

# BIG IDEA 5.4

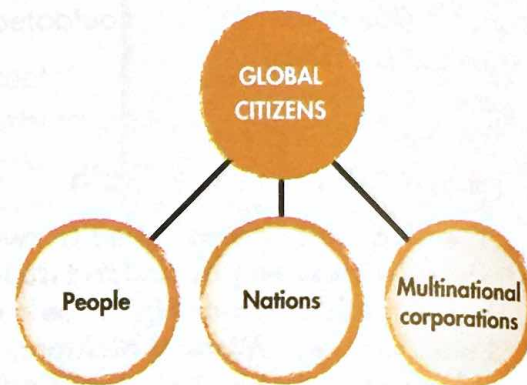
## Canadians are global citizens

**FOCUS:** What do we mean by global citizenship?

**Global citizenship** is not a legal designation like national citizenship. No one gets a world passport and no one pays world taxes. Regardless, we are all global citizens because we share the planet. Global citizenship means the same as any other type of citizenship—it means that we have obligations and responsibilities towards others.

Canada is a global citizen too. The Canadian government represents Canadian beliefs and values around the world. Not all countries are necessarily good global citizens.

In an age of economic globalization, many people feel that **multinational corporations** are also global citizens. If corporations enjoy the rights of global citizenship, such as legal protections, they should be responsible too.



▲ **SOURCE 2:** Should global citizenship be applied not just to individuals, but to nations and corporations too?

### A global citizen's responsibilities

Recognition of the human rights of all peoples  
Stewardship of the planet  
Willingness to help our fellow global citizens  
Commitment to global peace and prosperity

### A global citizen's rights

Freedom  
Security  
Equality  
Justice  
Self-determination

▲ **SOURCE 1:** Are your rights and responsibilities as a global citizen any different than they are as a Canadian citizen? Why or why not?

### GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP IS...

#### A way of UNDERSTANDING...

how the world works  
links between our own lives and those of people around the world

#### A way of SEEING...

social justice and equity  
other people's reality  
human diversity  
how people can make a difference

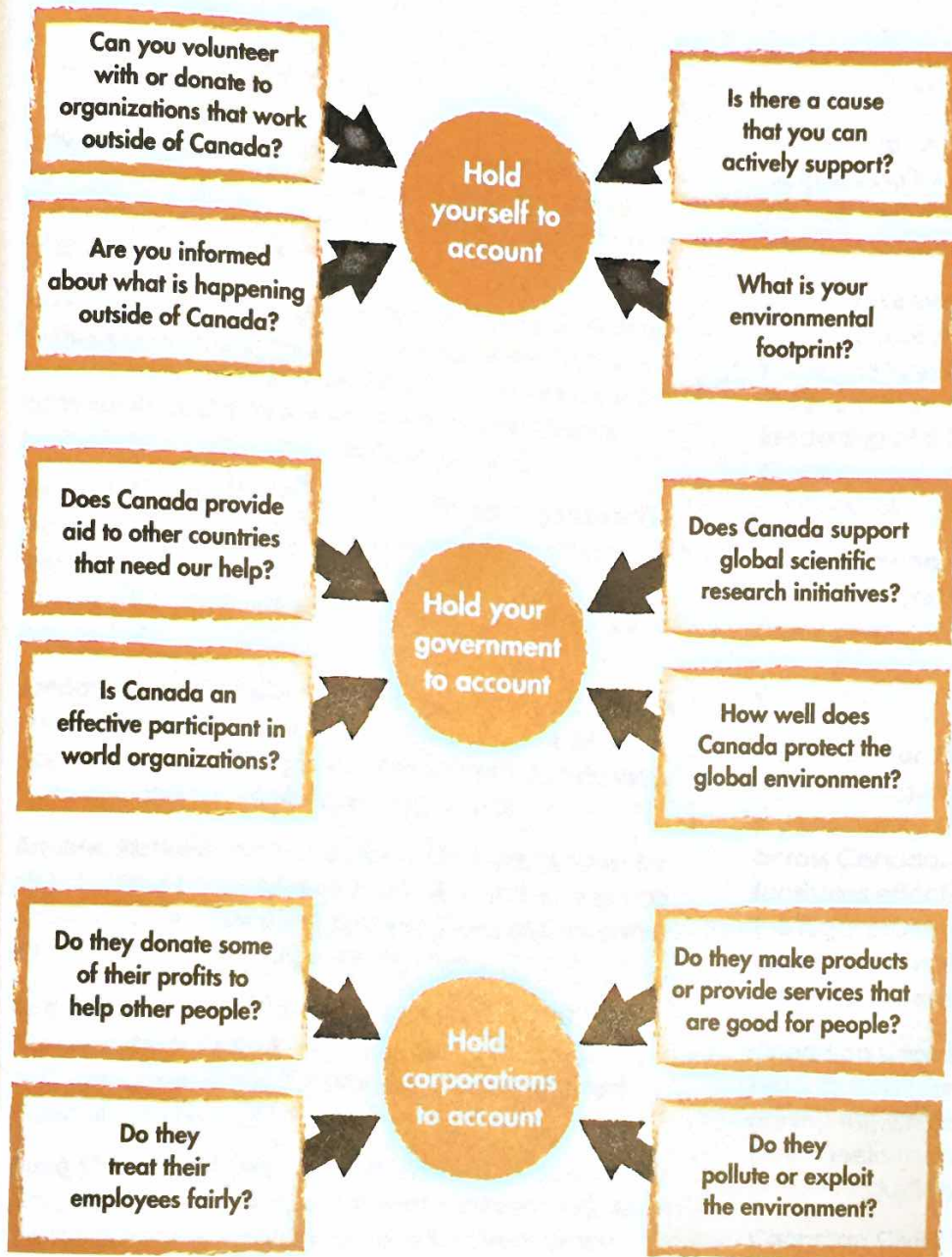
#### A way of ACTING...

by exercising your political rights  
by thinking critically and independently  
by challenging injustice

(from the Atlantic Council for International Cooperation)

## Active global citizenship

It's up to each of us to choose how to be good global citizens. Individuals have the power to influence how nations and corporations behave as global citizens. Governments and corporations depend on the support of individual citizens. How you vote and what you buy counts now more than ever.



**SOURCE 3:** Even small actions can have a global impact. What do you do to be a good global citizen?



**SOURCE 4:** In 1996, Canada led the movement to ban anti-personnel land mines around the world. Why do you think Canada would get involved in this issue?



**SOURCE 5:** Some corporations use child labour to make cellphones more profitable. Should they be allowed to sell their phones in Canada?

**Q1** Should we use the same standards of good global citizenship for people, nations, and corporations? Why or why not?

**Q2** Are you being a good global citizen if your objective is mostly to make Canada a better place? Can local improvements have global results?

**Q3** What could you do personally to tell governments and corporations that they need to be better global citizens?