

# The Government of Canada

# The Canadian Government

- *Who cares?*



**WHAT IF THE YOUTH  
VOTE**

**REALLY DOES MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE?**



*Close to 60% of Canadians aged 18-24 don't vote*

*Why do you think that is?*



*Watch: Rick Mercer on voting in Canada*

- As we will learn, the workings and policies of federal (national), provincial, and municipal government affect nearly all aspects of life
- As long as young people are not voting, politicians will ignore the issues that matter the most
- If you don't like the system, there are ways to affect change!





# Your Task

- Complete the Pre-Test

Don't worry, **this will not be graded!** It is to find out what you already know and what you need to learn



# Your Task

- Take **Outlining Notes** on the following information about Canada's Government

# Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zUW3oQ7gN1E>



# Canada can be described as a...

## Representative Democracy

- We **elect** (vote for) *MPs/MLAs* to **represent** us

## Constitutional Monarchy

- The **Queen** is our “**Head of State,**” and governs according to our constitution She is politically neutral and has mostly ceremonial duties.

# Canada can be described as a...

## Federal System of Government

- We have three different levels of government: Federal, Provincial, and Municipal (they are all responsible for different things...)

# Structure of the Federal Government Dominion of Canada



Her Majesty  
Queen Elizabeth II  
*Sovereign*

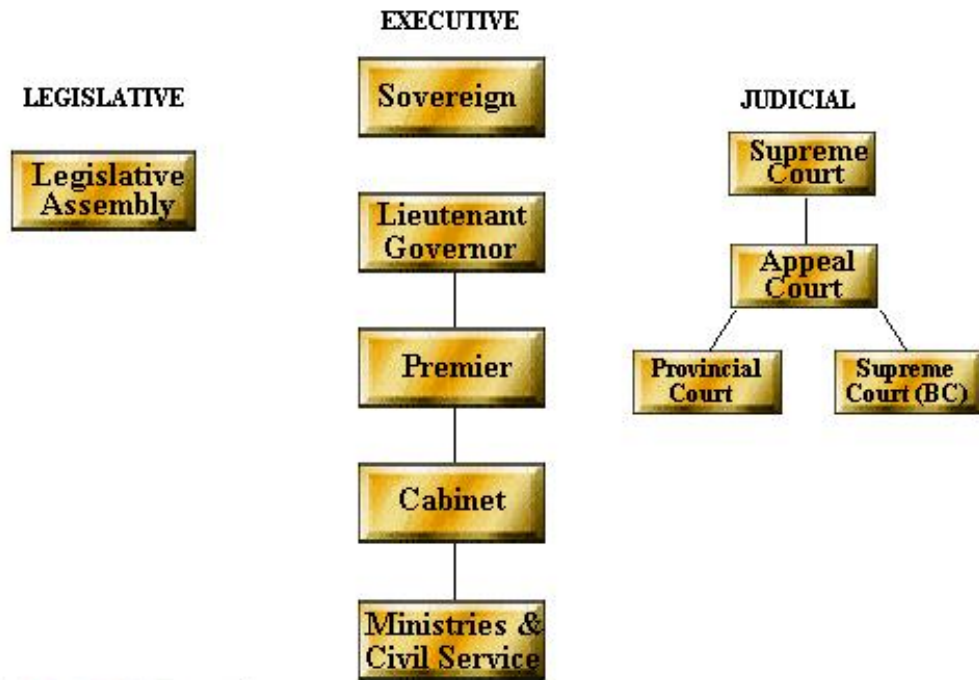


His Excellency  
The Right Honourable  
David Johnston  
*Governor General*



The Right Honourable  
Stephen Harper  
*Prime Minister*

# Structure of the Provincial Government Province of British Columbia



Her Majesty  
Queen Elizabeth II  
*Sovereign*



The Honourable  
Judith Guichon  
*Lieutenant Governor*



The Honourable  
Christy Clark  
*Premier*

# Members of Parliament



- The people that each region of Canada elects to represent them in the House of Commons at the Parliament in Ottawa (where they make and debate laws)



# Parliament



- The political party that wins the most seats in the House of Commons becomes the **Government**
- The party with the **second most seats** becomes the **Official Opposition**

# Political Parties

- An organization of people that wants to achieve similar goals and exercise of political power



# Canada's Federal Political Parties



Led by  
Stephen Harper



## What they advocate for

- Lower taxes
- More jobs
- Focus on family
- Traditional values
- Close relations with USA
- More trade agreements

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# Canada's Federal Political Parties



Led by  
Justin Trudeau



## What they advocate for

- Invest in higher education
- Renewable energy
- Free trade agreements
- Affordable housing
- Reform marijuana policies

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# Canada's Federal Political Parties



Led by  
Thomas Mulcair



## What they advocate for

- Expand human rights
- Diversity
- Public health care
- Raise minimum wage
- Reduce poverty
- Environmental protection

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# Canada's Federal Political Parties



Led by  
Mario Beaulieu

## What they advocate for:

- Interests of Quebec
- Have opposed most recent wars
- Legalization of assisted suicide
- Decriminalization of marijuana
- Abortion rights
- Environmentalism



2 / 308

# Canada's Federal Political Parties



Led by  
Elizabeth May



## What they advocate for:

- Environment\*\*\*
- Animal welfare
- Renewable energy & sustainability
- Respect for diversity
- Social justice

2/308



# Your Task

You can work individually or with those around you to complete the matching activity:

1. Match the image to the name, position, and party by writing (you can use the internet to help you)
2. Cut out the images and glue them to either federal, provincial, or municipal

# What are we doing today?



- Review
- Activity: Who is Responsible?
- Activity: Issues that Matter

# Review

What does representative  
democracy mean?

We elect people to represent us  
in our government

# Review

What does constitutional monarchy mean?

That we have a monarch (the queen) who rules according to a constitution (which gives us rights)

# Review

What are the **THREE** levels of government in Canada?

**Federal, Provincial, Municipal**



# Review

What do we call our Head of Government? (He leads the gov't)

**The Prime Minister**

# Review

What is our current Prime Minister?

Stephen Harper, Conservative

# Review

Where our **FEDERAL** government  
is located

Ottawa

# Review

Where our **PROVINCIAL**  
government is located

**Victoria**

# Review

What we call someone who represents us at the parliament in Ottawa

**A Member of Parliament (MP)**

# Review

What we call someone who represents us at the legislature in Victoria

A Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA)

# Review

Who is our Head of State?

The Queen (Elizabeth II)

# Review

Who is our Head of State?

The Queen (Elizabeth II)



# Review

Who represents the Queen in  
Canada (federally)

The Governor General  
(David Johnston)

# Review

**Who represents the Queen in BC  
(provincially)**

**The Lieutenant Governor  
(Judith Guichon)**

# Review

Name **FOUR** other political parties in Canada, and their leaders

Conservative (Stephen Harper), Liberal (Justin Trudeau), NDP (Thomas Mulcair), Green (Elizabeth May)

Who is this?



Who is this?

What does he do?



# Learning Outcomes



By the end of this lesson you should be able to:

- ✓ List the responsibilities of each level of government
- ✓ Identify some issues that are important to you
- ✓ Describe ways that you could affect change in relation to those issues

# The Basics



**Federal:** We elect **MPs** (Members of Parliament) that represent us in the House of Commons in Ottawa.



**Provincial:** We elect **MLAs** (Members of the Legislative Assembly) that represent us at the Legislature in Victoria.

**Municipal:** We elect a mayor and town councillors to represent us at our town hall here in Burns Lake





# Your Task

1. (Individually) Complete **Who is Responsible?**  
graphic organizer
2. Share with a partner
3. We will discuss as a class





# Your Task

(Individually) On **Issues That Matter**, write down some current issues that matter to you

These are some ideas to get you thinking... come up with some of your own too!

Enbridge: Northern Gateway Pipeline    Environment  
Euthanasia/Assisted suicide    Women's Rights  
Increased surveillance/Privacy    Driving Regulations  
Drinking age    Downloading of music/videos, etc.  
Unemployment    Cost of university  
Hunting/fishing regulations    Education



# Your Task



1. Share your ideas/issues with a small group (3-4)
2. Write your group's top two important issues down on sticky note, and add it to the board (where you think it belongs)





# Your Task



1. In your group, discuss ways that you could address/change those issues or raise awareness about them.

Examples: write a letter to \_\_\_\_\_  
start a petition

# Discussion



Which issues are important to us?

Which level of government is “responsible”

What could we do to affect change?



# Your Task

Complete questions on  
“Issues That Matter”

