Memory Tricks

Short tricks for lists, dates and names. The lesson number tells you where to read more.

Canada is "F P C"

Canada is a **F**ederal state, a **P**arliamentary democracy and a **C**onstitutional monarchy. Think: "Friendly People of Canada". (Lesson 8)

The King reigns, the Prime Minister runs

The **head of state** is the Sovereign, King Charles the Third (as of November 2026). The **head of government** is the Prime Minister. The Governor General represents the Sovereign in Canada. (Lesson 8)

Parliament has 3 parts: "the King and two Houses"

Parliament is the **Sovereign**, the **Senate** and the **House of Commons**. (Lesson 8)

Aboriginal peoples: "F I M"

First Nations, **I**nuit and **M**étis. Think: "Find It in Me". (Lesson 2)

Founding peoples: "A F B"

Aboriginal, **F**rench and **B**ritish. Think: "Always First in Building". (Lesson 2)

The 4 basic freedoms: "C, T, P A, A"

Freedom of **C**onscience and religion; freedom of **T**hought, belief, opinion and expression (including speech and the press); freedom of **P**eaceful **A**ssembly; and freedom of **A**ssociation. Think: "Can Tom Practise Archery?" (Lesson 1)

The 6 responsibilities: "Lucky Families Join, Vote, Help, Protect"

Obey the **L**aw. Take responsibility for yourself and your **F**amily. Serve on a **J**ury. **V**ote. **H**elp others in your community. **P**rotect Canada's heritage and environment. (Lesson 1)

The first 4 provinces: "O Q, Nova, New"

In 1867: **O**ntario, **Q**uebec, **Nova** Scotia and **New** Brunswick. Two names start with "New" or "Nova", which both mean new. (Lesson 5)

Who joined next: "Many Brave People Always Say Never"

Manitoba 1870, **B**ritish Columbia 1871, **P**rince Edward Island 1873, **A**lberta and **S**askatchewan 1905, **N**ewfoundland and Labrador 1949 (the last province). (Lesson 5)

The territories: 1870, 1898, 1999

Northwest Territories 1870, Yukon 1898 (Gold Rush time), Nunavut 1999 (the newest, just before the year 2000). (Lesson 5)

Five regions: "All Canadians Picnic Without Napkins"

Atlantic, **C**entral, **P**rairie, **W**est Coast, **N**orth. (Lesson 12)

Three kinds of industry: "Serve, Make, Grow"

Service industries (most jobs), **manufacturing** (making things) and **natural resources** (forestry, fishing, agriculture, mining and energy). (Lesson 12)

Big numbers that match

1215 Magna Carta. **1867** Confederation, July 1. **1982** the Charter joins the Constitution. Read 1867 as "one country, July 1" and 1982 as "the Charter year". (Lessons 1, 5 and 7)

Wars on a calendar

Vimy Ridge: **April 1917** (Vimy Day, April 9). D-Day: **June 6, 1944**, Juno Beach. Remembrance Day: **November 11**, the day the First World War ended in 1918. (Lesson 6)

Symbols by the decade

Flag **1965**. O Canada as the national anthem **1980**. Remember: "flag in the sixties, anthem in the eighties". (Lesson 11)

Voting: "18, citizen, list"

To vote in a federal election you must be **18 or older**, a **Canadian citizen**, and on the voters' list (or register when you vote). Elections are every **four years**, on the **third Monday in October**, unless an earlier election is called. (Lesson 9)

Sports: winter puck, summer stick

Hockey is the national winter sport. **Lacrosse** is the official summer sport. (Lesson 11)

Ottawa: chosen by a queen

Queen Victoria chose **Ottawa** as the capital in **1857**. (Lesson 12)

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