**Political Terms**

Three levels of government:

**Federal:** This level of government deals with areas of law listed in the Constitution Act, 1867 and that generally affect the whole country

**Provincial:** responsible for areas listed in the Constitution Act, 1867, such as education, health care, some natural resources, and road regulations.

**Municipal:** usually based in a city, town or district (a municipality). Municipal governments are responsible for areas such as libraries, parks, community water systems, local police, roadways and parking. They receive authority for these areas from the provincial governments.

Three branches of government**:**

**Executive:** responsible for creating the laws

**Legislative:** responsible for carrying out laws

**Judicial:** responsible for interpreting laws / punishing law breakers

**Right wing**: believe society is best served with an expanded role for the government

**Left wing**: the best outcome for society is achieved when individual rights and civil liberties are paramount and the role — and especially the power — of the government is minimized

**Communism:** believes in a society in which all property is publicly owned and each person works and is paid according to their abilities and needs

**Conservatism:** for democracy, but also for free-market capitalism and low taxes; favours tradition (in the sense of various religious, cultural, or nationally-defined beliefs and customs) in the face of external forces for change, and is critical of proposals for radical social change

**Fascism:** against democracy and uses the military to enforce rule; authoritarian and nationalistic

**Liberalism:** for democracy, capitalism for businesses, but also low-income housing and social services; liberty and equality

**Socialism:** advocates that the means of production, distribution, and exchange should be owned or regulated by the community as a whole; believes in nationalizing essential businesses / housing