

Ideology, Perspective & Government

Canada is a **pluralist society**, which means that it is a community made up of all kinds of different groups – many with different opinions about how things should get done.

According to the 2021 Census of Canada:

- Canada's population: 36,991,981 (up 5.2 % from 2016)
- Average age of Canadians: 41
- English is their mother tongue: 56%
- French is their mother tongue: 21%
- An Indigenous Language is their mother tongue: 0.6%
- Total Canadian households (total households is 14,072,075) making over \$100,000: 4,561,920 (32%)
- Population of our federal riding (Flamborough-Glanbrook): 111,065 (up 14% from 2011)
 - English as their mother tongue: 79%
 - French as their mother tongue: 0.01%
 - Indigenous Languages as a mother tongue: 0.005%
 - Total Flamborough-Glanbrook households (total households is 38,110) making over \$100,000: 18,890 (50%)

Current Canadian Political Parties:

- Liberal Party
- Conservative Party
- New Democratic Party
- Bloc Québécois
- Green Party
- Alliance of the North
- Animal Protection Party
- Christian Heritage Party
- Communist Party
- Libertarian Party
- Marijuana Party
- Marxist–Leninist Party
- Progressive Canadian Party
- Rhinoceros Party



Communist Party of Canada





The Covenant Chain Wampum presented by Sir William Johnson to the assembled Indigenous Nations at Niagara in 1764. This was one of many Wampum exchanged during the Council of Niagara that culminated in the Treaty of Niagara.



Waterdown and Flamborough are located within the Treaty Territory of the [Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation](#). The Treaty of Niagara (1764), Silver Covenant Chain of Friendship, and Treaty No. 3 (1792)¹ all cover these lands.

Waterdown and Flamborough are also in the traditional territory of the [Haudenosaunee Confederacy](#) (includes the [Six Nations of the Grand River](#)) – Flamborough borders the [Haldimand Tract](#).



This area is called “The Haldimand Tract” and was granted by the Crown to the Six Nations for their help in the American Revolution (1776-1783)

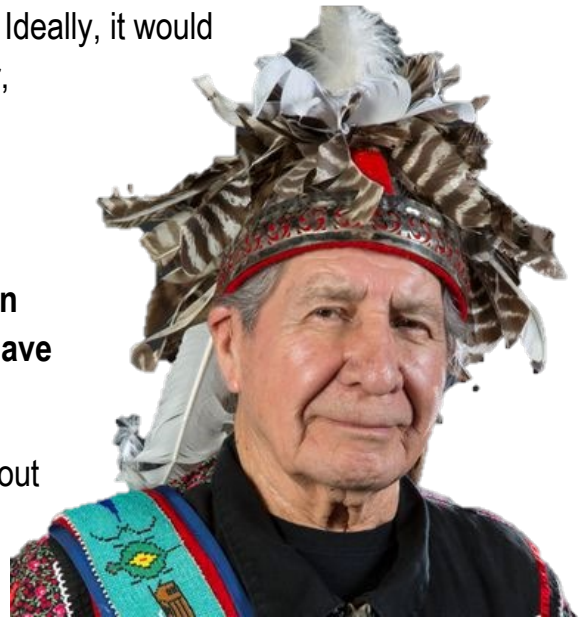
Map depicting the area covered by Treaty No. 3 (1792).

¹ It should be noted that Treaty No. 3 (1792) violated both the Treaty of Niagara (1764) and Silver Covenant Chain of Friendship and therefore does not meet the definition of a “Treaty” as understood by Indigenous Nations and articulated by settlers representing the Crown.

People have different ideas about how a country should work. Ideally, it would be nice to get everyone together to make a decision. However, Canada's population of over 40,000,000 people makes that impossible.

Throughout history, different ideas about human nature and decision making have been grouped together as ideologies. **An ideology is a set of beliefs and values – ideas that some have about how things should work.**

Different groups of people have different ideologies (ideas) about how society should be organized, and what its goals are.



Watch Oren Lyons tell the story of [The Peacemaker & the Tadadaho](#), as well as Extra History's "[Hiawatha - The Great Law of Peace](#)" and "[Hiawatha - Government for the People](#)." Lyons provides teachings around the formation of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy – the world's oldest, still functioning, democracy. From this story we can see two distinct ideologies around how their nations (societies) should be organized.

Can you summarize these ideologies?

The Peacemaker	The Tadadaho

The founders of the American and Canadian federations were inspired by the Haudenosaunee Confederacy when they began to establish their own democracies. Can you find an example of how Canada's federation was influenced by the Haudenosaunee Confederacy?

The people behind the creation of Canada's democracy were also influenced by European philosophers ("Great Thinkers"), including Thomas Hobbes, John Locke and Jean-Jacques Rousseau.

Philosopher **Thomas Hobbes** said that humans were naturally in a state of war and chaos. Selfish and greedy, humans need a strong government to control them to ensure order and peace. Hobbes argued that it was better to have one or two strong leaders (Like a king or queen) rather than have everyone in charge.

Philosopher **John Locke** believed that humans were naturally good, tolerant, and fairly intelligent. Locke believed that, while selfishness and greed were a part of human nature, as many people needed to be involved in government as possible.

Philosopher **Jean-Jacques Rousseau** wrote:

There is but one law which, from its nature, needs unanimous consent. This is the social compact; for civil association is the most voluntary of all acts. Every man being born free and his own master, no one, under any pretext whatsoever, can make any man subject without his consent. To decide that the son of a slave is born a slave is to decide that he is not born a man.



What does this mean?