

1 CULTURE AND POLITICS

Chapter 9

2 CULTURE AND POLITICS

- You enjoy fishing and tubing on the river
- A company that produces asbestos has announced that it is building a new factory upriver
- They promise to hire 500 people
- What will happen to the river?

3 WHAT IS POLITICS?

- Organization of members of our society to live together in peace and security
- Gives different groups ways to make their concerns felt

4 GOVERNMENT IN OUR LIVES

- Canada is governed as a democracy
- Democracy – government by the people
- We have three levels of government: federal, provincial/territorial, and municipal

5 FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

- Defence
- International trade/relations
- Banking
- Natural resources
- First Nations
- Postal Services

6 PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

- Education (exception?)
- Hospitals
- Health-care system
- Natural resources
- Municipal government
- Provincial highways

7 MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

- Fire protection services
- Garbage collection
- Street cleaning and maintenance
- Building permits
- Collecting property taxes and license fees

8 GOVERNMENT IN OUR LIVES

- Representative democracy – politicians represent the people who elected them
- Canada is divided into areas called ridings or constituencies
- Federal government representatives are called Members of Parliament (MPs)
- Provincial are called Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs)
- Municipal are usually called councillors
- These representatives make decisions based on the wishes and needs of their constituents

(people living in the riding)

12 **THE POWER OF THE VOTE**

- How does the system ensure that politicians do, in fact, represent their constituents fairly?
- Elections – all citizens over the age of 18 can vote
- Voters choose from a list of candidates
- First past the post – the candidate with the most votes gets elected

13 **THE PARTY SYSTEM**

- Political party – a group of people who have similar views on political issues
- Liberals, New Democratic Party, Progressive Conservatives, Green
- The party with the most successful candidates forms the government
- The party with the second-most forms the opposition
- Majority/minority governments

14 **AFTER AN ELECTION**

- The governing party will propose laws
- The Opposition act as critics of the government
- All members vote on new proposals, which are called bills
- When passed, bills are called Acts and become the law
- The caucus is the MPs of each party
- The 'whip' is an MP who makes sure all party members are present for votes and 'follow the party line'
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- Bill C-45

15 **CABINET GOVERNMENT**

- When a government is elected, some of the elected representatives from the winning party are chose by the leader to be in the cabinet and are called ministers
- The leader of the governing party federally is called the prime minster
- The provincial leader is called the premier

17 **DEMOCRACY IN ACTION**

Voting isn't the only way to make governments listen to our concerns:

- Political Activists
- Media
- Lobbying/lobbyists/lobby group
- Labour unions, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and other groups
- Court or judicial system