**ED 5626**

**Social Studies Inquiry Centre**

**Eric Pelton**

Description of Inquiry Centre

This Inquiry Centre focuses on the role of the 3 levels of government in Canada (Federal, Provincial, and Municipal) and is designed for a grade 9 classroom. Students will be able to define the levels of government and will look at the various roles that each government undertakes in society. This inquiry centre relates to outcome 9.4.3 where students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the structure of government in Canada under a federal system, and describe the operation and responsibilities at the municipal, provincial and federal levels.

Materials

Materials for this inquiry centre include:

4 sheets of paper individually labelled FEDERAL, PROVINCIAL, and MUNICIPAL

A set of government controlled powers (See appendix for examples)

Procedure

Begin the Inquiry Centre by asking students what Canadian Confederation is, and how it works in Canada. Students may not be aware of the exact process but can be led to the answer that we have three levels of government in Canada, each with their own responsibilities. Get students to give definitions of Federal, Provincial and Municipal government and how they are set up (Parliament, Legislative Assembly and Councils). Once the levels of government are defined, take out the pieces of paper labelled with the levels of government and the various responsibilities that each has. Allow students a few minutes to place the government responsibilities on the level of government they think has control of that domain. Once students finish placing the words onto their levels of government, ask them if they think any of them should be changed (example: do you think healthcare should be a federally controlled service or left to the provinces?). Students can discuss any changes they think should be made, as well as any other government departments that aren’t listed, and where they think those resources are controlled. Discussion can also revolve around sharing of the responsibilities between levels of government through grants and other programs.

Extension Activities

Students can research a government department of interest and learn about the resources they provide, how the budget is decided and who runs the department

Students can use their knowledge of the levels of government and government departments to learn about how a bill is passed through a legislature to become law

Questions for Activity and Answer Key

1. What do we know about Canadian Confederation?
   1. When did it occur?
   2. What system of government do we use?
2. What is the Federal level of government? What is the provincial level? Municipal?
3. How are these levels of government set up?
   1. What legislative bodies do they use? How are decisions made?
4. Place the following terms under the level of government that controls them (allow students a few minutes to discuss and place the words)
5. Which of these departments do you think should be controlled at a different level?
6. Are there any additional resources you think the government should control? What level should get control of it?
7. Does each term exclusively belong to that level of government?

Federal Responsibilities

* Citizenship
* Foreign Affairs
* Indigenous Affairs
* Justice
* National Defence
* Veteran Affairs
* Postal Service

Provincial Responsibilities

* Education
* Healthcare
* Energy
* Tourism
* Welfare
* Environment

Municipal Responsibilities

* Roads, Streets, walks
* Recreation
* Policing
* Public Transportation
* Animal Control
* Libraries

**Federal**

**Provincial**

**Municipal**

Citizenship

Foreign Affairs

Indigenous Affairs

Justice

National Defence

Veterans Affairs

Education

Healthcare

Energy

Tourism

Animal Control

Roads, Streets, Walks

Recreation

Policing

Public Transportation

Postal Service

Libraries