

Glossary

Aboriginal peoples Descendants of the first inhabitants of Canada. They include the members of the various First Nations, Métis, and Inuit nations. Languages and cultures of the different Aboriginal peoples, or First Nations, are varied.

Aboriginal self-government The constitutional recognition of Aboriginal peoples to govern themselves. Band councils, assemblies of elders, and other systems used by Aboriginal peoples are legally recognized as governments. An inherent right to self-government is based on the Aboriginal peoples' relationship with the land before the first European settlers arrived.

Acid rain Precipitation that is more acidic than usual because of pollutants such as sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere. The chemicals in the pollutants mix with moisture in the atmosphere to form acids which are harmful to plants, fish, and buildings. It may also be harmful to humans, but this has not yet been proven.

Alienation A feeling of being cut off or isolated from other people, groups, or regions.

Allies Canada, Britain, France, the United States, the Soviet Union, and the other nations who united to defeat Germany, Italy, and Japan during World War II.

Alternative sentencing Under these guidelines, imprisonment is used only as a last resort for all Canadian offenders. Alternatives to imprisonment include community service, counseling, and victim and offender mediation sessions.

Amending formula The procedure that must be followed to make any changes to the constitution.

Anglophone A person whose first language is English.

Apartheid The policy of racial segregation and discrimination practised in South Africa. "Apartheid" is the Afrikaans word for "apartness."

Appeasement The policy of avoiding war by granting an aggressive country whatever it wants. This policy was followed by a number of European countries in their relations with Germany in the years preceding World War II.

Arable This word is used to describe land that is good for growing crops.

Aryan The ancient peoples from which Hitler believed that all "pure" Germans were descended. However, there is no scientific evidence to support Hitler's belief in a pure race.

Assimilation The absorption of a minority group into a dominant cultural group.

Audit A detailed examination to assess strengths and weaknesses.

Autopact An agreement between the United States and Canada signed in 1965, which removed tariffs on cars made in one country and shipped to the other. This allowed car manufacturers to plan their production better.

Axis The alliance of Germany, Italy, and Japan during World War II.

Bias An unfair dislike or preference for something.

Bilateral action Activity, such as a trade agreement, that is undertaken between two countries. Unilateral action occurs when one country acts by itself, without securing agreement from another country.

Bilingualism The ability to speak two languages fluently; the policy of providing services in two languages (in Canada, French and English).

Bill A proposal for a law that is submitted to a parliament. Once it has been passed by the parliament and given royal assent, it becomes law and is called an Act.

Biodiversity The variety of living forms in a region.

Branch plant A business that is owned and operated by a company based in another country.

British Commonwealth The association of forty-eight nations that were once a part of the British Empire and are now independent.

British This term generally refers to peoples or cultures of Great Britain, which includes England, Scotland, and Wales. Together with Northern Ireland, these countries form the United Kingdom.

Canadian Pacific Railway A railway, finished in 1885, spanning Canada from sea to sea. The CPR was one of the country's first great national development projects.

Canadiens The French-speaking inhabitants of New France.

Capital Money invested in a business to defray the start-up or operating costs involved. The investor hopes to receive a "return" or profit on such an investment.

Caucus A private meeting of the members of the same political party. At the federal level, the caucus consists of party members who have been elected to Parliament. The term comes from the Algonquin word for adviser.

Charlottetown Accord The second attempt to amend the Canadian Constitution under the *Constitution Act, 1982*. The agreement was signed by representatives from the federal, provincial, and territorial governments and from Aboriginal groups, but failed to win acceptance in a referendum on October 26, 1992.

Citizenship Membership in a nation or sovereign state, with all the attendant rights and responsibilities.

Civil law Law that deals with the protection of private rights. It usually involves disputes between individuals or groups of people. These disputes may occur over property or personal relationships such as marriage. It also deals with contracts or issues over ownership.

Claim A right to something, specifically a title to a debt, privilege, or other thing in the possession of another.

Climate The general weather conditions that occur in a given region.

Coalition A government that is formed by two or more parties that together hold more seats in the House of Commons than any other single party or coalition.

Cold War A period lasting approximately from 1945 to 1989, when there was tension and hostility between the communist countries of Eastern Europe and the democratic countries of Western Europe and the United States, but no actual fighting between the two groups.

Collective bargaining Negotiation of a contract between a union and management.

Colombo Plan An international relief effort established by the Commonwealth countries in Colombo, Sri Lanka in 1950. It marked the beginning of Canada's foreign aid program.

Common law Law that is based on the rulings made by judges in court cases.

Confederation The union of present-day Ontario, Québec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick in 1867. The remaining provinces joined between 1870 and 1949.

Conscientious objector A person who refuses military service on the grounds of religious or moral opposition to war.

Conscription Compulsory military service. Conscripts are “called up” by the government when needed, and then must serve in the armed forces for a set number of months or years.

Constituency The body of voters in a specific area or riding who elect a representative to a legislature.

Constitution A set of rules that determines how a country will be governed. Until 1982, no changes could be made to the Canadian Constitution without the approval of the British Parliament.

Continentalist A person who favours policies that will benefit an entire continent rather than just one country within it.

Corps An army unit with 40 000 or more soldiers and commanded by a lieutenant general. In World War I, the Canadian Corps was made up of four divisions.

Coup d'état An illegal, often violent seizure of power in a nation.

Craft union An organized group of workers with the same trade or craft.

Criminal law Laws that protect your rights in offences against the public or society as a whole. These include crimes such as murder, arson, sexual assault, and theft.

CRTC The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission is a government agency founded in 1968 to supervise broadcasting in Canada. It issues licenses to broadcasting companies and sets rules for Canadian content.

Cultural industries Those areas of trade or manufacturing that emphasize entertainment and the arts, thereby expressing a country's sense of identity. Publishing, music, film, and broadcasting are

all cultural industries that help to define Canadians' sense of themselves.

Culture The framework of beliefs and behaviours characteristic of a particular group of people. It includes such things as food, dress, institutions, and the arts.

Debt investment Investment in a company, such as bonds or other loans, that does not give the investor part ownership of the company.

Democracy A system of government in which the people choose who will govern them by elections. “Democracy” also refers to the ideals and principles of such a government, such as equality of rights and opportunities and the rule of the majority.

Demographics The study of human populations.

Dilemma A situation in which you have to make a choice between two alternatives, both of which have drawbacks.

Diplomat A government employee who conducts relations with another government. Canadian diplomats are civil servants in the federal government's Department of External Affairs who represent Canada in relations with other countries.

Discrimination An action or policy that shows prejudice against or in favour of a person or group of people.

Duties The obligations the government places on people in return for their rights.

Embargo Suspension of trade relations with another country.

Engines of growth The main industries that drive the economy and create the basis for new wealth.

Entrenched When a right is given special protection by being explicitly mentioned in the Constitution, it is said to be entrenched.

Entrepreneur A person who is willing to risk money to start up a business or to finance one that is already in operation. For taking such risks, an entrepreneur expects to make a good profit.

Enumerator A person who registers eligible voters prior to an election.

Equality rights Those rights guaranteeing freedom from discrimination based on age, colour, family status, mental or physical ability, national or ethnic origin, pardoned convictions, religion, or sex. In Canada, these rights are entrenched in the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

Equity investment Investment in a company, as through the purchase of stocks, that gives the investor partial ownership of the factories and equipment, the physical assets, of the company.

Ethnocentrism The attitude that one's own culture is superior to others.

Exploitation Selfish or unfair use. Minority groups have often been exploited by employers who use their labour without paying them what they deserve.

First Nations One of the three distinct groups recognized as Aboriginal in the *Constitution Act (1982)* who are not Inuit or Métis.

Franchise In politics, the right to vote.

Francophone A person whose first language is French.

Free Trade Agreement An agreement signed in 1988 between the United States and Canada that eliminated most tariffs and other trade restrictions between the two countries. It came into effect January 1, 1989.

Free trade The buying and selling of goods between countries without tariff barriers.

Freedoms Privileges that are so basic they cannot be restricted by laws of the government. Examples

include freedom of religious worship, of expression, and of peaceful assembly.

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade A treaty signed in 1946 by governments around the world that committed them to increasing worldwide trade by reducing tariffs. This agreement was replaced in 1995 by the World Trade Organization.

Genetic history The inherited characteristics carried in the genes. For example, you might get blue eyes from your father and brown hair from your mother.

Genocide The intentional and systematic extermination of a race of people or a nation.

Global village A term coined by Canadian communications expert Marshall McLuhan to convey the idea that technological devices have made the world a smaller place by minimizing the time it takes to communicate across vast distances.

Globalization Describes the increased mobility of goods, services, labour, technology, and capital throughout the world.

Government A ruling body that runs the affairs of a country, province, city, town, or district.

Governor General The British monarch's representative in Canada.

Great Depression A period lasting in Canada from the stock market crash in 1929 till the beginning of World War II in 1939 when economic conditions were very poor. Many companies went out of business, there was widespread unemployment, and wages and prices were low.

Gross domestic product The total value of goods and services produced in a country in one year.

Heritage languages The languages immigrants spoke in their native land before coming to Canada.

House of Commons The lower house of the federal legislature.

Human Rights Commission A government agency that protects human rights by dealing with complaints about discrimination from individuals or groups.

Ideology The set of beliefs that forms the basis for a political system.

Imperialism The policy of increasing a country's wealth and influence by acquiring colonies or dependent territories.

Independents In politics, people who run for election without belonging to a political party.

Indigenous people Those who are native to, or the first inhabitants of, a particular region.

Industrial Revolution A period (approximately 1750–1850) of social and economic change involving the development of machines and their use for mass production and industry.

Industrial unions An association of workers who practise different trades within an industrial sector.

Industrialism An economic system based largely on manufacturing industries rather than on manual labour or agriculture.

Infrastructure Foundations that are necessary for the operation of economic activity, for example, roads, airports, school, hospitals, and telephone lines.

Inherent right A right that is thought to be self-evident or pre-existing. Aboriginal peoples claim an inherent right to self-government based on their residence in the land before the arrival of European settlers.

Inoculation A form of disease prevention by which a person is injected with a small amount of a disease-causing agent to encourage the body to develop an immunity to that disease.

Integration The bringing together of different cultural groups as equal parts of a whole, unified culture; trade between two national economies with little government regulation in one or more economic sectors.

Inuit (singular Inuk) One of three distinct groups of people recognized as Aboriginal in the *Constitution Act (1982)*. The Inuit primarily live north of the tree line in Nunavut, the Northwest Territories, Northern Québec, and Labrador.

Kelowna Accord An agreement signed in 2005 that aimed to close the gap in living standards, health care, and education between Aboriginal peoples and other Canadians.

Landforms Features on the Earth's surface. Examples include mountains, plains, lowlands, and bedrock.

Leading economic indicators Those elements that are measured to see how well the economy is performing.

Legal rights Rights that are guaranteed by law; in Canada the term refers especially to those rights specifically listed in the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

Lieutenant-Governor The representative of the Crown at the provincial level. This person advises the government in power, especially about proposed legislation.

Linkage The diplomatic practice of linking or tying discussion of one issue, such as human rights, to another issue, such as trade or economic aid.

Lobbyist A person who is hired by a group or organization to influence legislators on the group's behalf through persistent attention and persuasion.

Local The smallest unit of a union. One local of an autoworkers' union, for example, will include the workers at one auto plant.

Lockout A management tactic by which workers are kept from their workplace during a labour disruption.

Loyalists Colonists in what is today the United States who remained loyal to Britain during the American Revolution (1775–1783). Many left the United States during and after the revolution.

Majority government A government holding more than half the seats in the House of Commons.

Meech Lake Accord The first attempt at constitutional reform under the *Constitution Act, 1982*. The agreement, containing six major proposals, was signed by the federal government and all ten provincial premiers in 1987, but failed to gain approval in the Manitoba legislature.

Merchandise trade Business in natural resources or manufactured goods.

Métis One of three distinct groups of people recognized as Aboriginal in the *Constitution Act (1982)*. The Métis are people whose ancestry is mixed First Nations and European — often French or Scottish.

Militarism The political policy of placing a higher value on the armed forces and military goals than on democracy or other political systems. Under militarism, a solution using armed force is preferred to other methods of problem solving.

Minority government A government formed by a party that holds less than half the seats in the House of Commons, but more seats than any other party.

Monarch A ruler with the title of king or queen.

Multiculturalism A government policy recognizing and promoting all cultural groups that live in Canada. Multiculturalism is now being replaced by pluralism, a state of society in which members of diverse, ethnic, racial, religious, or social groups

maintain an autonomous participation in and development of their traditional culture or special interest within the confines of a common civilization — in this case the Canadian society.

Multilateral action Cooperation among many nations. Through the United Nations, countries come together to discuss world concerns and to work together for world peace.

Multinational corporation A business having offices or plants in three or more countries.

Multiplier effect The process by which income multiplies as it moves through different levels of the economy.

Municipality A city, town, or borough with its own local government.

National Assembly The name given to the provincial legislature, or parliament, in Québec.

Nationalism Aggressive or extreme patriotism.

NATO North Atlantic Treaty Organization comprising Canada, the United States, Iceland, and the countries of Western Europe. All members agree to help defend each other.

Naturalization The admittance of a person of foreign birth to citizenship.

Nazi A member of the German National Socialist party that was founded by Adolf Hitler in the 1920s.

Non-governmental organization An organization, often involved in international relief work or with local charities, that is not directly associated with the government.

Non-merchandise trade The buying and selling of services such as insurance, legal work, and medical assistance.

North American Free Trade Agreement An agreement signed in 1993 among Canada, the United States, and Mexico, eliminating most tar-

iffs and other trade barriers among the three countries.

Nuclear proliferation Rapid increase in nuclear weapons.

Official language A language recognized and used by the government. Citizens can communicate in this language in the courts and government offices, and it can be a language of instruction in schools.

Oral traditions A culture's collection of spoken words and stories that have been passed from one generation to another.

OPEC The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries is an international cartel formed in 1960 to represent the interests of the world's major oil-exporting countries.

Pacific Rim The lands that lie on or surround the Pacific Ocean. In recent years, economic links have strengthened among countries of the Pacific Rim, especially between those in Asia and North America.

Parti Québécois A Québec nationalist party founded in 1968, which swept to power in 1976 on the promise of holding a referendum on sovereignty association during its first term in office. The referendum was defeated in 1980. The PQ's most famous piece of legislation during its first term in power was Bill 101, which made French the only official language of Québec. In 1994 the PQ again won power in Québec and under Jacques Parizeau promised to hold a second referendum on the sovereignty question in 1995.

Partisan candidate A person running for political office who is affiliated with a political party.

Patronage A favour granted by a government in return for political support.

Peacekeeping An action by armed forces of the United Nations to maintain peaceful relations in a region where warfare has occurred but a truce

has been declared. In peacekeeping, the UN role is largely passive and non-aggressive. The UN intervention following the Suez crisis is an example of a peacekeeping action.

Peacemaking An action by United Nations forces to end a war that is still in progress. In peacemaking, the UN role is an active one and involves the aggressive use of armed force. The UN intervention in Korea in the 1950s is an example of a peacemaking action.

Permanent residents In Canada, immigrants who have been granted the right to live and work in the country but who have not yet qualified or have not yet applied for citizenship status. These people were formerly known as "landed immigrants."

Platform A political party's plan of action and statement of principles.

Political party An organization established to obtain the power of government.

Population density The number of people living per unit of area, for example, per square kilometre.

Prejudice Judging people according to preformed opinions rather than according to facts.

Pressure group An organization consisting of people who share certain beliefs and wish to change government policy to promote their common interest.

Protectionism The encouragement and development of industries within a country by protecting them from foreign competition. This is done through duties (taxes) on imported goods that raise their prices. Consumers thus pay as much or more for the imported goods as they do for those produced within the country.

Protective tariffs Taxes charged on imports. The aim is to protect people producing similar products within the country.

Protocol The first draft of an agreement among nations. A protocol is later refined and submitted to governments for final approval as a treaty.

Public service A group of permanent employees who perform the tasks of the “business of government.” They do not run for office and are not chosen for their political beliefs.

Québec nationalism Nationalism is devotion to one’s country. Québec nationalism suggests a view of the province as a separate entity, distinct from the rest of Canada.

Racism The belief that inherited characteristics that determine physical features such as skin colour, facial characteristics, and texture of hair also determine intelligence, skills, abilities, and personality.

Referendum A vote in which the people of a country approve or reject a law proposed by the government.

Refugees People forced to leave their homeland because of war or persecution.

Residual power Power that remains with one level of the government after it has distributed specific powers to lower levels.

Responsibilities Those obligations that extend beyond legal duties to include the type of behaviour that shows respect for the rights of others.

Restorative justice Using this principle, the justice system tries to rehabilitate or reform offenders.

Rights Privileges that are granted and guaranteed by government legislation.

Royal assent The approval given to legislation by the monarchy as represented by the Governor General.

Sanction A penalty or reward to enforce obedience to a law.

Sectoral free trade Trade between two countries that is free of tariffs only where certain areas or products are concerned.

Security certificates Documents that permit foreign-born, non-Canadians thought to be a danger to be detained without charge.

Segregation The policy of keeping different cultural groups separate from each other.

Senate The Upper House of Parliament.

Separatism A position that advocates separation or secession from Canada.

Shareholder A person who owns shares or part of the equity of a company.

Sovereignty association A policy that proposes that Québec should be an independent country with strong economic ties to Canada.

Sovereignty The supreme and independent political control of a country, involving the recognition of a country’s borders and territories by other nations.

Special interest group A pressure group that concentrates on short-term concerns. Special interest groups are found most commonly at the local level and are formed in response to a particular event or issue, such as an unwanted tax increase.

Spectrum A range of things that have been organized by degree or quality. The term indicates a progressive series of levels, as in the colour spectrum, which is arranged by the wavelength of the different colours.

Sponsor In Canada, a person who agrees to support an immigrant applying for permanent resident status.

Statute law The body of written law that has been passed as legislation by federal, provincial, and local governments.

Strike An organized work stoppage by employees hoping to win better contract terms or the redress of a grievance.

Subsidy Financial assistance given by a government to a private business enterprise.

Sustainable development The concept that a country's economic progress should occur at a pace that can be maintained over the long term and without exhausting the country's natural resources.

Tariff A tax placed on goods entering or leaving a country. When used to raise the prices of foreign goods and protect home industries, it is called a protective tariff or tariff barrier.

Terrorism The use of violence to create fear and bring about a political change.

Transnational corporation A business having offices or plants in two different countries.

Triple Alliance The agreement between Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy in 1914 to help each other in case of war. In 1915, after World War I had started, Italy left the Alliance and fought against Austria-Hungary and Germany.

Triple Entente The agreement between Britain, France, and Russia in 1914 to help each other in case of war.

Union A recognized organization of workers who have joined together to improve their salaries, benefits, and working conditions.

Urbanization The growth and spread of cities and their services.

Vegetation The plant life common to a particular region.

Veto The power to reject a bill or proposal. In referring to provincial powers, a veto would give a province the power to defeat a bill even if all, or a majority of, the other provinces approved it. In referring to the United Nations, a veto is the power of any one of the permanent members of the Security Council (United States, Russia, China, Great Britain, or France) to defeat a proposal.