

Lesson 1: Governments in Canada

GUIDING QUESTIONS

- How is government structured in Canada?
- What are the roles and responsibilities of each government?
- How does the municipal government affect me and my family?

OVERVIEW

In Canada, we have different governments, each with its own elected representatives, leaders and areas of responsibility.

In this lesson, students explore the roles and responsibilities within municipal, provincial and federal governments through a variety of multimedia tools and a trivia game. In the *Consolidation* activity, students reflect on how municipal government services influence their lives.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the lesson, students can:

- Identify the roles associated with the different governments;
- Assess which level/order of government is responsible for various services;
- Explain how governments affect them directly.

STARTER

This activity aims to activate prior knowledge, introduce the concept of levels of government, and emphasize why we should know the difference between them.

1. Briefly introduce the idea that there are different governments in Canada. Write down the different orders/levels of governments: federal, provincial and municipal. Explain that each government manages its own set of responsibilities.
2. Using Slide Deck 1A, review the images related to government services and ask students which government manages the responsibility. Then, ask students to identify which level of government is responsible for each scenario and share their reasoning with the class.
3. As a class, discuss: Why is it important to know who is responsible for what?

ESSENTIAL LEARNING

These activities are intended to teach students about the levels of government and further their learning through an interactive game.

1. Using "[The Levels of Government](#)" video and/or Slide Deck 1A, review how our government system is structured in Canada. The video covers the different areas of responsibility for each government, and the titles given to the elected representatives and the leader of the government.

Note: First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities can also have their own governments. These councils or governments may share specific responsibilities with the provincial/territorial or federal government.

2. In groups or as a class, play a trivia game to test students' knowledge of the levels/orders of government in Canada. You can use Slide Deck 1B or create your own template.

- a) Divide the class into small teams of 3–4 students.
- b) Ask each team one question at a time.
- c) Teams earn a point for each correct answer. If a team answers incorrectly, another team can “steal” the point by answering correctly.
- d) Tally the points and announce the winning team.
- e) Review any questions that were challenging or answered incorrectly to reinforce learning.

CONSOLIDATION

To conclude the lesson, students will reflect on how municipal government services influence their lives and connect this understanding to their everyday experiences.

1. Ask students to create a “Municipal Impact Map” by drawing a simple diagram or writing a list of municipal services they use daily. Encourage them to include at least three examples and describe how each service affects them or their family.

Examples:

- Public library: “I borrow books and attend storytime programs.”
- Local park: “I play soccer with my friends here.”
- Road maintenance: “It helps my family drive safely to school and work.”

2. Have students pair up to discuss their impact maps. Each partner explains how municipal government services influence their lives and listens to their peers' examples.



This pilot program was developed through a partnership between CIVIX and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO). The mandate of AMO is to support and enhance strong and effective municipal government in Ontario. It promotes the value of the municipal government as a vital and essential component of Ontario and Canada's political system. Through AMO, Ontario's 444 municipalities work together to achieve shared goals and meet common challenges.

As this is a pilot program, if you have feedback on how CIVIX and AMO could improve these resources, please contact: hello@civix.ca