

Glorious and Free?

How does government make decisions in a country as large and diverse as Canada?

Big IDEA

Canadian institutions and government reflect the challenge of our diversity.

Canada is a big country. From coast to coast to coast, how much do we differ?

► The 10 and 3 is a website that collects information about Canada and presents it in a visual way. About 9500 people responded to a survey of "how we talk." Who do you think responded to the survey? Who might not have been surveyed? Do you think this is an accurate picture? Why or why not?

How We Talk

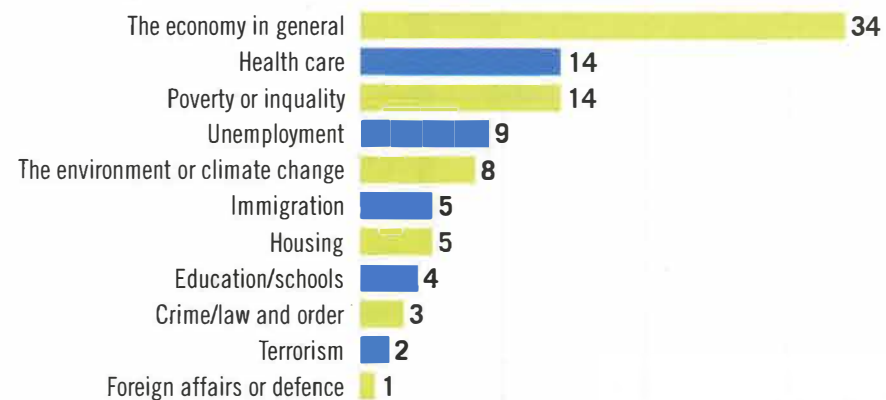
You say... I say...



SOURCE: The 10 and 3

Issues We Care About

Most Important Issue Facing Canada (For Every 100 Persons)

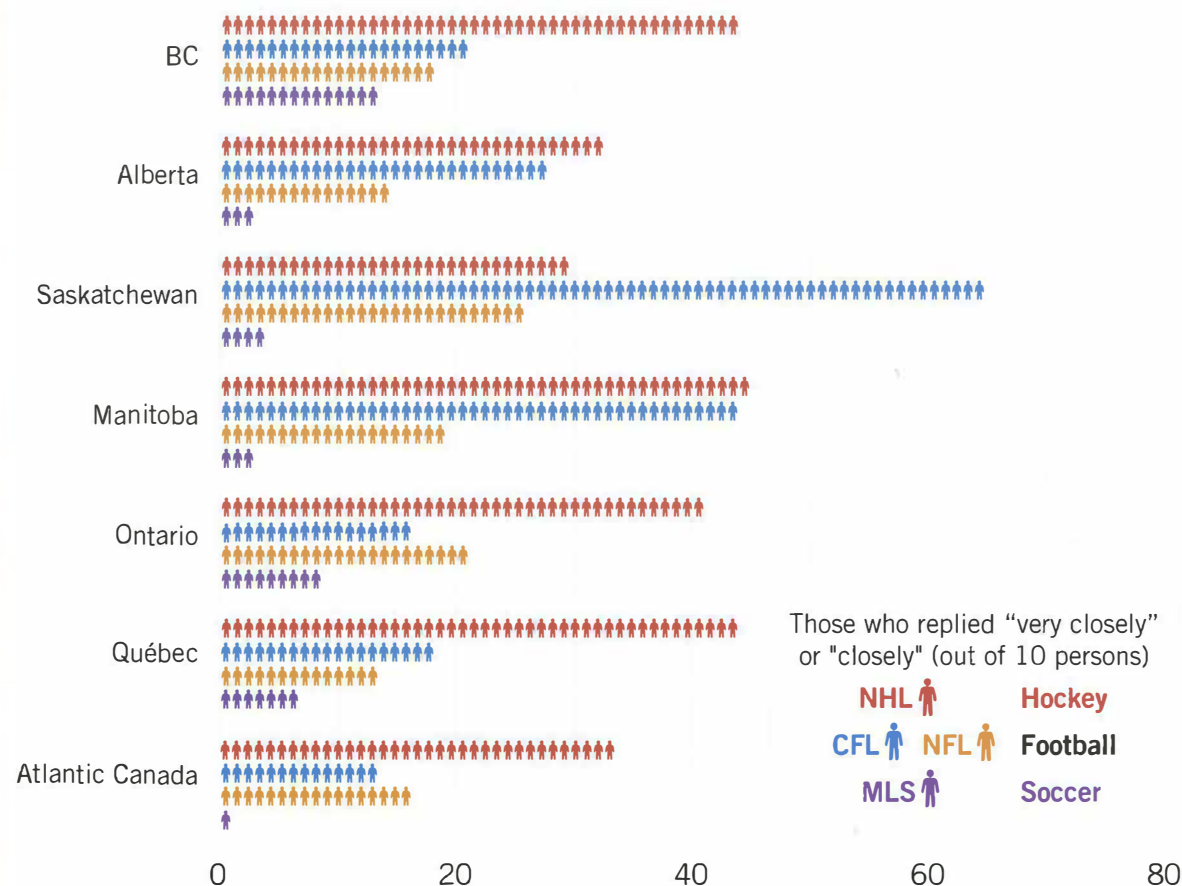


SOURCE: Abacus Data

◀ More people say the economy is important compared to any other issue. Does this mean the government should make this issue the most important one?

Sports We Follow

Canadians Who Follow Sports, By Sport and Region



Those who replied "very closely" or "closely" (out of 10 persons)

NHL Hockey
CFL NFL Football
MLS Soccer

SOURCE: Angus Reid Institute public opinion poll

▲ Why do you think there is so much variety in the sports people follow? Base your answer on the information in the graph.

Find Out For Yourself

Create an action plan to get involved in an issue that has an impact on your own community. How will your plan consider different perspectives?

DISCOVER

- Why Canada is called a democracy
- How Canadians choose their government
- How governments make decisions
- How we can all get involved

Investigate **Do We Have More Political Freedom Than People in Other Parts of the World?**

Canada is a **democracy**. In a democracy, people have political freedoms. One freedom is the ability to choose their own leaders. Another freedom is the right to express an opinion or hold a protest without being punished.

We can measure how democratic a country is by examining if it has the following features:

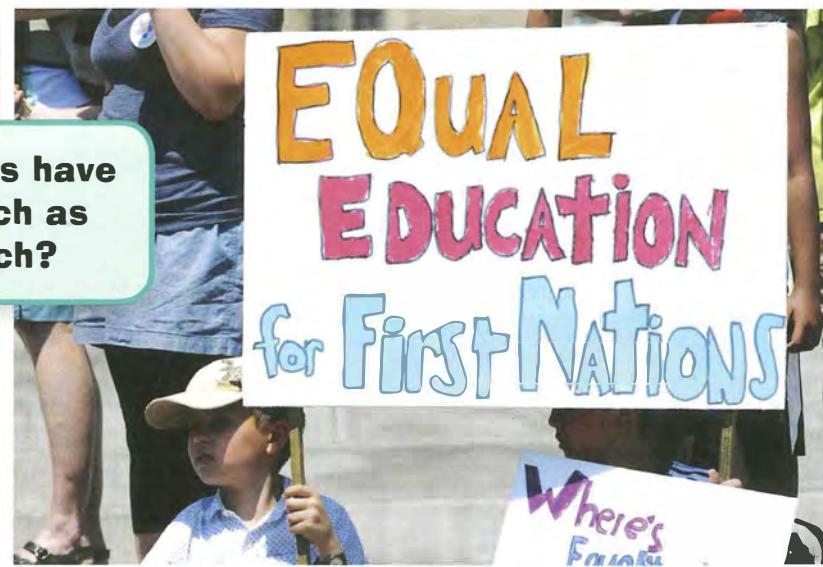
How are the features of democracy alike? How are they different?

A **democracy** is a system of governance in which the people elect their leaders.

Can citizens choose their own leaders? Is the process fair?



Do citizens have rights, such as free speech?



Is everyone treated equally by government, police, and courts?

Do citizens trust their government and media to tell the truth?



Do citizens participate by getting involved?



Do Indigenous Peoples Enjoy the Same Democratic Rights as Others?

Indigenous Peoples have often lacked decision-making power in government. They are small populations, and their political concerns do not always reflect the concerns of the broader population. In addition, many Indigenous Peoples were denied the right to vote until recently.

Here are some ways in which Indigenous Peoples are represented around the world. How democratic is each one?

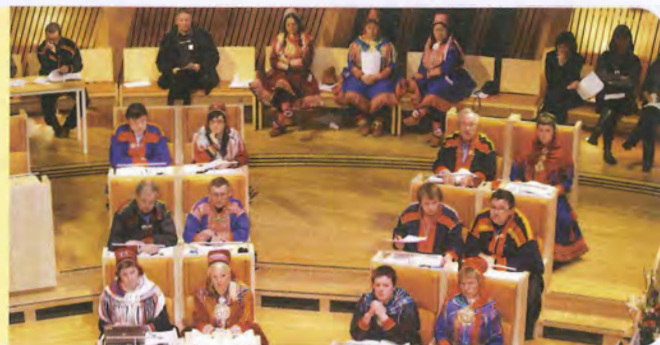
VOICES

...the history of many Indigenous peoples shows that the Indigenous populations have had great problems in communicating with the nation-state and that they are frequently excluded from the general processes of decision-making.

—Nils Lasko, 1987

Northern Europe

The governments of Finland, Norway, and Sweden have created Indigenous **parliaments** (law-making bodies) to represent the Sami, the Indigenous people of the region. Although the Sami have input into the democratic process, their decisions are not final.



New Zealand

New Zealand gives seven seats to Māori representatives in its parliament. In 2004, the Māori Party was formed to protect Māori rights and influence the government's policies on resource use and climate change.

The State of Maine

In the United States, the Penobscot, Maliseet, and Passamaquoddy Nations have representation in the legislature of the State of Maine. This 2012 photo shows David Slagger, Maliseet, being sworn in. However, the Indigenous delegates cannot vote or introduce laws. Because of this, they withdrew from the legislature in 2015.

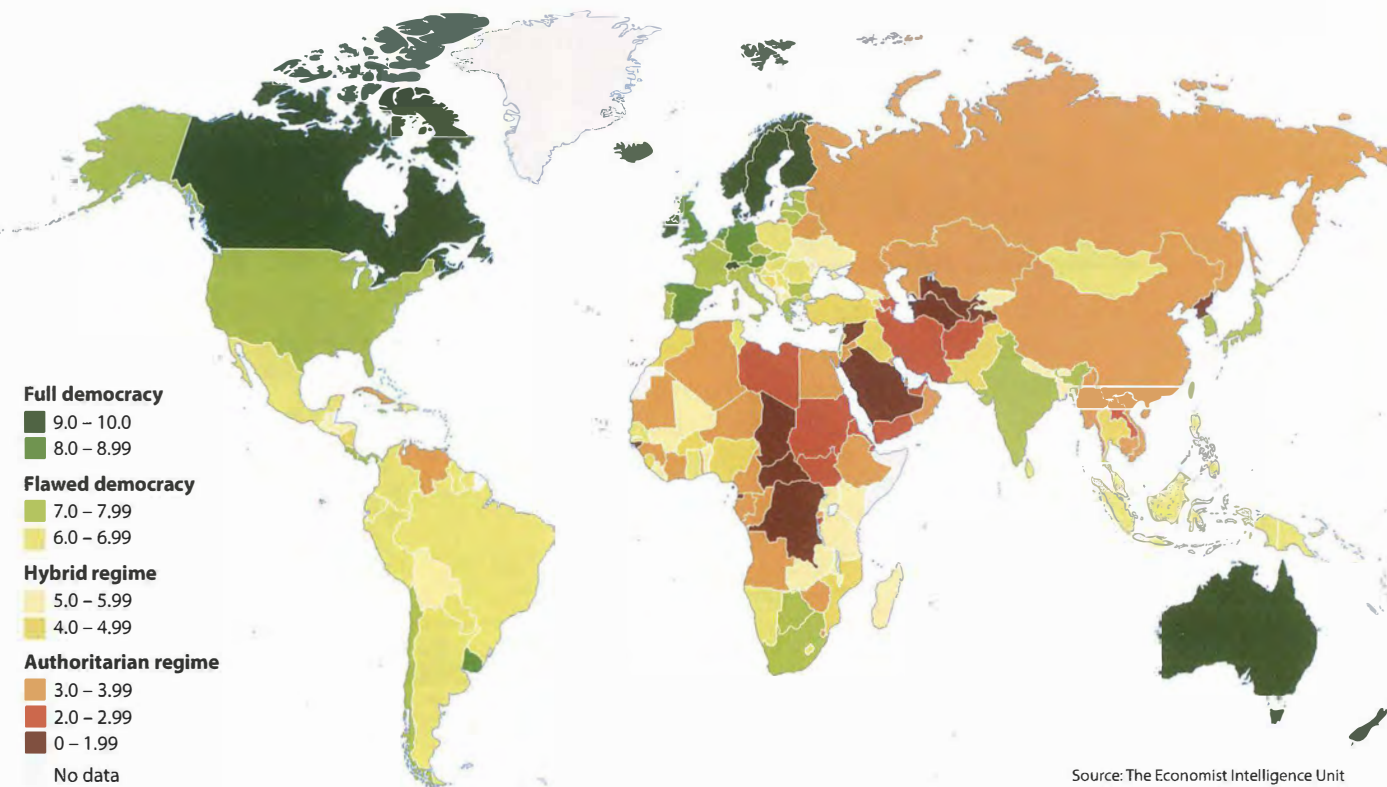


The Democracy Index

How democratic are the countries of the world? The Democracy Index collects information—similar to the information on page 135—from 167 countries every year. Each country gets a score out of 10.



The Economist INTELLIGENCE UNIT Democracy Index 2017



Source: The Economist Intelligence Unit

A **flawed democracy** is one that has some problems. A **hybrid democracy** has features of both democracy and authoritarianism. An **authoritarian regime** is one in which people have almost no rights or freedoms.

- What countries can you identify on the map?
- Are there any patterns that you can see?
- What are you curious to learn more about?



Check Your Learning

1. What is a full democracy? In what ways is Canada a full democracy?

Make Connections

2. How does Canada compare to other countries you are familiar with?

Examine

How Do Canadians Choose Their Government?

Voting is the act of choosing a candidate in an election.



In a democracy, people choose their leaders by **voting** for them. Each adult citizen gets one vote. Once elected, leaders have a responsibility to represent the needs and interests of the people.

Although voting is an important democratic right, some people do not vote. As you read these two pages, think about whether this would be a problem for a democracy.

VOICES

So if you don't like what's going on right now...do not complain. Don't hashtag. Don't get anxious. Don't retreat. Don't binge on whatever it is you're bingeing on. Don't lose yourself in ironic detachment. Don't put your head in the sand. Don't boo. Vote... You've got to vote.

—Former President Barack Obama, speech to students at the University of Illinois, September 7, 2018



THINKING LIKE...

a Political Scientist

Interpreting Political Data

On the next pages, you will find a lot of **data** about voting and elections. Political scientists who study elections use data to understand why people vote for certain people or why they decide not to vote at all. This data helps them examine how these decisions affect the turnout of an election. The data also helps them make inferences (reasonable conclusions) about why certain things happened in the past, and predict what might happen in the future.

data is a type of information

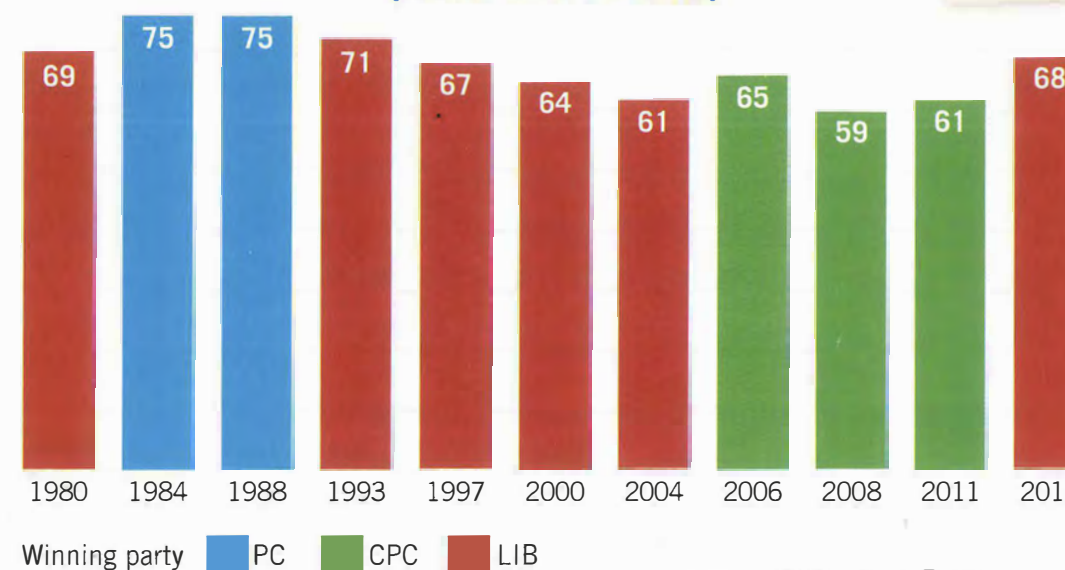
Voter Turnout



Are there patterns in the charts or do things seem to be happening at random?

- What can you infer about voter turnout?
- What can you infer about youth voter turnout?

Federal Election Voter Turnout Since 1980 (Out of 100 Persons)



SOURCE: Elections Canada/The Canadian Press

▲ One way to measure the health of a democracy is to measure how many people vote on election day. This is called voter turnout.



Youth Voter Turnout Increases (Number of People For Every 100 Persons)



▲ What happened to voter turnout for young Canadians between 2011 and 2015?

Questions to Ask About EVIDENCE

- Does the evidence come from a reliable source? How can we know?
- Does the evidence support the conclusions reached?
- Why might people interpret the same evidence differently?

In the 2015 federal election, areas with many First Peoples had an increase in voter turnout. Areas with fewer First Peoples had a small increase. In Nunavut, turnout increased by half.

How Do Elections Work?

A **federal** election involves the whole country.

A **municipal** election involves a city, town, village, or other local area.

Canadians who are citizens and at least 18 years old have the right to vote in **federal**, provincial, and **municipal** elections. In federal and provincial elections, voters pick a leader for their own riding. A riding is a district within the country or province.

Federal elections	Held for the whole country	338 ridings
Provincial elections	Held for the province	Number of ridings varies. BC has 87.

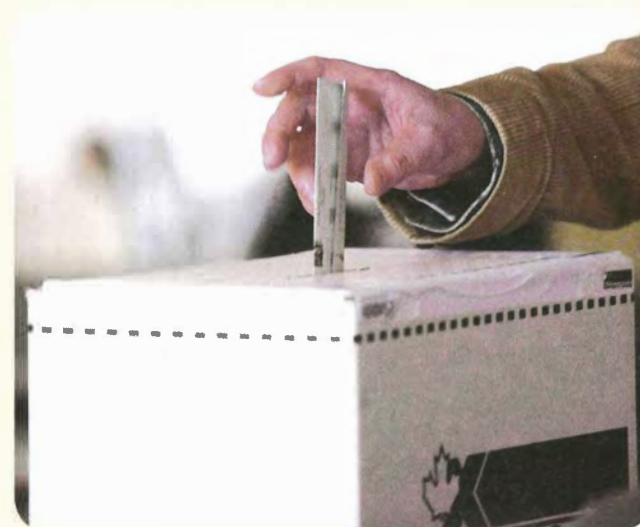
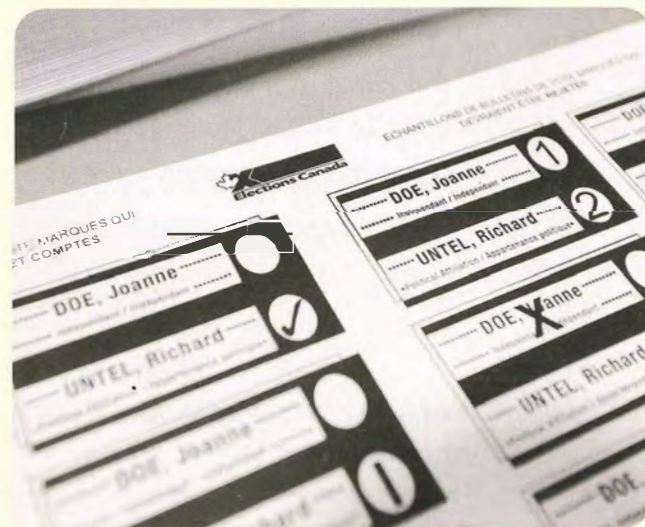
In municipal elections, voters choose the mayor and council in their city, town, village, or region. They also choose the school trustees for their school district.

People seeking to be elected to a political office are **candidates**.

A **ballot** is an official document showing the names of candidates in an election, which is filled in and submitted by a voter.

The people who run in elections are called **candidates**. On election day in a federal election, a voter goes to a voting station. In private, the voter puts an X next to the name of one candidate on the **ballot**. Each candidate represents one political party, for example, the Liberals or Conservatives. (If a candidate does not represent a party, he or she is an Independent.) Then the ballot is placed in the ballot box.

▼ A sample ballot is shown at left. Right, a ballot box.



Elections in the Territories

Canada's territories also hold elections.

Elections in the Yukon are similar to provincial elections in the rest of the country. Candidates from different political parties compete against each other for votes.

Elections in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories differ in that there are no political parties. First Nations, Métis, and Inuit make up the majority of residents in these territories.

In the Northwest Territories, leaders are chosen by the whole community after discussion and consultation. In Nunavut, voters elect members to the Nunavut legislature.

Consensus is a process by which everyone has a voice and all agree on how to proceed.

Governing Through Consensus

In Nunavut, those elected to the legislature meet to talk about who should be premier, and take a vote. **Consensus** is used to make decisions in both Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. A great deal of time is spent on discussing issues respectfully, including listening to all speakers without interruption. There is an attempt to bring everyone to agreement and accept compromise—giving up something in order to achieve something. However, sometimes issues must be settled on the basis of a majority vote.



▲ Nunavut's Legislative Assembly. How does the shape of the Assembly support consensus decision-making?

How Do We Decide Who Wins?

When voting closes, election officials count the votes on the ballots, and the candidate with the most votes



wins. The nickname for this process is **first past the post** (FPTP) because it's like a horse race. In the picture above, only Number 3 is the winner, even though Number 5 is close behind.

This process has been used since the 1600s, when Canada was a French colony and began electing representatives to sit on the first colonial councils. First Peoples did not follow this process and did not determine leadership by popular vote. Leadership positions were often hereditary or established by consensus.

Winning an election with first past the post is similar to winning a best-of-seven sports series. What counts is the number of seats you elect (or games you win), not the number of votes (or goals) you score.

Game in Series	Goals Scored Tampa Bay Lightning	Goals Scored Calgary Flames
1	1	4
2	4	1
3	0	3
4	1	0
5 *	2	3
6 *	3	2
7 *	2	1
Total Goals	?	?
Games Won	?	?

*overtime periods

◀ Which team won the Stanley Cup in 2004? Which team scored the most goals?

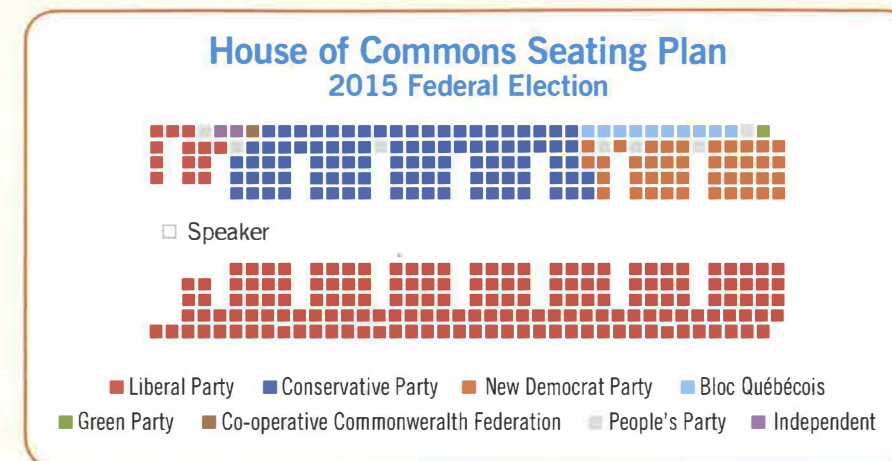
Do you think first past the post is democratic? Why or why not?

In first past the post elections, the candidate with the most votes wins.

Which Party Becomes the Government?

In a federal election, the political party that elects the most candidates usually becomes the government. The winning candidates become **Members of Parliament** (MPs), and their leader becomes **Prime Minister**. If the party wins more than half of the seats, they have a majority government.

This is the seating plan for the House of Commons after the 2015 federal election. Which party won a majority government?



Party	Number of Votes Received Across British Columbia	Number of Seats Won (87 Total)
Liberal	40 out of 100 votes	43
NDP	40 out of 100 votes	41
Green	17 out of 100 votes	3
Other	2.5 out of 100 votes	0

▲ These are the 2017 BC election results. Who got the most votes? Who got the most number of seats? What do you think of these outcomes?

Check Your Learning

- From pages 135 to 139, select one piece of data that supports the idea that Canada is a healthy democracy. Select another that shows it could improve. Support your choices with evidence.
- Explain to a peer how first past the post is like a horse race or a hockey series.

Make Connections

- Is there a responsibility for youth to participate in a democracy the same way that older generations do? Give reasons for your answer.

Investigate What Do We Want Our Electoral System to Do?

In **proportional representation**, the number of seats held by a political party is determined by the number of votes received.

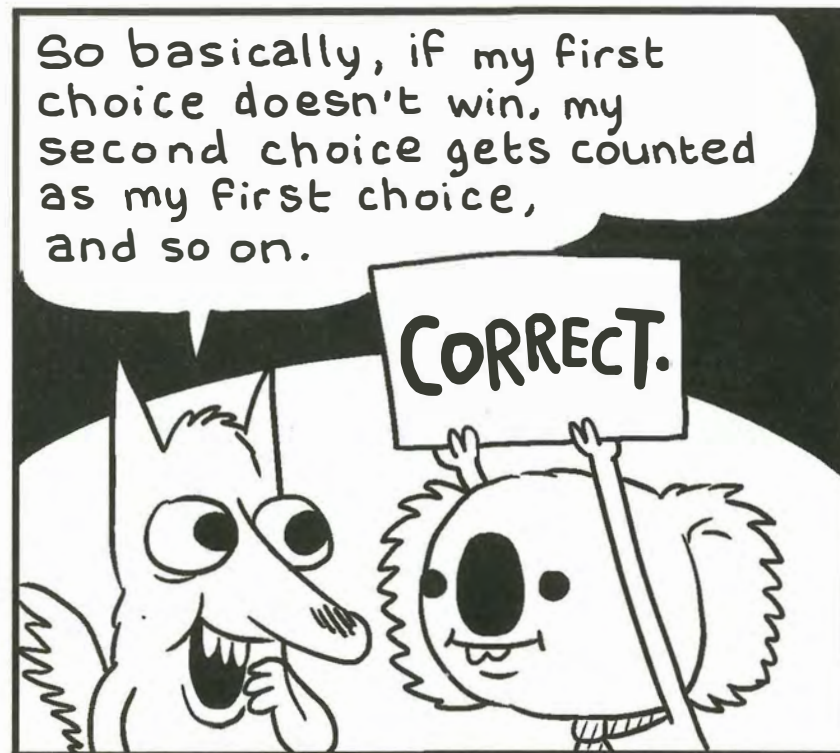
Most democracies have some form of **proportional representation**. If a party wins half of the votes, it will get about half of the seats. If it wins one-tenth of the vote, it will get one-tenth of the seats.

Some countries have a blended system of first-past-the-post and proportional representation. Other countries let voters rank their choices for favourite candidate (first, second, and third choices). If a candidate succeeds in gaining majority support within their own riding through a combination of first, second, and third votes, he or she wins.

The type of system people prefer often comes down to what they want it to do. However, it is also important to remember that voting systems influence

- how governments are chosen
- how often elections are held
- how people get involved and make their voting choices

Which electoral system described here would you like to know more about?



◀ In Australia, voters can give first, second, and third choices in elections. Ken the Voting Dingo and Dennis the Election Koala help explain that country's voting system. Why is it important to ensure that everyone understands how elections work?

What Type of System Would Suit Your Ideas Best?

What do you want your electoral system to do? List the things that are most important to you. Then examine the illustration below.

First past the post



I want stability. The government should stay in power for four to five years and get a lot done.

Proportional representation

I want everyone to feel like their vote counts.



First past the post

The parties should think of what's best for the whole country and make compromises.



Consensus and proportional representation

I want elected representatives to argue less and cooperate with each other more.



Proportional representation

I want to elect people from different backgrounds.



Should Canada's electoral system be changed?

In the fall of 2018, voters in British Columbia voted on whether or not the electoral system should be changed from FPTP to one of three options that provided more proportional representation.

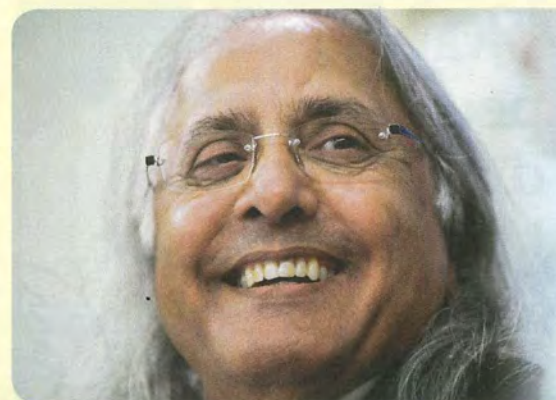


"Everyone now understands it [first past the post]. They know how their member of the legislature gets there. And it's stable, we have very stable governments in British Columbia. And it's successful, there's no better place really than BC."

—Suzanne Anton, former Attorney General of BC

"Canadians have a problem with our electoral system: it produces false majorities, exaggerates regional divisions and leaves huge numbers of voters without a voice in Parliament. It is time for change. Canada needs a fair voting system in which every vote counts."

—Ed Broadbent, former leader of the NDP and political scientist



"I strongly reject proportional representation because it allows extremist parties to get elected to legislatures with a tiny percent of the vote, 5 percent or less."

—Ujjal Dosanjh, former Premier of BC and Member of Parliament

"...there is greater participation and increasing effort on the part of mainstream political parties to promote the nomination of Indigenous candidates to represent the various ridings throughout the province, which I think is a good thing. But again, I think proportional representation would increase the participation and nomination of Indigenous candidates."

—Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, Union of BC Indian Chiefs



"...the reason the NDP and Liberals are in a daggers drawn position is because of the first-past-the-post voting system. We need to change the culture around politics, from one that's competitive and toxic to one that's willing to be collaboratively focused on positive outcomes for Canadians."

—Elizabeth May, leader of the Green Party of Canada

Check Your Learning

- Look back at the seating map for the 2015 election on page 139 and consider these numbers:
 - 30.5 out of every 100 Canadians voted Liberal
 - 32 out of every 100 Canadians voted Conservative
 - 20 out of every 100 Canadians voted NDP
 - five out of every 100 Canadians in Québec voted for the Bloc Québécois

- three and a half out of every 100 Canadians voted Green
- Draw how the seat map would have looked with proportional representation.

Make Connections

- Choose one speech bubble from page 141 and read it. Explain to another student why that person might be comfortable with the electoral system noted above the bubble.

Investigate

Which Level of Government Affects Us the Most?

Canada has different levels of government, but all of them make decisions about how our society is run. The Canadian Constitution gives some powers to the federal government and others to provinces. Provinces give some powers to local and regional governments.

Canada has three territories—Nunavut, the Northwest Territories, and the Yukon. The territories receive their powers directly from the federal government.

Indigenous Peoples with self-government control their own resources and policies through agreements they have with the federal and provincial governments.

Federal Government

The federal government is the Government of Canada. It has power over things that are important to the whole country.



▲ The federal government manages Canada's international affairs. Chrystia Freeland was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs in 2017. She met with leaders of Mexico and the United States to create a new trade agreement in 2018.

▼ The Bank of Canada, owned by the federal government, designs and prints Canada's bills. The Royal Canadian Mint produces all its coins. Shown here is the world's first million-dollar coin produced by the Mint in 2007.



Provincial Government

Provincial governments have powers over areas that directly affect them, such as natural resources and transportation.

Provincial governments control drivers' licences and testing. In Alberta, you can receive a learner's permit at age 14; in British Columbia, you need to be 16.

Schools and hospitals are also under provincial control and receive funding from the provincial government.

Some Federal Government Powers

- global or international affairs
- citizenship and immigration
- national defence
- criminal laws
- national transportation (airports, railways, Trans-Canada Highway)
- national parks
- fisheries

Some Provincial Government Powers

- K–12 education
- universities and colleges
- health care and hospitals
- forestry
- provincial transportation (highways, ferries)
- provincial parks
- drivers' licences and insurance



Should the Yukon Become a Province?

The federal government gives the Yukon territorial government powers that are similar to those of a province. Should the Yukon become a province? Weigh the evidence and decide for yourself.

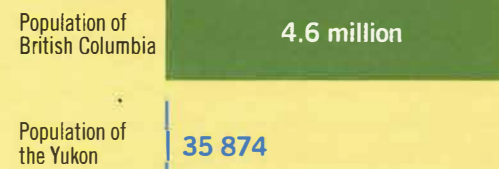
VOICES

They [the territories] will eventually get full provincial powers because they represent an important part of our history....I'm prepared to see territorial governments take on as much power as they can.

—Paul Martin,
Prime Minister of Canada,
2003–2006



Does the Yukon have the population base to be a province? Why might this be an issue to consider?



Would it be difficult for a territory to become a province?

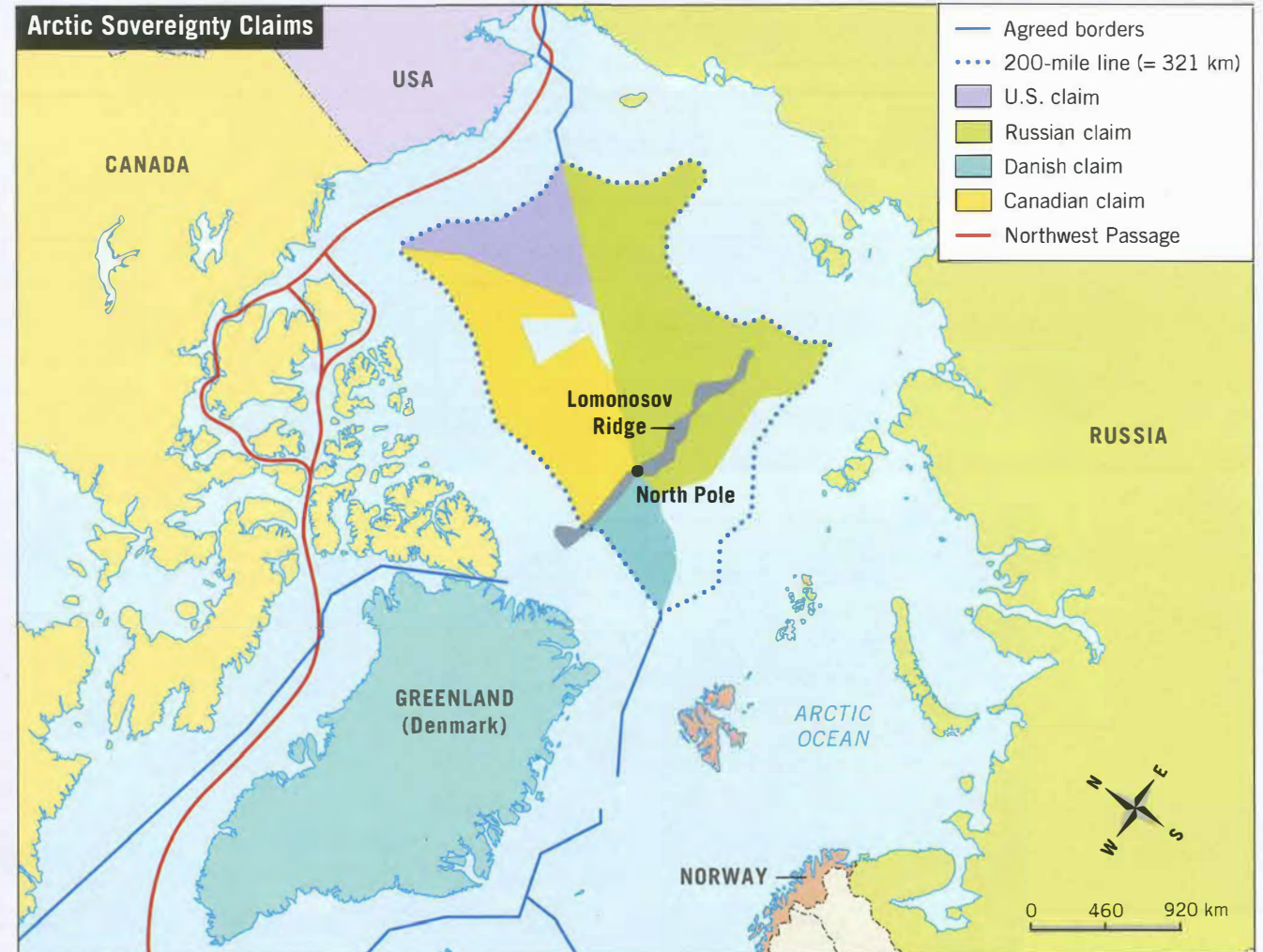
Something to Consider... The provinces get their powers from Canada's Constitution, the country's highest law. The territories get their powers from the federal government. If the territories want to change their powers, they can ask the Parliament of Canada. It is more difficult to change the powers of a province.

Does a territory need the "powers" of a province?

Something to Consider... The provinces have the right to govern themselves without interference from the federal government or other bodies. This type of power is known as **sovereign power**. The territories do not have this power. However, Nunavut has self-government because most of the people living there are Inuit.

Could making the Yukon a province give Canada more control over the Arctic? Why would this be important?

Something to Consider... The Arctic holds almost a quarter of Earth's oil and natural gas. The map below shows which areas of the Arctic are being claimed by four different countries.



Municipal Government

Municipalities can be towns, villages, or other local areas. This level of government receives its powers from the province. Municipal governments look after services that are needed by the local population.

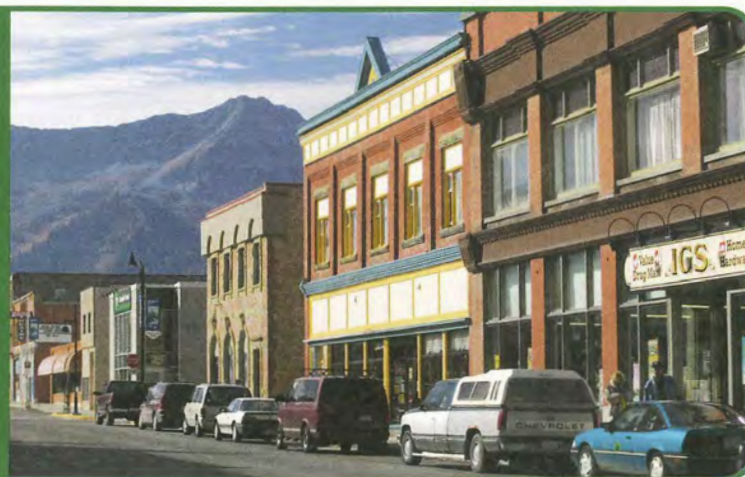
Since local areas differ, the needs of one municipality may differ from those of another. Some municipalities have big industries. Others have many services, such as stores, restaurants, theatres, and museums.

Municipal governments are in charge of community planning—deciding where to build roads and parks, and where communities can have stores and industry.



There are 21 municipalities in Metro Vancouver. The larger ones are shown here. Each has its own mayor and council, but they all share the work of providing services for residents.

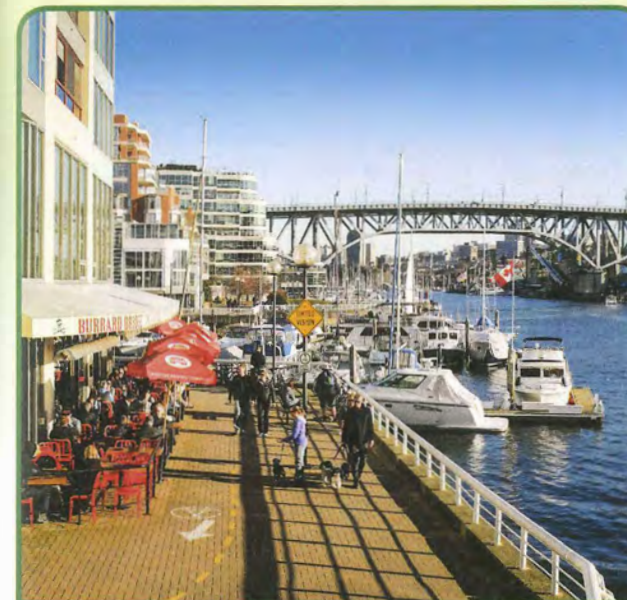
The town of Fernie lies in the Elk Valley area of southeastern British Columbia. Tourism and winter recreation are its main industries. In the winter, its population grows.



Some have historic buildings to protect, while others are growing quickly and expanding their roadways. Some have available sources of drinking water, while others find clean water a challenge.



A Prince George garbage truck. Garbage and recycling are a local responsibility.



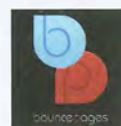
The municipality of Vancouver has a large population base. It has apartments, businesses, land and water transport, parks, bridges, and roadways.



Bike lanes in Vancouver. Local and regional governments plan roads and local transportation.

Where Do Governments Get Their Money From, and How Do They Spend It?

Governments need money to pay for schools, hospitals, roads, parks, clean water, the military, policing, and all the other work they do. Where does each level get funding from?

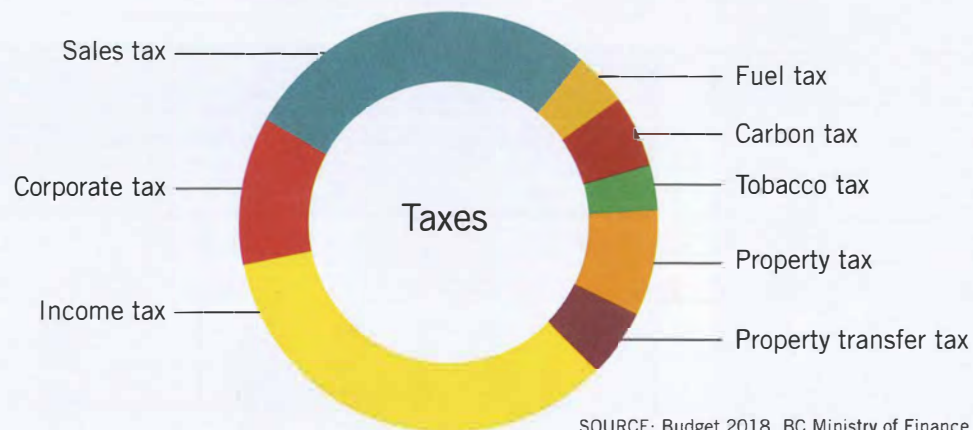


◀ Money that goes to the federal government from taxes such as income tax and HST

◀ Money that the federal government transfers to British Columbia from taxes, sale of natural resources, and other income

◀ Money that goes to municipal governments from property taxes, sales of goods and services, and transfers from the province

British Columbia's Tax Revenue



◀ What is interesting or surprising to you? Why are some pieces of the circle graph the size they are?

What services does British Columbia spend its money on?

Here are the top ten:

- education
- agriculture
- relations with Indigenous peoples
- children and family development
- social development
- cultural and sport development
- forest and lands
- environment
- energy, mines, and gas
- jobs and tourism

- How did you or your family provide revenue to different levels of government this week?
- What services did you encounter this week from different levels of government?

First Peoples' Governments

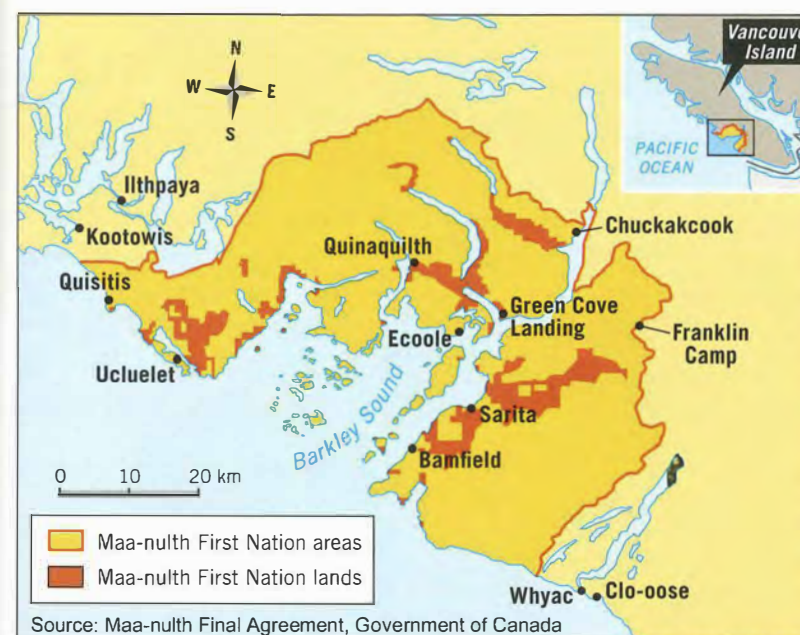
Since time immemorial, First Peoples have governed themselves. After colonization and Confederation, the federal government took away First Nations governments and replaced them with band councils. These councils are elected but their actions are still controlled by the Indian Act.

Some First Nations have reclaimed the right to self-governance. Many others are still negotiating with the federal government for that right.

First Nations exist within Canada and are thus subject to Canadian laws. They also have the right to negotiate decisions regarding their own governance.

Maa-Nulth First Nations

The Maa-nulth First Nations make up five First Nations in British Columbia—Ucluelet, Huu-ay-aht, Toquaht, Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k:tlas7et'h' First Nations, and Uchucklesaht.



▼ Wisqii (Robert Dennis Jr.) stands among the remains of the Kiixin ancient village site near Bamfield.



▲ The Maa-nulth First Nations now control resources such as forestry, fishing, and tourism on their lands and provide services to their people. This map shows a portion of their land settlement on Vancouver Island.

In 2011, the Maa-nulth reached an agreement with the Government of Canada, recognizing their right to self-government and the management of their own resources. This treaty establishes 24 550 hectares of Maa-nulth traditional territory (treaty settlement lands or TSL) on Vancouver Island. Maa-nulth means “villages along the coast” and applies to five First Nations on the West Coast of Vancouver Island.

The Tsawwassen First Nation

The Tsawwassen First Nation achieved self-government in 2009, after 14 years of negotiations with the federal government. This Nation now controls and benefits from its own urban development in the heart of Vancouver.

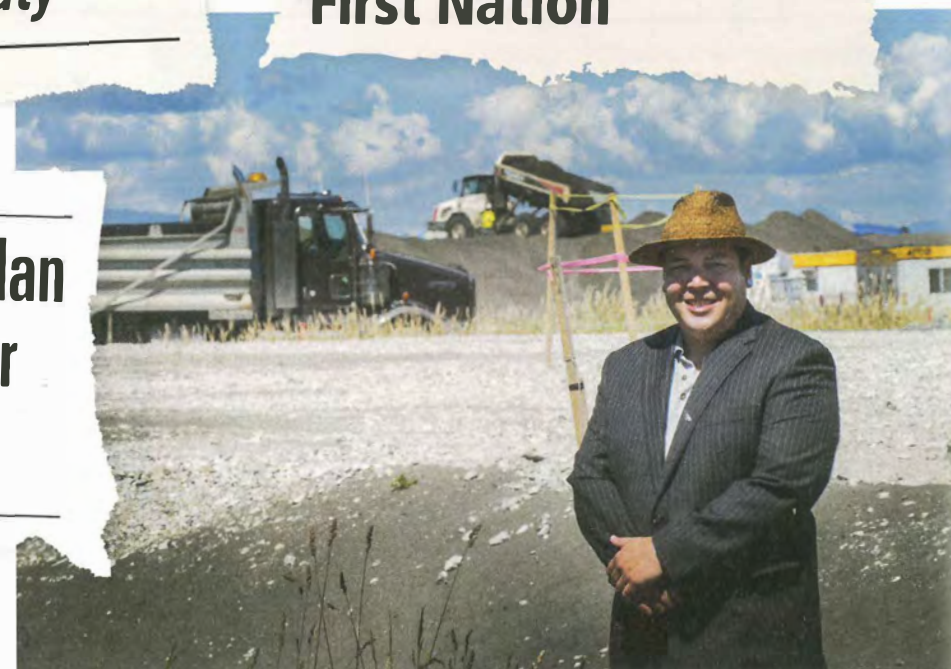
What unique governance challenges could urban First Nations such as the Maa-nulth and Tsawwassen face?

Tsawwassen First Nation Makes History with First “Urban Treaty”

Amazon Announces Warehouse to be Built on Tsawwassen First Nation

TFN land use plan approves over 2800 homes

▲ Since the Tsawwassen First Nation opted out of the Indian Act, it has been working towards achieving economic independence.



▲ Tsawwassen First Nation Chief Bryce Williams stands near the new 1.8 million square foot mega malls site under construction in Tsawwassen, BC.

Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC)



◀ The MNBC Board of Directors. Métis Nation British Columbia provides economic programs and services to 38 Métis Chartered Communities in the province.

What Does the MNBC Do?

- promotes the political, social, cultural, and economic interests of Métis in British Columbia
- works towards self-sufficiency without dependence on government funding
- maintains good relations with all levels of government and First Nations
- ensures that appropriate services are provided to Métis communities of British Columbia
- works to ensure the rights of the Métis Nation in British Columbia are being met
- helps governments and other institutions become more aware of Métis history, culture, and heritage

Check Your Learning

1. Ask yourself these three questions about each of the levels of government described in the previous section. Then rank the levels from one to three, in relation to how significant they are for your life.
 - How important are the decisions this level makes to your everyday life?
 - How often are the things that you do impacted by that level of government?
 - How long-lasting are the impacts of their decisions?

Using these questions and your own experiences, explain your ranking in a brief paragraph.

Make Connections

2. Ask an adult, such as a family member or friend, which level of government is most significant in their day to day life. Do you spot any differences in your views and the adult’s views? Explain your response.

Investigate Who Is Who and What Do They Do in Canada's Parliament?

Let's look more closely at Canada's federal government.

The Monarch



Canada's federal government is officially led by Queen Elizabeth II. When Canada became a country in 1867, its leaders wanted to keep a connection to Britain. So they made the British monarch the head of state. However, the Queen does not make our laws. Canada has its own Constitution, and makes its own laws.

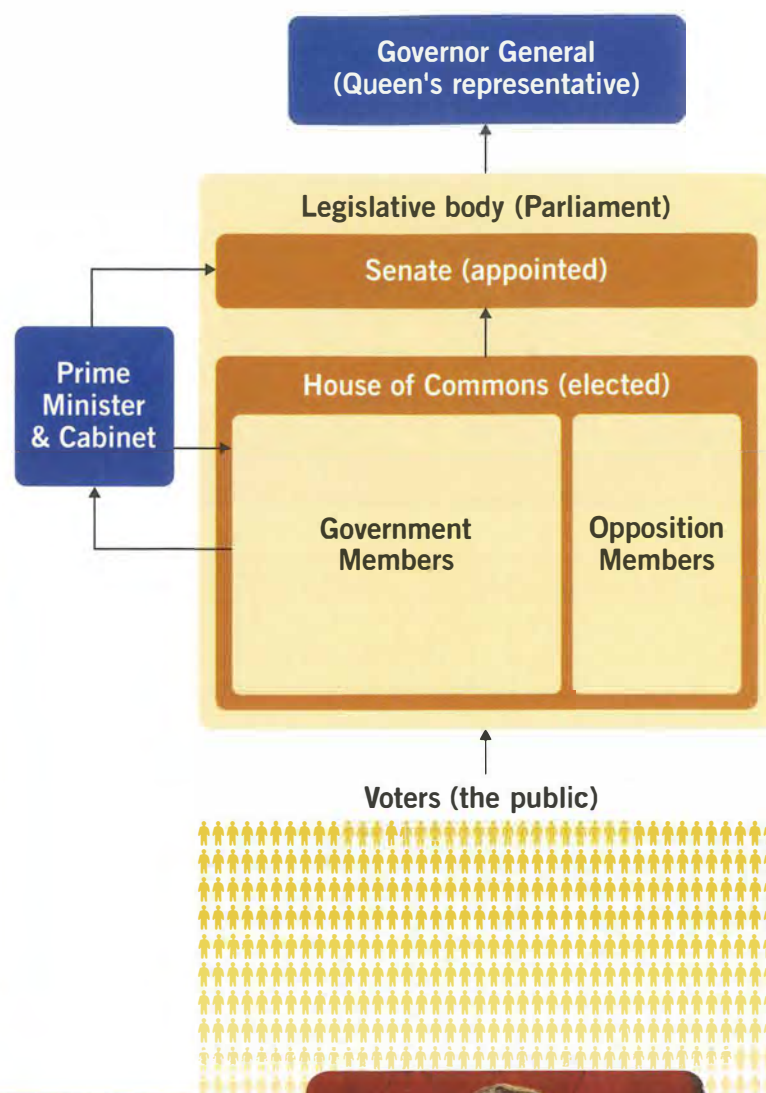
The Governor General

The monarch's representative in Canada is the Governor General. The Governor General

- gives Royal Assent to bills passed in Parliament
- reads the Speech from the Throne—the government's plan for the country when Parliament opens
- closes Parliament when the Prime Minister orders
- appoints some judges



▲ Julie Payette, a former astronaut, became Canada's Governor General in 2017.



The Prime Minister

The head of government in Canada is called the prime minister. The prime minister

- leads the party in power
- forms a cabinet to make the best decisions for Canada
- meets with premiers and Indigenous leaders to discuss issues and responsibilities
- determines how to spend the government's money



▲ Justin Trudeau became the Prime Minister in 2015. His father, Pierre Elliott Trudeau, was Prime Minister from 1968–1979 and 1980–1984.

Members of Parliament

Canada's Parliament is the part of the federal government that makes laws. MPs are elected by Canadians from across Canada. They come to the House of Commons to debate and vote on bills that may become laws. There are currently 338 MPs. Each one represents about 100 000 Canadians.



The Senate

The other house in the Canadian Parliament is called the Senate. Senators are not elected. Canadians who would like to serve in the Senate apply for the job and a group of people called an "advisory board" suggests who should be appointed. The prime minister then recommends people to the Governor General, who officially appoints them to the Senate. Senators also vote on bills and study issues that are important in Canada.



How Do Governments Make Laws?

Most law making starts in the House of Common but can start in the Senate. This chart shows how laws are made in the House.



How Do Governments Make Decisions on Complex Issues?

Governments have to make decisions and pass laws for everyone in their community—for example, all Canadians for the federal government, all Nisga'a people for the Nisga'a Lisims government, or all residents of Burnaby for the City of Burnaby.

Often people, groups, companies, and organizations have different priorities and opinions. Governments must consider different perspectives and then decide what a new law, policy, or spending decision will be.

What do government leaders think about when making those decisions?



How Can Citizens Influence Government?

Citizens can influence government both at election time and between elections. They can run for office, volunteer for candidates, or get involved in political parties. They can speak at public meetings about issues that affect them, express opinions, and participate in demonstrations. They can join groups that support their political views. Citizens can also donate up to \$1575 per year to a federal political party.

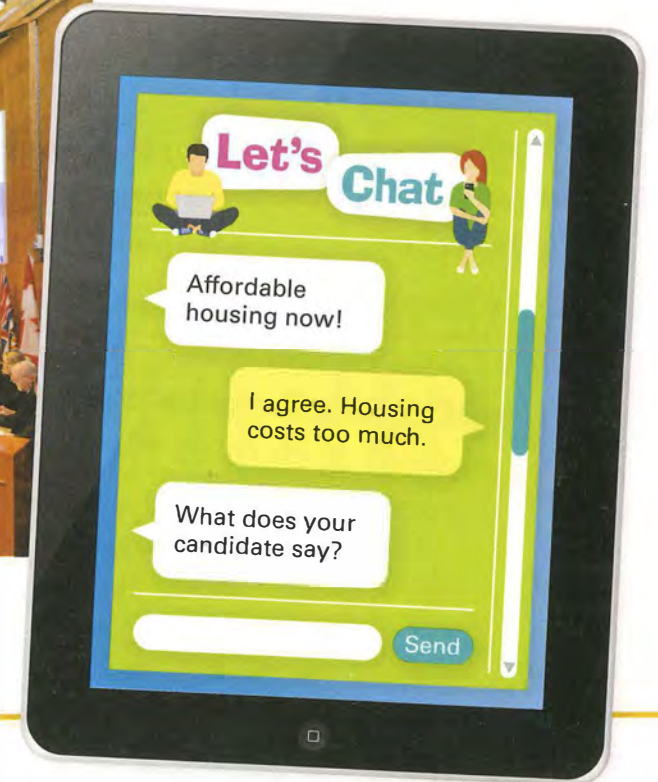
Corporations, unions, and other large organizations also try to influence governments by hiring people such as **lobbyists** to make sure governments know what they want. They have to follow rules for conduct.

Corporations, unions, and organizations used to donate money to parties and campaigns. Now they are not allowed to. Why do you think this rule changed?



▲ Attending a public meeting held by the Township of Langley

▶ Voicing views through social media



Check Your Learning

1. What might be the advantages and disadvantages of continuing to recognize the monarch (king or queen) as our head of state?

Make Connections

2. Is there a law you would like to see changed or new legislation you would like to see created in Canada? What would your first step be to bring about change? Who would you contact? What would you say?