Levels of Government

Have you ever thought about the different ways that government affects your life? Every time you make a phone call, recycle a bottle or go to school, you are affected by the decisions made by your representatives in government.

Canada has three levels of government:
• Federal: creates laws that affect people across the country
• Provincial and territorial: create laws that affect people in one province or territory only
• Municipal: establishes by-laws that affect a specific city, town or village

Do you know which laws and by-laws are made by which level of government?
Circle the correct answer.

You put on your seat belt every time you ride in a car. (road safety laws)

FEDERAL or PROVINCIAL or MUNICIPAL

When you turn 18, you vote in a federal election. (Canada Elections Act)

FEDERAL or PROVINCIAL or MUNICIPAL

Your friend receives a fine for littering in the park. (park by-laws)

FEDERAL or PROVINCIAL or MUNICIPAL

You keep your dog on a leash when you take it for a walk. (animal control by-laws)

FEDERAL or PROVINCIAL or MUNICIPAL

You are planning a trip to the United States. You need to get a passport to travel outside Canada. (Citizenship Act)

FEDERAL or PROVINCIAL or MUNICIPAL

Your parents buy you a new pair of shoes. The price includes a general sales tax of 5%. (Excise Tax Act)

FEDERAL or PROVINCIAL or MUNICIPAL
You have a sibling in daycare. The daycare centre needs to make sure there are enough qualified adults to take care of all the children. (childcare laws)

You invite your friends over for your birthday party. You have fun but make sure not to be too noisy, so you don’t disturb your neighbours. (noise by-laws)

You hurt your ankle while playing soccer. The medical staff at a nearby hospital treat your injury. (hospital laws)

You travel to a different part of Canada, where you buy something with the same money you use at home. (currency laws)

Your teacher makes sure that you learn certain topics at school, like math and social studies. (education laws)

Your parents park next to a meter. They buy a ticket and display it at the front of the car. (traffic and parking by-laws)

You take a ride on the bus, subway or streetcar. You make sure to keep your ticket handy, just in case you are asked to show that you have paid. (transit by-laws)

Your friend next door has received an interesting package in the mail. You’re curious, but you wait until they open it to see what’s inside. (Canada Post Corporation Act)