



**Grade 9 Social Studies
Reading Booklet Module 4
Canada: Opportunities and Challenges
DO NOT WRITE IN THIS BOOKLET**



MODULE 4: CANADA—OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Introduction to Module 4

This module looks at current issues in Canada related to citizenship, the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, Canadian culture and identity, demographic trends in Canada, social and technological changes that influence quality of life, Canadian-American relations, environmental stewardship, and the rights of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples.

LESSON 1: A CHANGING NATION

Canadian Demographics

In Module 1, you learned that demography is the study of human populations. You also learned that the following are the three main tasks of a demographer:

1. Determine the number of people living in a given area.
2. Determine the changes in population since the last census.
3. Estimate future trends in population change.

Demographers predict future trends by studying current population trends. The purpose of predicting the future is obvious: to plan ahead. Our government needs to make decisions based on questions like the following:

- How many schools will be needed in an area? Will there be more students enrolled in the future or fewer?
- What types of services will an area need? Hospitals, senior citizen homes, recreation centres, and health clinics all need to be built in the best locations.
- What tax base will be needed? How great a tax will the workforce be expected to pay to support services for the elderly and youth?
- What types of housing will be required?
- What types of social benefits (programs like welfare and family allowance) will citizens require? If a married couple needs to support four elderly parents, will the government provide financial aid?
- What kinds of education and training programs should be made available to Canadians? What types of professionals will we need in the workforce in the future? Elementary teachers? Recreation directors? Doctors who specialize in treating the elderly?

What will Canada's population look like in the future? The following are four population trends that appear evident in the future:

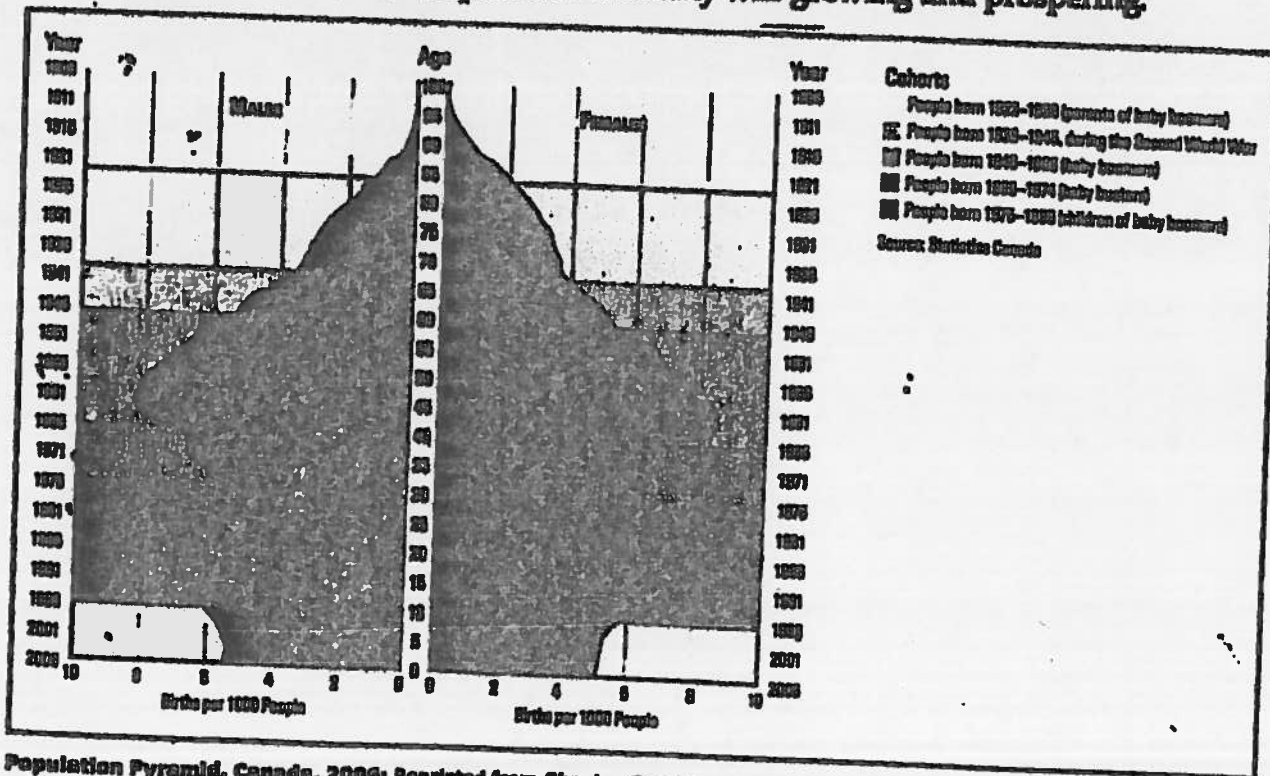
- Smaller families
 - Couples are having fewer children
- Non-nuclear families
 - The common family unit of a mother, father, and children is becoming less common
- An older population
 - People are living longer and having fewer children
- Increasing diversity in the general population
 - More people of visible minorities in the general population

How have demographers predicted these trends? One method is by examining population pyramids.

Population Pyramids: *The Demographer's Tool*

Population pyramids represent the age and gender of a population as a series of bar graphs. Each bar represents the percentage of the population belonging to each age-gender group. They often take the shape of "pyramids" because the size of the population in the upper ages is generally smaller than that in the lower ages. This graph allows you to compare the relative size of age and gender groups at a glance.

The following pyramid shows the age and gender distribution of Canadians from 1906 to 2006. Take a look at the wide middle section, 1946 to 1966. These age groups represent the Baby Boomers—people who were born between 1946 and 1966 when the post-war economy was growing and prospering.



Population Pyramid, Canada, 2006: Reprinted from *Shaping Canada: Our History: From Our Beginnings to the Present* by Linda Connor, Brian Hull, and Connie Wyatt-Anderson. Toronto, ON: McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 2011: 335.

Statistics Canada has compiled its population pyramids from the 20th century into an animated graph, available at <www.statcan.gc.ca/kits-trousses/animat/edu06a_0000-eng.htm>.

1. Under the heading *Animated Population Pyramids*, select the range of data you wish to view.
2. After you are redirected, click on the Start button.

On the website's 1901-2001 graph, you should notice a population "bulge" that peaks in 1961. This represents the Baby Boomers. In 2001, the average member of this population group was 40 years old. How old are the Baby Boomers today?



Do Learning Activity 4.1

LESSON 2: SOCIAL CHANGES, TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGES

A Century of Change

The lives of Canadians changed a great deal in the 20th century (1900-1999) due to social changes and new technologies. These changes included innovations, such as new medicine, new ways of communication, and new political ideas. There were also many new and different inventions that were created that made people's lives easier, such as the automobile and the airplane. This completely changed the landscape of transportation and opened up possibilities for travel. Other inventions, such as the microwave, air conditioner, and the washing machine, changed the lives of people on a smaller scale, but were still important.



Note:

Ideological describes an individual or group with a system of ideas or ways of thinking, usually related to politics. They have an "ideology," which is what they believe and which governs the way they think about different topics.

Some important developments, events, and achievements over the past 100 years are listed below. As you read them, think about how these developments affected the quality of your life in Canada.

Technological Changes

There were many technological changes during the 20th century. An important example is innovator Henry Ford's idea of the assembly line. Ford is the namesake for one of the largest automobile companies of the 20th and 21st centuries. The assembly line helped manufacturers produce motorized vehicles and other products quickly and cheaply. This made the automobile affordable for the average working class person.

Inventors rushed to create bigger and better airplanes. Airplanes equipped with jet engines could transport people around the world much faster than older forms of transportation.

Communication and entertainment technologies also advanced a great deal in a short amount of time. These technologies include the invention of colour film, radio, television, telephone, and the Internet. These methods of communication are known as "mass media" because they are easily available to the general public. The telephone and Internet, cell phones, social media, video calling, video uploading websites, and various other ways of sharing files, photos, videos, and opinions have greatly changed the ways in which people interact.

Farming technology changed with the discovery of new chemical formulas that killed insects and pests that would destroy crops. Although these chemicals greatly improved farming practices, they did prove to be dangerous for the environment. Chemicals such as DDT soaked into the ground, evaporated into the air, and leaked into the water supply. DDT causes sickness in humans and mutations in fish and is responsible for the deaths of many animals.

Nuclear weapons were created during the 20th century. This changed how governments interacted and the way wars were fought. For example, the development of nuclear weapons led to the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union, which was briefly discussed in Module 3.

At home, people now had the opportunity to own their own washing machine, air conditioner, and many other useful household inventions. This greatly improved people's quality of life.

Political Changes

- Democratic countries began extending voting privileges to all adults, including women and minorities.

Changes in Culture and Entertainment

- The world was exposed to American culture through music, movies, and media. Many trends were started.
- Watching sports became a popular activity. This was mainly because the sporting competitions were now shown on television, which made it accessible to more people.

Disease and Medicine

- Advancements in medicine, such as the invention of antibiotics (to fight infection) and oral contraceptives (birth control pills to prevent pregnancy), improved the quality of life for many people.
- Advancements in technology, communication, transportation, and medicine reduce the possibility of a pandemic from occurring.

Note:

A *pandemic* is a global epidemic (a widespread disease that affects many individuals).



- Petroleum is used as fuel for airplanes, automobiles, and as a necessary ingredient for chemicals that make up plastics.

A Century of New Concerns

New developments in science, technology, and medicine have improved the quality of life for many people. At the same time, new concerns have arisen as a result of our advances:

- Although nuclear weapons act as a powerful deterrent for large-scale wars, it is frightening that certain countries have it in their power to use them. The use of nuclear weapons could threaten the lives of millions of people, could have a severe negative impact on the environment, and could result in serious health problems for survivors.
- The Middle East contains many oil deposits. This makes it the focus of many political and military tensions. As we saw in Module 3, there have already been a number of conflicts that have taken place in the Middle East over oil, which is a limited natural resource.
- Humans rely on fossil fuels as an energy supply to heat and cool our homes, schools, workplaces, and public buildings. Fossil fuels power our cars and airplanes. They are also used to make rubber, plastic, other chemicals, and even medicine. Although fossil fuels add to our high quality of life (especially in North America and Europe), many scientists believe that global warming is mainly caused by pollution due to excessive fossil fuel consumption.
- Even with increases in medical science, diseases continue to spread throughout the world. Transportation allows diseases to be exposed to more people and places. Treatment for some diseases, such as AIDS, is often too expensive for widespread use in developing countries.



Do Assignment 4.1

LESSON 3: ENGAGING IN THE CITIZENSHIP DEBATE

I. Citizenship Issue: *Lack of Voter Participation in Canada*

When Canada confederated in 1867, not all Canadians could exercise the right to vote in government elections—most notably women and First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people. Today, all Canadians have been enfranchised. This means they have both the right and opportunity to vote in elections.

Quick Recap: How We Vote In a Canadian Election

In Canada, we vote for candidates who we would like to see elected as Members of Parliament in the House of Commons. The House of Commons, located in Ottawa, is where the government and the opposition parties debate and pass legislation (laws) to make our country a better place. There are 308 spots in the House of Commons. These 308 spots or "seats" represent ridings, or sections of the population, from around the country.

Candidates are typically members of the different Canadian political parties. These political parties are based on ideological platforms that express the party's view of how the country should be run. As voters, it is our responsibility to be knowledgeable of these different political platforms and to vote according to our own values, beliefs, and hopes for Canada. We have the opportunity to support a government that will support what we believe in. If the government does a poor job of representing the needs and wants of Canadians, they can be voted out of power in the next election.

Importance of Voting

Voting is important because it is the way in which citizens are able to play a role in the governance (running) of the country. Voters themselves are not allowed to make decisions that will change the law. It is the people they vote for and who are elected who have that power and responsibility. When these elected people make decisions, they are expected to accurately represent the values and beliefs of all Canadians. During elections, candidates will prioritize different issues that they would bring to the government's attention. It is the voters' job to pay attention to these issues and to respond with their support, or to suggest changes and improvements to the elected officials. Ultimately, it is the Canadian people who have the most power.

Voting is essential for a democracy to work. In 2008, just over half of Canadians voted during the federal election. This was the lowest voter turnout in Canadian history.

Why aren't Canadians voting? What is causing voter apathy (not caring)? A 2002 survey commissioned by Elections Canada concluded that there is no single reason for why Canadians are staying home on election night. Instead, several factors play a role:

- Lack of interest
- Feeling that one's vote and the results of the election are meaningless
- Lack of confidence in the candidates
- Prior commitments—too busy to vote
- Health—unable to vote due to illness or health-related problems
- Confusion—did not know where or when to vote

Experts are most concerned about the decline in youth voting. Approximately 61% of eligible Canadians voted in the 2000 election. While this was lower than previous elections, the number dropped substantially when only youth were considered. In 2000, less than 25 percent of eligible voters aged 18-24 exercised their right to vote. By contrast, more than 80 percent of voters aged 58 or older cast their ballot.

...by non-voters in the Elections Canada survey and breaks them down by age group:

Main Reasons for Not Voting in the 2000 Election

Reason	Age						% of Total Number Surveyed
	65+	55-64	45-54	35-44	25-34	18-24	
Not interested, didn't care, apathy	14.8	29.0	18.3	19.7	27.3	28.0	25.0
Vote meaningless, doesn't count	6.4	8.4	9.6	10.0	11.4	6.5	9.0
No appealing candidates/parties/issues	9.9	13.4	22.7	21.2	14.1	13.9	15.9
Lack of faith/confidence in candidates/parties/leaders	17.7	13.5	21.3	16.7	14.0	6.3	12.8
Lack of information about candidates/parties/issues	0.0	1.6	3.3	5.0	3.1	6.3	4.3
Regional discontent	0.0	3.0	3.0	2.8	0.5	0.8	1.4
Too busy with work/school/family	5.0	3.4	3.1	11.9	13.7	22.6	14.3
Away from riding province/country	20.3	23.0	9.3	8.0	10.9	7.9	10.4
Registration problems	4.0	3.0	6.7	2.7	5.2	7.4	5.5
Illness/health issues	19.5	5.8	7.7	1.9	2.0	0.4	2.9
Didn't know where or when/transportation problems	5.7	5.1	2.7	2.5	2.2	4.2	3.3
Religious reasons	5.5	3.0	1.5	2.0	1.1	0.9	1.5

Of all the non-voters aged 18-24, half of this population avoided voting because of apathy or because they were too busy with work or school.



Do Learning Activity 4.2

II. Rights and Freedoms Issue: *The Same-Sex Marriage Debate*

The same-sex marriage debate spanned many decades, and the discussion in Parliament took place during the leadership of two prime ministers: Jean Chrétien and Paul Martin.

On June 17, 2003, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien announced his intention to legalize same-sex unions. This proposed law would also recognize the rights of religious groups to "sanctify marriage as they see fit." The decision meant that same-sex couples had the same right to marry as opposite-sex couples.

The issue caused uproar among many church leaders and traditionalists who argued that the government did not have the right to redefine marriage.

But on December 9, 2004, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that Ottawa did have exclusive authority to decide who has the right to get married in this country—but that religious groups are not obliged to perform unions against their beliefs.

2005. The law is called the *Civil Marriage Act*. Canada became the fourth country to recognize gay marriage, after the Netherlands, Belgium, and Spain. In response to the same-sex marriage law, Paul Martin, Canada's prime minister, said, "The vote is about the *Charter of Rights*. We're a nation of minorities, and in a nation of minorities you don't cherry-pick rights."

Same-Sex Marriage: The Concerns

The same-sex marriage issue in Canada has created a lot of debate. People on one side of the debate argue that marriage is a religious ritual between a man and a woman, and that same-sex marriages should not be allowed due to religious reasons. Marriage has traditionally been defined as the joining together of a man and woman. People on the other side of the debate argue that all people should have the equal right to marry their partner, and other people should not be allowed to take that right away from them based on personal religious beliefs.

Same-Sex Marriage: The Details

Getting married is a personal commitment. For many, it is also an important religious ceremony. When the government recognizes two people as being "married," this grants specific legal rights and responsibilities to the married couple:

- Married couples receive certain tax exemptions.
- If one spouse receives work benefits (such as health insurance), his or her partner can also be covered under those benefits.
- If one spouse dies, his or her property is transferred to the marriage partner.

Each provincial and territorial government has made its own decisions as to what same-sex rights and privileges it will recognize. In Manitoba, same-sex marriages have been legalized since 2004. Manitoba also recognizes that a same-sex couple has

- the right to adopt children
- an equal ownership of property between spouses, so that, in the event of a divorce, property is divided equally
- the right to make medical decisions for an incapacitated spouse
- the right to receive inheritance from a spouse



Do Learning Activity 4.3

Who is a Canadian? Canadians have been asking themselves this very question for as long as our country has existed, and the question has never been effectively answered. Some believe that the question has never been directly answered because, quite simply, there is no real outline with which to provide an answer. Canadians have often resorted to explaining who they are not: Americans. One thing that most people would agree about the Canadian identity is that the influence of American identity is persistent and the greatest of any other country in the world.

American Influence in Language

The way in which we spell our words in English is often a reflection of who has influenced us as Canadians.

The English language originated in England. English is the main language in the United Kingdom, United States, Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, and South Africa. There are around 400 million speakers worldwide. English is the third most common global language behind Chinese and Hindi.

Canadian English is a bit different than British English and American English. All three have some different forms of grammar and spelling and different words. These changes evolved over time within each country.

In 1828, Noah Webster wrote the first American dictionary. He made changes in spelling that were supposed to indicate that America was quite different than Britain in terms of language. Within the dictionary, he wrote many of the words differently on purpose. Webster shortened many words and argued for "simple" English spelling. The learning activity that follows will introduce you to some of these changes, some of which you may have never realized.



Do Learning Activity 4.4

LESSON 4: SOCIAL JUSTICE IN CANADA

First Nations People and the Numbered Treaties

The Numbered Treaties were solemn agreements between the Crown and First Nations Peoples that set out promises, obligations, and benefits for both parties. From a government perspective, each of these treaties had to do with land and the cession (giving up ownership) of that land. Unfortunately, as you have already learned, the First Nations' perspective of the Numbered Treaties was very different than the government's. First Nations Peoples did not believe they were giving up the land. Rather, they believed they were agreeing to a sharing of the land between two equal nations.

as Rupert's Land and the North-Western Territory from the Hudson's Bay Company. This land included all of present-day Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Yukon, the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and parts of northern Ontario and Quebec. At that time, the American government was spending a fortune fighting their wars with the "Indians." The Canadian government hoped to open their newly acquired lands to settlement by peaceful means through the process of treaty making.

In exchange for giving up the title to the land and for guaranteeing peaceful behaviour and obedience to the law, First Nations peoples received promises of money, education, food, medicine, and other material goods, as well as the right to hunt, trap, and fish on ceded territories and lands reserved exclusively for them. The treaties ensured that newcomer settlers could settle on the land ceded by First Nations and enjoy peace and prosperity.

Treaties Today

First Nations treaties are important today because they recognize that First Nations Peoples, because of their original occupation of the land, have rights to autonomy and self-government. These rights are recognized in the *Constitution Act, 1982*. Second, because the terms of the treaties were not always carried out, and because large areas of Canada were never accounted for in the treaties, First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples have, since the 1970s, made several land claims against the federal and provincial governments.

Several of these claims have resulted in settlements, which are, in effect, modern-day treaties. They include the following:

The James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement of 1975

The James Bay hydroelectric dam was one of the biggest hydroelectric projects in North America, but the construction project threatened to flood the reserves and hunting grounds of the Cree and Inuit who lived in the area. The Cree and Inuit communities negotiated with the provincial government: in exchange for granting the government exclusive rights to the James Bay area, their communities would receive

- \$225 million in cash payments
- timber and hunting rights
- a guaranteed family income for subsistence hunters
- the authority to self-govern their community in such matters as education, health, and social services (which are typically handled by provincial governments)

The Inuvialuit Final Agreement of 1984

When the federal government became interested in developing the oil- and gas-rich area around the Beaufort Sea (in Canada's Arctic), they negotiated a treaty with the Inuvialuit community who occupied the region. The agreement was such that the government would gain ownership of a 33,500 square kilometre area of land while the Inuvialuit would receive

- ownership of 91,000 square kilometres of land
- rights to all oil, gas, and mineral deposits on that land
- rights to hunting and gathering on their lands
- responsibilities for wildlife management on their lands

Other modern treaty agreements include

- the Gwich'in Agreement (1992)
- the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (1993)
- the Sahtu Dene and Métis Agreement (1994)
- the six Yukon First Nation Final Agreements (1993-1997)
- In 1996, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) and the 13 First Nations signed the Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management, which allows the First Nations to create their own laws to manage and protect their land.

Challenges and Opportunities: Donald Marshall and Native Fishing Rights

Most land treaties were signed hundreds of years ago and the terms of those treaties are still in effect today. However, because lifestyles and social circumstances have changed so much over the centuries since then, it is sometimes necessary to re-analyze the treaties and decide how they should function today.

The case of Donald Marshall is one example of the tremendous challenges we face today as we try to interpret treaties written so long ago.

Donald Marshall was a Mi'kmaq from Nova Scotia. He was wrongly convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison in 1971. He remained in prison for the following 11 years, and was finally acquitted in 1983 when he appealed his conviction. Later, in the 1990s, he was in the news again because he became involved in a battle over Mi'kmaq fishing rights. Marshall died in 2009.

The Mi'kmaq, Maliseet, and Passamaquoddy (who lived in what is known as Nova Scotia and New Brunswick today) and the British Government signed a Peace and Friendship Treaty in 1760. This agreement with the British government was significant because the Mi'kmaq were previously allied with France and, at the time, France and Britain were at war with each other. The treaty benefited all the groups that signed it. It helped the Mi'kmaq because they could not rely on France anymore as a trading partner. The British were able to give them the supplies they needed, such as blankets and gunpowder. The treaty benefited the British because it weakened French power in the area and ended any fighting with these groups. The treaty also had a trade clause. The following Peace and Friendship statement was made by the Chief of the Lattave tribe (Paul Laurent) in Halifax:

"And I do further engage that we [the First Nations people] will not traffick, barter or Exchange any Commodities in any manner but with such persons or the managers of such Truck houses as shall be appointed or Established by His Majesty's Governor at Lunenbourg or Elsewhere in Nova Scotia or Accadia."

This clause meant that the British didn't want to pay the Mi'kmaq ongoing subsidies to support them and, instead, wanted them to continue their hunting and gathering lifestyle. They created "truckhouses" as places for the Mi'kmaq to trade their goods in order to support themselves. The British lost money on these truckhouses, but they were prepared to "tolerate certain losses in their trade with the Mi'kmaq for the purpose of securing and maintaining their friendship and discouraging their future trade with the French." The treaty said these rights were to last forever.

Donald Marshall was arrested, charged, and convicted of illegal fishing in 1993. He appealed to the Supreme Court of Canada, arguing that the Peace and Friendship Treaties allowed him to catch fish and sell them. On September 17, 1999, the Supreme Court ruled in Marshall's favour, saying that "...nothing less would uphold the honour and integrity of the Crown in its dealings with the Mi'kmaq people to secure their peace and friendship...."

The Supreme Court confirmed that Mi'kmaq people under the treaty have the right to hunt and fish, but it stated that rules and guidelines may be necessary in order to conserve resources or for other "compelling and substantial objectives."

People on both sides of the debate interpreted the ruling differently. The First Nations bands that were affected began fishing lobster out of season, saying the ruling gave them full, unregulated fishing rights. This alienated all other fishers who were worried this would destroy the lobster stocks for everyone. This dispute culminated on October 3, 1999 in Burnt Church, Nova Scotia, about 150 fishing boats headed out into Miramichi Bay to protest against the Mi'kmaq trappers who were fishing lobster out of season. A shouting match between the two groups resulted, and much fishing equipment was vandalized.

The Mi'kmaq fishers refused to give up their fishing rights and set up an armed encampment to protect the Mi'kmaq who were continuing to catch lobster in the bay.

After these incidents, Fisheries and Oceans Canada decided to provide the 34 First Nations affected by the decision with increased access to the commercial fishery, but this did not resolve the issue.

In April 2002, a federal report on the crisis recommended that the police drop any charges stemming from the disputes, and that the government compensate anyone whose traps or boats were damaged. It also recommended, however, that Mi'kmaq fishers should be allowed to fish only in season and that they should be required to attain fishing licenses like all other fishers.

(end of account)



Note:

Peace and Friendship Treaties were signed between First Nations people of the Maritimes and the British government between 1725 and 1779. The European aim in these treaties was to advance the colonial interests of either the British (or the French) on the continent.



Defining Poverty

Because standards of living vary from country to country, it is difficult to arrive at a universal definition of poverty. Someone who is prosperous in a developing country might be considered impoverished by Canadian standards. However, the common definition of poverty is that a person lacks the income (money) to fulfill their basic needs.

In order to survive, a person needs access to these essential goods and services:

- food
- shelter
- clothing
- medicine and health care
- education

These goods and services are used to measure poverty in two categories: relative and extreme (or absolute).

- People living in relative poverty spend most of their income on essential goods and services when compared with the general population.
- People living in extreme or absolute poverty have too little income to purchase essential goods and services at all.

Poverty in Canada manifests itself in different ways:

- homelessness
- child poverty
- poor health care
- lack of education
- poor nutrition

This lesson will focus on the issue of homelessness.

Canadians without Homes

How widespread is homelessness?

In 2009, Charity Intelligence Canada (a non-profit organization) published a report on its findings for homelessness in Canada. The report found that:

- about 150,000 Canadians are currently homeless
- one-fifth of the chronically homeless also suffer from substance addiction or abuse, and are likely to commit suicide
- the average life expectancy of a homeless person in Canada is 39 years of age

The leading cause of homelessness in Canada is poverty. Addiction, severe mental illness, and child abuse are the primary factors that lead to homelessness in later life.

Homelessness in Canada is an issue that needs to be addressed.

14
What is being done to assist homeless Canadians? The following story explains how a Winnipeg girl chose to make a difference.

Hannah Taylor and the Ladybug Foundation.

Hannah Taylor is a young girl from Winnipeg, Manitoba. In 2001, when she was only five years old, something happened to her that changed her life. She was walking with her mother on a cold winter's day when she saw a homeless man searching for food in a dumpster. Seeing this, Hannah was both shocked and upset. As she thought more about what it meant to be homeless, she was struck by a simple question: "If everyone shared what they had, could that cure homelessness?"

Hannah continued to ask questions. She visited shelters and spoke to people who were struggling to live on the streets. Three years later, with the support of her family, she established the Ladybug Foundation to raise awareness and funds for homeless people in Canada. She has been a guest speaker at hundreds of schools and special events. Her passion and dedication to the cause comes from her belief that a roof over everyone's head and food to eat are basic human rights. The message that she sends to Canadians is simple: even the smallest bit of support helps and everyone deserves to be treated with respect.

The Ladybug Foundation has been able to raise well over \$2 million to support projects that provide shelter, food, and safety to Canadians in desperate need. People who would like to donate to the foundation can donate money online or drop off spare change in ladybug jars found around their city

(end of story)

Ladybug Foundation: Reprinted from *Canada in the Contemporary World* by Linda Connor, et al. Emond Montgomery Publications Ltd. 2007. 166.



Do Learning Activity 4.6 and Assignment 4.2

LESSON 6: SUSTAINING OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability

Stewardship means "to take care of something." When people take care of something that has been entrusted to them, they are practising stewardship. Environmental stewardship means taking responsibility for natural resources and being careful with the natural systems that humans are a part of. Stewardship also recognizes the responsibility to hand these resources over to future generations.

Environmental stewardship is very important, no matter how distant or disconnected we might feel from the natural world. All life on Earth depends on a healthy, functioning ecosystem for survival.

Sustainability means to use Earth's resources responsibly. Practising sustainability means that you do not completely use up a resource so that it is available for future use. Environmental sustainability applies this rule to our natural resources—our water, atmosphere, forests, and soil.

Sustainability can be further defined as living within the "carrying capacity" of the supporting ecosystems. We must continue to live in and maintain these ecosystems for as long as life continues on Earth. To achieve sustainability, we must make informed decisions and personal choices, and conduct our lives so as not to damage or destroy natural systems.

Sustainability also includes the idea of improving the quality of life for all humans on Earth and ensuring Earth's resources will be available to future generations. Therefore, it has social, economic, and political implications. Conserving natural resources and sharing the benefits of natural resources more fairly throughout the planet are important aspects of sustainability. Decisions about using natural resources are often complex and difficult because the ecological, economic, and social factors must all be weighed.



Note:

An ecosystem is a complex set of relationships among the living resources, habitats, and residents of an area. It includes plants, trees, animals, fish, birds, microorganisms, water, soil, and people.

Canadian Commitments to Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability

In 1992, the United Nations held a conference on the environment and development in Rio de Janeiro called *Earth Summit*. At *Earth Summit*, the Canadian government, along with other participating countries, made a commitment to develop a national strategy regarding the environment and development. An important action plan for the environmental future of the planet, *Agenda 21*, was drafted in Rio.



Note:

Agenda 21 is a program of the United Nations related to sustainable development. It is a wide-ranging plan of action to be taken globally, nationally, and locally by organizations of the UN, national governments, and major groups in every area in which humans affect the environment. The number 21 refers to the 21st century.

Agenda 21 has been a springboard for national and global environmental plans that have been undertaken since then. Among its topics, *Agenda 21* highlights the importance of education. The best way to encourage environmental stewardship and sustainability is to promote public awareness regarding the environment and development.

Canada's National Strategy on Sustainable Development

In 1997, the Canadian Ministry of the Environment adopted a *National Strategy on Sustainable Development*. The objectives of the strategy were to

- protect the health of Canadians and ecosystems by nearly completely eliminating toxic, anthropic, persistent, and bioaccumulative substances from the environment, while preventing pollution, protecting fragile ecological zones, and reducing the risks and effects of dangers caused by the environment



Note:

Anthropic means "relating to humans." An anthropic substance would affect human beings. Bioaccumulative refers to the build-up of a substance, such as a toxic chemical, in various tissues of a living being (e.g., the bioaccumulation of mercury in fish).

Canada's national strategy contributed to the protection of the environment and set a good example to other countries. The strategy showed our commitment in areas such as protecting the atmosphere and the oceans. Furthermore, Canada shared knowledge, advice, and non-polluting technology with industries, the private sectors, and other sectors of society, including the following:

- To promote justice by ensuring that all citizens share the costs and advantages of development in Canada, in order to reduce poverty and the damages done to the environment.
- To improve the well-being of Canadians through environmental awareness-raising campaigns and by encouraging sustainable development.
- To adopt methods that replace renewable resources more rapidly than they are exploited and track the needs of industries, society, and the environment.
- To encourage a more efficient use of non-renewable resources such as gasoline, natural gas, and minerals.

To reach its objectives, the strategy aimed to do the following:

- Increase people's responsibility and capacity for action at a national and community level (this includes increasing people's concern for the environment and promoting a better understanding of environmental, economic, and social issues)
- Promote partnerships with ministries, other governments, First Nations, communities, the private sector, and citizen-based (NGO) organizations

Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability: How Do They Affect You?

How do the concepts of stewardship and sustainability affect you as a Canadian? You can approach this question by looking at two issues. First, are you willing to make personal choices to help sustain the environment? Second, what ethical questions must we as a society consider related to the idea of sharing wealth and resources?

These are questions that every person must answer for him or herself; however, we can look at some potential answers.

What personal choices can you make to sustain the environment?

The very serious environmental problems we face on Earth—from global warming to deforestation to the extinction of species—can seem overwhelming to young people who have inherited these problems from older generations. However, it is not all bad news: everyone can make a positive difference through choices in their everyday lives. There are hundreds of choices you can make that will better sustain the environment.

Here are 12 of those choices:

1. **Connect with nature—get outside!**
Enjoy your local natural areas with family and friends in neighbourhood parks, forests, or national parks. Be aware of the green spaces in your neighbourhood and appreciate what they have to offer. When you appreciate something, you are more likely to take care of it.
2. **Improve the outdoor spaces you enjoy.**
Take part in a cleanup at a local park, lagoon, river, schoolyard, or beach. You will be amazed at the amount of garbage you collect, and the next time you visit, you will see the improvement and feel good about helping to protect the animals, plants, and environment of your community.
3. **Practise "green" gardening in your own yard.**
Avoid the use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides on your lawn and vegetable or flower garden. During rainfall, these chemicals run into local waterways and harm wildlife. Create homes for birds, butterflies, dragonflies, and other wildlife by including native plants in your garden, and by planting trees.
4. **Be aware of the chemical cleaners used in your house.**
Household cleaning products send toxic chemicals down the drain and into our waterways. Reduce or eliminate the use of chlorine-containing products, which include many laundry and dishwashing detergents. As an alternative, use vinegar, baking soda, and other common, non-toxic cleaning products. You can also try environmentally friendly household products, available in many stores and by mail order.
5. **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rethink Your Decisions.**
Recycling is a standard part of many communities' waste-disposal processes. To reduce the garbage you throw out, look for items with the least amount of packaging as well as products that come in refillable, reusable, or returnable containers. Substitute disposable paper plates, cups, and napkins with reusable containers, cutlery, and dish rags. When you buy paper products like greeting cards, kitchen towels, or office supplies, choose products labelled as *recycled*, *chlorine-free* or *tree-free*. Rethink the many choices and decisions you make to find ways to live more sustainably.
6. **Shop at a farmer's market.**
Many markets offer organically grown produce. Organic farming has less impact on the environment than conventional farming, and locally grown food uses significantly less fuel (since it is only transported within a local community, unlike produce that has travelled from overseas or across the country). By buying locally grown organic food, you will save fuel, reduce chemical pollution, and you will find the healthiest and freshest fruits and vegetables available.
7. **Select seafood wisely.**
Seafood is a global product, and your food choices can help protect the health of the world's oceans. At the store or in restaurants, choose seafood that comes from abundant stocks and is caught in a manner that doesn't harm other wildlife or habitats.
8. **Eat vegetarian meals more often.**
Raising animals and processing meat products uses much more energy than growing fruits and vegetables.

When you see a stray plastic bag, newspaper, or six-pack ring on the street, pick it up and take it to the nearest recycling bin or trash can.

- 10. Prevent hazardous waste spills.
Take used motor oil, leftover paint, batteries, cleaning solvents, and other materials to a proper disposal facility. Otherwise, they can turn into poisonous pollutants if they get into streams or groundwater.
- 11. Exercise your energy-saving potential.
If you are not travelling far, try walking or riding a bicycle instead of taking a car. You will save yourself some money on gasoline and by cutting down on the use of fossil fuels—be it gasoline, coal, or gas-fired electricity—you are helping to reduce toxic emissions and greenhouse gases.
- 12. Ride your bike whenever you can.
Bike riding is a fun way to get exercise and reduce energy use and air pollution.

What ethical questions must we consider related to sharing wealth and resources?

Consider this: Canada is a country that is surrounded by three oceans, and occupies about 7% of Earth's land mass. Occupying an enormous resource-rich territory, Canadians benefit on a global scale thanks to the forests, fertile soil, and oceans of our country. Rich in biodiversity, Canada is also home to the most important freshwater reserves on the planet. Because of this wealth of resources, the Canadian economy is one of the most prosperous in the world.



Note:
Biodiversity refers to the number of different species (both plants and animals) living in an ecosystem. A sustainable ecosystem is home to many species of plants and animals, and said to have *high biodiversity*.

What ethical duty do we have as Canadians to share our wealth and resources with other countries?

In the summer of 2001, Canada's Minister for International Cooperation, Maria Minna, spoke at the opening of International Cooperation Days in Ottawa that summarized Canada's commitment to reducing poverty on a global scale (sharing our wealth) and the impact this would have on the environment. She stated, that developing countries need our help to succeed. We need to share our wealth and resources to ensure that they can be more equal globally.

In the same year, the Norwegian Minister for International Cooperation, Anne Kristin Sydnes, told her Parliament that they have an ethical duty due to their knowledge, resources, and values. They need to share some of their wealth in order to promote the growth of other countries who are less fortunate.



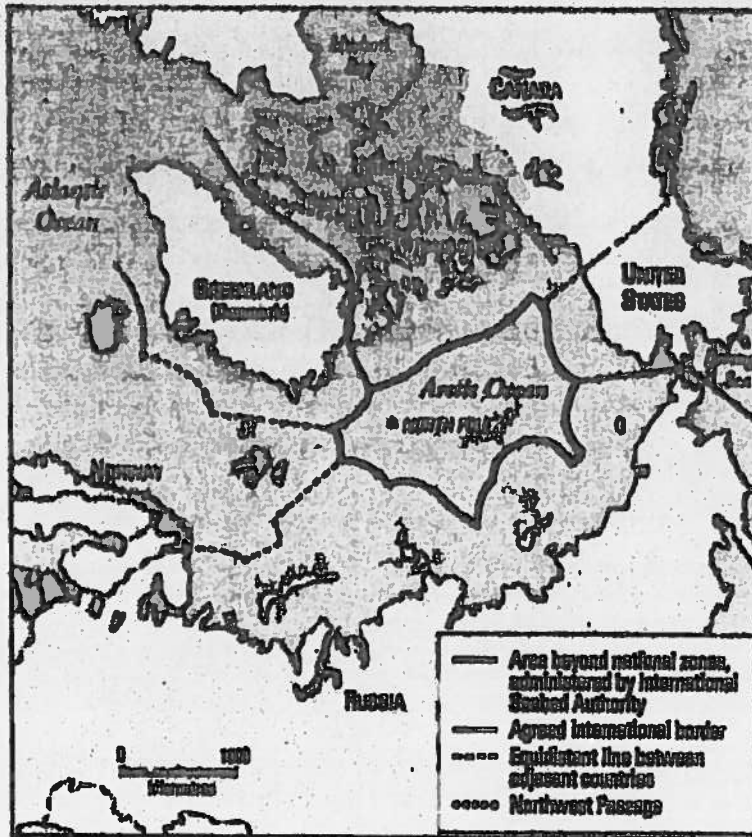
What is Sovereignty?

If a country is sovereign, then it is self-governing and independent. Canada is a sovereign nation: we have our own elected government, and foreign countries like the United States acknowledge the ownership of our land and resources.

Canada and the United States have had few border disputes in our history as neighbours; however, there is one disagreement that is currently ongoing: the issue of Arctic sovereignty.

Arctic Sovereignty

Who owns the Arctic? Before tackling this question, have a look at two maps depicting the territory in question:



The Arctic Reprinted from *Shaping Canada: Our History: From Our Beginnings to the Present* by Linda Connor, Brian Hull, and Connie Wyatt-Anderson. Toronto, ON: McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 2011: 338.

Canada's Arctic



sovereignty of the Arctic islands is not disputed seriously by any nation (and the people living on the islands say they are Canadians), control over the surrounding ocean remains a controversial issue.

Canada claims full ownership of all the seas in the area up to the globally accepted 370-kilometre limit Offshore Economic Zone, as well as full ownership of any sea ice extending northward from its coast to the North Pole (since, in the government's opinion, sea ice is effectively land). Many countries, including the United States, refuse to recognize Canada's claim to the sea ice. These countries acknowledge that the open waters in the area are a Canadian possession, but claim that the Northwest Passage is an international strait to which they cannot be denied passage.



Note:

The Offshore Economic Zone (OEZ) is the area of sea (and coastal shelf) that extends 370 kilometres from a nation's land border. A country can claim this area as part of its territory. The Northwest Passage is a route from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean through the Arctic islands of Canada.

The United States has, on a number of occasions, attempted to defy Canada's sovereignty by sailing both civilian and military vessels through the passage unannounced. In 1969, the U.S. super-tanker *Manhattan* sailed through the Northwest Passage without seeking Ottawa's permission. In 1985, the U.S. Coast Guard icebreaker *Polar Side* made a similar trip without telling Ottawa. Furthermore, in 1987 American authorities released stunning photographs of three U.S. nuclear-powered submarines surfacing through the ice at the North Pole.

All these events have sent a clear message to the federal government in Ottawa: the U.S. considers the Arctic to be international waters and it intends to patrol it just as it does all other waterways. In fact, both Russia and the United States have both challenged Canadian sovereignty by sailing submarines under the ice and seas claimed by Canada. At the time of writing, Canada did not have submarines capable of conducting under-ice patrols.

To counteract the moves of other countries and to claim its sovereignty, Canada has taken a number of measures:

- It has invested large amounts of money in the people of the area.
- The government operates a fleet of icebreakers and aircraft used to supply far northern settlements and outposts.
- The Inuit have been employed directly to assert sovereignty by way of the Canadian Rangers, a program that employs Inuit hunters on the sea ice to patrol for foreign craft.

Another issue in maintaining Canada's Arctic sovereignty is global warming. The ice pack found year-round in the Arctic has been steadily melting in recent years, and it is expected that commercial navigation of the Northwest Passage will soon become possible all year round. Many nations (including emerging Asian powers) are interested in opening up the passage to free navigation. Not only would such a situation threaten Canadian sovereignty, but many believe it would also cause immense harm to the lifestyle of the people of the region and would contribute massive amounts of pollution in an incredibly fragile marine environment.

Learning

Activity 4.8

21

LESSON 8: CANADIANS AND THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY

The Greatest Canadians

During the spring of 2004, the CBC challenged Canadians to answer this question: "If you had to choose just *one* person, whom would you name the greatest Canadian?" The conditions were wide-ranging. To be eligible, a nominee had to be

- born in what is now Canada, or born elsewhere but lived here and made a considerable contribution to this country
- real (no fictional characters or animals)
- just one individual (no pairs or groups)

Beyond these rules, it was up to Canadians to define what "greatness" meant to them and to the country. At the end of the contest, the results showed that Tommy Douglas was voted as the greatest Canadian of all time. Tommy Douglas lived in Saskatchewan and served as the Premier of the province from 1944-1961. He was also a Member of Parliament and leader of the New

Democratic Party of Canada. His greatest accomplishment was to introduce universal health care to Canadians. He died in 1986.

Here are the top 10 "greatest Canadians" in order, as nominated by Canadians:

1. Tommy Douglas	Father of medicare, Premier of Saskatchewan
2. Terry Fox	Athlete, activist, humanitarian
3. Pierre Trudeau	15th Prime Minister of Canada
4. Sir Frederick Banting	Medical scientist, co-discoverer of insulin, winner of the Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine
5. David Suzuki	Geneticist, environmentalist, broadcaster, activist
6. Lester B. Pearson	14th Prime Minister of Canada, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate
7. Don Cherry	Hockey coach and sports commentator
8. Sir John A. Macdonald	First Prime Minister of Canada
9. Alexander Graham Bell	Scientist, inventor, founder of the Bell Telephone Company
10. Wayne Gretzky	Hockey player; holder of numerous NHL records



Note:

Medicare is the unofficial name for the public health insurance system where the government pays for the medical care of Canadian citizens. All provinces and territories provide their residents with health insurance cards, which allow the residents health care, which is paid for through taxes and, in some provinces, additional user fees. Residents are allowed to choose their own doctor when seeking medical care.

THE FOLLOWING ARE A FEW OF THE PEOPLE WHO ARE INCLUDED IN THE TOP 100
Canadians:

- Jean Vanier
- Rick Hansen
- Peter Gzowald
- Romeo Dallaire
- Stephen Lewis
- Unknown Soldier
- Sir Arthur Currie
- Nellie McChung
- Dr. Norman Bethune
- Pierre Berton
- Sir Sanford Fleming
- Craig Kielburger
- William Stephenson
- Marshall McLuhan
- Roberta Bondar
- Margaret Atwood
- Emily Murphy
- Dr. Charles Best
- Chief Dan George
- Louise Arbour

You can view the complete list of the Top 100 Canadians at
<www.fillibustercartoons.com/greatest%20Canadians.htm>.

Greatest Canadians—Characteristics

As you may have noticed, the list of "greatest Canadians" contains people from many different professions and backgrounds: some are politicians, others are authors or scientists or even athletes. Are there any common traits or qualities among the Canadian citizens chosen?

In terms of global citizens, many believe that good global citizens possess the following eight traits:

1. **Respect**
 - Global citizens respect the natural environment and work towards sustainable development
2. **Responsibility**
 - Global citizens appreciate their obligations to one another and accept ownership for their conduct
3. **Understanding**
 - Global citizens are sympathetic or tolerant towards one another
4. **Cooperation**
 - Global citizens act together with others for mutual benefit
5. **Citizenship**
 - Global citizens serve their world community
6. **Altruism**
 - Global citizens show a willingness to volunteer and help others
7. **Empathy**
 - Global citizens are sensitive to the feelings, thoughts, and experiences of others
8. **Justice**
 - Global citizens seek equality for all people



