

Levels of Government

Canada is the second largest country in geographic area in the world today, literally spreading across thousands and thousands of kilometres. With a population of approximately _____ people across thousands of kilometres, it is very difficult for a single government to take care of all the responsibilities that exist throughout the nation. In _____, because Canada was physically such a large country with so many different needs, we adopted a federal system of government that had three levels: _____, _____ and _____.

This style of government involves dividing the powers into national and various regional levels. This allows the country to address the needs of various areas that may have specific expectations from their government. Canada, possibly more than any other country, benefits from a federal style of government. There are certain aspects of Canadian society that simply could not be addressed by one level of government. For instance, _____ (the newest territory) has completely different needs from a government than does Metropolitan Toronto.

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

The chart on the next page shows more specifically what aspects of society each level of government is responsible for. Study it carefully.


 The logo for Canada, featuring the word "Canada" in a serif font with a small Canadian flag above the letter 'a'.

Federal


 The logo for Ontario, featuring a stylized trillium flower inside a circle, followed by the word "Ontario" in a sans-serif font.

Provincial


 The logo for Toronto, featuring a stylized blue building icon followed by the word "TORONTO" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

Municipal

Levels of Government and Their Assigned Responsibilities

| Federal | Provincial | Municipal |
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| Residual Powers: The Federal Government is responsible for all areas that are not directly referred to in the Constitution. | | |

In addition, you should become familiar with important political leaders who hold office at each of the levels of government. The Prime Minister (federal leader) of Canada in 2005, the Premier of Ontario (a provincial leader) in the same year and a long standing mayor (a municipal leader) of an Ontario city (Toronto) in 2011 are pictured below.

Prime Minister



Premier



Mayor of Toronto



Levels of Government Activity

Part 1

Looking at the situations listed below, place the situation with the appropriate level of government that would be responsible for its resolution and discussion.

| Federal Government | Provincial Government | Municipal Government |
|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
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- Allowing beer and liquor stores to open on Sunday
- Allowing more charity casinos to operate
- Issues arise over garbage collection
- Looking at extending the renewal period of driver’s licenses
- User rights for hospitals suggested
- Issues arise over national television network
- A new Free Trade Agreement with the United States is discussed
- Family allowance rates are deemed to be too low
- Aboriginal hunting rights are re-examined
- Local library system lacks proper funding
- Logging rights in national park spark discussion
- New park approved for downtown area
- Newer fire fighting equipment is needed
- Bus driver’s strike enters third week
- Upgrade needed to local water treatment facility
- Better social programs needed
- Increased wait times for border crossings into the United States
- Armed Forces careers on the rise; army begins recruiting drive

Part 2

Examine the list of fictional characters below; each is a resident of Ontario. Each has issues and characteristics unique to his/her life, and each requires the "hand of government" to intervene in his/her life in some way.

For any two (2) of the listed 5 fictional characters, construct a brief paragraph in which you make up a fictional story showing how that person might possibly interact with the level of government that is listed below his/her description.

Fictional Characters

Name: Marigold Arthur

Sex: Female

Age: 80

Occupation: Retired

Resides: Ottawa, Ontario

Background: Currently living alone with no family.

In which ways could you see Marigold interacting with the PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT?

Name: Gerry Oliver

Sex: Male

Age: 17

Occupation: Student/Fast Food

Resides: Peterborough, Ontario

Background: "Straight A" student and football player.

In which ways could you see Gerry interacting with the MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT?

Name: Tom Depuis

Sex: Male

Age: 42

Occupation: Business Man

Resides: Toronto, Ontario

Background: Wealthy man who recently divorced after a 25 year marriage.

In which ways could you see Tom interacting with the FEDERAL GOVERNMENT?

Name: Nancy Cobiness

Sex: Female

Age: 30

Occupation: Social Worker

Resides: Cornwall, Ontario

Background: Recently moved away from her family and has re-located to Cornwall, Ontario.

In which ways could you see Nancy interacting with the FEDERAL GOVERNMENT?

Name: Alex Elizabeth

Sex: Female

Age: 25

Occupation: Small Business Owner

Resides: Corunna, Ontario

Background: Recently started a small rental business. She is finding it difficult “getting off the ground”.

In which ways could you see Alex interacting with the MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT?

You can use the lined sheet included in this package to complete your assignment. Be sure to include all parts of the assignment for full marks. Also please include the attached rubric for marking.

DUE DATE: _____

Name: _____

Paragraph 1: Person Selected: _____

Paragraph 2: Person Selected: _____

| Levels of Government Rubric | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| Categories | Level 1 (50 - 59%) | Level 2 (60 - 69%) | Level 3 (70 - 79%) | Level 4 (80 - 100%) |
| Knowledge and Understanding Understanding of the different levels of government in Canada /10 | - demonstrates limited understanding of different levels of government in Canada | - demonstrates some understanding of different levels of government in Canada | - demonstrates considerable understanding of different levels of government in Canada | - demonstrates thorough understanding of different levels of government in Canada |
| Thinking Use of critical/creative thinking processes in writing scenarios /5 | - uses critical/creative thinking processes in writing scenarios with limited effectiveness | - uses critical/creative thinking processes in writing scenarios with some effectiveness | - uses critical/creative thinking processes in writing scenarios with considerable effectiveness | - uses critical/creative thinking processes in writing scenarios with a high degree of effectiveness |
| Application Transfer of knowledge and skills about the levels of government to a new context - the scenarios /10 | - transfers knowledge and skills to new context with limited effectiveness | - transfers knowledge and skills to new context with some effectiveness | - transfers knowledge and skills to new context with considerable effectiveness | - transfers knowledge and skills to new context with a high degree of effectiveness |
| Communication Expressing and organizing of ideas and information in written form /5 | - expresses and organizes ideas and information with limited effectiveness | - expresses and organizes ideas and information with some effectiveness | - expresses and organizes ideas and information with considerable effectiveness | - expresses and organizes ideas and information with a high degree of effectiveness |

/20

Comments