# Module 1: Government and Law

# Section 1: The Structure of Canada’s Government

# Activity Package 1--KEY

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Block: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Resource:** **Counterpoints** Chapter 9, p. 221-246

**Introduction**

1. What is government?

**Societies formal decision-making system**

2. What are traditions?

**Established rules + procedures**

3. What are institutions?

**Bodies or groups responsible for carrying out specific aspects of government work (Military, Post Office, Health Care)**

**Foundations of Our Government**

4. What is a [**democracy**](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Arn8Fp1jyok)? [2](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Hg4dxJZcWQ&feature=related)

**Rule by the people**

5. What is meant by the term [**direct democracy**](http://wiki.answers.com/Q/What_is_a_example_of_direct_democracy)?

**Every citizen participates directly in voting on all decisions**

6. How is a [**representative democracy**](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BwK_LOifGZM) different from a direct democracy?

**Electing a representative to make decisions on your behalf**

7. What is a **constitutional monarchy**?

**A government in the monarch has only the powers laid out in the nations constitution and laws**

8. Do you think Canada should have a monarch? Explain.

9. List the three main parts of [**Canada's constitution**](http://data2.collectionscanada.gc.ca/misc/txt/23v886k.jpg). [1](http://www.aph.gov.au/images/sepchart.gif)

* **Description of Powers** **of provincial legislatures and Parliament + their parts and authority**
* **Charter of Rights + Freedoms** **that outlines the basic rights + responsibilities of all Canadians**
* **Amending Formula sets out ways in which constitution can be changed—Federal Government + 7 out the 10 provinces that make up ½ of the population agree on change**

10. Complete the following chart.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Federal** [**Responsibilities**](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AVE3OsR5W-0&feature=PlayList&p=4BB162F1D2C74885&playnext_from=PL&index=6) | **Shared Responsibilities** | **Provincial Responsibilities** |
| **National Defense** | **Immigration** | **Education** |
| **Foreign Policy** | **Agriculture** | **Charities** |
| **Aboriginal Affairs** | **Health Care** | **Health Services + Hospitals** |
| **Postal Services** | **Natural Resources** | **Licences** |
| **Banking System** | **Environmental Issues** | **Highways** |
| **Marriage + Divorce Law** |  | **Provincial Court System** |
| **Criminal Law** |  | **Provincial Police + Prisons** |
| **Federal Prisoners** |  |  |

**Residual powers: any powers not specifically listed are held by the federal government—TV, Internet, Cellular**

11. Why is a **constitution** necessary for a complex organization?

**Sets out the rules for how a society can run**

12. What shared ideas or values hold our country together?

13. What issues separate regions or provinces and pull our country apart?

* **Quebec—want more provincial rights from federal government**
* **West—alienation from lack of power decision making**

14. Our government is divided into [**three branches**](http://www.craigmarlatt.com/canada/images%26downloads/downloads_govt_federal.html). Identify each.

* **Executive—power to make decisions in government and set policies**
* **Legislative—the power to make, change, and repeal laws**
* **Judicial—power to interpret + administer the law**

15. What does our splitting our government into **three branches** say about our views of leadership and decision making?

-provides checks so that no one branch overpowers the other.

-regional consensus is important.

-strong central government is also important.

16. What is a **federal system** of government?

**An organization of provinces acting on behalf of its residents with a central government responsible for matters to the nation as a whole**

17. What are **municipal governments**?

**Local or city level of government**

18. Who decides what form **municipal governments** will take?

**The provinces**

**The** [**Federal Government**](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yGfYOmz_FSE)

**Legislative Branch**

19. How often must the Federal Parliament meet?

**Once per year**

20. What is the purpose of the [**question period**](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gQCTtzxlcew&feature=related)?

**Opposition parties challenge government actions + raise issues they feel the gov’t needs to address**

21. How often must the federal parliament hold **elections**?

**Must occur every 5 years, unless PM calls an election earlier**

22. What is a [**constituency/riding**](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File%3ACanada_Fed_election_2008_Ridings.svg)?

**Areas that are roughly equal in population; voters elect 1 representative for each riding**

23. How many people live in a typical **constituency**?

**100,000**

24. How many **seats** or members of parliament (MP’s) were there in 2001? 2010? (look up)

**2001—301; 2010--308**

25. Describe the [**speaker's**](http://www.parl.gc.ca/information/about/people/house/speaker/role_duties/index_e.html) two main roles in parliament.

* **Controls the debates in Parliament/House of Commons**
* **Oversees the impartial operation of the Parliament/House of Commons**

26. What qualities does the **Speaker** need in order to do a good job?

**Impartial/not biased**

27. What is the [**role of the opposition**](http://www.360360.com/cgi-bin/photos/runipix.cgi?/ipix/200002/cpl11_hires.ipx) in Parliament?

**Scrutinize the actions of the government**

28. What is the role of a party's [**caucus**](../../../../My%20Pictures/Conservative_Party_of_Canada_Caucus_sized.jpg)?

**Caucus—group of elected reps in legislature who belong to the same political party; meet to discuss policies**

**Caucus/cabinet solidarity—expectation to vote in favour of your party’s position in H of C**

**Free vote—allows members to vote according to what they believe rather than just following the party’s position**

29. What are the requirements for becoming a **Senator**?

**Canadian citizen, +30 years old, live in province they rep, own at least $4,000 of property**

30. **How does someone become a Senator?**

**Appointed by the PM, usually as a reward for their loyalty or support--patronage**

31. What is the role of the [**Senate**](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yGfYOmz_FSE)? [1](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mdSVRYC04YU&feature=related)

* **A final check on legislation passed in H of C—“sober second thought”**
* **Can intro bills—rare**
* **Provide regional representation—seats are allotted on basis of population**

32. Explain why you believe Canada should or should not have a Senate.

**Executive Branch**

33. Describe the role of the [**Governor General**.](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c6X7nh70Sws&feature=related)

* **Gives formal/ royal assent (agreement) to a bill before it becomes law**
* **Performs ceremonial functions**
* **Acts as adviser to gov’t to ensure it follows the Constitution**

34. How is the **Prime Minister** chosen?

**The leader of the party with the most elected reps is asked by the GG to become PM**

35. Tell what the **Prime Minister** does in his role as head of government.

* **Names new judges + senators**
* **Decides the best time to call an election**
* **Chooses cabinet members**
* **Has final say in creating policies of gov’t**

36. Tell what the **Prime Minister** does in his role as national leader.

* **Explains issues of national concern and goals of gov’t**
* **Reps Canada on trips to other nations**
* **Speaks on behalf of Canada at international meetings**
* **Works with provincial leaders to share responsibilities**

37. Tell what the **Prime Minister** does in his role as party leader.

* **Acts a spokesperson for the party**
* **Gives out patronage appointments**
* **Reward loyal supporters with positions in senate, diplomat jobs, or gov’t jobs**
* **Leads other members in parliament**

38. How are [**cabinet ministers**](file:///H%3A%5CMy%20Pictures%5Ccab-fam-cp-5765975.jpg) chosen?

**Chosen by the PM to have responsibility for a particular** [**gov’t department**](http://www.craigmarlatt.com/canada/government/ministries.html)**—Defense, Health, etc**

39. What are the characteristics of an ideal **cabinet**?

**Equal numbers of men + women, from all regions, and ethnic groups, and sexual orientation.**

40. Why is it important that **cabinet** represent all regions and groups in Canada?

**Should reflect the cultural, linguistic, and social diversity of Canada**

41. What is the role of a **cabinet minister**?

**Responsible for their departments (Defense, Health, etc) efficient operation**

42. What is the role of a [**party**](../../../../My%20Pictures/Roll%20up%2C%20roll%20up%21%20Leona%20Lewis%20and%20Mel%20B%20get%20into%20the%20circus%20spirit%20at%20celebrity%20fancy%20dress%20party%20in%20Los%20Angeles%202.jpg) **whip**?

**To ensure that members of the gov’t/party are present in Parliament to support party bills + vote (cabinet solidarity); also can discipline members**

43. Describe the roles of **civil servants**.

**The group of permanent employees who perform the ongoing business of gov’t**

44. Complete the following chart that outlines how a law is created. Follow the numbers!

|  |
| --- |
| **Cabinet Minister has an idea for a** [**Bill**](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yzflLqk0ksM&feature=channelhttp://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AVE3OsR5W-0&feature=PlayList&p=4BB162F1D2C74885&playnext_from=PL&index=6) |
| **1. Idea explained to Cabinet** | **2.Cabinet approves idea** |
| **4.cabinet committee examines bill** | **3.Lawyers draft bill** |
| **5.cabinet + caucus approve bill** | **6.Bill introduced to H of C for 1st reading** |
| **8.House debates and votes on principle of bill** | **7. 2nd reading** |
| **9.Parliamentary committee examines bill** | **10. House amends bill** |
| **12. Bill passes the House** | **11. 3rd reading, final debate + vote**  |
| **13. Senate examines, debates, amends bill** | **14. Bill passes Senate** |
| **Governor General gives final assent; Bill is now law** |

45. At which stage does the public have input into the proposed law?

**During the committee stage after 2nd reading**

**Or at any stage by expressing opinion to politicians—emails to protests**

46. Why do you think there is such a lengthy process for making a law?

47. Why do you think **private members bills** are rarely successful?

**The PM or cabinet usually control which bills are proposed; if they don’t put it forward that means they don’t think it is important**

**Provincial and Territorial Governments**

48. a) List four areas for which **Provincial governments** are responsible.

* **Education**
* **Environment**
* **Health Care + Social Welfare (shared)**
* **Transportation**

 b) Complete the following chart on the [parallel roles in federal + provincial governments:](http://www.openschool.bc.ca/features/samples/ss11_sample.pdf)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Federal Government** | **Role** | **Provincial Government** |
| **GOVERNOR GENERAL** | Representative of the monarchy | Lieutenant Governor |
| Prime Minister | Leader of the government | **PREMIER** |
| House of Commons/ Parliament | Part of legislative branch of gov’t where elected reps make laws | **LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY** |
| **SENATE** | Functions as “sober second thought” to acts of Parliament | No equivalent |

49. How do Provincial governments and the Federal government solve disputes over which has control over things such as the environment or taxes?

**Constant negotiation + meetings; If a dispute remains unresolved, the Supreme Court of Canada makes a final decision**

**Local Governments**

50. What is the head of a **town council** or **municipal government** called?

**Mayor**

51. What names are given to other elected members of the **municipal government**?

**Councillors**

52. What is the role of a **council**?

**Elected to represent their ward or area of the municipality**

53. What is the role of the **municipality** and its various departments?

**Provide services—firefighting, police, road maintenance, community centers--to the citizens**

54. What is the role of a **mayor**?

**Leader of the city council; spokesperson for the city; in charge of day-to-day operations**

55. Why might municipal governments been given so little power when Canada was established and only one in ten Canadians lived in a city?

**Only 1/10 citizens lived in cities when Canada was formed in 1867. They were not viewed as an important part of government.**

56. How is this a problem today when over 70% of Canadians live in cities?

**Currently 7/10 Canadians live in cities and they are having to provide services to more and more people, but don’t have power to make decisions**

57. How are **aboriginal band councils** different from municipal councils?

**Leader is a chief**

**Have more dealings with premier or federal government than mayor would**