

Levels of Government Cheat-Sheet

Use this before judging a promise. Canada has three visible levels of government, and many issues are shared.

Common issue map

Issue	Mostly federal	Mostly provincial/territorial	Mostly municipal/local
Immigration	Citizenship, PR, refugees, work/study permits	Some nominee programs, settlement delivery partners	Local newcomer services and integration
Health care	Funding agreements, national law, public health agencies	Hospitals, doctors, insurance cards, wait-list management	Public health delivery in some regions
Schools	Limited role	Curriculum, funding, teachers, school boards	Trustees in many provinces, school sites, local priorities
Housing	Mortgage rules, national housing funds, tax policy	Tenancy law, social housing, building rules	Zoning, permits, local supply, property tax
Transit and roads	National transport, airports, interprovincial rail	Highways, regional transit funding	Buses, local roads, bike lanes, parking
Taxes	Income tax, GST, federal benefits	Provincial income tax, sales tax, credits	Property tax, user fees

Three anti-confusion questions

When a promise is made, ask	Which level has the legal power? What budget pays for it? What is the timeline?
When blame is thrown around, ask	Who actually controls this file, and what evidence would show progress?
When voting locally, ask	Will this person make competent decisions inside the powers they actually have?

Verify election rules and voting information with Elections Canada, your provincial/territorial election authority, or your local municipality.