



FACT SHEET: CANADA HAS THREE MAIN LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

1. **The federal level** - this level of government deals with areas that affect all Canadians as defined in the *Constitution Act, 1867*.
2. **The provincial level** – this level of government deals with responsibilities seen to be of a “local” nature, as defined in 1867. In some cases the federal government shares responsibility.
3. **The municipal level** - this is the level of government that is usually based in a city, town or district (a municipality). Their areas of responsibility and authority are defined by the provincial government.

Summary of Responsibilities for Each Level of Government

FEDERAL	PROVINCIAL	MUNICIPAL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Defense • Foreign diplomacy • International Trade • Citizenship • Aboriginal affairs • Postal services • Banking system • Marriage and divorce • Criminal law • Employment insurance • Census • Copy rights • Tax regulation • National Transportation and its safety • Radio and telecommunication <p>Makes policies that affect the nation as a whole</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Health Services and welfare • Some natural resources/environmental issues • Property and civil rights • Provincial highways • Provincial Court System • Provincial Police/Prisons • Land use planning • Energy production • Driver’s licenses <p>Makes policies that addresses the needs of individual provinces</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public transit • Garbage collection and disposal services • Water and sewage • Emergency services including fire protection services • Building permits and zoning • Local police services • Collection of property taxes and fees for many licences • Economic development • City Parks <p>Makes policies that affect the community economically, culturally, and socially</p>

Canada does not have a national policy on:

- ✓ **Day Care**
- ✓ **Housing**
- ✓ **Poverty Reduction**

- ✓ **Seniors**
- ✓ **Women's Rights**

Under the Constitution of Canada, health, education, and social assistance are under provincial responsibility and authority. However, federal money (approximately \$20.9 billion in 2012-13) is used for funding under three programs:

- ✓ *Canada Health Transfer* (conditional and standards set under the Canada Health Act)
- ✓ *Canada Social Transfer* (must be spent on post-secondary education, social assistance and social services including child care with no conditions or standards set)
- ✓ *Equalization payments* (can be spent on anything)

What is required?

Financing in exchange for national standards, transparency and accountability so that all Canadians have the same rights!!

What can you do?

Ask your federal candidates where they stand on this issue and how they will address it if elected.

BCASW thanks Phyllis Nash and SPANnelson for the use of this fact sheet.