

# ***Discover Canada Glossary***

*This glossary provides definitions for words and phrases that some citizenship applicants might not know.*

*The first section is organized in the order that the word or phrase is first used in the Discover Canada guide. The second section (starting on page 8) gives all the same definitions, organized alphabetically.*

## **DEFINITIONS ORGANIZED IN THE ORDER THEY APPEAR**

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### **The Oath of Citizenship**

**Oath:** A formal promise; when you become a Canadian citizen you say the Oath of Citizenship, promising to obey Canada’s laws and be loyal to Canada.

**Allegiance:** Loyalty and commitment. In the Oath, you pledge your allegiance to Canada.

**Ceremony:** A formal event or celebration. The citizenship ceremony is where new citizens receive their certificate and take the Oath.

**Certificate of Citizenship:** The official document you receive when you become a Canadian citizen.

**Supremacy:** The highest authority or power. In Canada’s Oath, you affirm loyalty under the principle of “the supremacy of God and the rule of law.”

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### **Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship**

**Rights:** The freedoms and protections citizens have under the law.

**Responsibilities:** Duties expected of citizens, such as obeying the law and voting.

**Equality:** The idea that everyone is treated the same under the law.

**Mobility rights:** The right to live and work anywhere in Canada and to leave and return freely.

**Official languages:** Canada’s two official languages, English and French.

**Non-official language:** Any language other than English or French, often spoken at home.

**Minority language:** A language spoken by fewer people in a region; French in most of Canada, English in Quebec.

**Rule of law:** Everyone, including government, must obey the law.

**Habeas corpus:** A Latin phrase meaning “you shall have the body,” protecting people from

being jailed without reason.

**Due process:** Fair treatment through the regular legal system.

**Fundamental:** Basic or essential; e.g., fundamental freedoms in the Charter.

**Multiculturalism:** Canada's policy of welcoming many cultures.

**Pluralism:** Peaceful coexistence of people of different backgrounds.

**Discrimination:** Unfair treatment based on race, gender, religion, or other factors.

**Faith community:** People who share the same religion or beliefs.

**Uphold:** To support or maintain something, such as laws or values.

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## Who We Are

**Indigenous (Aboriginal):** The original peoples of Canada — First Nations, Inuit, and Métis.

*Aboriginal* was used in earlier government texts; *Indigenous* is now preferred.

**First Nations:** The largest group of Indigenous peoples in Canada, made up of many distinct communities south of the Arctic.

**Métis:** People of mixed Indigenous and European ancestry with their own culture and language (*Michif*).

**Inuit:** Indigenous peoples living mainly in the Arctic; their language is *Inuktitut*.

**Inuktitut:** The language spoken by Inuit peoples, especially in Nunavut and northern Quebec.

**Michif:** The traditional Métis language combining Cree and French.

**Nomadic:** Moving from place to place rather than staying permanently.

**Bison:** A large wild animal that once roamed the Prairies; important to Indigenous peoples.

**Totem pole:** A tall carved wooden pole telling a family's story, made by some First Nations on the West Coast.

**Reserve land:** Land set aside by the government for First Nation communities.

**Immigrant:** A person who comes to live permanently in Canada from another country.

**Refugee:** A person who flees danger or persecution and seeks safety in Canada.

**Diverse society:** A society made up of people from many cultures and languages.

**Heritage:** Traditions and culture passed down from previous generations.

**Vibrant:** Full of life and energy.

**Coexistence:** Living peacefully together with people of different backgrounds.

**Anglophone:** A person whose first language is English.

**Francophone:** A person whose first language is French.

**Bilingual:** Able to speak two languages, especially English and French.

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## Canada's History

**Viking:** Early explorers from Scandinavia who reached North America around 1000.

**Settlement:** A community established in a new place.

**Fortress:** A strong building used for defence.

**Pelt:** The skin or fur of an animal, traded in early Canada.

**New France:** The French colonies in North America before 1763.

**Watershed:** A geographical area draining to one river system.

**Proclamation:** An official public announcement by the government or monarch.

**Loyalist:** A person who stayed loyal to Britain during the American Revolution and moved to Canada.

**British North America:** The British colonies in North America before Confederation.

**Fur trade:** The early economy based on trading animal pelts, especially beaver.

**Trading post:** A place where traders exchanged goods.

**Common law:** Law based on customs and court decisions.

**Abolish:** To formally end a law or practice.

**Underground Railroad:** A secret network that helped enslaved African Americans escape to Canada.

**Rebellion:** Armed resistance against authority.

**Exile (verb):** To force someone to leave their country.

**Reformer:** A person who works for social or political change.

**Responsible government:** A system where the executive must have the confidence of the elected assembly.

**Confidence vote:** A vote showing whether the government keeps the support of the assembly.

**Fathers of Confederation:** Leaders who created Canada in 1867.

**Self-governing:** Able to make one's own laws.

**Psalm:** A religious song or poem.

**Embody:** To represent an idea clearly.

**Span (verb):** To cover or connect a distance or time.

**Colourful:** Lively and interesting.

**Upheaval:** A major change or disturbance.

**British origins:** The British roots of many Canadian institutions.

**Catholic / Protestant:** Two major Christian groups in Canada's history.

**Faith community:** A group sharing the same beliefs.

**Acadian:** Descendants of French settlers in the Atlantic region.

**Pacify:** To bring peace after conflict.

**East Indies:** Historical European name for South and Southeast Asia, linked to early trade.

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## Modern Canada

**Constitution:** The basic laws and principles by which a country is governed.

**Charter of Rights and Freedoms:** The section of the Constitution that protects fundamental rights such as freedom of speech and religion.

**Democracy:** Government in which citizens elect representatives to make laws.

**Federalism:** The sharing of power between national and provincial governments.

**Legislative assembly:** A provincial or territorial body that makes laws.

**Lieutenant Governor:** The Crown's representative in a province who gives royal assent to new laws.

**Royal assent:** The formal approval by the monarch (or representative) that makes a bill law.

**Bill:** A proposal for a new law.

**Reading:** One of the stages a bill goes through in Parliament or a legislature before becoming law.

**Executive branch:** The part of government that carries out laws—the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

**Legislative branch:** The part that makes laws—Parliament or a legislature.

**Judicial branch:** The part that interprets laws—the courts.

**Assimilate:** To absorb into another culture, often by giving up one's own traditions.

**Temperance:** The social movement to limit or ban alcohol.

**Resentment:** Anger about unfair treatment.

**Citadel:** A fortress protecting a city, such as the Halifax Citadel.

**Drydock:** A basin where ships are repaired.

**Innovative:** Showing new and creative ideas.

**Industrialize:** To develop manufacturing and industry.

**Prestige:** Respect or admiration earned through success or importance.

**Immunity:** Protection against disease or legal obligation.

**Refuge:** A safe place from danger.

**Prosperity:** Economic success or good living conditions.

**Prosperous:** Having wealth and success.

**Dynamic (noun):** Energy and activity that cause change or progress.

**Budget:** The government's yearly plan for income and spending.

**Commerce:** The buying and selling of goods and services.

**Free trade:** Trade between countries without tariffs.

**Bilateral:** Involving two countries.

**Coast Guard:** A federal service that protects Canada's waters and assists ships in distress.

**Militia:** Citizens who serve as part-time soldiers.

**Navy:** The branch of the armed forces that operates at sea.

**Air reserves:** Part-time members of the air force.

**Cadets:** Youth groups that teach citizenship and leadership through military-style training.

**Canadian Rangers:** Part-time soldiers who patrol remote northern regions.

**All-terrain vehicle:** A small vehicle that travels on rough ground or snow.

**Boer War:** A war (1899-1902) in which Canada supported Britain in South Africa.

**Shock troops:** Soldiers used for the first attack in battle.

**Intern (verb):** To imprison people, especially during wartime.

**Armistice:** An agreement to stop fighting.

**Imperial:** Relating to an empire.

**Sacrifice:** Giving up something valuable for a greater cause.

**Unemployment:** When people are without work but able to work.

**Drought:** A long period without enough rain.

**Social safety net:** Government programs that protect people in need.

**Aircrew:** The people who operate an aircraft.

**Convoy (naval):** A group of ships that travel together for protection.

**Merchant navy:** Civilian ships that carry goods, especially during war.

**Liberate:** To free people or land from control.

**Maltreat:** To treat someone badly or cruelly.

**Shelter:** A safe place for protection from weather or danger.

**Social assistance program:** Government help for people who need financial support.

**Quiet Revolution:** A time of rapid change in Quebec in the 1960s.

**Biculturalism:** Recognition of both English- and French-speaking cultures.

**La Francophonie:** The international organization of French-speaking countries.

**Referendum:** A vote by citizens on a specific question or policy.

**Sovereignty:** The authority of a nation to govern itself.

**Dynamic (noun):** Energy that drives change.

**Secondary and postsecondary education:** High-school and college or university levels.

**Tyranny:** Cruel and unfair rule by someone with absolute power.

**The Canadian fabric:** The combined character of Canada's people, culture, and values.

**Enrich:** To make something better or more meaningful.

**Etchings:** Pictures carved into a surface, often in art.

**Soapstone:** A soft stone used by Inuit artists for carving.

**Canada-Soviet Summit Series:** The 1972 hockey series between Canada and the Soviet Union.

**Sprinter:** A person who runs short-distance races.

**Marathon:** A long-distance race of about 42 km.

**Fundraising:** Collecting money for a cause.

**Canadarm:** A Canadian robotic arm used on space shuttles.

**Snowmobile:** A small motorized vehicle for travel on snow.

**BlackBerry:** A smartphone invented in Canada.

**Cardiac pacemaker:** A medical device that helps control the heartbeat.

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## How Canadians Govern Themselves

**Parliament:** The national law-making body made up of the House of Commons, the Senate, and the Crown.

**House of Commons:** The elected chamber of Parliament.

**Senate:** The appointed chamber that reviews bills.

**Commissioner:** The Crown's representative in a territory.

**Majority government:** When the ruling party holds more than half the seats.

**Minority government:** When the ruling party has fewer than half the seats.

**Official opposition:** The party with the second-most seats.

**Elections Canada:** The agency that organizes federal elections.

**National Register of Electors:** The official list of voters.

**Voter information card:** A card mailed to voters showing where and when to vote.

**Polling station:** The place where people vote.

**Secret ballot:** A method of voting that keeps choices private.

**Creative tension:** Healthy debate between differing ideas in a democracy.

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## The Justice System

**Justice:** Fair treatment under the law.

**Court of law:** A place where legal cases are decided.

**Supreme:** Highest in authority; as in the Supreme Court of Canada.

**Appeal court:** A court that reviews lower-court decisions.

**Court of King's Bench:** A superior provincial court in some provinces.

**Small claims court:** A court for minor financial disputes.

**Mace:** A ceremonial staff symbolizing authority.

**Scales of justice:** A symbol of fairness.

**Dispute (noun):** A disagreement decided in court.

**Arbitrary:** Based on personal choice rather than fairness.

**Impartial:** Treating everyone equally, without bias.

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## Canadian Symbols

**Maple leaf:** A symbol of Canada found on the flag.

**Canadian Red Ensign:** The flag used before 1965.

**Union Jack:** The flag of the United Kingdom.

**Coat of Arms:** Canada's official emblem showing its heritage.

**Motto:** A short phrase expressing national ideals—"A Mari Usque Ad Mare."

**Gothic Revival architecture:** The 19th-century style of Parliament Hill buildings.

**Beaver:** Canada's national animal symbolizing hard work.

**Curling:** A sport on ice where players slide stones toward a target.

**Lacrosse:** Canada's national summer sport, with Indigenous origins.

**Canadian football:** A major sport similar to American football.

**Totem pole:** A tall carved pole telling a family's story.

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## Canada's Economy and Regions

**Economy:** The system of producing and trading goods and services.

**Trade:** Buying and selling goods, especially between nations.

**Commerce:** The activity of business and trade.

**Free trade:** Trade without tariffs.

**Bilateral:** Involving two countries.

**Forestry:** The care and management of forests.

**Mining:** Taking minerals from the earth.

**Hydro-electric:** Producing electricity from moving water.

**Offshore oil and gas:** Energy resources under the sea.

**Fisheries:** The catching and processing of fish.

**Tourism:** Travel for enjoyment.

**Traditional music:** Music reflecting cultural roots.

**Heartland:** The central region important to economy and culture.

**Vineyard:** A farm where grapes are grown for wine.

**Dairy and beef cattle:** Animals raised for milk and meat.

**Breadbasket of the world:** A region, like the Prairies, that grows much grain.

**Potash:** A mineral used in fertilizer.

**Oil sands:** A mixture of sand and oil in Alberta.

**Fruit orchard:** Land where fruit trees are grown.

**Fleet:** A group of ships.

**Tundra:** Cold, treeless northern land with frozen ground.

**Naval base:** A harbour for warships.

**Military tattoo:** A show of military music and drills.

**World Heritage Site:** A UNESCO-recognized place of global importance.

**Unique:** Unlike anything else; special.

**All-terrain vehicle:** A small vehicle that travels on rough ground or snow.

## DEFINITIONS ORGANIZED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

(noting which chapter they first appear in)

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**Abolish (Canada's History):** To formally end a law or practice.

**Aboriginal (Who We Are):** An older official term for the original peoples of Canada—First Nations, Inuit, and Métis. It is still used in government documents such as the *Discover Canada* guide, but many people now prefer *Indigenous* because *Aboriginal* can sound outdated or colonial.

**Acadian (Canada's History):** Descendants of early French settlers in the Atlantic provinces.

**Air reserves (Modern Canada):** Part-time members of the air force.

**All-terrain vehicle (Modern Canada):** A small motorized vehicle that travels on rough ground or snow.

**Anglophone (Who We Are):** A person whose first language is English.

**Appeal court (The Justice System):** A court that reviews decisions from lower courts.

**Arbitrary (The Justice System):** Based on personal choice or opinion rather than fairness or law.

**Armistice (Modern Canada):** An agreement to stop fighting in a war.

**Atlantic provinces (Canada's Regions):** Canada's four east-coast provinces—Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island.

**Beaver (Canadian Symbols):** Canada's national animal, symbolizing hard work and perseverance.

**Biculturalism (Modern Canada):** Recognition of both English- and French-speaking cultures in Canada.

**Bilateral (Canada's Economy):** Involving two countries, especially in trade.

**Bill (Modern Canada):** A proposal for a new law.

**Bilingual (Who We Are):** Able to speak two languages, especially English and French.

**Bison (Who We Are):** A large wild animal once common on the Prairies; important to Indigenous peoples.

**BlackBerry (Modern Canada):** A smartphone invented in Canada, symbolizing innovation.

**Boer War (Modern Canada):** A war (1899–1902) in which Canada supported Britain in South Africa.

**Breadbasket of the world (Canada's Economy):** The Prairies, famous for large-scale grain farming.

**British North America (Canada's History):** The British colonies in North America before Confederation.

**Budget (Modern Canada):** The government's yearly plan for income and spending.

**Cabinet (How Canadians Govern Themselves):** Ministers chosen by the Prime Minister to run government departments.

**Cadets (Modern Canada):** Youth groups that teach citizenship and leadership through military-style training.

**Canada-Soviet Summit Series (Modern Canada):** The 1972 hockey series between Canada and the Soviet Union.

**Canadian football (Canadian Symbols):** A team sport similar to American football but with different rules.

**Canadian Rangers (Modern Canada):** Part-time soldiers who patrol remote northern regions.

**Cardiac pacemaker (Modern Canada):** A Canadian-invented medical device that helps control heartbeats.

**Catholic (Canada's History):** Members of the Roman Catholic Church; one of Canada's major Christian groups.

**Charter of Rights and Freedoms (Modern Canada):** The part of Canada's Constitution that protects basic rights.

**Citadel (Modern Canada):** A fortress protecting a city, such as the Halifax Citadel.

**Coast Guard (Modern Canada):** A federal service that protects Canada's waters and assists ships in distress.

**Coat of Arms (Canadian Symbols):** Canada's official emblem showing its heritage and unity.

**Colourful (Canada's History):** Lively, interesting, or full of variety.

**Commerce (Canada's Economy):** The buying and selling of goods and services.

**Common law (Canada's History):** Law based on customs and court decisions.

**Confidence vote (Modern Canada):** A vote showing whether the government keeps the support of the elected assembly.

**Constitution (Modern Canada):** The basic laws and principles by which Canada is governed.

**Convoy (naval) (Modern Canada):** A group of ships travelling together for protection.

**Court of King's Bench (The Justice System):** A provincial superior court that hears serious cases.

**Creative tension (How Canadians Govern Themselves):** Healthy debate between differing ideas in a democracy.

**Curling (Canadian Symbols):** A sport played on ice where players slide stones toward a target.

**Democracy (Modern Canada):** Government in which citizens elect representatives to make laws.

**Drydock (Modern Canada):** A basin where ships are built or repaired.

**Due process (Rights and Responsibilities):** Fair treatment through the normal legal system.

**Dynamic (noun) (Modern Canada):** Energy or activity that drives change or progress.

**Economy (Canada's Economy):** The system of producing and trading goods and services.

**Embody (Canada's History):** To represent or express an idea clearly.

**Equality (Rights and Responsibilities):** The idea that everyone is treated the same under the law.

**Executive branch (Modern Canada):** The part of government that carries out laws.

**Faith community (Rights and Responsibilities):** People who share the same religion or beliefs.

**Federalism (Modern Canada):** The sharing of power between the national and provincial governments.

**Fleet (Canada's Economy):** A group of ships operating together under one organization.

**Forestry (Canada's Economy):** The industry of managing and harvesting forests.

**Free trade (Canada's Economy):** Trade between countries without tariffs or restrictions.

**Fur trade (Canada's History):** The early economy based on trading animal pelts.

**Gothic Revival architecture (Canadian Symbols):** The 19th-century architectural style seen on Parliament Hill.

**Government (How Canadians Govern Themselves):** The people and institutions that manage the country.

**Habeas corpus (Rights and Responsibilities):** A legal right protecting people from being imprisoned without valid reason.

**Heartland (Canada's Economy):** The central region important to Canada's economy and culture.

**Heritage (Who We Are):** Traditions, culture, and values passed down from past generations.

**Hydro-electric (Canada's Economy):** Producing electricity from moving water.

**Impartial (The Justice System):** Treating everyone fairly and equally, without bias.

**Immigrant (Who We Are):** A person who comes to live permanently in Canada.

**Immunity (Modern Canada):** Protection against disease or from legal penalty.

**Industrialize (Modern Canada):** To develop manufacturing and industry.

**Indigenous (Aboriginal) (Who We Are):** The original peoples of Canada—First Nations, Inuit, and Métis.

**Innovation (Canada's Economy):** Creating new ideas, products, or methods.

**Inuit (Who We Are):** Indigenous peoples living mainly in the Arctic; their language is Inuktitut.

**Inuktitut (Who We Are):** The traditional language spoken by the Inuit, especially in Nunavut and northern Quebec.

**Intern (verb) (Modern Canada):** To imprison or detain people, especially during wartime.

**Judicial branch (Modern Canada):** The part of government that interprets the law.

**Justice (The Justice System):** Fair treatment under the law.

**Lacrosse (Canadian Symbols):** Canada's national summer sport, with Indigenous origins.

**La Francophonie (Modern Canada):** The international organization of French-speaking countries.

**Legislative assembly (Modern Canada):** A provincial or territorial body that makes laws.

**Legislative branch (Modern Canada):** The part of government that makes laws.

**Lieutenant Governor (Modern Canada):** The Crown's representative in each province.

**Loyalist (Canada's History):** A person who remained loyal to Britain during the American Revolution.

**Majority government (How Canadians Govern Themselves):** When the ruling party holds more than half the seats.

**Mace (The Justice System):** A ceremonial staff symbolizing authority in legislatures.

**Maple leaf (Canadian Symbols):** Canada's most recognized symbol.

**Marathon (Modern Canada):** A long-distance running race of about 42 kilometres.

**Merchant navy (Modern Canada):** Civilian ships carrying goods, especially during war.

**Métis (Who We Are):** People of mixed Indigenous and European ancestry with their own culture and language (*Michif*).

**Michif (Who We Are):** The traditional language of the Métis, combining Cree and French.

**Military tattoo (Canada's Regions):** A display of military music and marching.

**Militia (Modern Canada):** Citizen soldiers who serve part-time in emergencies.

**Minority government (How Canadians Govern Themselves):** When the ruling party has fewer than half the seats.

**Minority language (Rights and Responsibilities):** A language spoken by a smaller group in a region—French in most of Canada, English in Quebec.

**Mining (Canada's Economy):** The extraction of minerals from the earth.

**Motto (Canadian Symbols):** Canada's national phrase "From Sea to Sea."

**Multiculturalism (Rights and Responsibilities):** The policy of recognizing and celebrating many cultures.

**Navy (Modern Canada):** The branch of a nation's armed forces that operates at sea.

**New France (Canada's History):** The French colonies in North America from the 1500s to 1763.

**Nomadic (Who We Are):** Moving from place to place rather than staying in one permanent settlement.

**Non-official language (Rights and Responsibilities):** Any language other than English or French, often spoken at home by Canadians from diverse backgrounds.

**Oil sands (Canada's Economy):** A natural mixture of sand, water, and oil found mainly in Alberta.

**Official languages (Rights and Responsibilities):** English and French, both recognized equally as Canada's two official languages.

**Pacific — see Coast Guard (Modern Canada):** (*cross-reference included only if needed in Word version*).

**Pacify (Canada's History):** To bring peace after conflict or rebellion.

**Parliament (How Canadians Govern Themselves):** Canada's national law-making body, consisting of the House of Commons, Senate, and the Crown.

**Pelt (Canada's History):** The skin or fur of an animal, especially used in the early fur trade.

**Pluralism (Rights and Responsibilities):** The peaceful coexistence of people of different cultures, faiths, and backgrounds in one society.

**Polling station (How Canadians Govern Themselves):** The place where voters cast their ballots.

**Potash (Canada's Economy):** A mineral used in fertilizers, mined mainly in Saskatchewan.

**Prairies (Canada's Regions):** The provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta,

known for agriculture and open plains.

**Prestige (Modern Canada):** Respect or admiration based on success or importance.

**Proclamation (Canada's History):** An official public announcement made by the government or monarch.

**Prosperity (Modern Canada):** Economic success or good living conditions.

**Prosperous (Modern Canada):** Having wealth and good fortune.

**Province / territory (Canada's Regions):** The main political divisions of Canada; provinces have more powers than territories.

**Psalm (Canada's History):** A sacred song or poem used in worship.

**Public service — see Government (How Canadians Govern Themselves).**

**Quiet Revolution (Modern Canada):** A period of rapid social, cultural, and political change in Quebec during the 1960s.

**Rebellion (Canada's History):** Armed resistance against authority or government.

**Reading (Modern Canada):** One of the stages a bill goes through in Parliament before becoming law.

**Reformer (Canada's History):** A person who works for political or social improvement.

**Referendum (Modern Canada):** A direct vote by citizens on a specific question or policy.

**Refuge (Modern Canada):** A safe place or protection from danger.

**Refugee (Who We Are):** A person who flees danger or persecution and seeks safety in Canada.

**Regiment — see Militia (Modern Canada).**

**Resentment (Modern Canada):** Anger about unfair treatment.

**Reserve land (Who We Are):** Land set aside by the government for the use of a First Nation community.

**Responsible government (Canada's History):** A system in which the executive must have the support of the elected assembly.

**Rights (Rights and Responsibilities):** The freedoms and protections citizens have under the law.

**Rule of law (Rights and Responsibilities):** The principle that everyone, including the government, must obey the law.

**Sacrifice (Modern Canada):** Giving up something valuable for a greater good, such as during wartime.

**Scales of justice (The Justice System):** A symbol of fairness and balance in law.

**Secret ballot (How Canadians Govern Themselves):** A voting method in which individual choices are kept private.

**Secondary and postsecondary education (Modern Canada):** Education beyond elementary school, including high school, college, and university.

**Self-governing (Canada's History):** Having the power to make one's own laws and decisions.

**Senate (How Canadians Govern Themselves):** The appointed chamber of Parliament that reviews bills passed by the House of Commons.

**Shock troops (Modern Canada):** Soldiers used in the first wave of attack during battle.

**Shelter (Modern Canada):** A safe place for protection from weather or danger.

**Small claims court (The Justice System):** A court that deals with minor financial disputes.

**Snowmobile (Modern Canada):** A small motorized vehicle for travelling over snow.

**Social assistance program (Modern Canada):** Government support that helps people in financial need.

**Social safety net (Modern Canada):** Government programs designed to protect people facing hardship.

**Sovereignty (Modern Canada):** The right of a nation or province to govern itself.

**Span (verb) (Canada's History):** To extend across a distance or time.

**Sprinter (Modern Canada):** An athlete who runs short-distance races.

**Supremacy (The Oath of Citizenship):** The highest authority or power, as in “the supremacy of God and the rule of law.”

**Supreme Court (The Justice System):** Canada's highest court, which makes final legal decisions.

**Temperance (Modern Canada):** The social movement to limit or ban alcohol.

**Tolerate — see Pluralism (Rights and Responsibilities).**

**Totem pole (Who We Are):** A tall carved wooden pole telling the history or stories of a family or community, made by some First Nations on the West Coast.

**Tourism (Canada's Economy):** Travel for enjoyment or leisure; an important part of Canada's economy.

**Trade (Canada's Economy):** The buying and selling of goods and services, especially between nations.

**Traditional music (Canada's Economy):** Music reflecting regional or cultural roots.

**Tundra (Canada's Economy):** Cold, treeless land in northern Canada where the ground stays frozen.

**Tyranny (Modern Canada):** Cruel and unfair rule by someone with absolute power.

**Union Jack (Canadian Symbols):** The flag of the United Kingdom, once part of Canada's official flags.

**Unique (Canada's Regions):** Unlike anything else; special.

**Unemployment (Modern Canada):** When people are able and willing to work but cannot find jobs.

**Uphold (Rights and Responsibilities):** To support or maintain something, such as laws or democratic values.

**Upheaval (Canada's History):** A time of major change or disturbance in society.

**Urban (Canada's Regions):** Relating to cities or towns.

**Vibrant (Who We Are):** Full of life and energy.

**Viking (Canada's History):** Early Scandinavian explorer who reached North America around the year 1000.

**Vineyard (Canada's Economy):** A farm where grapes are grown for wine.

**Vote — see Secret ballot (How Canadians Govern Themselves).**

**Watershed (Canada's History):** A geographical area draining to one river system.

**World Heritage Site (Canada's Regions):** A location recognized by UNESCO for its cultural or natural importance.

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