

FACTORS SHAPING HOW CANADA IS GOVERNED

CHV2OR Unit 2 Structure of Government



1. Diverse Cultural History

- ☺ Canada's first self governing nations were the Aboriginal peoples
- ☺ French and British settlers had their own systems for laws and politics
- ☺ Waves of immigration throughout our history
- ☺ Canadians agree and disagree on many values, beliefs and ideologies that the government must take into account



2. Geography

Canada is a large country with many different regions. (east vs. west/north vs. south/maritime vs. continental issues)



3. Economy



- \$ Governments play a substantial role in the economy. For example they run our education and health care systems.
- \$ Large gap between the rich and the poor that the government tries to bridge. (i.e. Taxing the rich more)
- \$ Canada is rich in natural resources. Government must work to develop them yet maintain ecological integrity

4. Global Forces



The influence of world events and decisions made on the global stage on Canadian life is strong and getting stronger. The influence of the United States is especially strong.

FEDERAL SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT

A system of government in which powers and responsibilities are divided into national and regional levels to address national and regional needs.

Canada adopted a federal system because:

- ☞ Fathers of Confederation knew they couldn't create a single level of government
- ☞ Each province needed a way to address its unique concerns that arose due to the diverse cultures, customs and settlement histories of their area.

Canada Has Three Levels Of Government:



1. **Federal government** - responsible for matters that concern the nation as a whole.

CANADA!

2. **Provincial government** - responsible for matters that are best handled by those closer to the issues of the region. *ONTARIO!*



Municipal government - the provinces have used their powers to create municipal governments. This local level of government has the greatest amount of contact with individual citizens.

CITY OF KAWARTHA LAKES!