

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY

Who does what?

During this activity, students will learn to recognize the various levels of government: federal, provincial and municipal. They will also familiarize themselves with the roles of each level and their different jurisdictions.

A BIT OF THEORY

Canada is a federation, meaning it is a political system in which the powers are shared among two levels of government:

- The central government—the federal state—makes decisions about political issues that affect the whole country.
- The regional governments (provinces and territories) make decisions about political issues that affect the population of a province or territory.

Federal and provincial politics: Distribution of jurisdictions

How the powers are shared between the federal government and those of the provinces and territories is defined in the Canadian Constitution. Some jurisdictions are held by only one level of government, while others are shared between the federal and provincial governments. Any additional jurisdictions that aren't listed among those granted to the provinces and territories in the 1867 Constitution fall under the federal government. Occasionally the two levels of government do not agree on how jurisdictions are allocated in the Constitution, which can lead to negotiations and intergovernmental discussions.

Examples of **federal jurisdictions**:

- National defence
- Foreign affairs and trade
- Postal service
- Criminal law
- Banking and monetary systems (currency)
- Employment insurance
- Indigenous affairs
- Citizenship
- Fisheries and oceans

Who does what?**Examples of provincial jurisdictions:**

- Education
- Health care
- Social services
- Municipal affairs
- Administration of justice
- Civil law

Examples of distribution of jurisdictions (federal and provincial):

- Natural resources
- Agriculture
- Immigration
- Transportation
- Culture
- Labor
- Environment

Municipal politics

Municipal politics play an important role in our democratic lives. Elected officials at this level are responsible for issues that are closest to the community and that are most important in our cities and towns. Every four years, on the first Sunday of November, elections are held in all the municipalities of Québec. They allow us to choose municipal elected officials who represent the people in each municipality.

Examples of municipal jurisdictions:

- Culture, sports and recreation (libraries)
- Social and community development
- Public transportation
- Housing, social housing, property assessments
- Assistance for the homeless
- Urban development (planning)
- Economic development
- Parks
- Security services
- Municipal court
- Waste collection (garbage pick-up)
- Local roads
- Water supply and wastewater treatment (water and sewage)

Who does what?**SUGGESTED STEPS**

- 1.** Explain to students the various levels of government and the areas of jurisdiction for which they are responsible.
- 2.** Divide the voters in training into groups of two or three students and give each team a copy of the “Who Does What?” activity sheet.
- 3.** Ask each team to fill out the sheet based on their knowledge.
- 4.** Ask the young people the following:
 - Was it difficult to recognize the level of government that each jurisdiction falls under?
 - How did you associate the jurisdictions with the right level of government?
 - Is there a level of government that you feel is easier or harder to understand?

Who Does What?

The table below presents the responsibilities of the different levels of government. Are you able to determine which one they belong to? Important! Some jurisdictions may be shared between two levels.

	Federal	Provincial	Municipal
Libraries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public transportation (bus, subway)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Waste collection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The banking and monetary system	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Civil rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water supply and sanitation of grey water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Employment insurance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
National defence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Driver's licenses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health system	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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