



5 Diversity and Canadian Politics

Chapter Outline

- Language Politics and French Canada
 - History and the Demographics of Language Politics
 - French outside Quebec
 - From French-Canadian to Québécois Nationalism
 - The Quiet Revolution and Nationalism
 - Quebec's Unilingual Approach
 - Ottawa's Bilingual Approach
 - A Distinct Society?
- Multiculturalism and Politics
 - From Founding Nations to Multiculturalism
 - Other Types of Diversity
 - Official Recognition and the Institutionalization of Diversity
 - Diversity and Political Representation
 - The Under-representation of Women
 - Why Aren't More Women Involved in Political Life?
 - Women in Politics
 - Phase One: Industrialization and Democracy
 - Phase Two: After the Vote, What?

- Phase Three: The Personal Is Political
 - Organizing for Influence
 - Strategies
 - Achievements
 - Legislative Reform
 - Material and social conditions
- Aboriginal Politics
 - Aboriginal Demographics: Who and How Many?
 - The Language of Aboriginal Politics
 - Who Is an Indian?
 - The Reserve System
 - Assimilation, Integration, Self-Determination
 - Residential Schools
 - The 1969 White Paper
 - Land ownership and Sovereignty
 - Do Land Rights Convey Sovereignty?
 - The Institutionalization of Aboriginal Affairs
 - A Way Forward
- Political Violence and Challenges to the Political Community
 - Violence in Canadian–Aboriginal History
- Summary

Learning Objectives

After reading Chapter 5 in *Canadian Democracy*, you should be able to do the following:

- Understand why language and the status of Quebec are such prominent issues in Canada.
- Describe some historical and current developments in the size and distribution of Canada’s francophone population.
- Identify the chief characteristics of traditional French-Canadian nationalism.
- Discuss the impact of the Quiet Revolution on Quebec politics and explain how it transformed Quebec nationalism.
- Outline the main features of language policy both in Quebec and federally, and identify their major points of difference.
- List the various arguments made to support the claim that Quebec should be recognized as a “distinct society.”
- Examine the politics of diversity in Canada, with special attention on multiculturalism.
- Identify other types of diversity in Canada, such as sexual orientation, family dynamics and disability.
- List several ways diversity has been institutionalized in Canadian society.
- Examine the politics of diversity in Canada.

- Explain some reasons that have been given to account for women’s lesser involvement in politics.
- Describe the main beliefs and accomplishments of early feminism (that is, social or maternal feminism).
- List some major accomplishments of the women’s movement over the last few decades.
- Identify the Aboriginal peoples and their place in Canada.
- Explore Aboriginal politics and its core issues, such as landownership, sovereignty discrimination, and political violence.

Key Concepts

Aboriginal Those who can trace their ancestry back to before the arrival and permanent settlement of Europeans in what would become Canada. A person who self-identifies as North American Indian, Métis, or Inuit. (p. 150)

Affirmative Action the logic and machinery of targeting groups for preferred treatment (p. 144)

Allophones A term used by Canadian demographers for those whose native language is neither English nor French. (p. 121)

Assimilation The absorption of the minority culture into the majority (English) culture. (p. 121)

Bilingual belt The narrow region running from Moncton, New Brunswick, in the east, to Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, in the west, where assimilation of francophones is significantly lower than in other regions (p. 121)

Bill 101 The *Charte de la langue française*, the Quebec language policy (pp. 126–127)

Communitarianism The belief that communities and communal identities are essential to individual dignity and the maintenance of truly democratic societies (p. 152)

Distinct society A society noticeably different than other provinces. (p. 130)

La revanche des berceaux The high birth rate that for close to a century enabled French Canada to maintain its numerical strength. (p. 121)

La survivance Survival against the pressures of a dominant culture that was Anglicizing, Protestant, materialistic, liberally democratic, and business oriented. (p. 123)

maitres chez nous “Masters of our own house”; the Quebec provincial Liberals’ 1962 campaign slogan. (p. 125)

Multiculturalism The idea that cultural diversity is not only good for society, it should also be encouraged (p. 132)

Nationalism Patriotic feelings, values, and beliefs that are translated into a public policy or program; that which defines a community by its language, ethnic origins, traditions, or unique history; the values and beliefs shared by the people of a territory or a community translated into a public policy or agenda (pp. 123–126)

Official Languages Act (1969) Federal act that made the policy of bilingualism into law (p. 126)

Patrimoine The language, the faith, the mores of a community whose roots went back to New France. (p. 125)

Quiet Revolution Many socio-political reforms and changes, and a turning point in the history of Quebec. (p. 124)

Receptive bilinguals People who are capable of responding to French communications but do not themselves initiate conversations in French, consume French language media, or seek out opportunities to live in their acquired second language. (p. 122)

Reserve According to the Indian Act of 1876, a reserve is “. . . any tract of land set apart by treaty or otherwise for the use or benefit of or granted to a particular band of Indians, of which the legal title is in the Crown, but which is unsurrendered, and includes all the trees, wood, timber, soil, stone, minerals, metals, or other valuables thereon or therein.” (p. 154)

Secularism The separation of church and state (p. 123)

Sexism A term coined in the 1960s as a label for behaviour that treated males and females unequally for no better reason than their sex. (pp. 143–144)

White Paper A report for discussion on a major piece of legislation being proposed by government (p. 157)

Critical Thinking Questions

1. Make a list of other countries that have more than one official language. Do any of them give special recognition to a particular language group? Have any of them faced threats of separatism like Canada has? What lessons can be learned for Canada’s experience with Quebec?
2. In your community, how many people who hold public office are persons with disabilities, visible minorities, Aboriginal citizens, or women? Are any of them in leadership positions? How many people from these groups are prominent figures in the private sector?
3. List some of the major accomplishments of prominent women in Canadian politics. What type of challenges and obstacles did they face in achieving their status?
4. If applicable, trace your genealogical heritage and discuss how your ancestors made their way to Canada. What sort of challenges did they face with immigration and multicultural policies? How do you label yourself as a Canadian?
5. Why aren’t more women involved in political life in Canada? What are some other countries with better female representation in politics? Why are there such significant differences between Canada and these other countries?

Additional Resources

Language Politics

CBC archives, video clips on language and culture: http://archives.cbc.ca/politics/language_culture/

CBC archives, video clips on civil unrest: http://archives.cbc.ca/politics/civil_unrest/

CBC archives, video clips on provincial/territorial politics:
http://archives.cbc.ca/politics/provincial_territorial_politics/

Commissioner of Official Languages, www.ocol-clo.gc.ca. For information on language rights in Canada and the state of the official languages in Canada.

Diversity

CBC archives, video clips on the family: <http://archives.cbc.ca/society/family/>

CBC archives, video clips on immigration: <http://archives.cbc.ca/society/immigration/>

CBC archives, video clips on racism: <http://archives.cbc.ca/society/racism/>

Citizenship and Immigration Canada, www.cic.gc.ca. For information on the federal multiculturalism policy.

Statistics Canada, www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/ for Tuesday, March 9, 2010, projections on the diversity of the Canadian population.

Aboriginal Politics

CBC archives, video clips on native issues: http://archives.cbc.ca/society/native_issues/

CBC archives, video clips on civil unrest: http://archives.cbc.ca/politics/civil_unrest/