



Factoids

# COSMOPOLITAN CANADA:

## *A Modern State with a Human Face*

*element: A functional, flexible federal structure that adapts to changing circumstances*

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*message: Canada is A Flexible, Dynamic Country That Adjusts to Meet the Needs of its People*

The Fathers of Confederation chose a system for Canada that allows each province and territory to develop in accordance with its own characteristics and priorities while still being a part of the country

Federal structure is flexible because it's possible to make changes and adjustments without amending the fundamental law

Federal structure shares the power, is the one thing that can take into account Canada's geographical realities, diversity of its cultural communities, and its dual legal and linguistic heritage

The federal government is responsible for trade, tax, communications, transportation, immigration, criminal law, unemployment

Provincial government also has an impact on policies

The federal government has recently transferred greater responsibility to the provinces in the areas of labour market training, mining, and forestry

Non-participation agreements allow provincial governments to opt out of federal-provincial programs, then assume administration and financial powers associated with the programs while receiving financial compensation from the federal government

- for example: the Canada Pension Plan/Quebec Pension Plan

Since the 1960's Quebec was able to broaden its field of activity to areas traditionally occupied by the federal government

Since 1971 Canada and Quebec governments have negotiated 4 administration agreements on immigration that allow Quebec to select and integrate its immigrants

Similar agreements apply with regard to economic development and international agreements

An agreement was reached between the federal government and the provinces (except Quebec) to enable residents to file only one tax return

- the federal government then turns over to each province the amounts collected on its behalf, all done without amending the Constitution

July 1994, federal and provincial governments ratified an agreement on interprovincial trade which reduced trade barriers between provinces

- this was done in order to promote economic growth and job creation
- the federal and provincial governments continue to work together to improve the agreement which underlies our economic union