

Canadian Politics and Government: I Can Statements

1. I can provide details of what active citizenship looks like in Canadian politics.
2. I can explain how lobbyists and pressure groups influence government decisions.
3. I can describe the role media plays in effecting change.
4. I can describe the characteristics of civil disobedience.
5. I can evaluate the similarities and differences among key political ideologies.
6. I can explain the political spectrum, including characteristics of the left, centre, and right portions of the spectrum.
7. I can describe how Canada's political parties differ and where they fit on the political spectrum.
8. I can describe how B.C.'s political parties differ and where they fit on the political spectrum.
9. I can explain the stages of passing a bill.
10. I can provide details of the benefits and challenges of a minority government.
11. I can explain the steps of the electoral process in Canada.
12. I can define the following key terms:
 - Democracy: A system of government in which people freely choose in elections who will govern them; the principles and ideals of such a government, including free speech and the rule of law.
 - Lobbyist: a person hired to represent the interests of a pressure group by influencing policy decision makers in the group's favour.
 - Ideology: Political and social principles or beliefs.
 - Direct democracy: A system in which citizens vote directly on every issue.
 - Representative democracy: A system in which citizens elect a politician who then makes decisions for them.
 - Socialism: A political and economic system in which the means of production and distribution in a country are publicly owned and controlled for the benefit of all members of a society.
 - Liberalism: A political philosophy supporting individual freedoms and governmental protection of civil liberties.
 - Conservatism: A political philosophy supporting traditional values and institutions and opposing sudden change.

- Totalitarian: A form of government that uses intimidation, violence, and propaganda to rule all aspects of the social and political life of its citizens.
- Authoritarian: A form of government in which one individual or small group holds all the power and directs the lives of citizens.
- Communism: A social and economic ideology that believes property, production, and distribution of goods and services should be owned by the public, and that the labour force should be organized for the benefit of all members of society.
- Fascism: An authoritarian system of government that exercises complete power, suppresses opposition, often through use of force, and encourages nationalism and racism.
- Political spectrum: A linear visual used to illustrate political ideologies, from left to right.
- Party platform: A list of priorities and a plan for governing published by a political party.
- Patronage: A favour, often a government position, given in return for political support.
- Senate: The second legislative body in Parliament consisting of appointed members whose role is to give sober second thought to the passage of bills.
- Cabinet: The group of ministers chosen by the prime minister who decide government policy, each Cabinet minister has a responsibility for a particular department.
- House of Commons: The first legislative body of parliament whose members are elected.
- Cabinet solidarity: The custom that Cabinet members must not show disagreement with government policies.
- Order-in-Council: An order signed by the Governor General (or the Lieutenant-Governor in the provinces) on the advice of the prime minister (or premier) and Cabinet, allows laws and regulations to be passed without a parliamentary vote.
- Royal assent: The final stage a bill must complete before it is passed into law in which the Governor General (or Lieutenant-Governor in the provinces) signs or grants approval for the bill.
- Lieutenant-Governor: The provincial representative of the Crown appointed by the Governor General.
- Party whip: A member of the legislature assigned the specific role of ensuring all members of his or her party are present in the legislature to support party interests.
- Party discipline: All party members voting the same way, as one voice.
- Free vote: Members vote according to their own conscience.

- Private member's bill: A bill introduced into the legislature by a member of the legislature who is not a member of the Cabinet.
- Majority government: A government in which the ruling party has more than half of the total number of seats in the legislature.
- Minority government: A government in which the ruling party has more seats than any other party, but the other parties combined have more seats than the government.
- Coalition: A formal alliance of political parties.
- Prorogue Parliament: To suspend Parliament for a period of time upon the prime minister's request to the Governor General.
- Dissolve Parliament: To call an end to a sitting Parliament, at the request of the prime minister (or premier) to the Governor General (or Lieutenant-Governor in the province); followed by a general election.
- Electoral district, riding, constituency: A geographical area of a given size or population used as a unit in elections.
- Voter apathy: Reluctance or lack of interest in voting.
- Nomination: Choosing a candidate to run for office.
- Enumeration: Process of compiling a list of voters.
- Balloting: Voting.
- Tabulating: Counting votes.