



Canadian Election Workbook 2015

DDRC Communications and Development

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Election Basics

*All words in **bold** are defined on page 5*

An **election** is when people who live in a certain area **vote** for people to represent them in the government. The people they are **voting** for are called **candidates**.

Each **candidate** belongs to a **political party**. There are many different **political parties** running against each other in each **election**.

This **election** will decide who our **Prime Minister** (Canada's leader) and **Members of Parliament** or **MPs** (people chosen to represent different **ridings** in Canada) will be for the next four years.

Each **political party** has different ideas about how the country should be run, which they share in a document called a **platform**.

The **political party** with the most **votes** will become the **Canadian Government**. The **political party** that gets the second most **votes** will become the **Official Opposition**.

This year's **election** will take place on Monday, October 19. On this day, you will go and **vote** at a **polling station** in your community. **Polling stations** are open from 7:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. on October 19.

You can also vote at an **advance polling station** a few days before the **election**, at an Elections Canada office, or by mailing your **ballot** in.

Why Should I Vote?

It's your right and your responsibility!

Everyone aged 18 or older in Canada has the right to vote.

It is important to have your voice heard and to be included in decisions that impact you. This is why it is a responsibility.



The Political Parties

<p>Conservative Party of Canada</p> 	<p>Green Party of Canada</p> 
<p>Liberal Party of Canada</p> 	<p>New Democratic Party of Canada</p> 

Activity

Did you see any signs for the different political parties in the community today?

If so, which ones?

Who is the leader of the Conservative Party of Canada?

Who is the leader of the Green Party of Canada?

Who is the leader of the Liberal Party of Canada?

Who is the leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada?

What is the leader of Canada called?

How many ridings are there in Calgary?

What riding do you live in?

What candidates are in your riding?

What day is the election happening on?

What are the four (4) different ways you can vote?

What polling station will you vote at?

BONUS QUESTION:

What are the names of two (2) other political parties in Canada?

Definitions

Ballot: The piece of paper you receive at a polling station where you choose the candidate you want to vote for.

Canadian Government: The people in charge of the country who make important decisions about how things are run. This is made up of members from the political party that got the most votes.

Candidates: People who want to be chosen to represent their community as part of the government.

Election: When citizens of Canada choose who they want to represent them based on their own personal beliefs.

Member of Parliament (MP): The official title of someone who has been chosen to represent their community in the Canadian Government.

Official Opposition: The people who help keep the government responsible to the citizens of Canada. This is made up of members from the political party that got the second most votes.

Platform: A document that explains what each political party believes, and how they want to run Alberta if they become the government.

Political Party: A group of people who have the same beliefs about how to run the province and want to become part of the government.

Polling Station: A place in your community where you go to vote during the election. There are also advance polling stations where you can vote a few days before the election.

Prime Minister: The leader of the Canadian Government.

Vote: Making your voice heard by choosing who you want to represent your community. This can happen at an official polling station, or by mailing your ballot in.