

Glossary

- accord:** a formal agreement
- accountable:** answerable to someone for your actions; observable, transparent
- affirm:** to validate and express commitment to something
- Anglophone:** a person whose first language is English
- annuity:** an annual payment
- assimilate:** become part of a different cultural group
- assimilation:** the process of becoming part of a different cultural group (not your own)
- autonomy:** authority to make decisions
- bias:** an opinion based on unchallenged assumptions
- biodiversity:** the number and variety of plant and animal species on Earth, including genetic variation within individual species
- black market:** another term for underground economy
- boycott:** a decision by consumers to stop buying a product or service as a way to bring about change
- civil servants:** the people who serve Canadians as employees of the government
- climate change:** a rise in the average temperature of Earth, primarily caused by emissions from burning fossil fuels, such as coal, oil and natural gas
- collective bargaining:** negotiating as a group. Collective bargaining is the key right established by unions for workers.
- collective identity:** the shared identity of a group of people, especially because of a common language and culture
- collective rights:** rights guaranteed to specific groups in Canadian society for historical and constitutional reasons. These groups are: Aboriginal peoples, including First Nations, Métis and Inuit; and Francophones and Anglophones
- colonialism:** the process of establishing colonies, in which a region is claimed and governed by a country from another part of the world
- community service:** help in the community performed as part of a sentence, such as assisting with a community clean-up or food bank
- competition:** in economics, rivalry among producers to sell products to consumers
- constituent:** someone who lives in a riding and is represented by an elected official from that riding
- constitution:** a special set of laws that establish a framework of governance
- consumerism:** an economic theory that links prosperity to consumer demand for goods and services, and that makes consumer behaviour central to economic decision making
- consumers:** those who use products and services
- criminal record:** a permanent record of breaking the law, which is public information. A criminal record can bar you from some jobs, volunteer positions and travel to other countries.
- criteria:** standards for evaluating something
- demand:** the wants and needs of consumers for products and services
- demographic:** to do with the characteristics of populations
- economic system:** how a society organizes the production, distribution and consumption of goods and services

economics: the study of the production, distribution and consumption of goods and services

economy: the resources and processes involved in the production, distribution and consumption of goods and services

entrenching: fixing firmly within

ethnocentrism: the belief that one's culture is superior to all other cultures

executive branch: the part of government responsible for putting laws into action

fair and equitable: governed by rules that apply to everyone, taking into account individual needs and circumstances

First Nations: the umbrella name for the diverse Aboriginal peoples who have collective rights that are recognized and protected in Canada's constitution. The constitution refers to First Nations as "Indians," in keeping with the name used at the time of negotiating Treaties.

Francophone: a person whose first language is French

GDP per capita: a measure of how well-off the people of a country are

Goods and Services Tax (GST): a federal sales tax in Canada

govern: to make decisions as a government and put decisions into action

governance: the process of governing

government: the body with the power to make decisions for a society

health insurance: an agreement by a company to pay for your health services, in exchange for a fee that you pay each month or each year

immigration: the process of people establishing homes, and often citizenship, in a country that is not their native country

income tax: tax based on a percentage of a person's income

Indian Act: federal legislation related to the rights and status of First Nations peoples ("status Indians"), first passed in 1876 and amended several times

Indian: Europeans used the word *Indian* to describe the First Nations of North America, although these peoples were diverse and had names for themselves. Many First Nations prefer not to use the word *Indian* to describe themselves.

inherent rights: rights with origins in fundamental justice

issue: a topic that connects to citizenship, identity and quality of life, and on which well-informed people have different views and perspectives

judicial branch: the part of government that interprets and applies the law by making legal judgments

justice system: the institutions and procedures for applying laws in a society

justice: applying laws

labour force growth: the growth of the "labour force," or the number of people who can work

labour union: an organization of workers that acts to protect workers' rights and interests

legislation: laws created through the legislative process

legislative branch: the part of government that makes laws

lever: in the context of society, a means of accomplishing something; a way to apply pressure

- median:** a concept in statistics that means the middle number in a set of data organized in order of least to most
- minorities:** groups in society who do not form the majority of the population
- official language community:** one of the groups in Canadian society whose members speak an official language of Canada — French or English — as their first language
- opinion:** personal reaction to an issue
- patriate:** to bring to a country something that belongs to the country
- perspective:** values and ideas shared by people with a common language, culture and history
- point of view:** opinions and preferences of an individual based on personal experiences
- political system:** the structure of government
- popular vote:** the total votes cast in an election, as different from the total seats won in an election
- private health care:** health care paid for by individuals
- privately owned:** in economics, the part of the economy owned and controlled by businesses and individuals
- producers:** those who create products and services
- profit:** money made from a product or service above and beyond the cost of providing the product or service
- public good:** what's best for society as a whole
- public health care:** health care paid for by taxes
- publicly funded:** paid for by taxes and provided by government
- publicly owned:** in economics, the part of the economy owned and controlled by government and paid for by taxes
- quality of life:** a measure of personal and collective well-being
- refugee:** a person who seeks refuge in another country because of danger or persecution in their home country
- rehabilitate:** to instill positive behaviours and attitudes
- reintegrate:** to make part of again
- reserve:** land for the exclusive use of First Nations
- rights:** what individuals and groups are allowed to do in society, as established in law
- sales tax:** tax paid at the time of buying a product or service, and based on a percentage of the price of the product or service
- scarcity:** in economics, the idea that land (materials), labour and capital (money) limit the supply of what people want and need
- scrip:** in Métis history, a document that could be exchanged for land and that was offered the Métis at the time the Numbered Treaties were negotiated
- sentence:** a consequence for a crime, such as imprisonment, determined by a court of law
- shift left:** a shift on the economic continuum towards more government involvement in the economy. A shift left is usually described as taking a more liberal position.

shift right: a shift on the economic continuum towards less government involvement in the economy. A shift right is usually described as taking a more conservative position.

slogan: a phrase repeatedly used by politicians or marketers to present an idea

social program: services provided by government to reduce economic inequalities and promote the well-being of citizens

society: a social system where a group of people share a common geographic region, sense of common identity and culture, and who participate in shared political and economic institutions for a communal purpose or interest

sovereignty: independence as a people, with a right to self-government

strike: a cessation of work by workers. Strikes pressure employers to respond to issues that concern workers.

supply: the products and services created by producers

tax base: all the economic activity in a society, which government taxes to pay for services

tax evasion: misrepresenting what you earn to avoid paying taxes

taxation model: government policies about taxation, such as what to tax (e.g., incomes, purchases), how much to tax, and how to spend taxes

unbiased: without preconceived ideas

underground economy: economic activity based on buying and selling products and services illegally

unemployment rate: the percentage of the workforce that does not have jobs

validity: reliability, based on a critical assessment of source, facts and bias