

BIG IDEAS

Understanding how political decisions are made is critical to being an informed and engaged citizen.

Political institutions and ideology shape both the exercise of power and the nature of political outcomes.

Decision making in a democratic system of government is influenced by the distribution of political and social power.

Learning Standards

Curricular Competencies	Content
<p><i>Students are expected to be able to do the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Social Studies inquiry processes and skills to ask questions; gather, interpret, and analyze data; and communicate findings and decisions • Assess the significance of political issues, ideologies, forces, decisions, or developments, and compare varying perspectives on their significance at particular times and places, and from group to group (significance) • Analyze political data and assess the reliability of sources (evidence) • Compare and contrast continuities and changes for different political institutions and organizations at particular times and places (continuity and change) • Assess how underlying conditions and the actions of individuals or groups affect events, decisions, and developments, and analyze multiple consequences (cause and consequence) • Explain and infer different perspectives on political issues, decisions, or developments (perspective) • Make reasoned ethical judgments about political issues, decisions, and developments (ethical judgment) 	<p><i>Students are expected to know the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • structure and function of Canadian and First Peoples political institutions • major ideologies and political systems • election processes and electoral systems • methods used by media, governments, or political groups to influence public opinion • political power in democratic and non-democratic societies • current and future public policy • scope and characteristics of the international system • issues in local, regional, national, and international politics