

tion. There are also smaller parties represented at the federal level, the New Democratic and the Social Credit Parties. Throughout Canadian history the French-English relation has been a dominant factor in the development and fortunes of the parties. Quebec is the second most-populous province in Canada and the only one that is predominantly French. In the twentieth century it has voted almost as a bloc, so that it is very difficult for a party to win a general election without its support.

National parties may operate at both the provincial and federal levels, but party relations between the two levels of government vary greatly. Often strong provincial parties are minor or even non-existent on the federal scene, and vice versa. The Parti Québécois, for example, is strictly a provincial party.