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 shaped by the unequal distribution of political and social power.	International political agreements require compromises between countries with a wide range of values and priorities.

Learning Standards

Curricular Competencies	Content
Students are expected to be able to do the following:	*Students are expected to know the following:*
- Use Social Studies inquiry processes and skills to ask questions; gather, interpret, and analyze data; and communicate findings and decisions **Evaluate how factors, forces, events, or people influence developments, outcomes, or decisions (significance, relevance, and pertinence)** **Assess the origin, purpose, quality, and impact of political data (evidence)** **Analyze the methods used by the media, governments, and other important groups to influence public perception of an issue or event (political perspectives)** **Explain how different ideologies and worldviews shape perspectives on the same political issue and information (political perspectives)** - Analyze interrelationships between objectives and intended or unintended results (interrelationships, objectives, and results) - Assess the factors that cause political stability or instability (stability and change) **Recognize the influence of implicit and explicit ethical judgments in political decision making, and formulate positions on issues of ethics in politics (judgments in political ethics)**	**structure and function of Canadian and First Peoples political institutions** **major ideologies and political systems** **election processes and electoral systems** - role of mass media in democratic societies **power relationships between citizens, government, and other bodies in the creation of public policy** - scope and characteristics of the international system - issues in local, regional, or national politics in Canada - issues in global politics, such as security, conflict management, development, and sustainability