

CHAPTER 2: CONTEMPORARY CANADA: RECENT HISTORY, GOVERNMENT, AND ECONOMY

A. COMPREHENSION

1. The leader of Canada is called the _____ and the head of state is the _____.
2. Who was the prime minister of Canada when we finally got our own constitution in 1982?
3. What rights did same-sex couples not have in Canada until 2005?
4. What are the three levels of government in Canada?
5. In Ottawa, we are represented by two groups of people, some elected and others appointed. The elected representatives are called _____s and the appointed representatives are called _____s.
6. Which country is Canada's largest trading partner?
7. What percentage of workers in Canada is employed in manufacturing?
8. All employees in Canada have at least three amounts deducted from their monthly paycheques. What are these deductions for?
9. What vegetable grown in Canada is used for the production of white sugar?
10. In which two provinces are large amounts of oil extracted?

B. WORD RECOGNITION

Fill in each blank with a word from the list below.

abortion	dependent (adj.)	racist
activist	licence	separatist
bilingualism	policies	
controversial	polling station	

1. _____ has been a policy and practice of the federal government in acknowledgement of the special status of our two founding nations.
2. If you plan to vote in an election, you need to know which _____ will have your name on its list.

3. _____ is legal in Canada but is normally done only within the first trimester of a woman's pregnancy.
4. A _____ topic of conversation is one in which participants will often argue.
5. You need a _____ for many things in Canada—for example, marriage, fishing, driving a car, and flying a plane.
6. Greenpeace is an _____ organization fighting for the survival of healthy life on our planet. It fights organizations that pollute the ocean or the air, among other things.
7. _____s in Quebec would like to see their province become an independent country.
8. _____ practices that seek to exclude anyone on the basis of colour or history are unwelcome in Canada and, in most cases, illegal.
9. Canada is very _____ on its natural resources for its economy.
10. _____ on healthcare services and funding are made by both federal and provincial governments.

C. WORD FAMILIES

At least one word in each word family below is from the text. Use your dictionary to find meanings and usages for the others if you need to do so. Some parts of speech may have more than one word associated with them. For example, the first row has two nouns, one pertaining to a person who is dependent and the other to the situation of being dependent.

VERB	NOUN	ADJECTIVE	ADVERB
		dependent	-----
extract			-----
		presumed	-----
-----	environment/ environmentalist		
-----			democratically

Use each word from the table in one of the 17 sentences below.

1. In a healthy marriage, spouses are mutually _____ on each other.
2. The children in a family are called _____s on an income tax form.
3. The world's current _____ on oil has to change because the oil reserves won't last forever and they are responsible for a lot of the pollution which is damaging our planet.
4. In order to _____ on another person, we need to be able to trust that person.
5. The _____ of oil from Alberta's oil sands uses huge amounts of water which cannot all be recovered.
6. The _____ oil from the oil sands is shipped to the US by many pipelines.
7. If you are bitten by a tick, it is very important to _____ the tick's stinger if you can. Many ticks carry diseases and others carry neurotoxins that can make you very sick.
8. In Canada, the law supports the _____ of innocence until a person is proven guilty. (In many countries, the opposite is true.)
9. The man's _____ guilt in the charges brought against him made it very difficult to prove his innocence until a witness stepped forward. The man had been in the wrong place at the wrong time.
10. It is important to let the facts speak for themselves and not _____ anything which is not in evidence.
11. _____ concerns are high on the list of priorities for most countries in today's world.
12. Green products are considered to be _____ friendly.
13. Our _____ is everything which surrounds us, and for that reason among others, we need to keep it healthy and natural.
14. An _____ is a person who is concerned with and involved in the protection of our natural environment.

15. Many people have gone to war to protect the ideal of _____, a belief that power should reside ultimately in the hands of the people.

16. In a _____ country, people are free to organize their own political parties and everyone has an equal vote, regardless of what politics they support.

17. In a _____ elected government, the people elected to serve are accountable to the people who elected them.

D. DISCUSSION TOPICS

- » The timeline of selected historical events on pages 30 and 31 extends from 1914 to 2010. The nation of Canada was born in only 1867, which makes Canada a very new nation as compared with others. As you read this timeline, what items stand out for you as being most significant for Canada? Why did you select the items you did?
- » Many people born outside of Canada do not see Canadians as being very nationalistic or patriotic because we have not always expressed our feelings about being Canadian as obviously as some people do. As a Canadian, however, I consider myself to be very patriotic in that I love this country far more than I can imagine loving any other country, and there is nowhere in the world I would rather live. How do you define patriotism? How do you express your own patriotism?
- » Canadians often witness a lot of conflict between our federal and provincial governments due to the division of powers defined in our constitution. The federal government has primary responsibility for such things as immigration, international affairs, employment, health care, criminal law, and taxation. The provinces have primary responsibility for such things as labour laws, land titles, social services, and education. Health care is particularly contentious at this time because it is very expensive, and yet Canadians place a high value on medicare (free basic medical care to all citizens of this country). Some people think health care should be privately funded by insurance companies like it is in the United States, but others realize that this would mean the poor would not have access to health care. As a taxpayer, are you willing to pay higher taxes to ensure that every citizen of Canada receives the care he or she needs regardless of his or her income? Why or why not?
- » Alberta elected its first female premier, Alison Redford, in 2012 and BC also got a female premier, Christy Clark, in 2011. Why do you think it has taken so long for women to be elected to this senior office of government, and why do you think it is happening at this time in our development as a nation? Do you think women

will do this job any differently than men just because they are women? Why or why not?

- » In theory, we vote for the man or woman we believe can best represent us in Parliament or our legislative assembly. In fact, however, more and more people are voting not for the person but for the party they run for or the leader of that party. In your opinion, is this a healthy practice or not? Explain your answer. Why do you think this is more common now than it used to be?