

Three Levels of Government: Who Does What?

Understanding the different levels of government and strategically addressing concerns to the right audience, will go a long way to ensure your nonprofit achieves its advocacy goals. To clarify these roles, the following chart lays out the high-level responsibilities of each level of government. Note that some responsibilities, such as environmental management, are the responsibility of more than one level of government.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT addresses the needs of all Canadians, examples including:

- Aboriginal Laws and Rights (overlaps with provincial government)
- Canadian Pension Plan and Old Age Security
- Employment Insurance Benefits
- Income Tax Act
- Criminal Law
- Immigration Policies (overlaps with provincial government)

THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT places its primary concern on the needs of Albertans, examples including:

- Education and Training
- Health Programs, Services and Regulations
- Family and Social Services
- Employment and Labour Standards

THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT aims to handle issues facing citizens living within defined municipalities and local communities, examples including:

- Affordable Housing (overlaps with federal government)
- Community and Youth Services
- Public Transportation and Parking Bylaws
- Libraries, Parks and Public Spaces
- Waste and Water Management