**Canada’s Constitution**

**Development of Canada’s Constitution**

* July 1 1867- British North America Act (BNA)
* Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick
* Britain controlled our Foreign Affairs- 1914
* 1931 Statute of Westminster- Canadian control of Foreign Affairs and legislative authority- WWII
* Until 1982 the British Parliament had to agree upon any federal powers listed in the BNA Act- essentially we were not fully independent

**Development of Canada’s Constitution**

* 1982 Britain passed the Canada Act- giving Canada its constitution
* The agreement included an amending formula (the process to change the Canadian constitution) and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms
* Quebec has not signed the constitution
* Pierre Trudeau

**Division of Powers**

* The BNA Act (Constitution Act 1867) outlined the government jurisdiction or authority to make laws in specific areas
* Federal and provincial powers were different to meet regional needs
* Federal (sect. 91 of the BNA Act)- criminal law, government process, unemployment insurance, banking, penitentiaries, marriage and divorce rules, postal service, and Aboriginal Affairs
* Provincial (sect. 92 of the BNA Act)- civil rights and property rights, police, highways and roads, hospitals, education and provincial jails

**Division of Powers**

* Cities and Townships- excluded in the Constitution (?)
* Municipal laws are called bylaws
* Passed by municipal governments and relate to local issues such as emergency services, building permits, and other every day uses involving property use