Orders of Government in Canada: Responsibilities

In Canada, we have three orders or levels of government that Canadian citizens elect political representatives for: **municipal, provincial and federal**. Each level has different responsibilities, and they are often shared across levels of government as they work together.

When it comes to defining the responsibilities held by each level of government, there can be confusion about which level is accountable for an area's administration and decision-making.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

The City of Saskatoon's powers are defined by ***The Cities Act, SS 2002, c C-11.1***

The City of Saskatoon, or municipal government, is also known as your local government.

Decisions made by your municipal government directly impact your quality of life and community more than any other level of government as the many core services provided are those, we rely on every day. The City of Saskatoon is responsible for these areas and/or services, and more:

- **LOCAL POLICING AND FIRE PROTECTION**
- **LOCAL ROAD/BRIDGE MAINTENANCE**
- **UTILITIES** (Water, Waste Water & Treatment)
- **SNOW MANAGEMENT**
- **PUBLIC TRANSIT/ ACCESS TRANSIT**
- **PARKING SERVICES**
- **LEVY MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAX**
- **LOCAL PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS** (Except School Sites)
- **RECREATION CENTRES & COMMUNITY FACILITIES**
- **CITY HALL CITIZEN SERVICES**
- **WASTE MANAGEMENT, RECYCLING**
- **AFFORDABLE HOUSING**
- **LAND USE PLANNING** (Zoning)
- **LOCAL ANIMAL CONTROL**

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

The Government of Saskatchewan's powers are defined by ***The Constitution Act, 1867.***

The Government of Saskatchewan, or provincial government, provides services across the province and is responsible for these areas and/or services, and more:

- **TRANSPORTATION & HIGHWAYS**
- **PROVINCIAL LAW & COURTS**
- **ADMINISTRATION OF HOSPITALS & HEALTHCARE**
- **COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES** (Post-Secondary Institutions)
- **SOCIAL SERVICES**
- **ADMINISTRATION OF EDUCATION – SCHOOLS, INCLUDING BUILDING THEM**
- **SUPPORTS FOR EMPLOYEES AND EMPLOYERS**
- **PROVINCIAL PORTION OF PROPERTY TAX** (Education Tax)
- **DRIVER & VEHICLE LICENSING**
- **ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES**
- **HUMAN RIGHTS**
- **ENVIRONMENT**

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The powers held by the federal government are defined by ***The Constitution Act, 1867.***

The Government of Canada, also known as federal government, provides services across the country and is responsible for these areas and/or services, and more:

- **MILITARY/NATIONAL DEFENSE**
- **INDIGENOUS LANDS & RIGHTS**
- **RCMP, CRIMINAL LAW**
- **VETERAN AFFAIRS**
- **TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY**
- **ADMINISTRATION OF STUDENT LOANS**
- **AIRPORTS, INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL, PASSPORTS**
- **CHILD BENEFITS**
- **MORTGAGES**
- **EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**
- **INDIGENOUS SERVICES**
- **FISHERIES**
- **FEDERAL INCOME TAX**
- **IMMIGRATION & BORDERS**
- **POSTAL SERVICES**
- **CURRENCY**

INDIGENOUS SELF-GOVERNMENT

Across Canada, Indigenous peoples have an inherent right of self-government. Indigenous governments are working to make their own choices about how to deliver programs and services to their communities through various agreements with multiple levels of government.