Glossary of Key Words

60 key words from the 12 lessons. The number is the lesson to read.

A Mari Usque Ad Mare (11): Canada's motto, "from sea to sea".

Aboriginal peoples (2): First Nations, Inuit and Métis.

Acadians (2): descendants of French colonists in the Maritimes, from 1604.

Anglophone (2): a person whose first language is English.

British North America Act (5): the 1867 law that created Canada, now called the Constitution Act, 1867.

By-law (9): a law passed by a municipal council.

Canadiens or habitants (4): French-speaking Catholic people of the Province of Quebec.

Charter (1): the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, part of the Constitution since 1982.

Commonwealth (6): the free association of states that grew out of the British Empire.

Confederation (5): the joining of provinces to form Canada on July 1, 1867.

Consensus government (12): decisions made by agreement, without parties, as in Nunavut.

Constitutional monarchy (8): the head of state is a Sovereign who reigns under the Constitution.

D-Day (6): June 6, 1944, when the Allies landed in Normandy.

Due process (10): the government must respect all of a person's legal rights.

Fathers of Confederation (5): the founders of Canada.

Federal state (8): a country with a national government and provincial governments, each with its own powers.

Fleur-de-lys (11): the lily flower, a symbol of French royalty and of Quebec.

Founding peoples (2): Aboriginal, French and British.

Francophone (2): a person whose first language is French.

Great Upheaval (2): the deportation of the Acadians, 1755 to 1763.

Group of Seven (7): landscape painters, founded in 1920.

Hudson's Bay Company (3): fur-trading company given trading rights in 1670.

Jury (1): a group of citizens who decide a court case.

Kanata (3): Iroquoian word meaning "village", the source of "Canada".

L'Anse aux Meadows (3): the Viking site in Newfoundland, a World Heritage Site.

Last spike (5): the end of the Canadian Pacific Railway, 1885.

Legal aid (10): free or low-cost legal help.

Lower Canada (4): later Quebec.

Loyalists (4): people loyal to the Crown who left the United States after 1776.

Mobility rights (1): the right to live and work anywhere in Canada and to enter and leave the country.

MP (9): Member of Parliament, elected to the House of Commons.

Métis uprisings (5): the Red River (1869 to 1870) and the 1885 rebellion led by Louis Riel.

NATO (7): the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, a military alliance.

New France (3): the French colony in North America.

NORAD (7): the North American Aerospace Defence Command, with the United States.

Oath of Citizenship (1): the promise new citizens make at their ceremony.

Order of Canada (11): Canada's own honour, created in 1967.

Parliamentary democracy (8): the people elect representatives who make laws.

Peace Tower (11): built in 1927 in memory of the First World War.

Premier (8): the head of a provincial or territorial government.

Presumption of innocence (10): a person is innocent until proven guilty.

Quiet Revolution (7): fast change in Quebec in the 1960s.

Referendum (7): a vote by the people on one question.

Remembrance Day (6): November 11, when Canadians honour those who served and died.

Responsible government (4): the government must keep the confidence of elected members.

Riding (9): an electoral district, also called a constituency.

Royal Assent (8): the final step that makes a bill a law.

Rule of law (1): everyone, including the government, must follow the law.

Secret ballot (9): no one may see or demand to know how you voted.

Service industries (12): jobs that provide services, not goods.

Suffrage (6): the right to vote.

Supreme Court of Canada (10): the highest court in Canada.

Trading nation (12): a country that depends on trade.

Tundra (12): the treeless Arctic plain with frozen soil.

Underground Railroad (4): the network that helped slaves escape to Canada.

Upper Canada (4): later Ontario.

Victoria Cross (11): the highest honour available to Canadians.

Vimy Ridge (6): a Canadian victory in France, April 1917.

Voter information card (9): the card mailed by Elections Canada that tells you where and when to vote.

Voyageurs and coureurs des bois (3): canoe travellers of the fur trade.

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