Three Levels of Government: Who Does What?

Understanding the different levels of government and strategically addressing concerns to the right audience, will go a long way to ensure your nonprofit achieves its advocacy goals. To clarify these roles, the following chart lays out the high-level responsibilities of each level of government. Note that some responsibilities, such as environmental management, are the responsibility of more than one level of government.

**THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT** addresses the needs of all Canadians, examples including:

- Aboriginal Laws and Rights (overlaps with provincial government)
- Canadian Pension Plan and Old Age Security
- Employment Insurance Benefits
- Income Tax Act
- Criminal Law
- Immigration Policies (overlaps with provincial government)

**THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT** places its primary concern on the needs of Albertans, examples including:

- Education and Training
- Health Programs, Services and Regulations
- Family and Social Services
- Employment and Labour Standards

**THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT** aims to handle issues facing citizens living within defined municipalities and local communities, examples including:

- Affordable Housing (overlaps with federal government)
- Community and Youth Services
- Public Transportation and Parking Bylaws
- Libraries, Parks and Public Spaces
- Waste and Water Management