

and first ministers (the Prime Minister and the provincial premiers). Government leaders use these meetings to reach agreement on broad principles for guiding and harmonizing their actions in the short, medium and long terms.

Most government expenditures—55 per cent—are made by the provincial and municipal governments.

In formulating policy, the Federal Government is assisted by such independent economic advisory groups as the Economic Council of Canada. The Economic Council analyzes general trends in the economy and helps determine future directions and policy options. The Conference Board, which conducts research in business conditions and management practices, is recognized as an alternative, non-governmental, analytical body.

In an area as large and as sparsely populated as Canada, it was perhaps inevitable that government would be called upon to act as a prime mover  
70 behind certain economic development activities.

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