

# CANADIAN DEMOCRACY

Socials 10

**Constitution – A set of **RULES** established to define the functioning of government.**

**Constitutional Monarchy – A country where the monarch only has the powers set out in the **CONSTITUTION.****

**Canada is a **CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY**, and King Charles III is our official **HEAD OF STATE.****

**(The king is largely a safeguard to our democracy!)**

**Governor General – The official representative of the **MONARCHY**.**

**The Governor General is appointed by the **KING** on the recommendation of the **PRIME MINISTER** to represent the monarchy in Canada.**

**The responsibilities of the Governor General are **CEREMONIAL** and **SYMBOLIC**.**

The Governor General provides **ROYAL ASSENT** by approving bills that are passed by Parliament, which transforms them into law.

The Governor General symbolically appoints key government officers, such as the **PRIME MINISTER, FEDERAL CABINET MINISTERS, JUDGES, and LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS.**

The Governor General symbolically calls **ELECTIONS**, and opens **PARLIAMENT**.

The Governor General also reads the **SPEECH FROM THE THRONE**, which is written by the Prime Minister.

Canada is a **REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY**, where elected representatives respond to the interests of citizens in their riding.

**Federal System - A form of government organization where regional matters are handled by the MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT and PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, and national matters are handled by the FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.**

**In Canada, there are now three levels of government:**

**a) FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.**

**B) PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT.**

**C) MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.**

**Parliamentary System – A form of government where ministers of the EXECUTIVE BRANCH are drawn from the LEGISLATIVE BRANCH.**

**At the federal level of government the Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers are members of the executive branch, as well as being the senior members of the legislative branch.**

The **EXECUTIVE BRANCH** is responsible for carrying out the duties of government, and enforcing laws passed by the **LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**.

The **LEGISLATIVE BRANCH** is responsible for making and amending laws.

The **JUDICIAL BRANCH** is responsible for interpreting and ensuring the legal system, and it kept separate from the other branches of government to ensure the government acts within the boundaries of the constitution.