

The Modern Canadian Political Spectrum – Federal Politics

Extreme Left	Left Wing	Centre	Right Wing	Extreme Right
Communism	Bloc Quebecois, New Democratic Party, Green Party	Liberal Party	Conservative Party	Fascism
Economic issues				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The government spends money on projects (building roads, sewers, etc.) to try to stimulate job growth. “Spin-off” jobs are hopefully produced as well (wages earned by road builders are used to buy things. Therefore, helping other businesses such as retail stores) - Keep government owned businesses (ex. CBC) - Pro-union - Anti-free trade with the USA 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The government tries to create an environment in which the private sector can create jobs (lower taxes on businesses so they can expand their operations. Also cut the debt to help reduce the tax burden) - Sell government owned businesses (privatization) - Pro-business - Pro-free trade with the USA 	
Social Programs				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintain and/or expand existing social programs (universal public health care, funding for the arts, etc.) - Create new social programs (i.e. a national Day Care program) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintain major social programs (universal health care) but more open to looking at the possibility of partnering with the private sector in the publicly funded health care system - Reduce some social programs (public funding for the arts) and use the saved money for other programs or debt reduction or tax cuts 	
International Relations/Defense				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not in favour of large increases in military spending - Limit Canada’s role in international relations to peacekeeping and humanitarian efforts - Remove Canadians from combat roles 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In favour of major increases in military spending - Include Canada not only in peacekeeping and humanitarian efforts, but also in peacemaking missions where combat is necessary, if necessary 	
Social Issues				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pro-choice on abortion - Against the death penalty for murderers - Supportive of legalizing doctor assisted suicides (euthanasia) - Government should play an active role in the hiring of visible minorities and women for government jobs 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pro-life - Supportive of the death penalty for murderers - Against legalizing doctor assisted suicides (euthanasia) - Hire individuals solely on the basis of merit - Do not toughen gun control laws further and do not need a national long gun registry 	

	- Toughen gun control laws and keep national long gun registry - In favour of legally recognizing same sex marriages		- In favour of traditional marriage between a man and a woman	
Environment				
	- In favour of the Kyoto Accord on reducing greenhouse gas emissions - Support a carbon tax - Supportive of more government intervention to protect the environment		- Opposed to the Kyoto Accord - Opposed to a carbon tax - Not as supportive of more government regulation to protect the environment as compared to the Left Wing	

Note:

A political party in the middle of the political spectrum (i.e. the Liberal Party) tends to take left wing positions on some issues and right wing positions on other issues. The positions stated here are **generalities** and do not always hold true for the individuals within the given political parties nor are they always reflected in a particular party's election platform.

The two extremes (i.e. Communism and Fascism/Nazism) while different in theory are actually quite similar in practice as history has shown. Both involve a system of social organization in which all or most social and economic activity is controlled by a **totalitarian** government dominated by one party. Nazis and Communists **control by force** and opposition is not tolerated.