

Chapter 1 : Provincial Government | The Canadian Encyclopedia

We believe in the ethical, responsible and accountable execution of the business of government which, in a free and democratic society, is to secure the life, liberty and property of the people through the prudent development and judicious enforcement of sensible laws and policies;

The provinces are responsible for public schooling , health and social services, highways , the administration of justice, and local government. However, overlapping and conflicting interests have stretched provincial concerns across virtually every area of Canadian life. Provinces are free to determine their own levels of public services, and each province has been true to its economic and cultural interests in its own fashion. The Fathers of Confederation envisaged a federal union tilted toward a strong central government. The powers of the federal government to disallow provincial statutes within one year of their passage; to appoint provincial lieutenant-governors ; to declare provincial works to be for the general advantage of Canada or two or more provinces; to appoint judges of superior, district and county courts see Judiciary ; and to enjoy broad lawmaking powers all confirm the intended junior status of provincial governments. However, the evolution of Canadian society “ despite the centralizing swings occasioned by the two world wars and the Great Depression of the s “ has long eroded this early sense of provincial subordination. The terms of Confederation gave the central government the primary role in promoting an economic union and in stimulating national economic expansion through the development of transportation links railways, harbours and canals and other forms of public-policy support see Railway History. By the s the momentum behind nation building had slowed and was soon overtaken by the rise of provincially-based political and economic needs and desires. Strong Leadership, Valuable Resources Other elements also helped enhance the status of provincial governments: The provincial governments always played some role in their regional economic development through public investment in transportation and the growth of their public education systems. The expansion of these activities and the later growth of social assistance , health and hospital programs in the s and s changed the original conception and broadened the scope of provincial government. Legislative Powers Constitution Act, section 92 , the powers of the provincial legislatures were carefully limited. The legislatures were granted specific jurisdiction in 16 subject areas. Meanwhile in section 91, powers were granted to the federal Parliament in 29 areas. General and Specific Powers The scope of provincial legislative power was broadly defined in the Constitution as "generally all matters of a merely local or private Nature in the Province. Provincially established courts enforce both civil and criminal law. Under section 93, education is an exclusive provincial responsibility, subject to certain qualifications. Under section 95, agriculture and immigration are matters of concurrent jurisdiction but with federal paramountcy “ for example, if there is conflicting legislation, the federal government prevails. The control of public lands and provincial ownership of natural resources has proved to be of particular importance. However, the most important interpretations of the Constitution regarding provincial rights have been in the area of property and civil rights. These judicial interpretations have protected provincial jurisdiction against federal encroachment and have provided specific support for provincial regulation of labour relations , marketing and business contracts. Taxation and Other Revenue Provincial taxing powers are limited to direct taxation within the province “ for example, personal and corporate income taxes, consumer taxes and certain property taxes. From their jurisdiction over the management, sale and leasing of public lands, timber and natural resources, the provinces also derive authority for the principal source of non-tax revenues. According to a constitutional amendment 92A , the provinces were granted an unrestricted taxing power "any mode or system" in the natural-resource field. This amendment “ which clarified and expanded provincial powers over non-renewable resources, forestry resources and electrical energy “ was designed to resolve the constitutional difficulties posed by revenue raising in the indirect tax field. Disallowance and Reservation The federal government still retains the power to disallow a provincial statute, but has not done so since Any federal Cabinet that contemplated using disallowance today would encounter significant political difficulties. The last reservation, which occurred in Saskatchewan in , went against an year-old understanding that this power would only be exercised on

instructions from the governor general, and the bill was subsequently approved. Constitutional Change There have been only six constitutional amendments directly affecting the powers of all provincial legislatures. The amendments of 1871, 1872, and 1873 transferred powers to Parliament with the agreement of the provinces; those of 1870, 1871, and 1872 expanded provincial powers. The amendment of section 91 subsection 2A secured exclusive federal government jurisdiction for a national employment insurance scheme. The numerous efforts at constitutional reform since the 1870s see Constitutional History have resulted in only one direct change in provincial jurisdiction: Provincial Government Activities Spending Levels of government spending only partly reflect the range of provincial government activity, but they do underscore the role the provinces play in providing public goods and services, and in transferring payments to individuals. Total expenditures for all governments rose from 16 per cent of the gross domestic product GDP in 1870 to 50 per cent in 1913, and then began falling, reaching 35 per cent in 1930. Almost none of the recent decline has occurred in the provinces, where government spending excluding intergovernmental transfers rose from three per cent in 1870 to 19 per cent in 1913. Government spending, including federal income security payments and regional assistance programs, are of special significance to the economies of less prosperous provinces. Most provincial spending goes to hospital and medical care, education, income maintenance and other social services. The participation of all provincial governments in federal-provincial, shared-cost arrangements for hospital insurance and medicare see Health Policy helped ensure nationwide standards of service, despite some differences in their ways of financing and program coverage. In contrast, the high degree of provincial autonomy in elementary and secondary education, and the accommodation of religious and linguistic minorities, has resulted in variation in school systems. Revenue Personal income taxes, general sales taxes and natural-resource revenues are the largest sources of provincial government revenue. Ontario and the four Atlantic provinces have harmonized their value added sales taxes Harmonized Sales Tax, HST with the federal goods and services tax General Sales Tax, GST while Alberta continues to be the only province not to levy a provincial retail sales tax. Starting in 1952, the levying of income tax by both the federal and provincial governments has been governed by a series of five-year fiscal and tax-collection arrangements. Federal Funding of Provincial Programs The growth of provincial activities was not only driven by their own initiatives, such as the introduction of public hospital insurance and medicare by Saskatchewan in 1947, and fuller exploitation of their taxation powers, but also by encouragement from the federal government. Federal shared cost programs in areas of provincial jurisdiction, and unconditional grants in the form of equalization payments since 1957, all contributed to the expansion and maintenance of provincial public services. Since 1957, however, the terms of federal financing arrangements promoted greater degrees of provincial autonomy and, with federal budgetary restraints, imposed ever increasing limits on federal support for social assistance, hospitals, medicare and post-secondary education. Unlike the expansionist, province-building era of the 1870s and 1880s, recent decades have seen major restructurings and retrenchment in the delivery of provincial education, health and other social programs, driven in part by the three post economic downturns, along with the influence of neo-conservative and smaller government approaches to public management. The policy goals of budget-balancing sustainability, economic development and trade promotion have come to dominate all provincial government policy agendas. Provincial Agencies Regulatory activity and programs for economic development conducted by a variety of provincial government agencies and Crown Corporations play an important role in provincial life. Provinces have publicly owned development corporations or other agencies which provide assistance, loans and other incentives for the expansion and diversification of their economies, and often compete with each other, with varying degrees of success. Other provincial crown corporations, particularly those responsible for the generation of electrical power, are also important in provincial economics. The contraction of provincial government services and activities since the late 1970s has, however, led to a re-examination of the role of some provincial crown corporations and agencies and to their privatization. Government Institutions Distinctive economic and social development in the provinces has produced a variety of political cultures and party systems. However, all provincial government institutions and the conventions that shape their operation remain closely modelled after the British Westminster parliamentary tradition. Their practice of Cabinet government reflects the principles of Responsible Government. The Crown is represented through the office of the lieutenant-governor. Public policymaking and administration is controlled by an

executive council or Cabinet, comprising ministers of the Crown and headed by a premier. A provincial legislature is defined, for lawmaking purposes, as being composed of the lieutenant-governor and the provincial Legislative Assembly in the same way that the central Parliament is composed of the Crown, Senate and House of Commons. In ordinary usage, however, the term legislature refers only to the Assembly. Four provinces originally had a bicameral two chamber legislature made up of an elected Assembly and an appointed Legislative Council: Prince Edward Island also had a bicameral legislature but with an elected council which was absorbed into the lower chamber in 1871. The further requirement that the premier and Cabinet maintain the support of the majority in the legislature is a principle of responsible government that had been formally acknowledged in by the then colonies of the four original provinces. The lieutenant-governors appoint and may dismiss the provincial premiers and the members of their Cabinets. They summon, prorogue and dissolve the provincial legislatures and assent to provincial legislation in the name of the Crown. The lieutenant-governors still retain a power to withhold or reserve a bill for consideration of the central government. The latter power is presumed dormant, if not entirely inoperative. The discretionary powers enabling a lieutenant-governor to act alone in the appointment or dismissal of a premier or the dissolution of the Legislative Assembly remain potentially important, should there be any uncertainty about who commands the support of the majority in the Assembly. If a premier or Cabinet acted in a way that was unquestionably contrary to constitutional conventions, the office of lieutenant-governor might also be used to protect those fundamental principles. The lieutenant-governors are appointed by the federal Cabinet on the advice of the prime minister, with little participation from the provincial governments in the selection process. Their salaries are fixed and are paid by Parliament, and before they were regarded as federal officers. The Judicial Committee said the office of lieutenant-governor was as much the representative of the Crown for all the purposes of provincial government, as the office of governor general was for Canada. Premier and Cabinet Provincial premiers ordinarily hold the position of President of the Executive Council and enjoy the same pre-eminent status as head of their provincial governments as prime ministers hold in relation to their federal Cabinet colleagues. Virtually all provincial cabinets have ministerial assignments for such policy areas as health, education, advanced education, jobs and skills training, labour, social services, energy, environment, natural resources forests, lands or mines, economic development, agriculture, highways and transportation, tourism and recreation, justice, intergovernmental relations, finance, municipal affairs, and housing. The budgetary process also requires that the legislature annually approve the funds required for government programs and that expenditures are to be only for those purposes authorized by the Legislative Assembly. In practice there is rarely room for independent action by the legislature in the lawmaking process. The modern emphasis on executive government has considerably enhanced the lawmaking powers of the Cabinet and its individual ministers. The general rule that only the government may initiate spending and taxing proposals inevitably curtails backbench initiatives. Minority governments such as the Ontario Liberal governments 1871-1877 and 1914-1919 have not been uncommon occurrences since the 1870s, but one-party dominance of the provincial assemblies remains historically conspicuous. The Alberta Conservative Party since 1905 and Nova Scotia Liberal party 1903-1908 enjoyed the longest periods of uninterrupted government office, followed closely by the Ontario Conservatives 1903-1908. Electoral reform through the adoption of a proportional representation system became the subject of provincial referenda in Prince Edward Island, Ontario, and twice in British Columbia, and but all fell short of the required voter support.

Chapter 2 : What is Canada's political system?

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Government and society Constitutional framework The provincial government consists of the lieutenant governor, a viceregal representative appointed by the federal cabinet whose functions are purely formal; the Executive Council, or cabinet; and the elected Legislative Assembly. The province is represented in the federal parliament by appointed senators and elected members of the House of Commons. Manhood suffrage, except for Indians living on reserves reservations , has been in effect since Women gained the vote in and Indians in Since , urban constituencies have elected the majority in the legislature, but rural areas are still overrepresented. The last, founded in , represents an amalgamation of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation and sections of the trade union movement. Stability and one-party dominance were the mark of Ontario politics from the time of Canadian federation until the later 20th century. The only aberration in more than a century was provided by the United Farmers of Ontario , which governed in coalition with the Independent Labour Party from to The changing character of Ontarian society, more multicultural and increasingly urban, also may have contributed to this transformation by reducing the rural and small-town base of the Conservatives , who had ruled uninterrupted from to Municipal government in Ontario consists of elected township, county , or district councils in rural areas and of elected councils in cities, towns, and regions. Since the provincial government, seeking to realize economies of scale, has reduced dramatically the number of municipalities and has rearranged the responsibilities of the two levels of government. One major initiative was the creation of an enlarged Toronto out of six municipalities in However, the amalgamation did not produce the anticipated economies of scale. Regional governments were instituted for Ottawa-Carleton in and for the Niagara region in Thirty years later the provincial government imposed amalgamation on municipalities in the Ottawa and Hamilton areas. In Hamilton and Toronto the measure was initially unpopular, but in the Ottawa area the measure had considerable support. The Ontario Provincial Police carries out law enforcement on both provincial and local levels. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police has jurisdiction in federal matters, and its mandate in Ontario includes national and border security as well as the investigation of white-collar and organized crime. Health and welfare The province finances basic health care and social services for all inhabitants through a combination of grants from the federal government and its own tax revenues. The Ontario Health Insurance Plan is a universal and comprehensive program that covers almost all medically necessary diagnostic services provided by physicians and many other health care workers, as well as treatment both inside and outside hospitals. The Ministry of Community and Social Services provides social assistance to those without an income and funds for shelters for the homeless and for women and children fleeing domestic violence , as well as services for people with disabilities. Poverty among Indians, marginal farmers, and city dwellers is of continuing concern, but the proportion of the population receiving public assistance has remained fairly constant at a relatively low level. The cost of living , however, is high compared with those of most of the other provinces, with Toronto housing being particularly costly. Housing for low-income earners and homelessness are increasingly pressing problems. Education Tuition-free compulsory elementary education was established in the mid 20th century. Secondary education became tuition-free early in the 20th century, but attendance was not enforced beyond age 14 later extended to age Publicly funded Catholic schools continued to exist alongside secular public schools into the 21st century, although attempts by other religious groups, such as Orthodox Jews and Calvinists, to gain public funds for their schools failed. In the late 20th century, education costs rose because of increased enrollment in elementary and secondary schools. Since the government has made a determined attempt to reduce costs, mainly by inducing local school boards to close schools and by imposing tight controls over the boards and the teaching profession. Government assistance to higher education is substantial but has declined since the early s. The provincially supported degree-granting universities, though legally autonomous , receive both operating and capital grants

from the government, which has a measure of control over planning, intake, and programs. The province is also the site of the Ontario College of Art and Design as well as a number of colleges of applied arts and technology whose main role is to provide postsecondary technical education. As is true in Canada generally, the popular culture of Ontario is strongly influenced by that of the United States. This is particularly evident in television, film, music, and professional sports. The city also boasts several symphony orchestras, numerous choirs and chamber music groups, two major opera companies, and the National Ballet Company of Canada. Toronto has attracted numerous graphic artists and sculptors as well. Other parts of the province host successful theatre festivals. Stratford, in southeastern Ontario, is the site of the Stratford Festival of Canada, which opened as the Stratford Shakespearean Festival of Canada in 1958. There is an annual George Bernard Shaw Festival at Niagara-on-the-Lake, and the Blyth Festival, located at a small town in Huron county, annually produces several works by Canadian playwrights. Festival Theatre, Stratford, Ontario, Canada. Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons, near Midland in central Ontario, is a reconstruction of the mission established by the Jesuits in 1639. Federally funded cultural agencies, the provincially funded Ontario Arts Council, and private donors offer crucial support to the cultural life of the province. National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa. Since 1929 Toronto annually has been the site of the Canadian National Exhibition, one of the largest summer fairs in North America. Each year, Toronto also hosts Caribana, a festival in honour of Caribbean culture, while Ottawa is the site of Winterlude, a celebration of the northern climate. They offer a range of outdoor recreational activities, from everyday use to wilderness experiences. Toronto is the headquarters of national radio and television broadcasting, both public and private, and the provincially owned TVOntario. Toronto is also the book- and magazine-publishing centre of English-speaking Canada. History The earliest known inhabitants of the Ontario region included the Iroquoian-speaking agricultural Huron, Tionontati, and Erie peoples of the south and the Algonquian-speaking hunting Algonquin, Ojibwa, and Cree peoples of the north. He was soon followed by Samuel de Champlain and other French explorers, fur traders, and missionaries. The southern tribes were dispersed by members of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy Iroquois Confederacy, also composed of Iroquoian-speaking peoples, in 1609. In France established Fort Frontenac present-day Kingston to begin the military protection of its westward-spreading fur empire. When most of New France was ceded to Great Britain in 1763, however, no French colonization had taken place in the Ontario region, except for a small farming settlement in what is now the Detroit area. The Quebec Act of 1774 established Ontario as part of an extended colony ruled from Quebec. During the American Revolution, the region was a base for loyalist and Indian attacks upon the American frontier, and in 1784 it was settled by approximately 10,000 loyalists and those of the Iroquois tribes who had fought for the British. The Constitutional Act, 1791, or Canada Bill, was followed immediately by the division of the Quebec colony into a French-majority province called Lower Canada the future province of Quebec and a loyalist province called Upper Canada the future province of Ontario. Upper Canada received representative government; provision was made for the support of the colonial administration and an established church by substantial land endowments called the Crown and Clergy Reserves. John Graves Simcoe, the vigorous first lieutenant governor of Upper Canada, supervised the introduction of English legal and local government practices, laid out the land-granting pattern, supported the construction of trunk roads, and fixed the capital at York now Toronto. His policy of welcoming massive immigration from the United States was a source of tension between the newcomers and the established anti-U.S. After the war and throughout the 19th century, immigrants came mainly from Ireland and Great Britain, with large numbers from Scotland. The oligarchy favoured the Anglican Church and the Crown and Clergy Reserves but also rapid economic growth. Its commitment of public funds, borrowed in Great Britain, to private infrastructure projects—such as the construction of the Welland Canal to bypass Niagara Falls—led to mounting opposition as costs rose. As well, some wanted to expand the elective principle into the legislative council and the public service. The local oligarchy and the British government resisted major change, however, and in 1837 a radical minority led by the journalist William Lyon Mackenzie staged an unsuccessful revolt in conjunction with a larger but also unsuccessful uprising in Lower Canada. Responsible cabinet government was achieved in the course of the 1840s. The formation of the second Robert Baldwin—Louis Hippolyte LaFontaine ministry in 1842 led to the passage of the highly controversial Rebellion Losses Bill, designed to compensate those who had

suffered losses during the revolt of 1837. When Lord Elgin, the governor-general of British North America, signed it into law, an enraged mob burned the Parliament buildings, then in Montreal. This cost the city its status as the colonial capital, which was eventually located in Ottawa. The incident demonstrated that colonial responsible government was now a fact: That desire for expansion, along with the need for colonial defense, the wish for improved intercolonial trade, and the political deadlock that gripped the province by the early 1840s contributed to the movement toward a new constitutional settlement—the political union of British North America under the name of Canada. Achieved in 1867, Canadian federation was brought about in large part by politicians in Canada West, such as John Macdonald and George Brown. With federation, Canada West became the province of Ontario, and its capital was located at Toronto, while Ottawa became the federal capital. With the harnessing of Niagara Falls in 1853, Ontario entered into an energy revolution that eventually came to encompass the hydroelectric power potential of the northern part of the province and the St. Lawrence River, as well as coal-generated and nuclear thermal power. After 1853, sparked by the construction of railways in Northern Ontario, major discoveries of minerals, including silver and gold, took place as well. In addition, the forest industry expanded as pulp and paper became major export staples. During the 1850s, Toronto surpassed Montreal to attain this stature. In a long period of Liberal hegemony ended as the Conservative Party known formally as the Liberal-Conservative Party until 1903, when it was renamed the Progressive Conservative Party took power under James Pliny Whitney. It also took steps to reform the University of Toronto and place it beyond direct political control. Many young men, a good number of them fairly recently arrived from the British Isles, volunteered for the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Some 68,000 Ontarian servicemen died or were wounded during the war. It also stimulated the movement for reforms that had been advocated for some years. The franchise was extended to women in 1917 in recognition of their role in the war effort, and the Conservative government of William Hearst introduced prohibition because alcohol was viewed as a hindrance to the industrial production and military effectiveness required for victory. National War Memorial, Ottawa. A referendum that year approved the continuation of prohibition, but enforcement proved problematic for the coalition and for the Conservatives, who returned to office in 1919. Prohibition finally ended in 1927. By 1932, at the low point of the downturn, about one-fourth of the labour force was unemployed. Unable to collect a large portion of the property taxes on which they depended, more than 50 municipalities defaulted on their debts. This led to the creation in 1934 of the Department of Municipal Affairs, which was given broad-ranging powers to supervise municipal finances, and to the abrogation of the municipal income tax. Discredited by the Depression, the Conservatives were defeated in the election by the Liberals, led by a farmer from western Ontario, Mitchell Hepburn. Initially committed to moderate reform, he became notorious for his hostility to the militant labour unions affiliated with the new, U. Mackenzie King, a fellow Ontarian and Liberal. Nevertheless, as in World War I, many Ontarians joined the armed forces. One key wartime project was the Commonwealth Air Training Plan, which used airfields throughout Southern Ontario to train air crews from British Commonwealth countries. Military recruitment and war-linked production ended unemployment in Ontario. Industrial output came to include munitions, guns, military vehicles, and aircraft. The war also prompted increased labour organization and growing support for the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation CCF, a Depression-born social-democratic party that preached the message that government should reward wartime sacrifices with improved social and health services. In the 1940s the Liberals lost power, giving way to a Conservative minority government, with the CCF as the official opposition. Led by pragmatic leaders with roots in small and medium-sized Ontario towns—such as George Drew, Leslie Frost, John Robarts, and William Davis—the party embodied a moderate political philosophy and responded effectively to social change.

Driver licences, plate stickers, health cards, birth certificates and other services provided by the Ontario Government. Ministry of Finance Supporting a strong economic, fiscal and investment climate for Ontario, while ensuring accountability with respect to the use of public funds.

In Canada, there are 3 levels of government. Each level of government has different responsibilities. Federal government the Government of Canada - Responsible for things that affect the whole country, such as citizenship and immigration, national defence and trade with other countries. Municipal local governments cities, towns, and villages in Ontario - Responsible for firefighting, city streets and other local matters. If there is no local government, the province provides services. Federal Government At the federal level, there are 3 parts of government: The Governor General represents the Queen in Canada and carries out the duties of head of state. Canadians elect representatives to the House of Commons. These representatives are called Members of Parliament MPs and usually belong to a political party. The political party that has the largest number of MPs forms the government, and its leader becomes prime minister. The prime minister is the head of government in Canada. The Prime Minister chooses MPs to serve as ministers in the cabinet. There are ministers for citizenship and immigration, justice and other subjects. The cabinet makes important decisions about government policy. The Senate reviews laws that are proposed by the House of Commons. Senators come from across Canada. The prime minister chooses the senators. You can read the Guide to the Canadian House of Commons for more information. The Legislative Assembly makes law. The political party that has the largest number of MPPs forms the government, and its leader becomes premier. The premier is the head of government in Ontario. The premier leads the government and chooses MPPs to serve as ministers in the cabinet. The cabinet sets government policy and introduces laws for the Legislative Assembly to consider. Municipal Local Government At the municipal level: The Province of Ontario defines the structure, finances, and management of the local governments of cities, towns and villages. Residents of the municipality elect the mayor and council members to lead the local government. Committees of councillors discuss budget, service and administrative issues that are then passed on to the council for debate. Citizens, business owners and community groups can present their concerns to councillors at committee meetings. Municipalities may also be part of a larger county or regional government for example, York Region. For More Information Service Ontario Centres - Provides a wide range of general government information and application forms about all provincial ministries at one location. The website contains an alphabetical contact list of all Service Ontario Centres in the province. Statutes and Regulations of Ontario - This site provides a basic level of public access to Ontario legislation. Municipalities of Ontario - A list of links to official Web sites of Ontario municipalities. Samara Canada - Provides resources to promote democracy in Canada, help you learn about the Canadian political system, and how to make change happen. Service Canada " Provides a wide range of Government of Canada programs and services through their service locations, by telephone and online. Related Articles Last updated: July 13, Canadian Government.

Chapter 4 : Local Government

Responsible Government In the British North American colonial context, to have responsible government meant that the Executive Council had to obtain and maintain the support of a majority of members of the House of Assembly in order to be able to govern the province.

Representing the Crown Canada is a constitutional monarchy with The Queen as Sovereign and head of state. If the Government loses a confidence question raised in the Legislative Assembly, then it must either resign, making way for a new Government to be appointed, or submit to the will of citizens in a general election. The Lieutenant Governor holds regular meetings with the Premier, during which she has the right to be consulted, to encourage, and to warn on government matters. If either the Lieutenant Governor or the Premier is not available to meet, they may speak by phone. These meetings, as with all communications between the Lieutenant Governor and the Government, remain confidential in order to promote an open and productive exchange of views. Powers and responsibilities In Ontario, the Lieutenant Governor exercises the powers of the Crown, which derive from the written constitution, constitutional convention political rules of the constitution , and statute law. These powers are similar to those of The Queen and Governor General with regard to Parliament and the federal government. Ensures that Ontario always has a Premier who is able to command the confidence of the Legislative Assembly Appoints members of the Executive Council Cabinet ministers on the advice of the Premier Summons, prorogues, and dissolves the Legislature on the advice of the Premier Reads the Speech from the Throne at the beginning of a parliamentary session Grants Royal Assent, the final step of the legislative process, to bills passed by the Legislative Assembly Orders elections to the Legislative Assembly on the advice of Cabinet, in accordance with the Election Act Approves government business such as regulations and public appointments by signing Orders-in-Council on the advice of Cabinet The Lieutenant Governor remains strictly nonpartisan in carrying out her constitutional duties. In doing so, the Lieutenant Governor ensures that the democratic will of Ontarians and their elected representatives is upheld and that the constitutional conventions of responsible government are respected. Administrator If the Lieutenant Governor is temporarily absent, ill, or unable to perform constitutional duties, the Administrator of the Government of Ontario may fulfil the functions of the Lieutenant Governor. Today the Administrator of the Government of Ontario signed writs authorizing a by-election in Whitby/Oshawa. If the Chief Justice is not available, another judge from the courts of Ontario is temporarily appointed by the Governor General-in-Council to act as Administrator. Summoning the Legislature Proroguing and dissolving the Legislature Granting Royal Assent to bills passed by the Legislative Assembly The Lieutenant Governor summons, prorogues, and dissolves the Legislature on the advice of the Premier. In Ontario, the Premier advises the Lieutenant Governor to issue a proclamation convening a session of the Legislature. Following an election, the first order of business is the election of a Speaker by members of the Legislative Assembly. Subsequent legislative sessions proceed directly without this step. Once a Speaker has been elected, and before any parliamentary business may be conducted, the Lieutenant Governor must formally announce the reasons for the meeting of the Legislature by reading the Speech from the Throne. The speech is written by the Government. The reading of the Throne Speech is a significant moment in our parliamentary system. Prorogation ends the current legislative session. Members of the Legislative Assembly are released from their parliamentary duties. All unfinished business is terminated and committees cease to sit, although the Legislative Assembly may adopt a motion in a new session allowing business and committees to continue uninterrupted. Prorogation should not be confused with recesses, adjournments, constituency weeks, or holiday breaks, after which parliamentary proceedings resume where they left off. While the Legislature is prorogued, members of the Legislative Assembly remain in office and carry on their representational work. The Premier determines when the Legislature is prorogued and when a new session is to begin. However, the Legislative Assembly Act requires that the Legislature meet yearly: There shall be a session of the Legislature once at least in every year, so that twelve months do not intervene between the last sitting of the Legislature in one session and its first sitting in the next. How does prorogation work in Ontario? The Premier may advise

that prorogation occur in two possible ways: The Lieutenant Governor issues a proclamation proroguing the Legislature. The Lieutenant Governor delivers a Prorogation Speech in the Legislative Chamber, similar to the Speech from the Throne at the start of the parliamentary session. The last prorogation ceremony in Ontario took place in to close the 1st session of the 36th Parliament of Ontario. Dissolution ends the Legislature so that a general election can take place. Members of the Legislative Assembly cease to hold office and all parliamentary business is terminated. After dissolution, no parliamentary business can take place until: The Legislature is dissolved to enable the calling of a general election. The Election Act provides that a general election in Ontario must be held every four years on the first Thursday in June with some flexibility to accommodate for days of cultural or religious significance. However, according to the Election Act: The Lieutenant Governor may therefore dissolve the Legislature on the advice of the Premier outside the fixed-date election timeline, such as if: The Government loses a vote of confidence in the Legislative Assembly The Premier is of the opinion that circumstances warrant the calling of a general election How is dissolution advised? It is customary for the Premier to visit the Lieutenant Governor in person to advise the dissolution of the Legislature and the calling of a general election. This is true even within the context of fixed-date elections. The Premier then announces that the Legislature has been dissolved and that a general election will be held. How does dissolution occur? Dissolving the Legislature, effective immediately, and summoning a new Legislature following a general election Ordering that writs for a general election be issued Setting the dates for the close of candidate nominations Setting the date of the general election Her Honour has signed a proclamation dissolving the Legislature. What happens after an election? As soon as possible after Election Day, the Premier will formally notify the Lieutenant Governor of the results of the general election and of his or her intentions for the Government. The Premier may choose to meet the Legislative Assembly. What is Royal Assent? Royal Assent has strong symbolic significance: It is the moment when the two constituent elements of the Legislature, the Lieutenant Governor and the members of the Legislative Assembly, join together to conclude the lawmaking process. How is Royal Assent given in Ontario? When does Royal Assent take place? The Government determines the timing of Royal Assent and whether it is to be granted in the Legislative Chamber or elsewhere. When is Royal Assent effective? Royal Assent takes effect immediately. Unless otherwise provided, an act comes into force on the day it receives Royal Assent. It is the responsibility of the Government to announce when legislation comes into force. Can Royal Assent be withheld? There is now undoubtedly a constitutional convention that the Lieutenant Governor will grant Royal Assent to bills that have been passed by the Legislative Assembly. Reserved bills may be assented to by the Governor General in Council the Governor General acting on the advice of the federal Cabinet within one year, or else they do not become law. With the full establishment of responsible government and the development of the court system, there is now a constitutional convention that reservation will not be exercised. Only two bills have ever been reserved in Ontario. Sir William Howland, second Lieutenant Governor of Ontario , reserved two bills in on advice of the Premier. Ultimately, these bills were not given Royal Assent by the Governor General in Council and did not become law. The appointment of a Premier is a Royal Prerogative power that the Lieutenant Governor exercises personally in accordance with constitutional convention. When a Premier decides to leave office, he or she notifies the Lieutenant Governor of his or her intention to resign. The outgoing Premier may identify a possible successor based upon whom he or she believes will be able to command the confidence of the Legislative Assembly. The Lieutenant Governor then invites a successor to form a government. In order to ensure a smooth transition, the Government continues in office until the outgoing Premier tenders his or her formal resignation, very shortly before the swearing-in of the new Premier. In the unfortunate case of a Premier dying in office, the Lieutenant Governor may exercise discretion in the selection of a new Premier. In any case, the Lieutenant Governor is guided by constitutional convention. The main requirement is to find someone, almost certainly a party leader, who can command the confidence of the Legislative Assembly. Swearing in a new government Upon taking office, the new Premier presents the Lieutenant Governor with his or her formal recommendations for appointments to the Executive Council and ministerial portfolios. Following that, each minister must take his or her individual oath of office. Once appointed, ministers remain in office until: The Lieutenant Governor accepts their resignation on the advice of the Premier The Premier

advises a change in ministerial portfolios or a change in the composition of the Executive Council often called a Cabinet shuffle. The minister dies. Cabinet shuffles. From time to time, the Premier may wish to change the composition of the Executive Council. The Premier presents the Lieutenant Governor with his or her formal recommendations for changes to the Executive Council and ministerial portfolios. Existing members switching portfolios only swear the necessary oath of office. Depending on the circumstances and extent of the Cabinet shuffle, the swearing-in ceremony may take place in public or private. Orders have a wide variety of uses and most frequently used to:

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The Country party embodied a civic humanism that drew on ancient Greek and Roman conceptions of citizenship, and the value of selfless political participation for the public good; those selfish few who placed their personal private interests before the public good threatened the moral commitment of all citizens to political participation. The Country party had a republican emphasis that sought to preserve the power of a democratic parliament from the encroachments of the crown during the vast expansion of state administration, public credit, and the financial and commercial revolutions in the late eighteenth century and early nineteenth centuries. Baldwin and his son, Robert. Although the idea of colonial ministerial responsibility to a colonial parliament had been touted since the late 18th century, the Baldwins were the first to successfully implement the principle. In an Upper Canadian petition to the British Parliament on colonial ills, it was an assertion that the Constitutional Act was a treaty between the British Parliament and the colonial peoples, and could not be arbitrarily altered by one or the other party. Municipal government in Canada Municipal government in Upper Canada was under the control of appointed magistrates who sat in Courts of Quarter Sessions to administer the law within a District. A few cities, such as Toronto, were incorporated by special acts of the legislature. His bill allowed for two elected councilors from each township, but the warden, clerk and treasurer were to be appointed by the government. This thus allowed for strong administrative control and continued government patronage appointments. The Baldwin Act made municipal government truly democratic rather than an extension of central control of the Crown. It delegated authority to the municipal governments so they could raise taxes and enact by-laws. It also established a hierarchy of types of municipal governments, starting at the top with cities and continued down past towns, villages and finally townships. This system was to prevail for the next years. He was described as melancholy, and awkward in public. He gave speeches in a whispering, halting style. Despite this inauspicious start, his adherence to principle and his fearlessness in the face of Orange Order electoral violence won him the loyalty of voters in the post-Rebellion period. He took no part in the Political Union movement of the s. Bond Head later refused to give written confirmation of the agreement, so Baldwin resigned within a month and convinced the other councillors, both Reform and Tory, to resign with him. This convinced Bond Head that the Reformers were intractable. He called an immediate election, in which he as Lt. Governor waded into the electoral fray, and with the use of Orange Order polling violence, expunged the reformers from the Legislative Assembly. He wrote to Glenelg that "if it is the desire of the Mother Country to retain the colony" it can only be done either by force or with the consent of the people. I take it for granted that Great Britain cannot desire to exercise a Government of the Sword. Report on the Affairs of British North America Though a moderate reformer, Robert Baldwin strongly disapproved of the rebellion of " , and as a function of his views provided allegedly a lackluster defense of Peter Matthews rebel , who was executed for his role in the Rebellion. Baldwin served as an intermediary, with John Rolph, between the rebels and the Lt. Governor, carrying a flag of truce to the rebel camp north of Toronto on 5 December , but failed to head off an armed clash. Firstly, he was to weaken the Canadian vote in Lower Canada through the union of the provinces of Upper and Lower Canada and a strengthened Executive Council. Both reforms would strengthen the central state and weaken Canadian legislative power. Sydenham reformed the Executive Council, making government ministers members for the first time i. He attempted to solicit Reform support by appointing Baldwin as Solicitor General in In order to follow his own principle of responsible government, Baldwin needed to seek election so that he, a government minister, could be accountable to the elected Assembly, not the Crown. Instead, he sought election in the ridings of Hastings and 4th York.

Chapter 6 : Constitutional role - Lieutenant Governor of Ontario

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History[edit] Like many Canadian political institutions, municipal government has its roots in the medieval system of government in England. Famously, the city of Winchester was given its charter in 1086, and the granting of freedoms became endorsed in Magna Carta, which was signed in 1215. The first formal municipality in Canada was the city of Saint John in New Brunswick, which received royal approval in 1784. For municipal government, this began an almost year hiatus of receiving approval from the government, ending in the 1850s when the issue was placed on the agenda once again. In 1856, the British parliament passed the Municipal Corporations Act, which specified how municipalities were to function and be elected. In late to early the governments of what was Canada at the time enacted various acts which established municipal government in all areas of the country. It delegated authority to the municipal governments so they could raise taxes and enact by-laws. It also established a hierarchy of types of municipal governments, starting at the top with cities and continued down past towns, villages and finally townships. Changes to the boundaries of these new governments could be made by petitioning the provincial Municipal Board or by requesting a change through the legislature. As such, the idea that a larger municipality should have more councillors was the same as having a large board of directors for a larger company; i. This was partly due to the Great Depression, but further discussion about reform reared its head in the 1930s. In many cities, the system of having a few very large wards encompassing many different walks of life was replaced with one ward for every area with different demographics; this was to ensure that councillors would not have conflicting interests between the well-off and those not so. The arguments over municipal government reform continue, seen in the recent City of Toronto Act dispute. While the municipality has autonomy on most decisions, all by-laws passed by that municipal government are subject to change by the provincial government at any time. An example of a typical municipal government structure can be found in New Brunswick, which played host to the first municipal government in Canada in 1784 at Saint John. Depending on the province, this second tier may be called a county, regional municipality, regional district or regional county municipality. In Nova Scotia, three municipalities are designated as "regional municipalities". The general hierarchy was established in 1856 with the passing of the Municipal Corporations Act. The largest municipalities are usually called cities, and their governments city councils. Smaller governments are commonly called towns, villages, parishes, rural municipalities, townships or hamlets. Some may also be directly designated as municipalities rather than as a particular type of municipality, but this term is still considered inclusive of all local governments regardless of their status. The term "borough" was previously used in Metropolitan Toronto, Ontario, to denote suburban municipalities. The Borough of East York was the last municipality to hold this status, relinquishing it upon becoming part of the City of Toronto on January 1, 1998. In Quebec, there is no legal distinction between cities and towns – although an informal and subjective distinction may be observed by English speakers, legally all "cities" and "towns" in Quebec have the same status of ville. Sublocal divisions[edit] In Quebec, the term borough is generally used as the English translation of arrondissement, referring to an administrative division of a municipality. Only eight municipalities in Quebec are divided into boroughs. See List of boroughs in Quebec. Unincorporated areas[edit] Some areas in Canada are unincorporated, meaning that they do not have a municipal government at all. Any government services in an unincorporated area are provided either by a local agency, such as a local services board or local service district, or by the province itself. Functions of municipal governments can include: Management of the local policing and firefighting stations. Whilst this comes under the jurisdiction of the provincial government in some areas, it is not uncommon to see municipality police and fire stations. Whilst municipal governments may not be responsible for large highways, small roads and tracks usually come under their control. Additionally, municipal governments may operate bus and train services. Education management or funding school boards. In many municipalities, the school board is voted in directly by the people and funded by the municipal government itself from the taxes it

collects. In order to build an extension on to a house, for example, a municipal government permit or certificate of approval may be required. They are also responsible for administering industrial, residential and commercial zones. Finance and collecting municipality taxes. Most municipalities with the exception of some rural ones have the power to collect taxes in order to provide the services mentioned in this list. Public utilities and other services. Usually parks are taken care of by the municipal government and occasionally sewerage, water, etc. In Quebec, Ontario and Alberta the range of local government services is broadened to include electricity, telephone and gas services. Local governments are not mentioned in the Canadian Constitution other than to say they are the responsibility of the provinces. Consequently, municipalities can be created, amalgamated, or disbanded at the whim of the provincial government which controls them. They are also limited in the amount of interaction they have with the federal government because this would infringe upon an area of provincial jurisdiction. The federal government does fund quite a few projects in many cities, like major transit and roads. Unlike many US projects and cities, most projects only get approximately a quarter of their funds from the federal government, and they are not obligated [14] to have a certain amount of the work done by Canadians or Canadian companies. Since each province is responsible for creating local governments in its own territory, the names, functions, and powers of local bodies vary widely across the country. Local governments generally have limited powers, namely creating local by-laws and taxation property tax. Typically, a municipal government is made up of one mayor occasionally reeve or warden and a set number of councillors occasionally alderman. The councillors may represent districts called wards. The majority of funding for Canadian municipal governments comes from property taxes. Additional funding sources include the sales of goods and services, fines and tax transfers from the provincial government.

Chapter 7 : calendrierdelascience.com - History of the Vote - Responsible Government

Federal government (the Government of Canada) - Responsible for things that affect the whole country, such as citizenship and immigration, national defence and trade with other countries. Provincial and territorial governments (for example, the Province of Ontario) - Responsible for things such as education, health care and highways.

Celebrating V-E Day in Ottawa in Toronto , the capital of Ontario Once constituted as a province, Ontario proceeded to assert its economic and legislative power. In , the lawyer Oliver Mowat became Premier of Ontario and remained as premier until He fought for provincial rights, weakening the power of the federal government in provincial matters, usually through well-argued appeals to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. His battles with the federal government greatly decentralized Canada, giving the provinces far more power than John A. He also presided over the emergence of the province into the economic powerhouse of Canada. Mowat was the creator of what is often called Empire Ontario. Beginning with Sir John A. However, population increase slowed after a large recession hit the province in , thus slowing growth drastically but for only a few years. Many newly arrived immigrants and others moved west along the railway to the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia, sparsely settling Northern Ontario. Mineral exploitation accelerated in the late 19th century, leading to the rise of important mining centres in the northeast, such as Sudbury , Cobalt and Timmins. The province harnessed its water power to generate hydro-electric power and created the state-controlled Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario, later Ontario Hydro. The availability of cheap electric power further facilitated the development of industry. The Ford Motor Company of Canada was established in General Motors Canada was formed in The motor vehicle industry became the most lucrative industry for the Ontario economy during the 20th century. French Canadians reacted with outrage, journalist Henri Bourassa denouncing the "Prussians of Ontario". The regulation was eventually repealed in Influenced by events in the United States, the government of Sir William Hearst introduced prohibition of alcoholic drinks in with the passing of the Ontario Temperance Act. However, residents could distill and retain their own personal supply, and liquor producers could continue distillation and export for sale, allowing this already sizeable industry to strengthen further. Ontario became a hotbed for the illegal smuggling of liquor and the biggest supplier into the United States, which was under complete prohibition. Prohibition in Ontario came to an end in with the establishment of the Liquor Control Board of Ontario under the government of Howard Ferguson. The sale and consumption of liquor, wine, and beer are still controlled by some of the most extreme laws in North America to ensure that strict community standards and revenue generation from the alcohol retail monopoly are upheld. In April , Ontario Member of Provincial Parliament Kim Craitor suggested that local brewers should be able to sell their beer in local corner stores; however, the motion was quickly rejected by Premier Dalton McGuinty. The post- World War II period was one of exceptional prosperity and growth. Ontario has been the recipients of most immigration to Canada, largely immigrants from war-torn Europe in the s and s and following changes in federal immigration law , a massive influx of non-Europeans since the s. From a largely ethnically British province, Ontario has rapidly become culturally very diverse.

Chapter 8 : Newsroom : Recent News

CN Tower Toronto Ontario Canada, Music by Ilayaraja from Tamil movie Udhaya Geetham / Sangeetha Megam Un homme film en train de mettre le feu à une salle de sport à Ontario.

Chapter 9 : Government | calendrierdelascience.com

Ontario (/ ˈ ɒ n ˈ t ɪ ˈ ɪ ʊ r i ˈ oʊ / (listen); French:) is one of the 13 provinces and territories of Canada and is located in east-central Canada. It is Canada's most populous province accounting for percent of the country's population, and is the second-largest province in total area.