
**Canadian Student Debating Federation
National Student Debating Seminar
August 14 – 18, 2023**

On Friday, August 18th, the last rounds of debate will be on the following prepared resolution:

This House would prefer a unitary government for Canada.

Info Slide: A “unitary state” is a sovereign state governed as a single entity in which the central government is the supreme authority. The central government may create (or abolish) administrative divisions (sub-national units). Such units exercise only the powers that the central government chooses to delegate.

The idea of a “unitary government” — which most of the countries in the world have—is explained [here](#), together with a short explanation of why Canada chose to be a federal country.

Ideas to consider:

What are the advantages of a federal country? What are the advantages of a unitary government? Does it still make sense for Canada to be a federation?

If we keep a federal country, should the division of powers be changed? Would Canada be better if health care or education were federal responsibilities?

Would Canada be better if criminal law was provincial?

Why should we make changes or keep things the same?

These pages also discuss the idea:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federalism>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federation#:~:text=A%20federation%20often%20emerges%20from,ethnicity%20spread%20over%20several%20states.>

<https://forumfed.org/countries/>