

PART 4

THE GOVERNMENT

Canada's Government

Get Ready to Learn	108
Unit 1 The Levels of Government	109
Unit 2 Government Spending	112
Unit 3 Canada Is a Democracy	114
Unit 4 Who Can Vote?	117

The Federal Government

Unit 5 Ridings	120
Unit 6 Political Parties	124
Unit 7 Members of Parliament	126
Unit 8 House of Commons	128
Unit 9 Government Spending	130
Unit 10 The Prime Minister	132
Unit 11 Prime Ministers of Canada	136
Unit 12 The Cabinet	138
Unit 13 The Senate	141
Unit 14 The Governor General	143
Unit 15 Summary	145

The Provincial Government

Unit 16 Ridings	146
Unit 17 Members of Provincial Legislature	148
Unit 18 Government Spending	151
Unit 19 Political Parties	152
Unit 20 The Premier	153
Unit 21 The Cabinet	156
Unit 22 The Lieutenant Governor	158
Unit 23 Provincial Government: Summary	160
Unit 24 Provincial and Federal Government: Summary	161

The Municipal Government

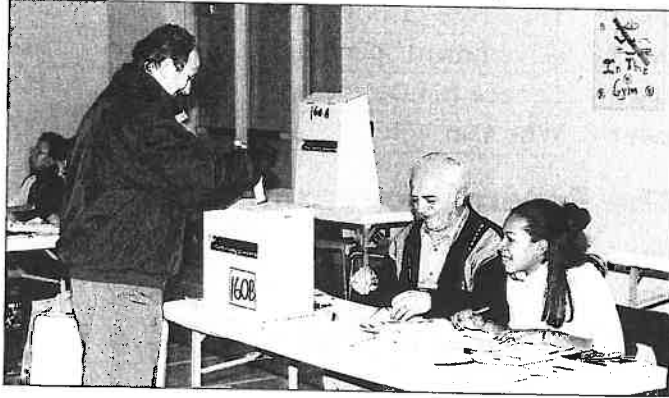
Unit 25 The Municipal Government	162
Unit 26 Responsibilities	164
Unit 27 Members of Government	166
Unit 28 The Federal, Provincial and Municipal Government: Review	168

Glossary	172
-----------------	------------

GET READY TO LEARN ABOUT...

Canada's Government

In Units one to twenty-eight, you will learn about Canada's government.



Before you work on the units, try to answer these questions.

1. Have you ever voted in an election? Describe your experience.
2. Do you think it is important to vote? Why?
3. Can you name Canada's three levels of government?
4. Do you remember the year of the last election? Was it a federal, provincial or municipal election? What do you remember about it?
5. Think about each level of government. Write as many words as you can for each level of government, such as prime minister, premier and so on.

Federal Government	Provincial Government	Municipal Government
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

6. Do you want to learn more about Canada's government? What do you want to learn?

UNIT 1

THE LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

What Is a Government?

A government is a group of people who make decisions about how to run a country or an area of land. Canada has three levels of government.

The Federal Government

The federal government makes laws for all of Canada.



The Provincial or Territorial Governments

The provincial or territorial governments make laws for a province or territory.



The Municipal Government

The municipal government makes laws for a municipality. A municipality is a city, town, township or village.



The Federal Government

The federal government is the government of Canada. The federal government makes decisions about things that affect all Canadians. It decides about issues like immigration, defence, health care and employment. The federal government holds its meetings in Ottawa, Canada's capital city.

Federal government symbol

Canada^{🇨🇦}

The Provincial Government

Canada is a large country. People in different areas have different concerns. For example, fishing is important to people in Nova Scotia, but people in Saskatchewan care more about wheat farming. So each province and territory has its own government. It is called the **provincial** or **territorial** government.

Each provincial government makes decisions for its own province. Provincial governments decide about things like education, health care and highways. The provincial government holds its meetings in the capital city of the province.

The Municipal Government

There are hundreds of cities and towns in Canada. People in different cities have different concerns. So each city has its own government. It is called the municipal government.

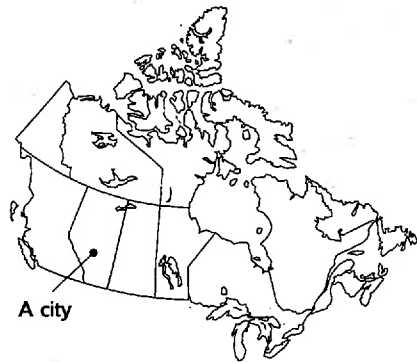
Municipal governments make decisions for their own communities. They decide about things like policing, recycling, roads and snow removal.

Understand What You Read

A Fill in the Blanks

Write the correct level of government under each map.

Provincial Government • Municipal Government • Federal Government



B Circle the Correct Answer

1. The federal government makes decisions for
 - a) only one province.
 - b) the whole country.
 - c) only one city.
2. Each provincial government makes decisions for
 - a) only one province.
 - b) every province.
 - c) only one city.
3. Canada has
 - a) one federal government.
 - b) three federal governments.
 - c) ten federal governments.
4. Canada has
 - a) three provincial governments.
 - b) ten provincial governments.
 - c) one provincial government.
5. Canada has
 - a) one territorial government.
 - b) ten territorial governments.
 - c) three territorial governments.

GOVERNMENT SPENDING



The government gets its money from many sources. Most of its money comes from income taxes and consumption taxes. Consumption taxes are taxes on the things we buy.

What Does the Government Do with Its Money?

The government spends its money on many different programs and services for Canadians. Each level of government spends its money in different ways.

The chart below shows how Canada's federal government, provincial and territorial governments and municipal governments combined spent each dollar in the 2008/2009 fiscal year (from April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009).

Total Government Spending (2008/2009)

For all three levels of government

For Each Government Dollar:

Social services	30¢
Health	19¢
Education	15¢
Protection of people and property	8¢
Interest on debt	7¢
Transportation and communications	5¢
General government services	4¢
Resource conservation and industrial development	3¢
Environment	3¢
Recreation and culture	3¢
Foreign affairs and international assistance	1¢
Housing	1¢
Other spending and surplus	1¢
	\$1.00



Source: Adapted from the Statistics Canada website, Jan. 2010,
<http://www40.statcan.gc.ca/101/cst01/govt48b-eng.htm>.

Understand What You Read

A Answer the Questions

1. Where does most of Canada's government money come from?

2. What are consumption taxes?

3. In 2008/2009, almost 65¢ of each government dollar was spent on three areas. Name the areas.

4. In 2008/2009, how much of each government dollar was spent on interest for government debts?

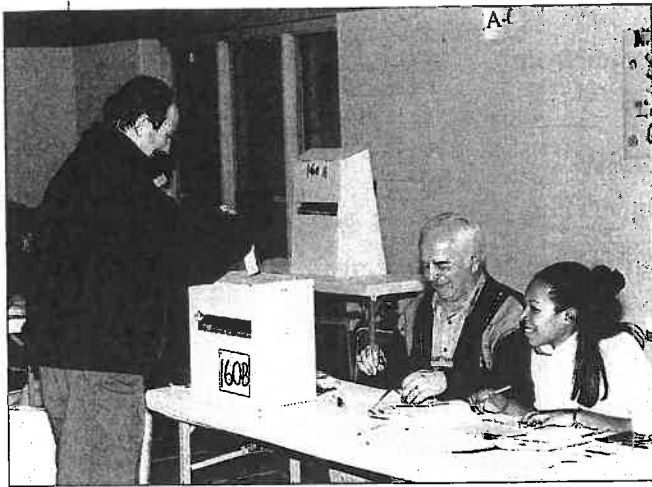
B Discuss in Groups

1. Social services include programs that help people with low incomes live better lives. Social services also include programs for senior citizens.

Brainstorm with your group. List as many social services as you can think of.

2. Government health spending includes paying for what we need to make sure all Canadians can get medical care when they need it.

Brainstorm with your group. Make a list of government health costs.



Canada is a democracy. That means that Canadians decide who will govern Canada.

What Is a Government?

Every few years, Canadians choose a group of people to govern Canada and its provinces and cities. This group of people is our government. Our government works for all Canadians.

Who Are the Members of a Government?

The members of a government are people who help make decisions about how to run a country,

province or municipality. During an election, a person who wants to be elected as a government member is called a **candidate**.

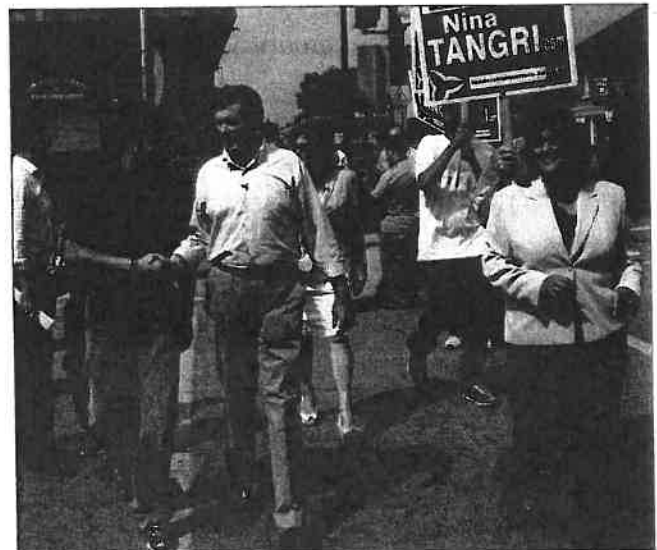
How Do We Choose Members of a Government?

Canada's government changes every few years. Before the government changes, there is an **election**. During an election, we choose people to govern Canada. We choose them by voting for them on voting day. The people we choose form our government.

The Election Campaign

Before voting day, there is an election campaign. Many things happen during an election campaign. Candidates try to convince you to vote for them. They make speeches. They put their names on signs. They put pamphlets in your mailbox. Sometimes they come to your home to greet you personally. We listen to the candidates. We try to decide whose ideas we like. The campaign lasts about a month.

There are federal elections, provincial and territorial elections and municipal elections. These elections usually happen at different times.



Understand What You Read

A Match

Write the correct letters on the lines to match the words with their meanings.

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| _____ Democracy | a) A group of people who make decisions about a country |
| _____ Election | b) A brochure or leaflet |
| _____ Candidate | c) The people decide who will govern their country |
| _____ Pamphlet | d) A person who wants to be elected as a politician |
| _____ Election campaign | e) The days before voting day when candidates try to convince Canadians to vote for them |
| _____ Government | f) A time when we choose people to govern Canada |
| _____ Vote | g) Choose |

B Answer the Questions

1. What is an election campaign?

2. About how long does an election campaign last?

3. When does an election campaign happen?

4. List three things that happen during an election campaign.

5. What happens after the election campaign?

C Fill in the Blanks

provincial • people • voting • voting day • years
democracy • federal • different • municipal • election
candidate • election campaign • government

1. Canada is a _____.
2. A democracy means that the _____ decide who will govern their country.
3. Canadians choose politicians by _____ for them.
4. Canadians vote for politicians when there is an _____.
5. Federal, provincial and municipal elections happen at _____ times.
6. Canada's governments change every few _____.
7. The day we vote is called _____.
8. The _____ happens before voting day.
9. The _____ changes after an election.
10. A _____ is someone who wants to get elected as a government member.
11. The government of Canada is the _____ government.
12. The government of a province is the _____ government.
13. The government of a city is the _____ government.

D Discuss

1. Has a candidate ever come to your door? What happened?
2. Describe the election process in your country of origin.
3. Would you want to be a candidate in an election? Why or why not?

WHO CAN VOTE?

Who Can Vote in Canada's Elections?

You can vote if you are an adult and a Canadian citizen. An adult means you are eighteen years old or older.

A Canadian citizen means:

- you were born in Canada or
- you became a Canadian citizen

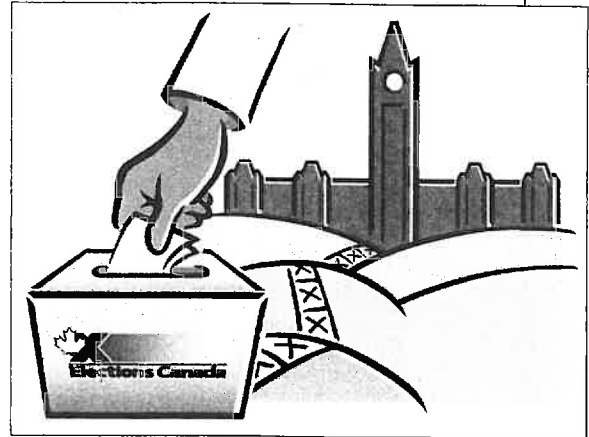
How Do You Vote?

If you can vote, your name should be on the **voters' list**. The voters' list is a list of Canadians who are allowed to vote.

If your name is on the voters' list, you will get a card in the mail. It will arrive before voting day. The card tells you where to vote on voting day.

On voting day, you go to the address written on the card. There you get a **ballot**. A ballot is a piece of paper with the names of candidates on it. You vote by putting a mark beside the name of the candidate you like.

After you vote, you put your ballot in a ballot box. At the end of voting day, someone counts the votes. The candidate with the most votes gets elected.



Does Everyone Vote?

Only adult Canadian citizens can vote. But not all adult Canadian citizens vote. Some people choose not to vote. After every election, we find out the **voter turnout**.

The voter turnout tells us the percentage of eligible voters who voted. A high voter turnout means that many Canadians voted.

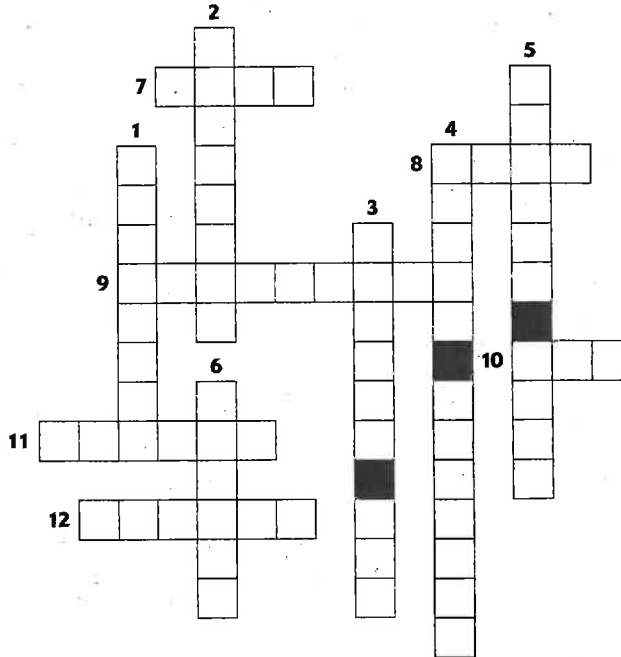
Voter Turnout in Canada's Federal Elections

Election Year	Percent of Eligible Voters
1988	75%
1993	70%
1997	67%
2000	61%
2004	61%
2006	65%
2008	59%

Source: Elections Canada.

Understand What You Read

A Complete the Crossword



DOWN ↓

1. We vote during an ____.
2. Only Canadian ____ can vote.
3. After you vote, you put your ballot in the ____.
4. The percentage of adult Canadian citizens who voted is the ____.
5. A list of eligible voters is a ____.
6. People 18 and over are ____.

ACROSS →

7. A ____ voter turnout is when many Canadians vote in an election.
8. You ____ on a ballot.
9. A ____ is someone who wants to be a politician.
10. A ____ voter turnout is when not many Canadians vote in an election.
11. If you were born in ____ you are a Canadian citizen.
12. You vote on a ____.

ballot box • vote • ballot • Canada • election • voters' list
 adults • citizens • low • candidate • voter turnout • high

B Discuss

1. Why do you think some Canadians don't vote?
2. How do you think Canada can increase its voter turnout?

C Sequence

Number the sentences from one to six.

- _____ You get a ballot.
- _____ You put your ballot in the ballot box.
- _____ You get a card in the mail. It tells you where to vote.
- _____ You vote by putting a mark beside the name of a candidate listed on the ballot.
- _____ It is voting day. You go to the address written on your card.
- _____ Voting day is over. Someone counts the votes.

Write the sentences in order.

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____

D Match

Write the correct letter on the lines to match the words with their meanings.

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| _____ Voters' list | a) A box for completed ballots |
| _____ Ballot | b) A person who is trying to get elected as a government member |
| _____ Ballot box | c) A person 18 years or older |
| _____ Candidate | d) A piece of paper with the names of candidates running for election |
| _____ Adult | e) A list of eligible voters |

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT: RIDINGS

What Is a Riding?

Canada is divided into voting areas. Each area of land has about the same number of people in it. The areas are called **ridings**. Ridings are also called electoral districts or constituencies. Everyone in Canada lives in a riding. We only vote in our own riding.

How Many Ridings Are There?

There are 308 federal ridings in Canada. During an election, the people in each riding elect one **Member of Parliament** to represent them. The Parliament of Canada includes all the politicians we elect in a federal election. In the federal election of 2008, 308 Members of Parliament got elected.

There are more people in some provinces than other provinces. Ontario has more people than any other province. So Ontario is divided into more ridings than the other provinces. Because of this, there are more politicians from Ontario than from the other provinces.

Federal Ridings		
Provinces and Territories, (as of 2010)		
Province/Territory	Ridings	Elected Politicians
British Columbia	36	36
Alberta	28	28
Saskatchewan	14	14
Manitoba	14	14
Ontario	106	106
Quebec	75	75
New Brunswick	10	10
Nova Scotia	11	11
Prince Edward Island	4	4
Newfoundland and Labrador	7	7
Yukon Territory	1	1
Northwest Territories	1	1
Nunavut	1	1
CANADA	308	308

Ridings Change Every Ten Years

Every ten years, the number of ridings in Canada changes. This is done to reflect increases in Canada's population.

For example, in the 1949 federal election there were only 262 ridings. Most of the growth in population since then has taken place in Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia, so that's where most of the newer ridings have been created.

No Province Can Lose Ridings

In 1985, Canada passed a law that said no province can lose ridings, even if its population decreases or is growing slower than other provinces.

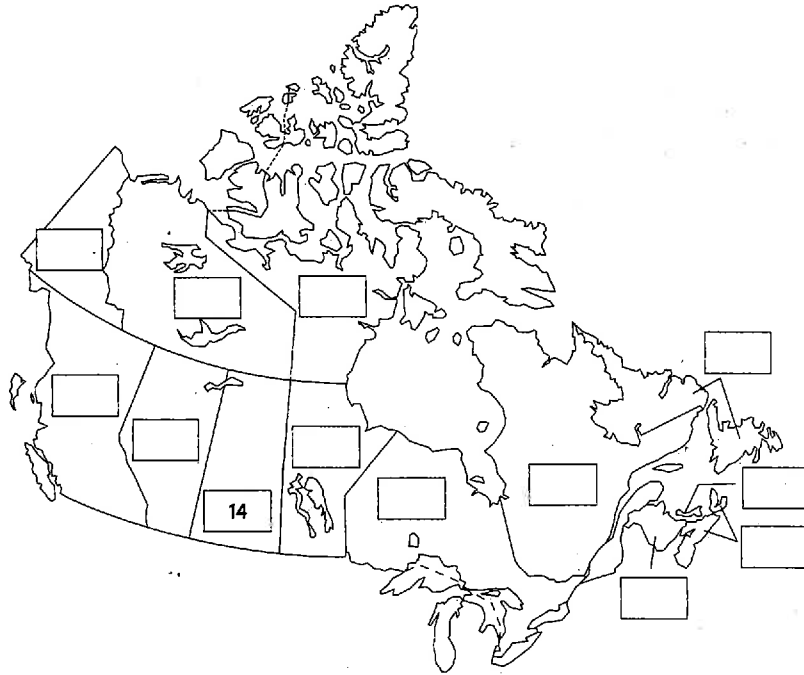
Understand What You Read

A Circle the Correct Answer

1. Canada has ____ federal government(s).
 - a) one
 - b) ten
 - c) three
2. Canada (as of 2010) is divided into ____ federal ridings.
 - a) 10
 - b) 308
 - c) 103
3. In 1949, Canada had ____ ridings.
 - a) 106
 - b) 262
 - c) 308
4. Two other names for a riding are ____.
 - a) a constituency and a politician
 - b) an electoral district and a riding
 - c) an electoral district and a constituency
5. Each riding ____.
 - a) is the same size
 - b) has about the same number of people
 - c) is the same size and has the same number of people
6. You can vote ____.
 - a) in every riding
 - b) in any riding in your province
 - c) only in the riding you live in
7. Each riding elects ____ Member(s) of Parliament.
 - a) 308
 - b) one
 - c) 10
8. If a province has a high population, it has ____.
 - a) more ridings than other provinces.
 - b) fewer ridings than other provinces.
9. If a province's population decreases, ____.
 - a) its number of ridings stay the same
 - b) its number of ridings increase
 - c) its number of ridings decrease

B Answer the Questions

1. On the map below, write the number of federal ridings in each province and territory. Saskatchewan is filled in for you.



2. How many ridings are in your province?

3. How many politicians get elected to Parliament from your province?

4. How many politicians get elected to Parliament in total?

5. How often do the number of ridings change?

6. Why do the number of ridings change?

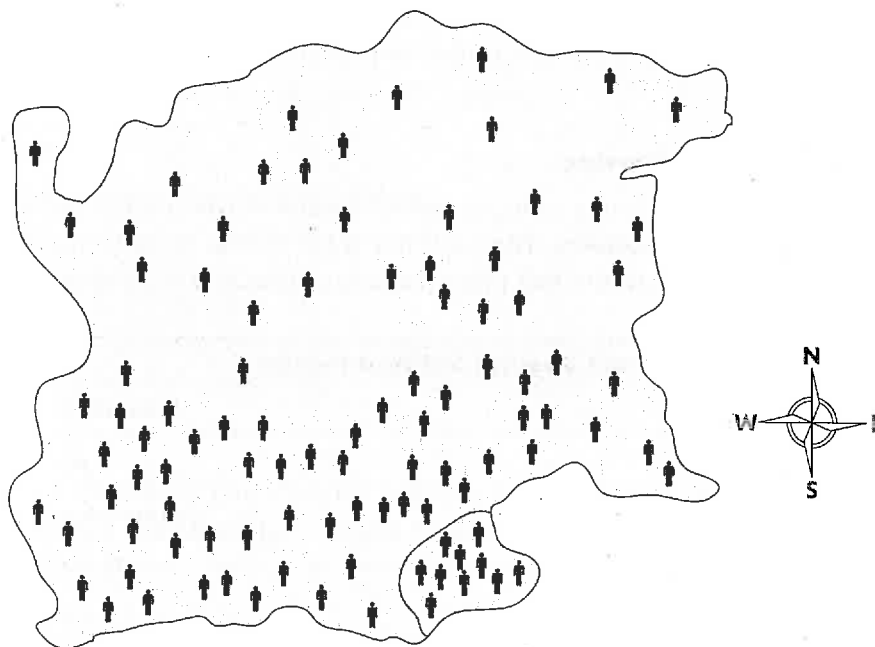
7. In which provinces have most of the newer ridings been created?

C Answer the Questions

Here is an imaginary country called Glat. Imagine there are one hundred people in Glat.

1. Draw boundaries on the map to divide Glat into ten ridings.
Each riding should have ten people in it. One riding is drawn for you.

GLAT



2. Is each riding the same size? _____
3. Does each riding have the same number of people in it? _____
4. The people in each riding elect one politician.
How many politicians form the government of Glat? _____
5. If everyone moves to the northern part of Glat,
 - a) will every riding still have ten people in it? _____
 - b) will we need to change the boundaries of the ridings? _____

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT: POLITICAL PARTIES

What Is a Political Party?

A political party is a group of people who have similar ideas about how to run the country. Each political party has a leader.

There are federal political parties and provincial political parties. Usually, there are no municipal political parties.

Sometimes provincial parties and federal parties have the same name. For example, there is a federal Liberal Party, and each province also has a provincial Liberal Party. The federal Liberal Party has one leader, and each provincial Liberal Party has a different leader.

Federal Political Parties

Most politicians belong to a political party. Politicians who do not belong to a political party are called **independents**. There are five main federal political parties and other smaller parties. Here are the five main political parties and their short forms:

Five Main Federal Political Parties	
Political Party	Short Form
Bloc Québécois	BQ
Conservative Party of Canada	Conservative
Green Party of Canada	Green
Liberal Party of Canada	Liberal
New Democratic Party	NDP



Each political party has a party symbol.

During an election, candidates put their names on party signs. Each political party can have only one candidate in each riding.

Understand What You Read

A Answer the Questions

1. What is a political party?

2. List four different federal political parties.

3. What is the short form for the Liberal Party of Canada?

4. Are federal and provincial political parties the same?

5. Do all politicians belong to a political party?

6. Which party is in power today?

B Fill in the Blanks

Write the names of the federal party leaders. You can find out the leaders' names by asking a friend, reading the newspaper, calling Elections Canada at 1-800-463-6868 or going to the Elections Canada website at www.elections.ca.

Federal Political Parties	
Political Party	Party Leader
Bloc Québécois	_____
Conservative Party of Canada	_____
Green Party of Canada	_____
Liberal Party of Canada	_____
New Democratic Party	_____

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT: MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

During an election, we vote for one candidate from our riding. Some ridings have a candidate from each of the five main political parties. Sometimes there are candidates from other smaller political parties. Sometimes there are independent candidates, too.

A ballot lists all the candidates in a riding. It looks something like the sample on the right.

Canadians Elect MPs

After the election, someone counts the votes. In each riding, the candidate with the most votes wins the election. He or she becomes a **Member of Parliament**. This is a long name, so we shorten it to MP. The people in each of Canada's 308 ridings elect an MP this way.

The 308 elected MPs each have an office in their riding. Each MP also works and goes to meetings in Ottawa.

Ballot

.....DOE, John.....
..... Independent / Indépendant

..... DOE, Sandra

..... UNETELLE, Anne

..... UNTEL, Pierre.....

Note: The above names are fictional.

Understand What You Read

A Answer the Questions

You can call the federal elections office at 1-800-463-6868 (or visit the website at www.elections.ca) to answer the questions below.

1. What is the name of your federal riding (or electoral district)?

2. Who is the MP for your riding?

3. What is the office address and phone number of your MP?

B Fill in the Blanks

Parliament • one • MP • riding • ballot
Ottawa • capital city • five • independent • 308

1. The short form for a Member of Parliament is an _____.
2. Canada's Parliament includes _____ MPs.
3. Every riding elects _____ MP.
4. A _____ lists all the candidates in a riding.
5. There are _____ main federal political parties.
6. An MP who does not belong to a political party is an _____.
7. An MP is a Member of _____.
8. Each MP has an office in his or her _____.
9. MPs have meetings in _____.
10. Ottawa is Canada's _____.

C Answer the Questions

Look at the sample ballot on the previous page.

1. How many candidates want to be elected in this riding?

2. Which candidate is an independent?

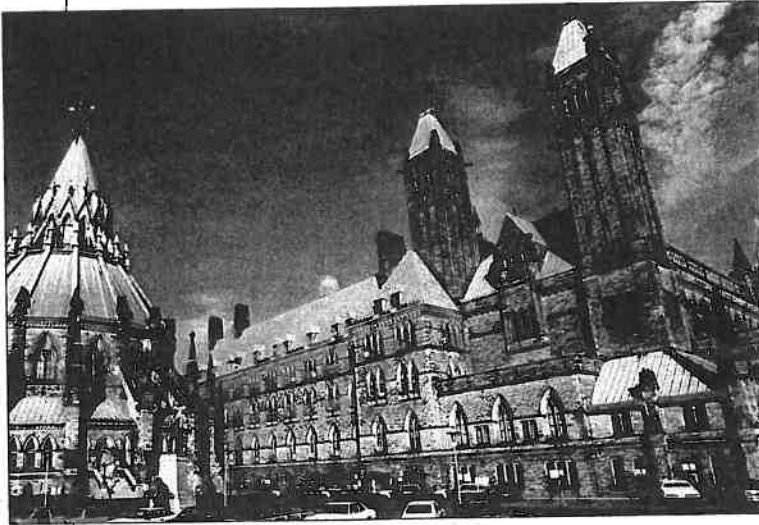
3. We vote by putting a mark on the ballot. Where on the ballot do you think we make the mark?

UNIT 8

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT: HOUSE OF COMMONS

Where Do MPs Have Meetings?

Members of Parliament (MPs) have meetings at the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa. They meet in the House of Commons. The first picture below is a picture of the Parliament Buildings.

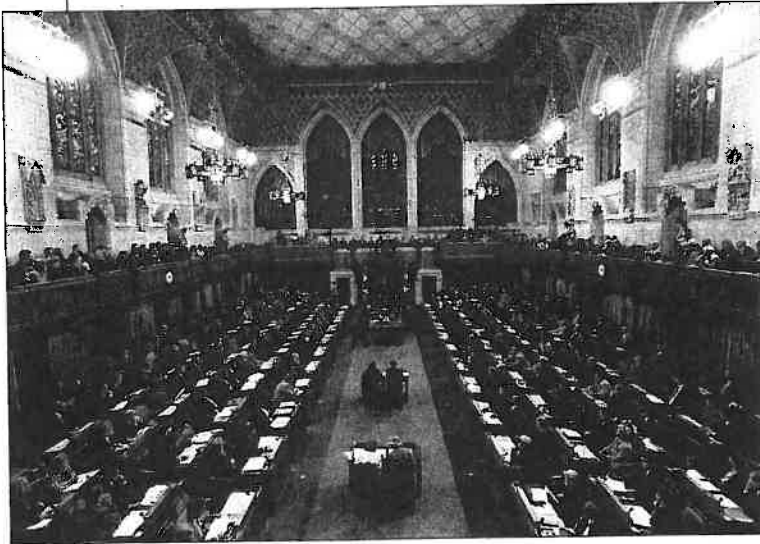


What Is the House of Commons?

The House of Commons is a large room in the Parliament Buildings. In the House of Commons, there is one seat for each of the 308 MPs. The members of the House of Commons are the MPs.

What Do the MPs Do at These Meetings?

MPs talk about how to govern Canada. They talk about things that concern Canadians. They make laws for Canada. They decide how to spend government money.



Here is a picture of the House of Commons. It is inside the middle building of the Parliament Buildings. The middle building is called the Centre Block.

Understand What You Read

A Match

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| _____ House of Commons | a) Another word for a riding |
| _____ Parliament Buildings | b) MP |
| _____ Ridings | c) The middle building of the Parliament Buildings |
| _____ Electoral district | d) Government buildings in Ottawa in which MPs meet |
| _____ Member of Parliament | e) Areas of land with about the same number of people |
| _____ Ottawa | f) The room in which MPs meet |
| _____ Federal government | g) Capital city of Canada |
| _____ Centre Block | h) Government of Canada |

B Answer the Questions

1. How many seats are in the House of Commons?

2. Where is the House of Commons?

3. In a federal election, we elect Members of Parliament. What is the short form of this title?

4. What is the capital city of Canada?

5. Who are the members of the House of Commons?

C Discuss

Have you ever visited Ottawa? Did you see the Parliament Buildings? Describe them.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT: GOVERNMENT SPENDING

Where Does the Federal Government Get Its Money?

The federal government gets its money from many sources. Most of its money comes from income taxes and consumption taxes.

Consumption taxes include tax on the things we buy, gasoline tax, tobacco tax and tax on alcohol. Income tax is the tax we pay on money we earn from a job.

How Does the Federal Government Spend Its Money?

The federal government spends its money on many services and programs for Canadians.

Every year, the government announces a budget. The budget tells us how much money the government plans to spend on each service and program.

For example, in the 2008/2009 fiscal year, the federal government spent \$242 billion. Most of the money (80 percent) was spent on social services, health, interest on the federal government debt, payments to provinces and territories and programs that protect people.

The payments to provinces and territories help the provinces and territories pay for health, education and other programs.



Federal Government Spending (2008/2009)

80¢ of Each Dollar Was Spent On:

Social services	37¢
Payments to provinces and territories	12¢
Protection of people and property	12¢
Health	11¢
Interest on the federal debt	8¢

Source: Adapted from the Statistics Canada website, Jan. 2010,
<http://www40.statcan.gc.ca/101/cst01/govt49b-eng.htm>.



Understand What You Read

A Answer the Questions

1. Name two ways the federal government gets its money.

2. How often does the government announce a budget?

3. What does the budget tell us?

4. In the 2008/2009 fiscal year, how much did the federal government spend?

5. On what five things did the government spend 80 percent of its money?

6. In 2008/2009, how much of every dollar was spent on federal debt charges?

B Discuss in Groups

1. Canada's government has a debt. Every year, the government spends a lot of money on interest payments on its debt.

What are some advantages and disadvantages to paying off the debt more quickly?

Advantages

Disadvantages

<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>

2. In Canada, we pay a 5 percent sales tax on most of the goods and services we buy. For many things, we also pay a provincial sales tax. These taxes help pay for government programs and services.

Do you think our sales taxes are too high, too low or just right? Why?

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT: THE PRIME MINISTER

Who Is the Prime Minister?

The prime minister is the leader of the federal government.

How Does the Prime Minister Get His or Her Job?

On voting day the people in each riding elect one Member of Parliament (MP). After all the ridings have elected an MP, we find out how many MPs belong to each political party.

The political party with the most elected MPs becomes the party in power and forms the government. The leader of that political party becomes the prime minister. The prime minister is an MP, too.

The chart below shows how Canadians voted in the 2006 and 2008 federal elections. It shows how many MPs belonged to each party.

The 2008 Election

Canadians elected more MPs from the Conservative Party than from any other party. The Conservative Party remained the party in power. The leader of the Conservative Party, Stephen Harper, remained the prime minister.

How Long Does a Party Stay in Power?

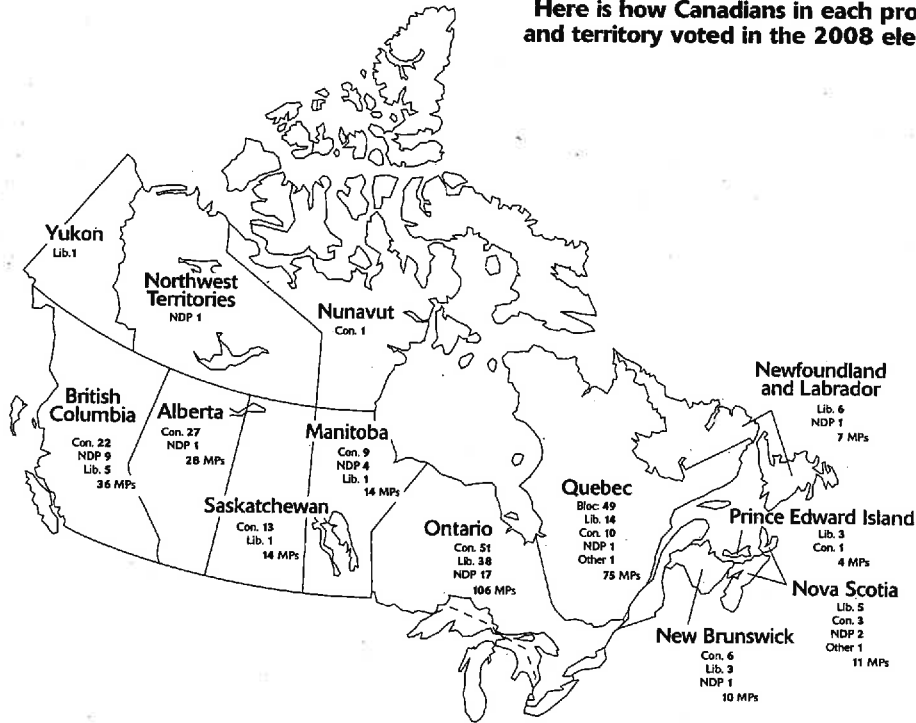
The prime minister can call another election any time, but it must be within five years of the last election.

MPs Elected in the 2006 and 2008 Federal Election

	2006	2008
Conservative Party of Canada	124	143
Liberal Party of Canada	103	77
Bloc Québécois	51	49
New Democratic Party	29	37
Green Party of Canada	0	0
Other	1	2
TOTAL MPs	308	308

Understand What You Read

Here is how Canadians in each province and territory voted in the 2008 election.



A Fill in the Blanks

Look at the map. Next to each province or territory, write the number of MPs elected from each party on the chart. British Columbia has been filled in.

Number of MPs elected in 2008

	Conservative	Liberal	*Bloc Québécois	NDP	Other	Total
British Columbia	22	5		9		= 36
Alberta						= 28
Saskatchewan						= 14
Manitoba						= 14
Ontario						= 106
Quebec						= 75
New Brunswick						= 10
Nova Scotia						= 11
Prince Edward Island						= 4
Newfoundland and Labrador						= 7
Yukon						= 1
Northwest Territories						= 1
Nunavut						= 1
Total MPs	143	77	49	37	2	= 308

* The Bloc Québécois only has MPs from Quebec. It does not have candidates in any other province during elections.

B Answer the Questions

1. How many MPs were elected in the 2008 election?

2. Did all the MPs belong to a political party?

3. Which party had the most elected MPs in the 2008 election?

4. Which party became the party in power in the 2008 election?

5. Which party became the party in power in the 2006 election?

6. Who was the leader of the Conservative Party of Canada in 2008?

7. Who became the prime minister in the 2008 election?

8. Compare the 2006 and the 2008 election results. Which political parties became more popular between 2006 and 2008?

9. Which political parties became less popular between 2006 and 2008?

C Fill in the Blanks

Look at the chart you filled in on the previous page. On the lines below, fill in the names of the correct provinces.

1. In which province did all Bloc Québécois MPs get elected?

2. In which two provinces did most Liberal Party MPs get elected?

_____ and _____

3. Which province's voters did not elect any MPs from the Liberal Party?

D Circle True or False

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. On voting day we vote for a prime minister. | T | F |
| 2. On voting day we vote for a Member of Parliament. | T | F |
| 3. The prime minister can call an election after six years. | T | F |
| 4. The prime minister is the leader of the federal government. | T | F |
| 5. The prime minister is the leader of the party in power. | T | F |
| 6. In the 2008 election, the Liberal Party became the party in power. | T | F |

E Answer the Questions

1. Write the names of the party leaders. To find the correct information, you can ask a friend, read the newspaper, call Elections Canada at 1-800-463-6868 or access the Elections Canada website at www.elections.ca.

Federal Party Leaders		
Political Party	Party Leader, (as of Jan. 2010)	Party Leader Today
Bloc Québécois	Gilles Duceppe	
Conservative Party of Canada	Stephen Harper	
Green Party of Canada	Elizabeth May	
Liberal Party of Canada	Michael Ignatieff	
New Democratic Party	Jack Layton	

2. Which (if any) political parties have different leaders today than they did in January 2010?

3. Which party is in power today?

4. Who is the prime minister today?

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT: PRIME MINISTERS OF CANADA

Canadian Prime Ministers		
Prime Minister	Party	Years in power
Sir John A. Macdonald	Conservative	1867 – 1873
Alexander Mackenzie	Liberal	1873 – 1878
*Sir John A. Macdonald	Conservative	1878 – 1891
Sir John Joseph Caldwell Abbott	Conservative	1891 – 1892
Sir John Sparrow David Thompson	Conservative	1892 – 1894
Sir Mackenzie Bowell	Conservative	1894 – 1896
Sir Charles Tupper	Conservative	1896
Sir Wilfrid Laurier	Liberal	1896 – 1911
Sir Robert Laird Borden	Conservative	1911 – 1920
Arthur Meighen	Conservative	1920 – 1921
William Lyon Mackenzie King	Liberal	1921 – 1926
*Arthur Meighen	Conservative	1926
*William Lyon Mackenzie King	Liberal	1926 – 1930
Richard Bedford Bennett	Conservative	1930 – 1935
*William Lyon Mackenzie King	Liberal	1935 – 1948
Louis Stephen St. Laurent	Liberal	1948 – 1957
John George Diefenbaker	Progressive Conservative	1957 – 1963
Lester Bowles Pearson	Liberal	1963 – 1968
Pierre Elliot Trudeau	Liberal	1968 – 1979
Charles Joseph Clark	Progressive Conservative	1979 – 1980
*Pierre Elliot Trudeau	Liberal	1980 – 1984
John Napier Turner	Liberal	1984
Martin Brian Mulroney	Progressive Conservative	1984 – 1993
Kim Campbell	Progressive Conservative	1993
Jean Chrétien	Liberal	1993 – 2003
Paul Martin	Liberal	2003 – 2006
Stephen Harper	Conservative	2006 –

*Note: The stars mean it is NOT the first time a prime minister's name is on the list.

Understand What You Read

A Answer the Questions

1. Who was Canada's first prime minister?

2. How many different prime ministers has Canada had?

3. Has Canada ever had a prime minister who belonged to the New Democratic Party?

4. Who was prime minister of Canada during World War I (1914 - 1918)?

5. Canada has had one female prime minister. What was her name and when was she prime minister?

6. William Lyon Mackenzie King was prime minister for the longest time. List the years in which he was prime minister.

7. Which four prime ministers are on Canada's \$5, \$10, \$50 and \$100 bills?

8. Who is the prime minister today?

9. How many years has he or she been prime minister?

10. What political party does the prime minister belong to?

B Discuss

Do you have a favourite political leader from your country of origin? Why is this leader your favourite?

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT: THE CABINET

The prime minister is the leader of the federal government. The prime minister chooses some Members of Parliament (MPs) to give him or her advice and to help form government policies. The MPs the prime minister chooses are called **cabinet ministers**. They are almost always the same political party as the prime minister.

What Do Cabinet Ministers Do?

Each cabinet minister advises the prime minister on a ministry. A ministry is a part of the government. There are usually 20 to 35 ministries. Here are four:

Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism • **Health**
Finance • **Foreign Affairs**

What Is the Cabinet?

The prime minister and the cabinet ministers are the Cabinet.

What Does the Cabinet Do?

The Cabinet discusses how to spend government money. The Cabinet also forms policies for Canada and ideas for new laws.

A law is a rule everyone has to follow. When Cabinet members agree on an idea for a new law, they write it down. It is called a bill. Bills can be about how to tax Canadians, how to spend government money or many other things.

This was the 2009 federal Cabinet of Prime Minister Stephen Harper. At that time, there were 38 Cabinet members.



The Cabinet presents the bill to the rest of the MPs in the House of Commons. The MPs discuss the bill. Then they vote on the bill.

Understand What You Read

A Answer the Questions

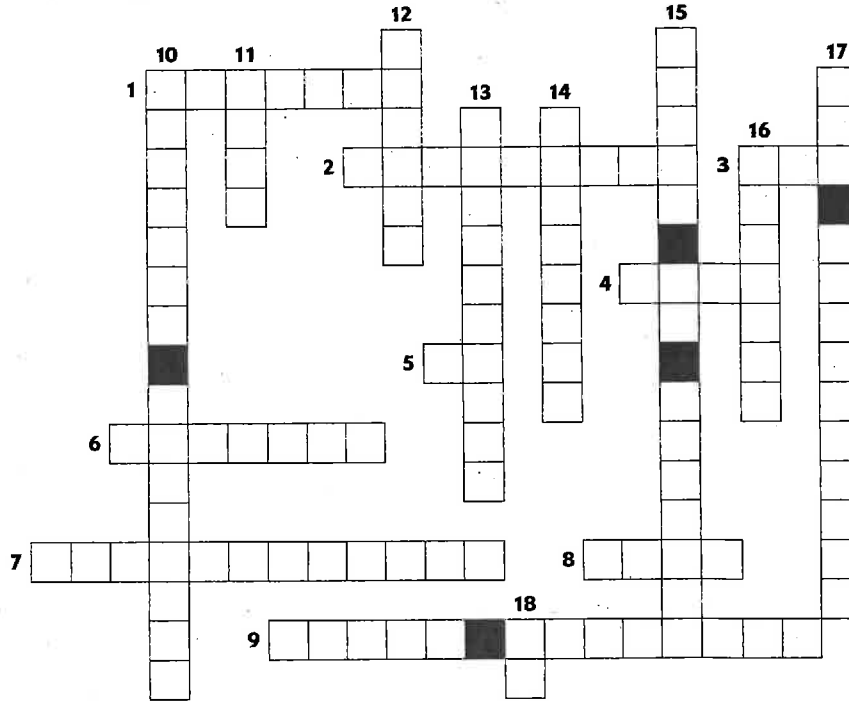
Write the correct letter on the lines to match the words with their meanings.

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| _____ MP | a) Chosen by the prime minister |
| _____ PM | b) Includes all the Members of Parliament |
| _____ Cabinet | c) A part of the government |
| _____ Cabinet ministers | d) Member of Parliament |
| _____ Ministry | e) The prime minister and the cabinet ministers |
| _____ House of Commons | f) The prime minister |

B Circle the Correct Answer

1. Canadians elect
 - a) Members of Parliament.
 - b) the Cabinet.
 - c) cabinet ministers.
2. The prime minister chooses some MPs to be
 - a) Members of Parliament.
 - b) politicians.
 - c) cabinet ministers.
3. The prime minister and the cabinet ministers are
 - a) the House of Commons.
 - b) the Cabinet.
 - c) the government.
4. A bill is an idea for a new
 - a) law.
 - b) prime minister.
 - c) Member of Parliament.
5. Parliament includes 308
 - a) Members of Parliament.
 - b) prime ministers.
 - c) cabinet ministers.

C Complete the Crossword



- | ACROSS → | DOWN ↓ |
|---|---|
| 1. The cabinet ministers and the prime minister are the ____. | 10. A ____ gives advice to the prime minister about a ministry. |
| 2. ____ elect MPs. | 11. A ____ is an idea for a new law. |
| 3. A rule all Canadians must follow | 12. Canada's capital city |
| 4. Before a bill becomes a law, MPs ____ on it. | 13. MPs meet in the ____ Buildings. |
| 5. The short form for prime minister | 14. A ____ is a part of government. |
| 6. A ministry: Ministry of ____ | 15. Members of Parliament are members of the ____. |
| 7. A political party: Progressive ____ | 16. A political party: ____ Party of Canada |
| 8. A political party: ____ Québécois | 17. A political party: ____ Party |
| 9. The leader of the government | 18. Short for Member of Parliament |

Word List

ministry • MP • Cabinet • law • Finance • Bloc
 New Democratic • Ottawa • cabinet minister • bill • PM
 prime minister • Canadians • Liberal • House of Commons
 Conservative • vote • Parliament

© REPRODUCTION RIGHTS RESERVED

UNIT 13

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT: THE SENATE

There are three parts to Canada's Parliament: the Queen, the House of Commons and the Senate.

The House of Commons is made up of the 308 Members of Parliament (MPs) we elected. The prime minister and cabinet ministers are also MPs.

What Is the Senate?

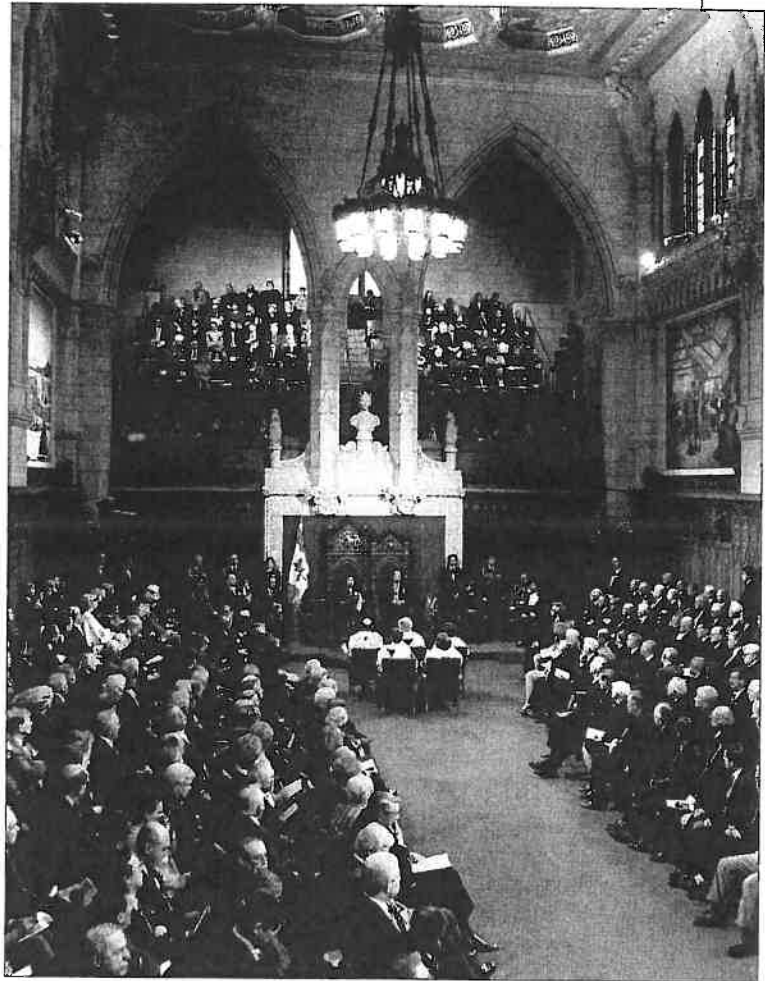
The Senate is made up of a group of people called senators. The Senate meets in the Parliament Buildings. There are 105 senators in the Senate today. The Senate's main job is to examine and vote on bills.

The prime minister chooses senators from all over Canada. They can keep their jobs until they are 75, even if the government changes.

Here is a picture of the Senate.

The Senate is in the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa.

The Senate looks like the House of Commons, but it is smaller.



How Does a Bill Become a Law?

First, the Cabinet presents a bill to the House of Commons. The MPs in the House of Commons listen to the bill. They discuss it. Sometimes they change it. Then they vote on the bill. If most of the MPs vote for the bill, it goes to the Senate.

The Senate listens to the bill. Senators discuss the bill. Then they vote on the bill. If the Senate votes for the bill, the Governor General signs the bill. Then it becomes a law for Canada. The Governor General represents the Queen.

Understand What You Read

A Circle the Correct Answer

1. The three parts of Parliament are the Queen,
 - a) the Senate and the Cabinet.
 - b) the House of Commons and the Senate.
 - c) the Senate and the Cabinet.

2. ~~The~~ Senate is made up of
 - a) 105 senators.
 - b) 308 Members of Parliament.

3. The House of Commons is made up of
 - a) 105 senators.
 - b) 308 Members of Parliament.
 - c) senators and Members of Parliament.

4. The prime minister chooses
 - a) senators.
 - b) Members of Parliament.

5. A senator is a
 - a) cabinet minister.
 - b) Member of Parliament.
 - c) member of the Senate.

6. The Senate votes on a bill
 - a) before the House of Commons has voted for it.
 - b) after the House of Commons has voted for it.

B Answer the Questions

1. Where does the Senate meet?

2. How long can senators keep their jobs?

3. How many senators are in the Senate?

4. What happens to a bill after the Senate votes for it?

REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

UNIT 14

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT: THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

The prime minister is the leader of our government. Canada also has a Head of State. Canada's Head of State symbolizes Canada's connection to Britain.

The Queen of England, Queen Elizabeth II, is Canada's Head of State. The Queen does not live or work in Canada. So someone who lives in Canada does her job. This person is the Governor General.

Who Is the Governor General?

Today, our Governor General is Michaëlle Jean.

What Does the Governor General Do?

The Governor General's main job is to sign bills. When the Governor General signs a bill, the bill becomes a law for Canadians. Canadian politicians make our laws and make decisions about Canada. But the laws and decisions are only legal after the Governor General signs them.

What Else Does the Governor General Do?

The Governor General introduces new governments. She travels all over Canada and listens to Canadians. She honours special Canadians with awards.

This is Michaëlle Jean.
She is Canada's Governor General.



Understand What You Read

A Sort

Number the sentences in the correct order. Then copy the sentences onto the lines below.

How a Bill Becomes a Law

- _____ The Senate votes on the bill.
- _____ The Cabinet writes a bill.
- _____ The Governor General signs the bill to make it a law.
- _____ The House of Commons votes on the bill.
- _____ The Cabinet presents the bill to the House of Commons.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

B Answer the Questions

1. Who is Canada's Head of State?

2. Who does the Queen's job in Canada?

3. Who is the Governor General today?

4. List two things the Governor General does.

UNIT 15

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT: SUMMARY

Fill in the missing information.

You can call Elections Canada at 1-800-463-6868 or access the Elections Canada website at www.elections.ca to find the information.

Federal Government

Governor General:

Party in power:

Prime Minister:

Year of last election:

My federal riding:

My Member of Parliament:

My MP's address:

My MP's phone number:

My MP's e-mail address:

UNIT 16

THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT: RIDINGS

The federal government makes decisions and laws for all of Canada. But it doesn't make decisions about everything. The provinces and territories make some decisions and laws on their own.

Provincial Governments

A provincial government is the government of a province. A territorial government is the government of a territory. Provincial and territorial governments make decisions about things like health care, education and highways.

There are ten provincial governments and three territorial governments.

Each provincial government makes laws and decisions for its own province.

How Do We Elect Members of the Provincial Government?

Each province or territory has its own elections. These elections usually happen at different times than the federal elections.

Each province is divided into ridings. They are also called electoral districts. Each riding has about the same number of people in it.

On voting day, we vote for a candidate from the riding we live in. Then someone counts the votes in our riding. The candidate with the most votes becomes a member of the provincial legislature. The **legislature** is the group of people who can make laws for each province. Each riding in the province elects one politician to the provincial legislature.

For example, New Brunswick has 55 provincial ridings. So 55 politicians form New Brunswick's legislature. They have meetings in Fredericton, the capital city of New Brunswick.

Most members of the provincial legislature have an office in their riding. They also go to meetings in the capital city of the province.

Are Provincial Ridings the Same as Federal Ridings?

In most provinces, provincial ridings are different from federal ridings. We live in a federal riding that has one name, and a provincial riding that has another name. For example, New Brunswick has 55 provincial ridings, but only ten federal ridings.

In Ontario, provincial and federal ridings are almost the same. There are 106 federal ridings in Ontario, and 107 provincial ridings.

Understand What You Read

A Fill in the Blanks

Canada • different • candidate • ten • capital city
electoral district • three • province • ridings

1. There are _____ provincial governments in Canada.
2. There are _____ territorial governments in Canada.
3. The federal government makes laws for all of _____.
4. The provincial government makes laws for its own _____.
5. Each province is divided into _____.
6. Federal ridings and provincial ridings are usually _____.
7. The provincial government has meetings in the _____.
8. Another name for a riding is an _____.
9. Someone who wants to be elected to the legislature is a _____.

B Answer the Questions

1. How many provincial ridings does New Brunswick have? _____
2. How many politicians do the people in each riding elect? _____
3. How many politicians are in the New Brunswick legislature? _____
4. Can the New Brunswick government make a law for Alberta? _____
5. Can the federal government make a law for Alberta? _____
6. Does every province have its election on the same day? _____

THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT: MEMBERS OF PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

What Are Members of Provincial Legislature Called?

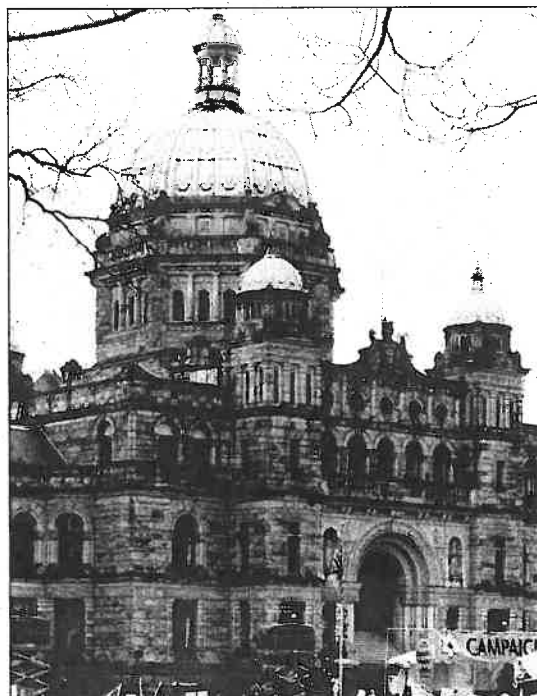
The provincial **legislature** includes all the politicians we elect in a provincial election. In different provinces, the members of the legislature have different names.

In most provinces, the members of the legislature are called **Members of the Legislative Assembly**, or MLAs. Here is a list of the different names of the members of the provincial and territorial legislatures.

Members of Provincial Legislatures		
Province	Member of the Legislature	Short Form
Ontario	Member of Provincial Parliament	MPP
Quebec	Member of the National Assembly	MNA
Newfoundland and Labrador	Member of the House Assembly	MHA
All other provinces and territories	Member of the Legislative Assembly	MLA

What Does the Provincial Legislature Do?

The provincial legislature forms, discusses and debates new policies and laws for the province. The legislature also decides how much money to spend on different programs and services.



Where Do Members of the Provincial Legislature Have Meetings?

They have meetings in the capital city of their province or territory. Each province has a provincial government building..

Here is a picture of the government building in Victoria, British Columbia.

Understand What You Read

A Fill in the Blanks

Write the short form of each title.

1. Member of the House Assembly
2. Member of the National Assembly
3. Member of the Provincial Parliament
4. Member of the Legislative Assembly
5. Member of Parliament

B Circle the Correct Answer

1. An _____ is a member of the federal Parliament.
a) MPP
b) MLA
c) MP
2. An MPP is a member of the _____ legislature.
a) Ontario
b) Quebec
c) Yukon
3. MNAs have meetings in the capital city of _____.
a) Nova Scotia
b) Ontario
c) Quebec
4. MPPs have meetings in _____.
a) Toronto
b) Victoria
c) Ottawa
5. In most provinces, members of the provincial legislature are called _____.
a) MPPs
b) MLAs
c) MNAs

C Fill in the Blanks

Write the city in which each provincial or territorial government has meetings.

British Columbia _____

Alberta _____

Saskatchewan _____

Manitoba _____

Ontario _____

Quebec _____

New Brunswick _____

Nova Scotia _____

Prince Edward Island _____

Newfoundland and Labrador _____

Yukon Territory _____

Northwest Territories _____

Nunavut _____

D Answer the Questions

You can find the answers by calling your provincial elections office. Look up Elections in the blue pages of your telephone book to find the phone number (The Ontario election office phone number is 1-800-677-8683. The website is www.electionsontario.ca).

1. What is the name of your provincial riding?

2. Who is the MPP, MLS, MNA or MHA for your riding?

3. What is his or her office address, e-mail address and phone number?

UNIT 18

THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT: GOVERNMENT SPENDING

Where Do the Provincial Governments Get Money?

Provincial governments get their money from many sources. A provincial government gets most of its money from income taxes, consumption taxes and from the federal government.

How Do the Provincial Governments Spend Money?

The provincial governments spend money on many services and programs for people who live in the province. Most of the money goes to health, education and social services.

The chart below shows how the provinces and territories combined spent over 80 percent of their money.

For the Combined Provincial/Territorial Governments (2008/2009)

81¢ of Each Dollar Was Spent On:

Health	33¢
Education	23¢
Social services	18¢
Debt charges	7¢

Source: Adapted from the Statistics Canada website, Jan. 2010,
<http://www40.statcan.gc.ca/101/cst01/govt55a-eng.htm>.

The governments spent the remaining 19 percent of their money on protecting people and property, transportation, resource conservation, the environment, housing and other expenditures.



Understand What You Read

A Discuss

1. List three sources of income for the provincial governments.

2. Do you think the federal government gives each province and territory the same amount of money every year?
3. How do you think the federal government decides how much money to give each province and territory?

UNIT 19

THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT: POLITICAL PARTIES

Most provincial politicians belong to a political party. Each political party has a leader. You can find out the leaders of the political parties in your province by calling your provincial elections office.

In the box below, write the names of the main political parties and party leaders for your province:

Provincial Political Parties

Provincial Elections Office Phone Number: _____

Political Party	Party Leader

For review, write the names of the main federal political parties and party leaders below:

Federal Political Parties

Federal Elections Office Phone Number: 1-800-463-6868

Political Party	Party Leader
Bloc Québécois	
Conservative Party of Canada	
Green Party of Canada	
Liberal Party of Canada	
New Democratic Party	

THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT: THE PREMIER

Who Is the Premier?

The premier is the leader of the provincial government.

How Do We Elect the Premier?

On voting day, each riding in the province elects a member of the provincial legislature. After the election, we find out how many elected members belong to each party. The party with the most members becomes the party in power and forms the government. The leader of that party becomes the premier.

For example, here are the results of the Ontario election of 2007:

Ontario's 2007 Election Results

Elections Ontario Website: www.elections.on.ca

Political Party	MPPs Elected
Ontario Liberal Party	71
Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario	26
Ontario New Democratic Party	10
TOTAL Ontario MPPs	107

The Liberal Party of Ontario had more elected members of the legislature (called MPPs in Ontario) than the other parties. So the leader of the Liberal Party became the premier of Ontario. The Liberal Party became the party in power and formed Ontario's government.

How Long Will the Liberal Party Be in Power?

Elections in Ontario generally take place every four years. The next Ontario election is scheduled for October 6, 2011.



Understand What You Read

A Fill in the Blanks

riding • four • provincial • party in power
one • federal • premier

1. On voting day, we vote for a candidate from our _____.
2. Each riding in the province elects _____ member of the provincial legislature.
3. The party with the most members of legislature becomes the _____.
4. The leader of the party in power becomes the _____.
5. The premier is the leader of the _____ government.
6. The prime minister is the leader of the _____ government.
7. In Ontario, provincial elections generally happen every _____ years.

B Answer the Questions

1. Which party in Ontario's 2007 election had the most elected MPPs?

2. Which party became the party in power?

3. What is the website address for Elections Ontario?

4. How many politicians formed Ontario's legislature after the election of 2007?

5. When is the next election scheduled to happen in Ontario?

6. Who is the current premier of Ontario?

C Fill in the Blanks

Each province in Canada has its own provincial government led by a premier. The three territories have territorial governments.

Look through the newspaper. Try to find out the names of the premiers of each province and territory. Write the names of the premiers and the political party they belong to on the chart.

Province or Territory	Premier	Party in Power
British Columbia	_____	_____
Alberta	_____	_____
Saskatchewan	_____	_____
Manitoba	_____	_____
Ontario	_____	_____
Quebec	_____	_____
New Brunswick	_____	_____
Nova Scotia	_____	_____
Prince Edward Island	_____	_____
Newfoundland and Labrador	_____	_____
Yukon Territory	_____	_____
Northwest Territories	_____	_____
Nunavut	_____	_____

Who is the premier of your province? _____

THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT: THE CABINET

The premier is the leader of the provincial government. The premier chooses some members of the legislature to give him or her advice and help to form government policies. The members of legislature whom the premier chooses become cabinet ministers.

What Do Cabinet Ministers Do?

Each cabinet minister advises the premier on a provincial ministry. A ministry is a part of the government. The Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Social Services are examples of three ministries.

What Is the Cabinet?

The premier and the cabinet ministers are called the **Cabinet**.

What Does the Cabinet Do?

The Cabinet discusses how to spend government money and forms policies and ideas for new laws for the province. When members of the Cabinet agree on an idea for a new law, they write it down. It is called a bill.

The Cabinet presents the bill to the rest of the members of the provincial legislature. The legislature listens to the bill and discusses it. Then they vote on the bill. If most of the members of the legislature vote for the bill, the Lieutenant Governor signs the bill. It becomes a law for the province. The Lieutenant Governor represents the Queen in the provinces.

This is Ontario's Cabinet in 2009. There are 107 MPPs in the Ontario government. There are 26 cabinet ministers.



The provincial government works almost like the federal government. But there is no Senate in the provincial government.

Understand What You Read

A Fill in the Blanks

Write the correct letter on the lines to match the words with their meanings

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| _____ Premier | a) The cabinet ministers and the premier |
| _____ Cabinet | b) A rule |
| _____ Cabinet minister | c) Leader of the provincial government |
| _____ Law | d) Describes a proposed new law |
| _____ Bill | e) A member of the provincial legislature whom the premier chooses to be part of the Cabinet |

B Circle the Correct Answer

- The Cabinet is made up of
 - the premier and the cabinet ministers.
 - the members of the provincial legislature.
- The Cabinet presents bills to
 - the premier.
 - the members of the provincial legislature.
- The premier chooses some members of the legislature to become
 - cabinet ministers.
 - Lieutenant Governor[s].
- Provincial governments do not have
 - a premier.
 - a Senate.
 - a Cabinet.
- A cabinet minister advises the premier
 - about a ministry.
 - about the Senate.

THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT: THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Who Is the Lieutenant Governor?

Queen Elizabeth II is Canada's Head of State. The Governor General represents the Queen in Canada's federal government. There is also someone who represents the Queen in Canada's provincial governments. This person is called the Lieutenant Governor. There are ten Lieutenant Governors in Canada. There is one in each province.

The person who represents the Queen in the territories is called the Commissioner. There is a Commissioner in each territory.

What Does the Lieutenant Governor Do?

The Lieutenant Governor signs bills after the members of the legislature have voted for them. This makes the bills into provincial laws.

The Lieutenant Governor introduces new governments after each election. He or she also travels all over the province. He or she visits places and non-profit organizations and meets with people.

Steven L. Point is British Columbia's Lieutenant Governor.



How Does a Bill Become a Law in a Province?

Usually, the Cabinet writes a bill.

Then the Cabinet presents the bill to the rest of the members of the legislature.

The members of the provincial legislature vote on the bill.

If most of the members of the legislature vote for the bill, the Lieutenant Governor signs it. The bill becomes a law.

Understand What You Read

A Circle the Correct Answer

1. The _____ signs federal bills.
a) Governor General
b) Lieutenant Governor
2. The _____ signs provincial bills.
a) Commissioner
b) Lieutenant Governor
3. When the lieutenant governor signs a bill,
a) it becomes a law.
b) the premier votes for it.
4. There are ten _____ in Canada.
a) Commissioners
b) Lieutenant Governor
c) Governor Generals
5. Queen Elizabeth II is Canada's
a) leader.
b) Head of State.

B Order

Number the sentences in the correct order.

How a bill becomes a law in a province.

- _____ The Cabinet presents the bill to the members of the provincial legislature.
- _____ The Lieutenant Governor signs the bill to make it into a law.
- _____ The Cabinet writes a bill.
- _____ The members of the provincial legislature vote on the bill.

Who is the Lieutenant Governor for your province?

UNIT 23

THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT: SUMMARY

Write the missing information in the box below.

You can call your provincial elections office. The number will be in the blue pages of the telephone book.

Provincial Government

Elections office phone number: _____

Lieutenant Governor: _____

Party in power: _____

Premier: _____

Year of last election: _____

My provincial riding: _____

My member of legislature: _____

Office address: _____

Office phone number: _____

E-mail address: _____

1. What is a member of the provincial legislature called in your province or territory?
- a) an MLA
 - b) an MPP
 - c) an MHA
 - d) an MNA

2. What is the name of the government building in your province?
- _____

3. What city is it in?
- _____

UNIT 24

THE PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT: SUMMARY

Write the missing information on the chart below.

Provincial Government

Federal Government

Shade your province on the map.



Lieutenant Governor

Party in power

Premier

Last election

My provincial riding

My MPP/MLA/MNA or MHA

Address

Phone number

E-mail address:

Governor General

Party in power

Prime Minister

Last election

My federal riding

My MP

My MP's address

My MP's phone number

My MP's e-mail address:

UNIT 25

THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

The municipal government is the government of a city, town, township or village. Another name for municipal government is local government. A municipality is a city, town, township or village.

There are hundreds of municipalities in Canada. In Ontario alone, there are about 475 municipalities.

What Does the Municipal Government Do?

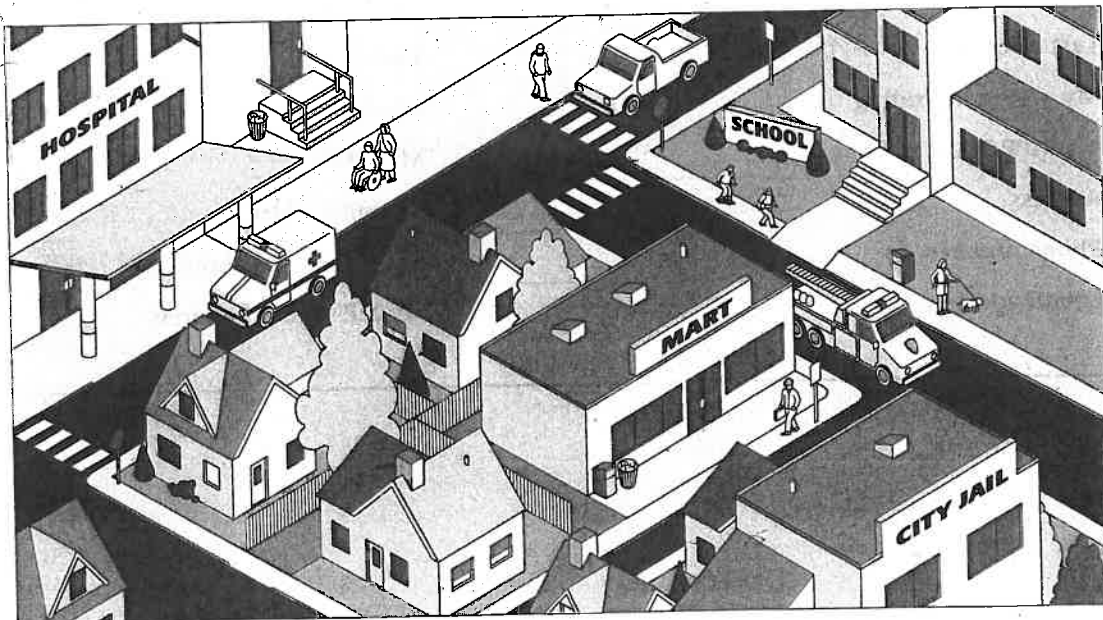
Members of the municipal government make decisions for the people in the municipality. They decide how to spend municipal government money. They also make bylaws. A bylaw is a municipal law.

The municipal government makes decisions and bylaws about things like police, fire protection, jails, roads, hospitals, water and schools.

Do We Elect Members of the Municipal Government?

The people who live in each municipality elect members of the municipal government during municipal elections. Most municipalities have an election every three years.

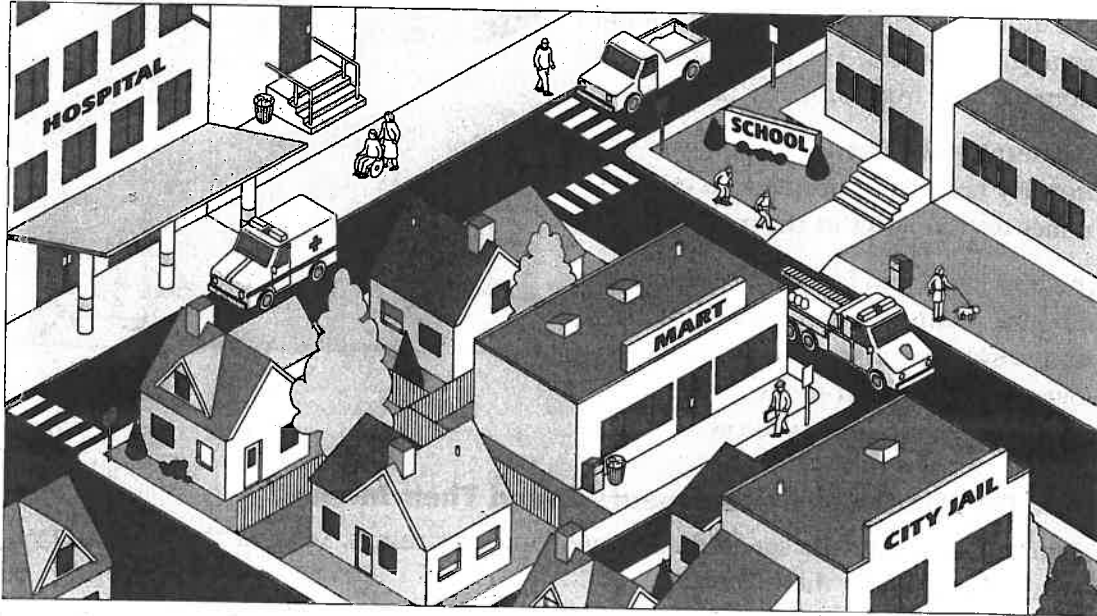
Most municipalities are divided into voting areas called **wards**. Each ward has about the same number of people in it. The people in each ward elect one or two members of the municipal government to represent them. These elected members form the municipal government. They have meetings in the municipal government building, usually called City Hall.



Understand What You Read

A Fill in the Blanks

List six things you think the municipal government makes decisions about.



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

B Answer the Questions

1. What is another name for municipal government?

2. Who elects members of a municipal government?

3. What is a municipal law called?

4. Where does the municipal government have its meetings?

5. What are the voting areas called in a municipality?

THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT: RESPONSIBILITIES

Where Does the Municipal Government Get Its Money?

The municipal government gets its money from many sources. The largest amount of money comes from property taxes.

The municipal government collects property taxes from people who own homes or businesses in the municipality.

The provincial and federal governments also give municipal governments some money every year. Municipal governments also get money from parking fines and other sources.



How Do Municipal Governments Spend Their Money?

Municipal governments spend their money on many things. Some of the things they spend money on are the following:



- Police
- Fire protection
- Public transportation
- Social services
- Water and sewage
- Libraries
- Parks
- Ambulance
- Airports
- Garbage and recycling
- Sidewalks
- Social housing

Each year, the municipal government announces a budget. The municipal budget is a plan that tells us how much money the government will spend on each area.

Understand What You Read

A Answer the Questions

1. List four sources of municipal government money.

2. Where does the municipal government get its largest amount of money?

3. Who pays property taxes?

4. List four things the government spends money on.

B Match

Write the correct letter on the lines to match each word with its meaning.

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| _____ Property | a) A city, town, township or village |
| _____ Property tax | b) A plan about how to save and spend money |
| _____ Municipality | c) Waste from toilets |
| _____ Sewage | d) Land |
| _____ Budget | e) Reuse |
| _____ Recycle | f) Tax you pay to the city for the property you own |

C Discuss

1. Are you interested in municipal politics? Why or why not?
2. Many people write to the municipal government member who represents their ward. Sometimes they have a complaint. Sometimes they ask for something to make their neighbourhood safer, such as a traffic light on a busy road or extra lighting in a park.

What do you think would make your neighbourhood safer or more enjoyable? Write a letter about it. You can send the letter to the municipal government member from your ward.

UNIT 27

THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT: MEMBERS OF GOVERNMENT

What Are the Members of Municipal Government Called?

Municipal governments work a little differently in different cities.

In most cities, the municipal government is called the Council, or the City Council. The people from each ward elect a member of Council. A member of Council is called a **councillor**. In some cities and towns, a councillor is called an **alderman** or **alderwoman**.

The Mayor

The people in the municipality also elect a leader of Council. The leader is called a **mayor**. In some municipalities, the leader is called a **reeve**.

Most municipalities also elect school board trustees. School board trustees make decisions about local schools.

Understand What You Read

A Fill in the Blanks

Try to fill in the blanks below.

Municipal Government

Your municipality:

Date of last election:

Mayor:

Name of your ward:

Councillor for your ward:

Your councillor's office address:

Number of councillors in council:

City Hall address:

E-mail address:

B Answer the Questions

alderman/alderwoman • wards • three • City Hall • mayor
bylaws • council • councillors • trustees • reeve

1. The leader of the municipal government is the _____.
2. Members of the municipal government are called _____.
3. In some municipalities, the mayor is called a _____.
4. In some municipalities, councillors are called _____.
5. The municipal government makes _____.
6. Every municipality is divided into voting areas called _____.
7. Municipal elections are usually every _____ years.
8. School board _____ make decisions about schools in the municipality.
9. The mayor and the councillors are the _____.
10. Council members have meetings in _____.

C Discuss

1. If you were a member of city council in your municipality, what changes would you make to bylaws about:
 - Parking
 - Parks
 - Smoking in restaurants
 - Public transportation
 - Garbage collection
 - Recycling

THE FEDERAL, PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT: REVIEW

Understand What You Read

A Sort

Each of the words below relates to either the federal, provincial or municipal government.

Write the words under the correct headings in the chart. The first word is done for you.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Premier | <input type="checkbox"/> City Hall | <input type="checkbox"/> MLA |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senators | <input type="checkbox"/> Senate | <input type="checkbox"/> Bylaw |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Laws | <input type="checkbox"/> Councillor | <input type="checkbox"/> Prime minister |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Laws | <input type="checkbox"/> Mayor | <input type="checkbox"/> Alderman/alderwoman |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ward | <input type="checkbox"/> MPP | <input type="checkbox"/> Riding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cabinet | <input type="checkbox"/> One | <input type="checkbox"/> Riding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cabinet | <input type="checkbox"/> Member of Parliament | <input type="checkbox"/> Ten |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lieutenant Governor | <input type="checkbox"/> Member of the Legislative Assembly | <input type="checkbox"/> Municipality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MP | <input type="checkbox"/> Governor General | <input type="checkbox"/> Hundreds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member of Provincial Parliament | <input type="checkbox"/> Reeve | <input type="checkbox"/> Council |

Federal Government	Provincial Government	Municipal Government
	<i>premier</i>	

© PEARSON LONGMAN • REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

B Wordsearch

The words in the word list are hidden in the wordsearch puzzle in the box below. The words go across →, down ↓, and diagonally ↘. Find and circle the words. The first one is circled for you.

C F E B G O V E R N O R G E N E R A L N D T J
A A E L E C T I O N P O C I P M E M L A E P S
R G M D S L I B E R A L F A D A E F M P M R S
C C P P E D C P R E M I E R N A V V M P O I E
W A R D A R F L W E U I F Y M D E M P P C M D
S B B I L L A I S E N A T O R E I L B I R E A
E E I I B P G L A W I V O T E S E D E N A M T
P B N N N N N N V H C M R R C B Y B A C C I M
T K A A E E P R O V I N C I A L Y A F T Y N A
L O L O T T T D T Y P R D D N D P L B E E I Y
E O J G E E D C A N A D A I P N D L A E B S O
C V W E H I R A D U L T S N A E D O L W I T R
C O U N C I L L O R Y Q F G I S G T L E L E T
H O U S E O F C O M M O N S G H A W O Y L R E
G P A R T Y I N P O W E R P O L I T I C I A N

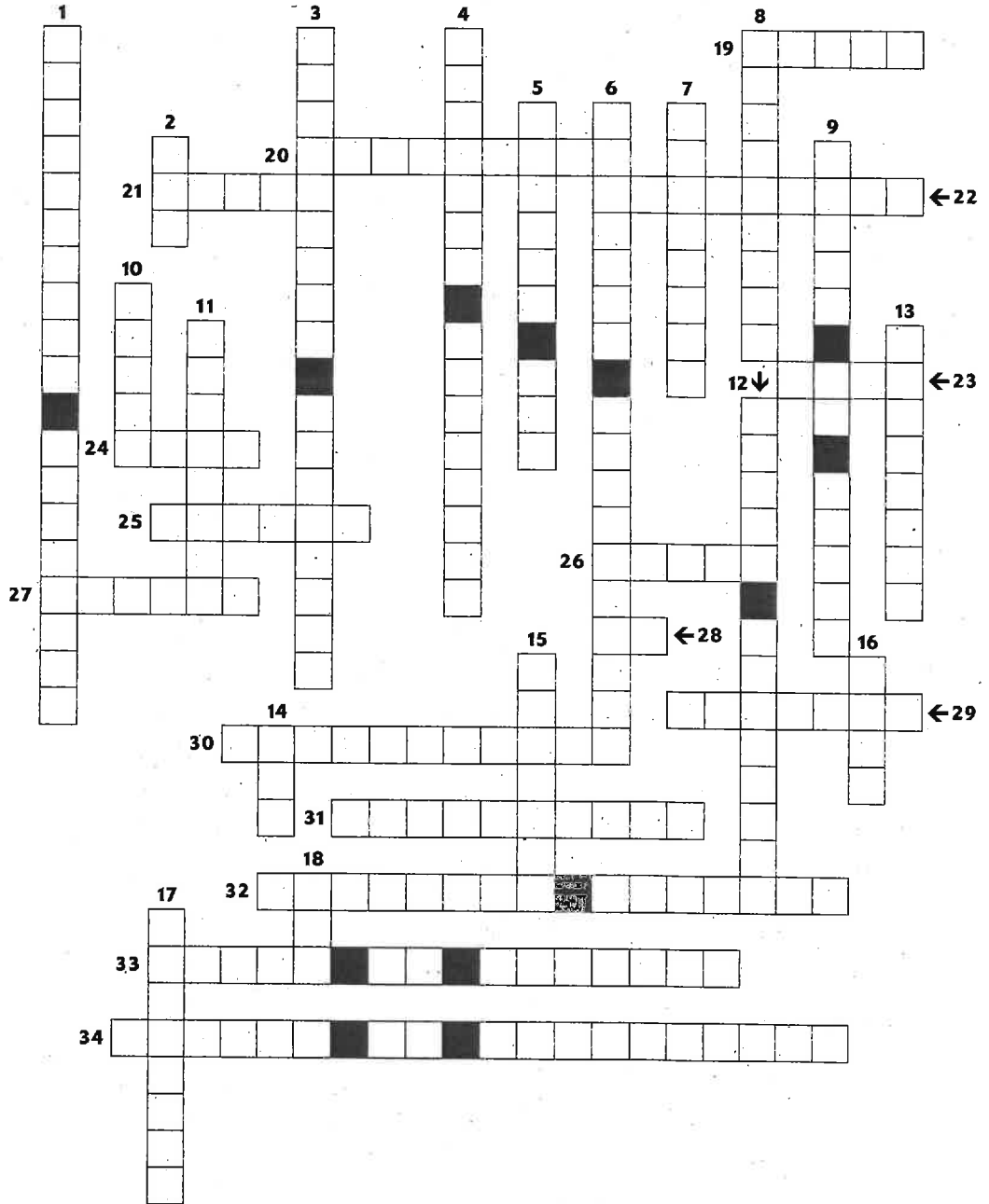
Word List

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adult | <input type="checkbox"/> Federal | <input type="checkbox"/> Party in power |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ballot | <input type="checkbox"/> Governor General | <input type="checkbox"/> Politician |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bill | <input type="checkbox"/> House of Commons | <input type="checkbox"/> Premier |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bylaw | <input type="checkbox"/> Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Prime Minister |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cabinet | <input type="checkbox"/> Liberal | <input type="checkbox"/> Provincial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Campaign | <input type="checkbox"/> Mayor | <input type="checkbox"/> Reeve |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canada | <input type="checkbox"/> MLA | <input type="checkbox"/> Riding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate | <input type="checkbox"/> MP | <input type="checkbox"/> Senate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Councillor | <input type="checkbox"/> MPP | <input type="checkbox"/> Senator |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Democracy | <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal | <input type="checkbox"/> Vote |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Election | <input type="checkbox"/> NDP | <input type="checkbox"/> Ward |

© PEARSON LONGMAN • REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

C Complete the Crossword

The crossword clues and word list are on the next page.



© PEARSON LONGMAN • REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

Use the clues below to complete the crossword on the previous page.

If the crossword is too difficult, use the word list at the bottom of the page.

DOWN ↓

1. Represents the Queen in the provinces
2. A rule Canadians must obey
3. Another word for a riding
4. A member of the Cabinet
5. A box we put our ballots into after we vote
6. Government of Canada
7. The month before voting day
8. City government is ____ government.
9. The party with the most elected MPs
10. A municipal law
11. Number of provincial and territorial governments
12. The leader of the federal government
13. When we vote for new members of government
14. Short for New Democratic Party
15. The leader of the provincial government
16. To put a mark on a ballot
17. Last name of the prime minister in 2002
18. The number of federal governments in Canada

ACROSS →

19. The leader of the municipal government
20. A person who enters an election campaign
21. A person who is 18 or older
22. When the people govern themselves
23. Describes a new law
24. A municipal voting area
25. A part of the Parliament of Canada
26. Another name for mayor, in some cities
27. A voting area
28. Short for member of parliament
29. A member of the Senate
30. A candidate who doesn't belong to a party
31. A municipal politician
32. The Queen's representative in Canada
33. All the MPs are members of the _____
34. MP stands for _____

Word List

Governor General • cabinet minister • premier • reeve • election
Mayor • law • independent • PM • municipal • candidate
Lieutenant Governor • democracy • campaign • Chrétien • one
ballot box • bylaw • ward • bill • prime minister
federal government • adult • riding • councillor • senator
vote • party in power • electoral district • thirteen • Senate
NDP • House of Commons • MP