

Coordinates have been rounded to two decimals.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

The executive branch of government is the decision-making branch that implements the laws made by the Crown (represented by the Governor General), the Prime Minister, and the Cabinet, who are based in Ottawa. The Cabinet is comprised of Ministers of Parliament from across Canada.

- **Crown (Governor General)** – Canada is a constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary democracy. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is queen of Canada and the official Head of State. The Governor General is the representative of the queen in Canada.
 - ▷ Rideau Hall, Governor General's residence, Ottawa — **45.44, -75.69**
- **Prime Minister** – The leader of the party in power becomes the Prime Minister and therefore the Head of Government. The role of the Prime Minister is to preside over Cabinet meetings, meet with foreign dignitaries, answer questions in the House of Commons, and represent their constituents.
 - ▷ Parliament, Centre Block, House of Commons, Ottawa — **45.43, -75.70**
- **The Cabinet** – The Prime Minister chooses the Cabinet Ministers, and the Governor General formally appoints them. Cabinet is mainly composed of Members of Parliament (MPs) and usually at least one Senator. They hold discussions and are responsible for making decisions on a variety of topics, including: government spending, new bills and policies, as well as various programs and services. Cabinet Ministers are in charge of government departments, such as National Defence, or specific government priorities, such as the Status of Women.
 - ▷ Parliament, Centre Block, House of Commons, Ottawa — **45.43, -75.70**

Coordinates have been rounded to two decimals.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The legislative branch of government is the law-making branch, made up of the appointed Senate and the elected House of Commons, which are both located in Ottawa. The senators and Members of Parliament (MPs) are from across Canada.

- **House of Commons** – The House of Commons is the lower house of parliament, composed of elected MPs. The House of Commons is where new legislation is introduced and MPs debate policy, discuss national issues, and vote on bills. MPs are also responsible for holding the government accountable and representing the interests and needs of their constituents.
 - ▷ Parliament, Centre Block, Ottawa — **45.43, -75.70**
- **Senate** – The Senate is composed of senators, who are appointed by the Governor General on the recommendation of the Prime Minister. They represent the upper house of parliament and are responsible for amending, passing or rejecting bills passed by the House of Commons. They can also introduce their own bills and study major legal and political issues in committees.
 - ▷ Parliament, Centre Block, Ottawa — **45.43, -75.70**

Coordinates have been rounded to two decimals.

JUDICIAL BRANCH

The judiciary branch of government is the application of the law branch. It resolves disputes between citizens, or between citizens and their governments, or between different levels of governments. The judicial branch is represented by the courts, at the federal, provincial and territorial levels.

- **Supreme Court of Canada** – The Supreme Court of Canada is the highest court in the land. It handles appeals from all other courts in Canada and has jurisdiction over disputes in all areas of the law. Judges are appointed by the federal government. The Supreme Court of Canada only hears cases that are of public importance and have national significance.
▷ Ottawa — **45.42, -75.71**
- **Federal Court of Appeal** – The Federal Court of Appeal hears appeals from the Federal Court, the Tax Court of Canada, and judicial reviews of certain federal tribunals. The court deals with matters that fall under federal jurisdiction.
▷ Ottawa — **45.42, -75.70**
- **Federal Court** – The Federal Court is Canada’s national trial court. It hears legal disputes that are in the federal domain, including claims against the Government of Canada, civil suits under federal jurisdiction, and challenges to the decisions of federal tribunals. Geographically, the Court may sit anywhere in Canada and has registry offices located in all major Canadian cities.
▷ Ottawa — **45.42, -75.70**
- **Federal Tax Court of Canada** – The Tax Court of Canada deals with cases and appeals under federal tax and revenue legislation. They are independent from the Canada Revenue Agency and hear disputes between the federal government and taxpayers.
▷ Ottawa — **45.42, -75.70**
- **Provincial and territorial superior courts** – Each province and territory has a court that has “inherent jurisdiction.” This means they can hear cases in any area except when a statute or rule limits that authority. The superior courts handle the most serious criminal and civil cases, including divorce cases and cases that involve large amounts of money. Judges are appointed by the federal government.
 - Supreme Court of British Columbia
▷ In Victoria: **48.42, -123.36**
 - Court of Queen’s Bench of Alberta
▷ In Edmonton: **53.55, -113.49**
 - Court of Queen’s Bench of Saskatchewan
▷ In Regina: **50.45, -104.62**
 - Court of Queen’s Bench of Manitoba
▷ In Winnipeg: **49.89, -97.14**
 - Superior Court of Justice of Ontario
▷ In Toronto: **43.65, -79.38**

- Quebec Superior Court
 - ▷ In Quebec City: **46.82, -71.22**
 - Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador
 - ▷ In St. John's: **47.56, -52.71**
 - Supreme Court of Nova Scotia
 - ▷ In Halifax: **44.65, -63.57**
 - Court of Queen's Bench of New Brunswick
 - ▷ In Fredericton: **45.96, -66.64**
 - Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island
 - ▷ In Charlottetown: **46.23, -63.13**
 - Nunavut Court of Justice (moves around, administered from Iqaluit)
 - ▷ In Iqaluit: **63.75, -68.52**
 - Supreme Court of Northwest Territories (moves around, administered from Yellowknife)
 - ▷ In Yellowknife: **62.46, -114.37**
 - Supreme Court of Yukon
 - ▷ In Whitehorse: **60.72, -135.05**
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- **Courts of appeal of the various provinces** – Each province and territory also has a court of appeal, which, as the highest court in the province/territory, hears appeals from the superior courts and the provincial/territorial courts. These can include civil and criminal cases, as well as constitutional questions that may be raised in appeals involving individuals, governments, or governmental agencies. *(Note: Most Court of Appeal registry offices or sitting locations are located either in the same building as the superior courts, or immediately adjacent to them.)*

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LEVELS AND BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

Responsibility

NATIONAL DEFENCE

3

LEVELS AND BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

Responsibility

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

3

LEVELS AND BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

Responsibility

MONEY

3

LEVELS AND BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

Responsibility

BANKING

3

LEVELS AND BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

Responsibility

FEDERAL TAXES

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LEVELS AND BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

Responsibility

MAIL

3

LEVELS AND BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

Responsibility

SHIPPING

3

LEVELS AND BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

Responsibility

RAILWAYS

BROADCAST AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATION

(TV and radio licences, regulation of
telephone companies, etc.)

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LEVELS AND BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

Responsibility

PIPELINES

3

LEVELS AND BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

Responsibility

INDIGENOUS LANDS AND RIGHTS

3

LEVELS AND BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

Responsibility

CRIMINAL LAW

3

LEVELS AND BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

Responsibility

PROVINCIAL TAXES

3

LEVELS AND BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

Responsibility

MARRIAGE LICENSES

3

LEVELS AND BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

Responsibility

AGE OF MAJORITY

3

LEVELS AND BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

Responsibility

EDUCATION

3

LEVELS AND BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

Responsibility

HEALTH CARE

3

LEVELS AND BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

Responsibility

ROAD REGULATIONS

3

LEVELS AND BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

Responsibility

DOG LICENCES

3

LEVELS AND BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

Responsibility

CEMETERIES

3

LEVELS AND BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

Responsibility

MUNICIPAL TAXES

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LEVELS AND BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

Responsibility

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

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LEVELS AND BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

Responsibility

FIRE PROTECTION

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LEVELS AND BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

Responsibility

LOCAL POLICE

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LEVELS AND BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

Responsibility

LOCAL LAND USE

3

LEVELS AND BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

Responsibility

LIBRARIES

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LEVELS AND BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

Responsibility

CITY PARKS

3

LEVELS AND BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

Responsibility

COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEMS

3

LEVELS AND BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

Responsibility

ROADWAYS

3

LEVELS AND BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

Responsibility

PARKING

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Under the elected Prime Minister, the federal government's responsibilities include all that is national or international in character, which include the following:

- national defence
- foreign affairs
- money
- banking
- federal taxes
- mail
- shipping
- railways
- broadcast and telecommunications regulation (TV and radio licences, regulation of telephone companies, etc.)
- pipelines
- Indigenous lands and rights
- criminal law

PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL

Led by an elected Premier, provinces and territories are assigned certain responsibilities, which include the following:

- provincial taxes
- marriage licenses
- age of majority
- education
- health care
- road regulations

MUNICIPAL

Headed by an elected mayor, this level of government is considered your local city, town or district government, which is responsible for the following:

- dog licences
- cemeteries
- municipal taxes
- public transportation
- fire protection
- local police
- local land use
- libraries
- city parks
- community water systems
- roadways
- parking

FIRST NATIONS GOVERNANCE

Band councils govern these communities, making decisions regarding local issues much akin to municipal government. The band councils are comprised of elected members by the band members.

Sources for responsibilities:

- cic.gc.ca/english/newcomers/before-government.asp and
- lop.parl.ca/About/Parliament/Education/OurCountryOurParliament/section2-e.aspx