at:
https://crorders-commandescss.vac-acc.gc.ca/order.php?m=item_list&c=EducationKits

Canada Remembers
www.vac-acc.gc.ca/remembers/sub.cfm?source=history/infosheets

Historical booklets
www.vac-acc.gc.ca/remembers/sub.cfm?source=history/series

Government

Parliament of Canada
www.parl.gc.ca

I Can Vote!
www.elections.ca/content_youth.asp?section=youth&dir=res/gen/can&document=index&lang=en&textonly=false

Canada's System of Justice
www.justice.gc.ca/eng/dept-min/pub/just/

Geography

Geography Quizzes
<http://atlas.nrcan.gc.ca/site/english/learningresources/quizzes/index.html>

For a “Greener” Canada

Sustainable Development
www.pc.gc.ca/docs/pc/strat/sdd-sds-2007/index_e.asp

Being Energy Efficient
www.nrcan.gc.ca/eneene/effeff/index-eng.php

Getting Involved

Volunteer Canada
www.volunteer.ca

Volunteer opportunities related to the environment
www.ec.gc.ca/education/default.asp?lang=En&n=AE4E595B-1

Travel in Canada

Newfoundland and Labrador

www.newfoundlandlabrador.com

Prince Edward Island

www.gentleisland.com

Nova Scotia

www.novascotia.com

New Brunswick

www.tourismnewbrunswick.ca

Quebec

www.bonjourquebec.com

Ontario

www.ontariotravel.net

Manitoba

www.travelmanitoba.com

Saskatchewan

www.sasktourism.com

Alberta

www.travelalberta.com

British Columbia

www.hellobc.com

Nunavut

www.nunavuttourism.com

Northwest Territories

www.spectacularnwt.com

Yukon Territory

www.travelyukon.com

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