

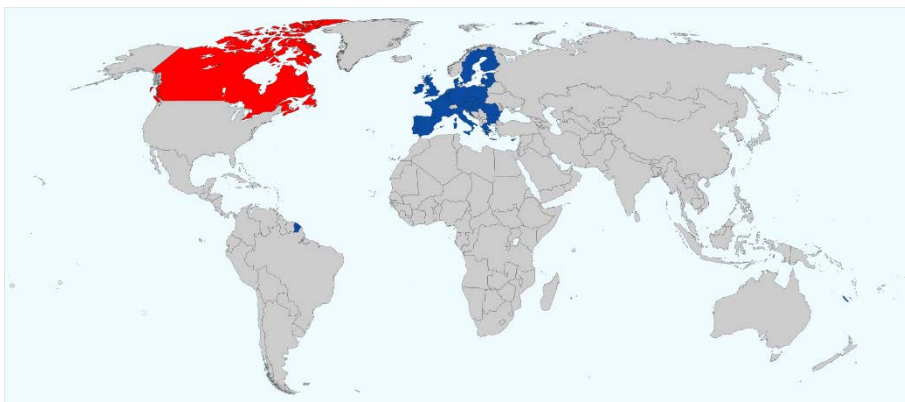
8. Teaching the EU: Canada and the European Union

a) CETA and the politics of free-trade

- The Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, or CETA, is a trade agreement between the EU and Canada
- By boosting trade between us, CETA will create jobs and growth. Canada is a large market for Europe's exports and a country rich in natural resources that Europe needs. CETA will open up the Canadian services market to EU companies, open up markets for European food and drink exports, and make it easier for European professionals to work in Canada.
- CETA is also progressive. It goes beyond just removing custom duties, but taking people and the environment fully into account. By doing so, it will set a new global standard for future trade agreements.
- Critics oppose the treaty on the grounds that it will weaken European consumer rights, including those concerning food safety. The deal also includes a controversial investor-state dispute settlement mechanism. The agreement has prompted protests in Europe and Canada.



b) [Canada-EU relations](#)



c) Teaching the EU: Comparing the EU and Canadian federalism.¹

Applicable courses in new B.C. curriculum: Political Studies 11, Socials 10, Socials 11

DESCRIPTION: This purpose of this lesson plan is to have students examine the European Union as a unique form of political organization, and compare its structure and function to the Canadian Federation. In learning about the European Union, students examine six key EU institutions (the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union, the European Commission, the European Court of Justice, the European Court of Auditors, and the European Central Bank). By comparing these to similar Canadian institutions, students can draw conclusions about how the political organization of the EU differs from that of a federation like Canada.

Big Idea

- Political institutions and ideology shape both the exercise of power and the nature of political outcomes

Curricular Competencies

- Evaluate how factors, forces, events, or people influence developments, outcomes, or decisions (significance, relevance, and pertinence)
- Assess the factors that cause political stability or instability (stability and change)

Content

- Structure and function of Canadian and First Peoples political institutions
- Power relationships between citizens, government, and other bodies in the creation of public policy

Step 1: The EU as a Unique Form of Political Organization

The EU is a unique form of political organization: it is not a federation like Canada, nor is it simply an international organization. In order to facilitate this discussion, students should read over the section “What is the EU?” on the Teaching the EU Website.

A class discussion could follow.



¹ Inspired by the lesson plan ‘European Union Governance’, by Kimberly Ball (which can be found on the US European Union Centers of Excellence website at http://www.unc.edu/euce/resources/education/eu_lesson_plans/subjects.html) and ‘The European Union and the Canadian Federation: Can they be compared?’ by Larisa Droll (which can be found at the Center for European Studies at Carleton University, at http://carleton.ca/ces/elearning/wp-content/uploads/EuropeanUnionGovernance_Canadian.pdf)

Step 2: EU and Canadian Institutions

1. Students conduct online research about the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union, the European Commission, the European Court of Justice, and the European Court of Auditors.
2. Students complete attached Worksheet (“Governing Institutions of the European Union: Structures and Functions”).
3. Students complete Worksheet on Canadian institutions, using previous class material or independent research.
4. Teacher reviews assignment and students discuss the similarities and differences between the Canadian and EU institutions.

Governing Institutions of the European Union: Structures and Functions

Directions: Research the six main institutions of the EU in order to cut out the fact tabs and match each to its category on this worksheet. The following websites should be particularly helpful for this research:

- http://europa.eu/institutions/index_en.htm
- <http://www.eurunion.org/eu/Guide-for-Americans/Guide-for-Americans.html>
(pages 6- 11)

Governing Institution	Structure	Function
European Parliament		
Council of the European Union		

Governing Institution	Structure	Function
European Commission		
European Court of Auditors		
European Court of Justice		
European Central Bank		

Makes sure money is spent properly	Negotiates treaties with other countries	Serve 6 year renewable term
May be dismissed by Parliament	Main decision-making group	Makes sure budget managed well
Implements programs and policies passed by Parliament and Council	Made up of 27 commissioners—president and 26 members	Controls the money supply in order to keep inflation down
Assures laws are written & used properly	Adopts new laws with Parliament	Adopts new laws with Council
Sets interest rates throughout the Euro area	Decides budget with EU Parliament	Decides budget with Council
Asks questions of Commission and Council	Settles disagreements between EU and other persons and groups	Proposes new laws to Parliament and Council
Runs day-to-day duties	Works to maintain price stability in the Euro area in order to protect the Euro's purchasing power	Coordinates economic policies of member states
Elected every 5 years by EU citizens	The executive branch of the EU	Forms part of the "eurosystem" (along with the national banks of the EU states that use the Euro)
Coordinate police and court efforts on criminal matters	Selected by member country governments & approved by EU Parliament	Develop Common Foreign and Security Policy in cooperation with other EU bodies
Goal is to act in best interest of EU	Makes sure EU acting democratically	27 judges—one from each member country
Judges appointed by Council	Appointed for 5 years	Serve 6 year renewable term
Works completely independently; may not ask for or accept advice from any other body	Decisions sometimes made unanimously, sometimes by vote—the bigger the country's population the more votes they get.	Sit in political party, not country sections
Currently approximately 736 members from every EU country	Ministers for every country meet regularly to discuss problems and solutions	

Answer Key:

Governing Institution	Structure	Function
European Parliament	Currently approximately 736 members from every EU country Elected every 5 years by EU citizens Sit in political party, not country sections	Makes sure EU acting democratically Decides budget with Council Adopts new laws with Council Asks questions of Commission and Council
Council of the European Union	Ministers for every country meet regularly to discuss problems and solutions Decisions sometimes made unanimously, sometimes by vote—the bigger the country's population the more votes they get.	Main decision-making group Decides budget with EU Parliament Adopts new laws with Parliament Coordinates economic policies of member States Develop Common Foreign and Security Policy in cooperation with other EU bodies Coordinate police and court efforts on criminal matters
European Commission	Appointed for 5 years May be dismissed by Parliament Made up of 27 commissioners—president and 26 members	Proposes new laws to Parliament and Council Goal is to act in best interest of EU Runs day-to-day duties

	<p>Selected by member country governments & approved by EU Parliament</p>	<p>Implements programs and policies passed by Parliament and Council</p> <p>Negotiates treaties with other countries</p> <p>The executive branch of the EU Assures laws are written & used properly</p>
Court of Auditors	<p>Serve 6 year renewable term</p>	<p>Makes sure money is spent properly</p> <p>Makes sure budget managed well</p>
Court of Justice	<p>27 judges—one from each member country</p> <p>Serve 6 year renewable term</p>	<p>Settles disagreements between EU and other persons and groups</p> <p>Judges appointed by Council</p>
European Central Bank	<p>Works completely independently; may not ask for or accept advice from any other body</p> <p>Forms part of the “eurosystem” (along with the national banks of the EU states that use the Euro)</p>	<p>Controls the money supply in order to keep inflation down</p> <p>Sets interest rates throughout the Euro area</p> <p>Works to maintain price stability in the Euro area in order to protect the Euro’s purchasing power</p>

Canadian Federal Institutions: Structures and Functions

Governing Institution	Structure	Function
House of Commons		
Prime Minister and Cabinet		
Senate		
British Monarch (represented by the Governor General)		
Supreme Court		
Office of the Auditor General of Canada		
Bank of Canada		