



WHAT IS A GOVERNMENT?

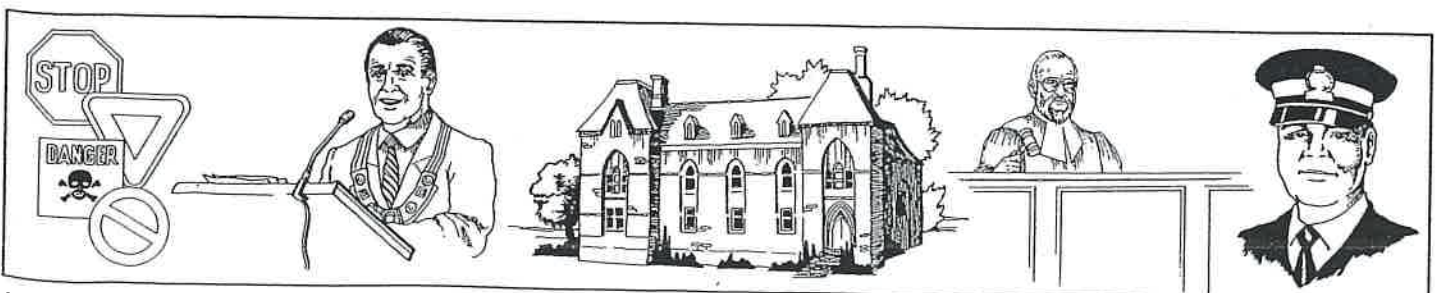


Since the beginning of time society has been ruled by some form of government.

The word *government* means to exercise power in a group. Every group needs people to make and enforce decisions that control the conduct of the group.

Every form of government contains five common elements.

- Rules of Conduct:** Every group of people has rules to govern people's lives. The rules affect the whole group. Rules are made to encourage good behaviour and to discourage or forbid bad behaviours.
- Authority:** All groups are governed by a supreme power or authority. In a democratic country the people are regarded as the chief source of government authority.
- Acceptance:** A government must be accepted by the people for it to exist. The people give the government the right to exercise power. The people develop loyalty to symbols of the government such as a flag or national anthem.
- Jurisdiction:** This is the part of the government that has the power to make and enforce rules or laws.
- Law Enforcement:** In order for rules or laws to have any effect someone has to enforce them. In a society there would be no order if people were allowed to ignore or disobey them.



KINDS OF GOVERNMENT IN OUR WORLD

1. **Anarchism:** the belief that public gov't has little/no authority
 - belief that public gov'ts go against personal freedoms = not necessary
 - wants to get rid of gov't and let individuals or private groups govern

2. **Totalitarianism:** demands total loyalty to gov't
 - controls/destroys institutions like family, church/religion, corporations, labour unions
 - the State is "all-important" and individuals have very little freedom

3. **Democracy:** Direct = small groups of people govern themselves & make laws together
Representative/Indirect = citizens must elect member to create a council, a legislature, a congress, or a parliament
 - has rules/laws
 - secret ballot/vote in elections

4. **Pluralism:** public and private groups work together to affect how the country is run (business, farming, labour, elements of society)
 - no one group dominates—limits are put on gov't (constitution & laws)
 - socialism (equal share for everyone—gov't owned/run) vs. capitalism (individual earns own \$ based upon work done and pays for levels of services—privately owned/run)

5. **Communism:** gov't is tightly controlled by a small group
 - no freedom to choose a non-communist leader
 - all media controlled by the gov't (extreme censorship and restrictions)
 - provides programs to majority of citizens (education, medical care, housing, culture, employment...)
 - individual freedom is sacrificed for benefit of society

6. **Constitutional Government:** has basic laws by which the people and rulers are governed
 - has official documents and traditions of freedom, justice, human rights (eg: Magna Carta)
 - a constitution = indicates a government's goals & purposes

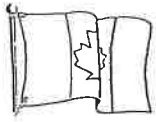
7. **Parliamentary Government:** A.K.A. a Cabinet Gov't
 - has executives and members
 - Canada has a Prime Minister (head of gov't) and Monarch (head of state)
 - PM leads a political party that won the majority of seats in an election

- 8. Monarchy:** the head of state inherits or is elected to a throne for a lifetime (eg: king, queen, prince, emperor, sultan, tsar, Caesar...)
- Absolute Monarchy = responsible only to God (above the law)
 - Constitutional Monarchy = must obey laws—duties nowadays are mostly symbolic and ceremonial

9. Dictatorship: similar to an absolute monarchy (no restrictions on power)

- one person in power; usually not hereditary
- often acquired via force, violence, and/or political trickery
- uses force (military) to maintain power eg: Hitler, Napoleon
- freedom of speech and right to assemble in groups are prohibited
- elections are forbidden or strictly controlled

***10. Oligarchy:** a small group of people who have the powers of dictatorship



WHAT IS CANADA'S GOVERNMENT



Our government carries out three main tasks or functions. They are legislative, executive and judicial. The legislative function is to make new laws and to pass them. The executive function is to make sure the laws are put into effect. The judicial function is to decide if a person has broken society's laws and to punish the guilty.

Canada's government has been described as a democracy, a monarchy, a parliamentary system, a cabinet government and a federal system.

It is a democracy because we elect the people who govern us. Sometimes this system is also called a representative government.

Our government has also been described as a monarchy because Queen Elizabeth II is the Queen of Canada and is represented by the Governor General. Neither the Queen nor the Governor General is involved in our government.

Some people refer to our government as a parliamentary government because Canada's parliament consists of the Queen, represented by the Governor General, the Senate and the House of Commons. Our government has been fashioned after the British Parliament in many ways.

Canada's government has often been referred to as a cabinet government because the Cabinet Ministers carry out the executive functions of the government. The Cabinet Ministers are responsible to the Prime Minister and House of Commons. The House of Commons is responsible to the people who elected its members. This line of responsibility running from the top of the government to the people makes our government a responsible one.

People often call our government a federal system because it has a national government and provincial and territorial governments.

Canada is a federation of provinces and territories and it has a federal government because both governments have the

power to make laws.





OUR PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNMENT



Executive Offices

The Governor General

1. Who is the Governor General?

The Governor General is an appointed official.

2. Who does the Governor General represent?

The Governor General represents Queen Elizabeth II.

3. Who recommends the person for the position of Governor General?

The Prime Minister recommends the person selected to the position of Governor General.

4. Who appoints the person selected to the position of Governor General?

The Queen appoints the person to the position of Governor General.

5. How long does the Governor General hold this position?

The Governor General holds this position for five years.

6. Who was the first Canadian appointed to the position of Governor General? In what year was he appointed?

The Right Honourable Vincent Massey was appointed to the position of Governor General in 1952.

7. What is the Governor General's most important role?

The Governor General opens every session of Parliament and reads the Speech from the Throne.

8. Name three other responsibilities the Governor General performs.

① The Governor General entertains foreign visitors.

② The Governor General honours Canadians who have done good things for Canada.

③ The Governor General opens important buildings.

OUR PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNMENT

The Prime Minister

The leader of Canada is called a Prime Minister. The Prime Minister is also the leader of the majority party in the House of Commons. The Prime Minister is elected by the people of Canada. He/She usually governs for five (four) years and then an election must be called by the Governor General.

The Prime Minister is the most powerful person in the government. In the House of Commons he/she speaks for the entire country. The Prime Minister visits other countries to improve trade and foreign policies. In the House of Commons he leads the other members in debates and discussions on how to improve Canada and the Canadian way of living.

The Prime Minister chooses other members in his party to help him govern Canada. They are called his Ministers. This group of Ministers is called a Cabinet. The Cabinet discusses important issues and policies and votes on them. The Prime Minister has the final say on all policies and he/she has the right to change any decision made by Cabinet.

The Prime Minister lives at an official residence at 24 Sussex Drive in Ottawa. Our present Prime Minister is Justin Trudeau.

| | | |
|-----------|----------|-----------------|
| final | govern | trade |
| Ministers | right | leader |
| House | election | powerful |
| speaks | issues | Justin Trudeau |
| Commons | Cabinet | 24 Sussex Drive |
| Ottawa | elected | majority party |
| debates | policies | entire |
| votes | policies | discussions |
| five | | |

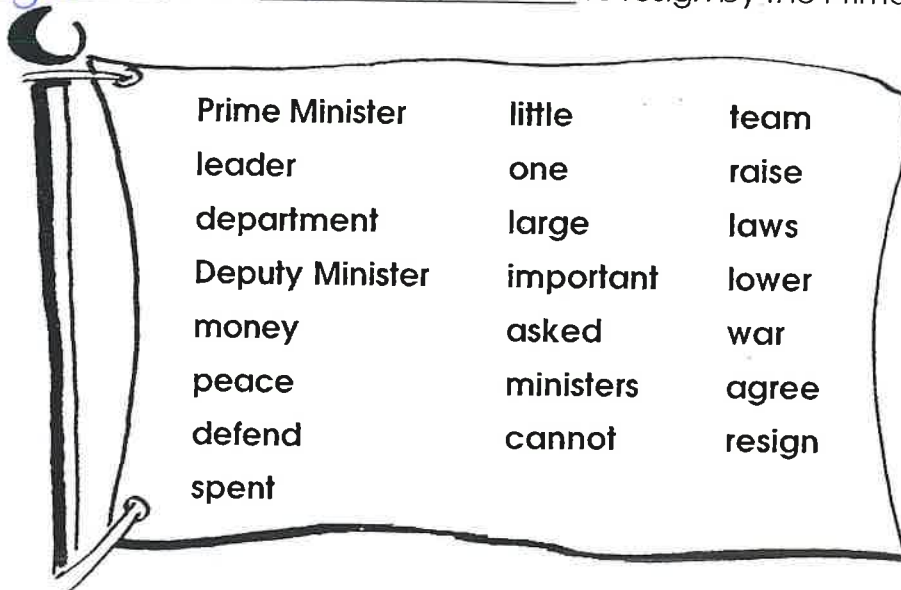
OUR PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNMENT

The Cabinet

The Cabinet is a group of elected members chosen by the Prime Minister from the majority party in the House of Commons. The members of the Cabinet are called ministers. A Minister is the leader of a government department. Quite often the Minister is given a department he knows very little about so a Deputy Minister helps him to run it.

Each province must be represented by One minister. Large provinces will have more than one minister. The Cabinet ministers and the Prime Minister must work together as a team. They make important decisions that will affect the entire country. They decide which laws will be passed and whether the country will be at war or at peace. They also decide how the country's money will be spent. The Prime Minister and the Cabinet can raise and lower our taxes as well.

The Cabinet ministers must agree on and defend all policies made by the Cabinet. If a Cabinet minister cannot support the policy he may resign or be asked to resign by the Prime Minister.



OUR PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNMENT

Canada's Parliament

Parliament is the national government of Canada. It is made up of the Crown, the Senate and the House of Commons. The Senate is often referred to as the Upper House and the House of Commons is called the Lower House.

The Senate

The Senate is a group of men and women appointed by the Governor General on the advice of the Prime Minister.

A Senator must be at least 30 years old and own property worth \$4000.00 and he/she must live in the province or territory for which he/she was appointed. A Senator must retire at the age of 75.

Senators carefully examine each bill passed by the House of Commons. The Senate can pass or reject any bill it examines. The Senate also investigates and writes reports on problems dealing with poverty, unemployment, old age, use of land and Native affairs.



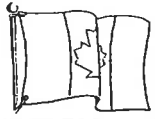
| | | |
|------------------|---------|--------------|
| government | bill | Lower House |
| Governor General | Crown | thirty |
| \$4000.00 | reject | investigates |
| House of Commons | reports | Senate |
| live | men | women |
| Upper House | pass | seventy-five |

OUR PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNMENT

The House of Commons

Complete each sentence with the correct information.

1. Members of the House are elected by the people during an election.
2. The House of Commons seats 338 members.
3. A Member of Parliament can serve for five years.
4. Each session of Parliament begins with the Speech from the Throne.
5. Parliament sits for 27 weeks of the year.
6. The sittings of Parliament begin in September and end in June.
7. Parliament has recesses so the members of Parliament can work in their regions or ridings.
8. Each sitting in Parliament is organized and each day it has an agenda.
9. On the agenda will be:
 - routine business
 - committee reports
 - recording documents
 - Ministers' statements
 - presentation of petitions
 - introduction of bills (laws)
 - debating legislation (laws)
10. The best part of each day's sitting is the Question Period.
11. Members of the House enjoy Question Period because they can ask the ministers all kinds of questions about their departments and policies.
12. The Speaker of the House makes sure the members of the House follow parliamentary rules and behave themselves in the House of Commons.



NATIONAL POLITICAL PARTIES



1. Explain the following terms:

a) political party: a group of people who believe in the same policies towards governing a country

b) party platform: policies and issues the party wants to improve or introduce

c) multi-party political system: several parties represent the people in the House of Commons

d) Prime Minister: leader of the party that won the election

e) Official Opposition: party with the second largest number of seats

f) Leader of the Opposition: leader of the party with the second largest number of seats

g) Grits: another name for Liberals (nickname for their sometimes abrasive qualities implying firmness of character)

h) Tories: another name for Conservatives (nickname for someone holds a political philosophy of Toryism based upon a British version of traditionalism and conservatism = "God, Queen, and Country")

2. Name the four main political parties found in Canada's government.

- Liberal Party of Canada

- Conservative Party of Canada

- New Democratic Party

- Bloc Québécois

- Green Party of Canada

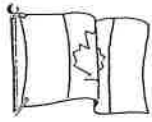


SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE



1. The Speaker of the House of Commons... 3 begins with the Speaker's Parade.
2. The Speaker looks very dignified... 5 the Speaker says a prayer before he is seated.
3. The sitting in the House of Commons... 7 ornately carved armchair in the House.
4. The Speaker of the Senate... 6 Mace at the beginning of the Parade.
5. At the beginning of each day... 1 is elected by the members of Parliament by secret ballot.
6. The Sergeant-at-Arms carries the... 2 in his black robes and tricorne hat worn in processions.
7. The Speaker sits in a very large... 4 is appointed by the Governor General.
8. Members of Parliament... 9 the members follow Parliamentary procedures.
9. The Speaker must make sure there is order in the House and... 8 show respect to the Speaker by bowing and speaking politely.
10. The Speaker cannot show any... 10 favouritism toward any party.



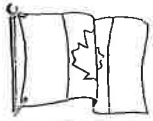


SERGEANT-AT-ARMS



True or False

1. The Sergeant-at-Arms carries the Mace for all parliamentary and ceremonial functions. TRUE
2. The Sergeant-at-Arms works for the Prime Minister. FALSE - works for Speaker of the House
3. The Sergeant-at-Arms walks at the end of the Speaker's Parade. FALSE - walks at the head of the parade
4. The security of the House of Commons and the Parliament Buildings is one of the Sergeant-at-Arms duties. TRUE
5. The Sergeant-at-Arms is the guardian of the Mace and places it on the Clerk's Table or in the brackets under it. TRUE - the lower brackets are used when a new Speaker needs to be elected -- replaced on the Table when a newly elected Speaker takes the Chair.
6. The Sergeant-at-Arms wears a black military uniform with brass buttons every day in the Parade. FALSE - black tailcoat and a cocked hat + sword
7. The position of Sergeant-at-Arms is a modern one that began in 1956. FALSE - from the Middle Ages
8. The Sergeant-at-Arms works with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Ottawa Police and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service. TRUE
9. The Sergeant-at-Arms sits in a chair that faces the Prime Minister every session. FALSE - Sergeant-at-Arms sits facing The Speaker
10. Members of the House who are not behaving properly are taken to the Bar of the House by the Sergeant-at-Arms. TRUE
11. The traffic on Parliament Hill is controlled by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. FALSE - Sergeant-at-Arms is responsible for this
12. The Sergeant-at-Arms does not carry the Mace before the election of a new Speaker of the House. TRUE - remains under the table
13. The Speaker of the House is escorted in and out of the House of Commons by the Sergeant-at-Arms. TRUE



THE MACE

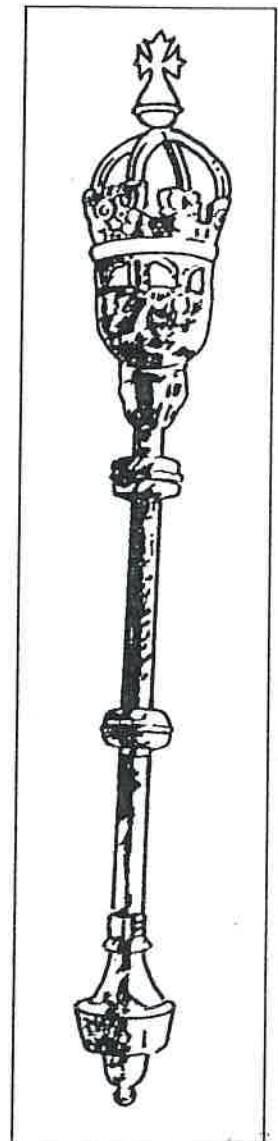


Canada's first Mace was made of wood and was introduced in 1792. During the War of 1812, Canada's Mace was stolen by American soldiers and taken back to the United States. In 1934 the Mace was returned to Canada and can be seen in Toronto at the Royal Ontario Museum.

In the Middle Ages the Mace was used as a weapon. It was a long-handled club with a heavy weight at the end. The Mace was used by the Sergeant-at-Arms to protect the King. It could smash through heavy armour.

Today's Mace is used for ceremonial occasions. It is a gold-plated war club. It is decorated with precious gems and precious metals. Its shape has changed and it no longer looks like a club. Canada's Mace has a long slim handle with an ornately decorated crown at the top. It is 147 centimetres long and weighs 7.9 kilograms.

The Mace is used during each sitting of the House of Commons. It is carried by the Sergeant-at-Arms in and out of the House of Commons while Parliament is sitting. The Mace is placed on the top of the Clerk's Table in silver brackets. The Mace is the Symbol of legislative authority. Parliament cannot proceed without it.



Use these words to complete the sentences in the information about the Mace. Some words may be used more than once.

| | | | | | |
|-------------|------------------|-------------|-----------|---------------|----------|
| Parliament | Sergeant-at-Arms | legislative | kilograms | Clerk's Table | sitting |
| weapon | centimetres | crown | metals | gold-plated | handle |
| ceremonial | king | club | armour | Toronto | returned |
| Middle Ages | War | wood | American | 1812 | gems |
| weight | | | | | |