

Election 2015

- What are the issues?

The Plan

1. Tuesday– How the system works
2. Wednesday– The issues at stake
3. Thursday – The parties, and what they believe
4. Friday – Decision time: where do you stand?

QUIZ on Tuesday

Other classwork / reflections completed in class

Unit 3 Textbook Assignment

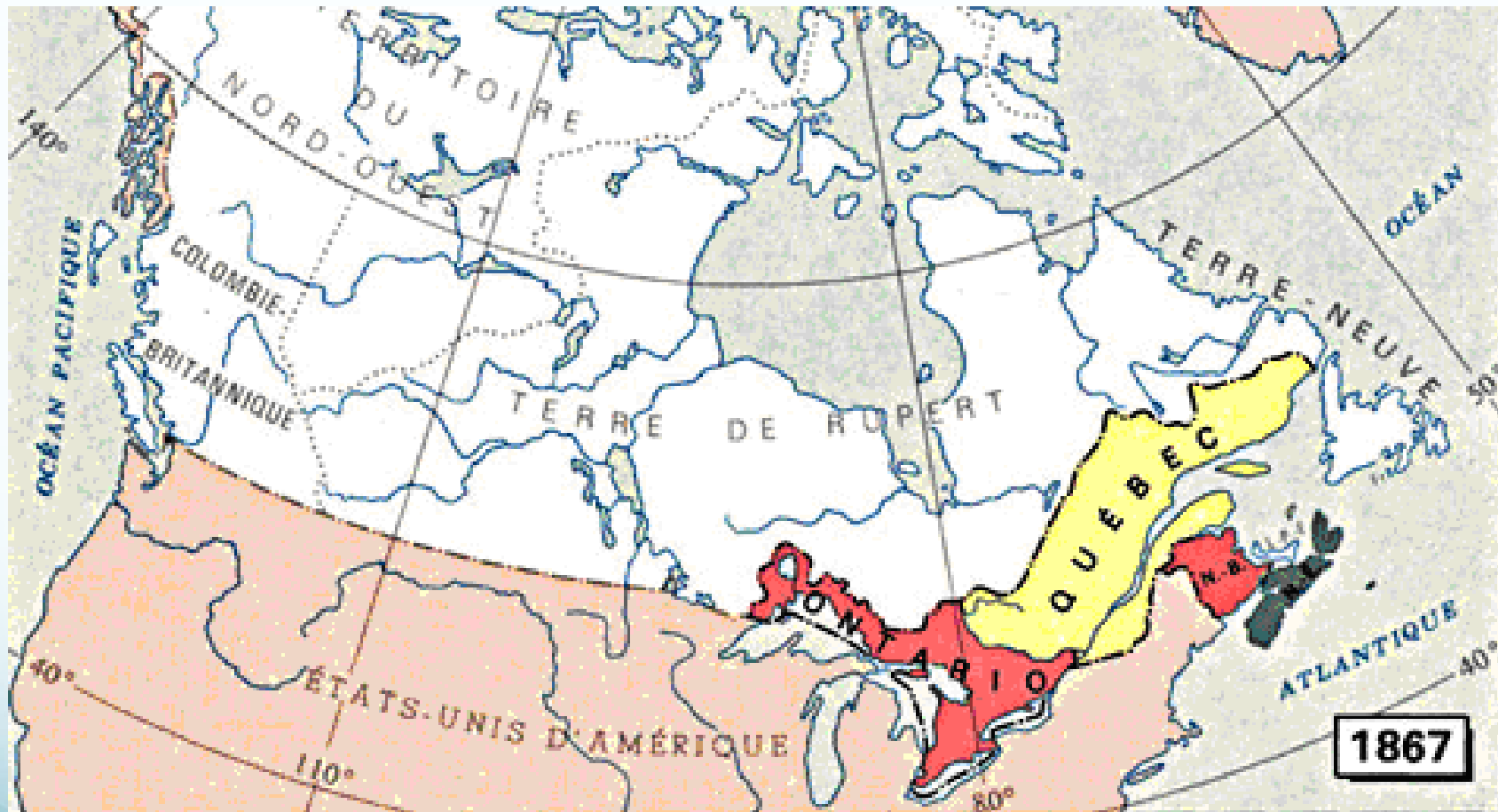
- #1-9 already complete
- by THURSDAY complete #10-34
- by FRIDAY complete #35-38
- by MONDAY complete pictures
- Multiple Choice test on Tuesday October 20th
- In-class write on Wednesday October 21st

3.8 Canada's Current Government (Part 1)

How the system works

The “Dominion” of Canada

Four Provinces



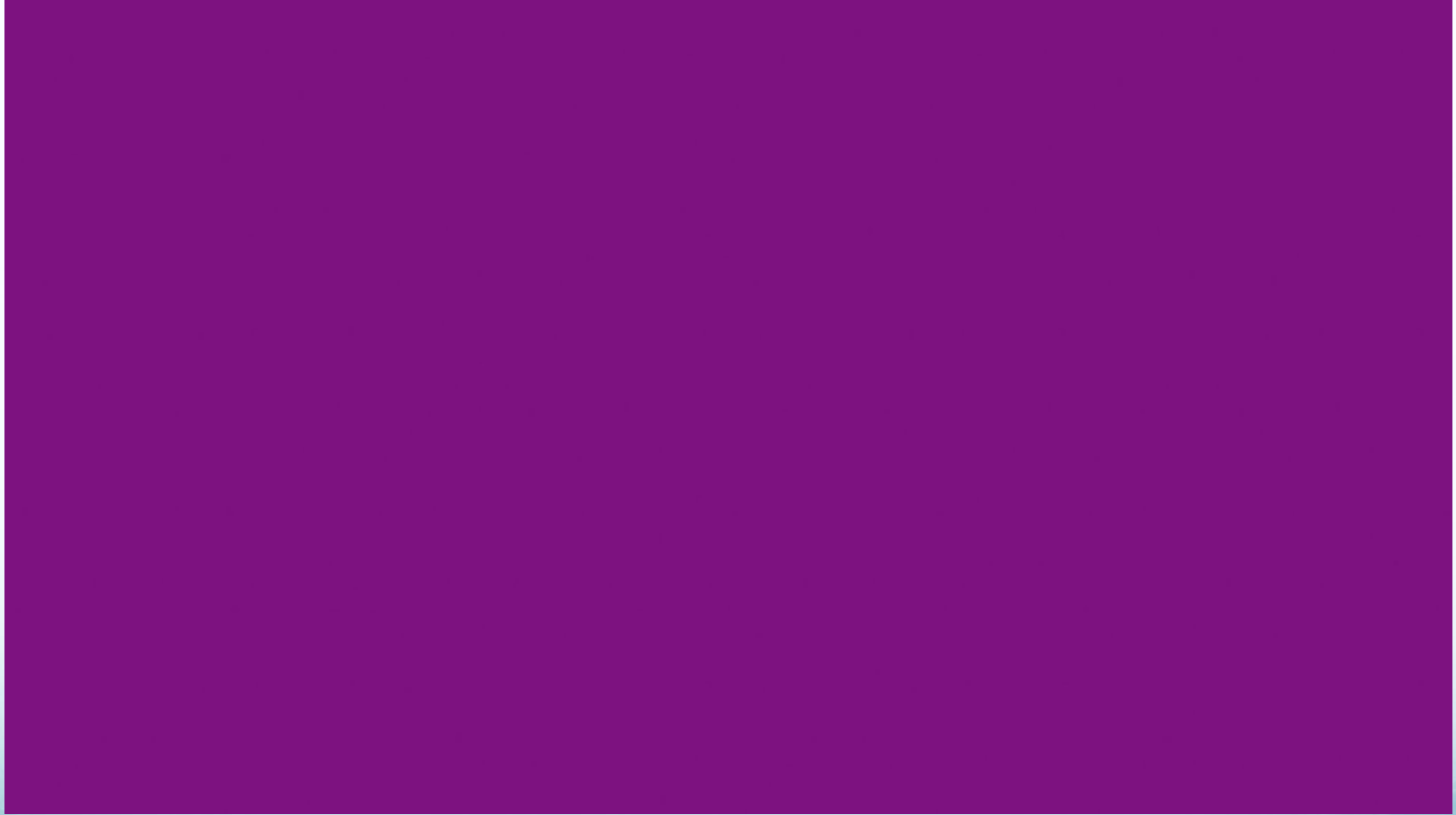
Capital City



Ottawa, Ontario

- Already chosen by Queen Victoria
- On the border of Ontario and Quebec

Levels of Government



Confederation

Federal Government
(Canada - Ottawa)

responsible for...

- Foreign Affairs
- First Nations Treaties
- Fisheries and Oceans
- CPP and EI
- Equalization Payments
- etc.

Provincial Government
(ex. BC - Victoria)

responsible for...

- Health Care
- Education
- Natural Resources
- Ferries/Highways
- Programs
- etc.

Municipal Government
(ex. Chilliwack)

responsible for...

- Local infrastructure
- By-laws
- etc.

Government Structure

House of Commons

- **Elected**
- **Representation by Population** (Rep by Pop)
 - Larger Provinces get more seats in parliament

Senate

- **Appointed**
- **Representation by Region** (Rep by Region)
 - Ontario 24
 - Quebec 24
 - New Brunswick 12
 - Nova Scotia 12

Federal Government: Three Branches

Legislative	Executive	Judicial
Make laws and debate them	Carry out the laws and run things	Enforce laws and interpret them

Federal Government: Branch 1: Legislative

- Members of Parliament (MP' s) in the House of Commons **debate** new laws and vote on them
- Senate then gives each law “**sober second thought**” before passing them
- **Governor General** approves of each law on behalf of the Queen.

Federal Government:

Branch 2: Executive

- The leader of the largest party in the House of Commons is called the **Prime Minister** (and his office staff is the **PMO**)
- He appoints **Cabinet** Ministers (with portfolios like “Defense” and “Finance”)
- The Prime Minister must ask the Governor General to approve elections and introduce each session of Parliament
- The executive is **responsible** to the House of Commons (ie. Can be voted out)

Federal Government:

Branch 3: Judiciary

- The **Supreme Court** of Canada oversees all judges and court cases as the court of final appeal.
- They enforce and **interpret** all laws, which are bound by the Canadian **Constitution** and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.
- The government **cannot pass a law** that is “unconstitutional” without changing the constitution (which is almost impossible).

BNA Issue #1: Federal/Provincial Relations

- 1) Should “have” provinces really pay to support “have-not” provinces?
- 2) Why does money for things like Health Care have to go through the federal government first?
- 3) Should natural resources really belong to the Provinces?
- 4) Shouldn't there be more consistency across the country in areas such as education?
- 5) What happens when “culture” disagrees?

BNA Issue #2: Quebec Discontent

- 1) Are we a country with 10 Provinces or “2 founding nations”?
- 2) Does the rest of the country “gang up” on Quebec?
- 3) On what issues should Quebec have “veto power”?

BNA Issue #3: the Senate

- 1) Does the Senate really represent the regions?
- 2) Is the Senate a waste of time and money?
- 3) Is it possible to reform the Senate?
- 4) What would a triple-E senate look like?
 - Elected?
 - Equal?
 - Effective?

BNA Issue #4: First Nations

- 1) Do we have 2 founding nations, or 3+?
- 2) Is Canada bound by the promises made by Britain?
- 3) Are First Nations people citizens of Canada?
- 4) Should First Nations people be represented in government?
- 5) How could have problems for First Nations people been prevented?

Patriating the Constitution 1982



- In 1982, **Pierre Elliot Trudeau** introduced the Constitution Act
- Includes an amendment formula so that Canada can change the **Constitution**
- Includes the Charter of **Rights and Freedoms**
- The document was never signed by **Quebec**

Charter of Rights and Freedoms

Part of the Constitution



Every individual is equal before the and under the law and has the right to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination and, in particular, without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age, or mental or physical disability.

Constitution Issues

Power to Judges

The Constitution of Canada is the "supreme law of Canada", and any law inconsistent with it is of no force or effect. This gives Canadian courts the power to strike down legislation.

Should appointed judges have more power than elected members of parliament?

First Nations

The Constitution of 1982 did not grant First Nations people any representation in government.

It also did not repeal the Indian Act, meaning it is still Canada's stated goal to "assimilate Indians" into our culture.

Should First Nations people be given representation in government?

Constitution Issues

Quebec

Quebec was not completely happy with aspects of the Canadian Constitution, but Trudeau passed it anyways and the Queen signed it.

Why can't we have a Constitution that ALL Provinces agreed to?

Amendments

In order to change the Constitution, it requires 7 Provinces plus 50% of the population.

Two unsuccessful attempts have been made to “fix” the Constitution:

- 1) Meech Lake Accord in 1987
- 2) Charlottetown Accord in 1992

Should we continue trying to change the Constitution so that Quebec will sign?

Summary

Parliamentary Democracy



Representatives



Voted by the people

Constitutional Monarchy



Follows set laws



With the King or Queen as the "head of state"

Canada Explained



Current Municipal Government



Mayor + Council

School Trustees



2014 Election Results

MAYOR

1. *GAETZ, Sharon 10,183
2. HULL, Cameron 2,731
3. CAUCHI, Raymond 1,066

2014 Election Results

COUNCILLOR

Six (6) to be elected

1.	*	WADDINGTON, Sam	8,680
2.	*	LUM, Jason	7,842
3.	*	POPOVE, Ken	7,548
4.	*	STAM, Chuck	7,132
5.	*	ATTRILL, Sue	6,027
6.	*	KLOOT, Chris	4,916

Current Provincial Government:

Premier: *Christy Clark*



The "Cabinet"



The Premier's office



Lieutenant Governor:
Judith Guichon

Chief Justice:
Christopher Hinkson



2013 BC Election Results

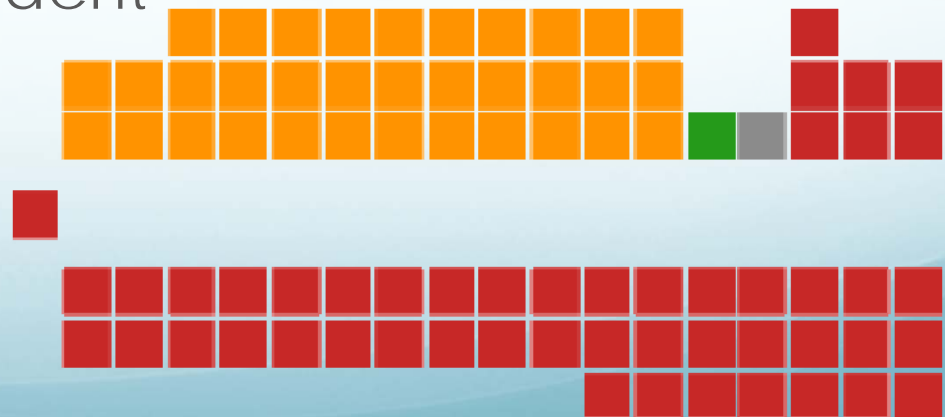
*Everyone over 18 votes for a local candidate
(not for the leader!)*

1. Liberal 44%
2. NDP 40%
3. Green 8%
4. Conservative 5%
5. Other 3%

Current Parliament

Total of 85 Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLA's)

- 49 Liberals (**majority**: Christy Clark)
- 34 New Democrats (**official opposition**: John Horgan)
- 1 Green, 1 Independent



Specific Issues in 2013 election:

1. The Economy (Pipeline)
2. Past Errors (HST vs. Fast Ferries and Bingogate)

Current Federal Government:

Prime Minister: *Stephen Harper*



Chief Justice:
Beverly McLachlin



The "Cabinet"



The "PMO"
(prime minister's office)

Governor General:
David Lloyd Johnston

Regional Representation

British Columbia	6	Newfoundland	6
Alberta	6	New Brunswick	10
Ontario	24	Northwest Territories	1
Quebec	24	Prince Edward Island	4
Manitoba	6	Yukon	1
Saskatchewan	6	Nunavut	1
Nova Scotia	10		

2011 Canada Election Results

*Everyone over 18 votes for a local candidate
(not for the leader!)*

1. Conservatives 40%
2. NDP 31%
3. Liberals 19%
4. Bloc Quebecois 6%
5. Green 4%

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canadavotes2011>

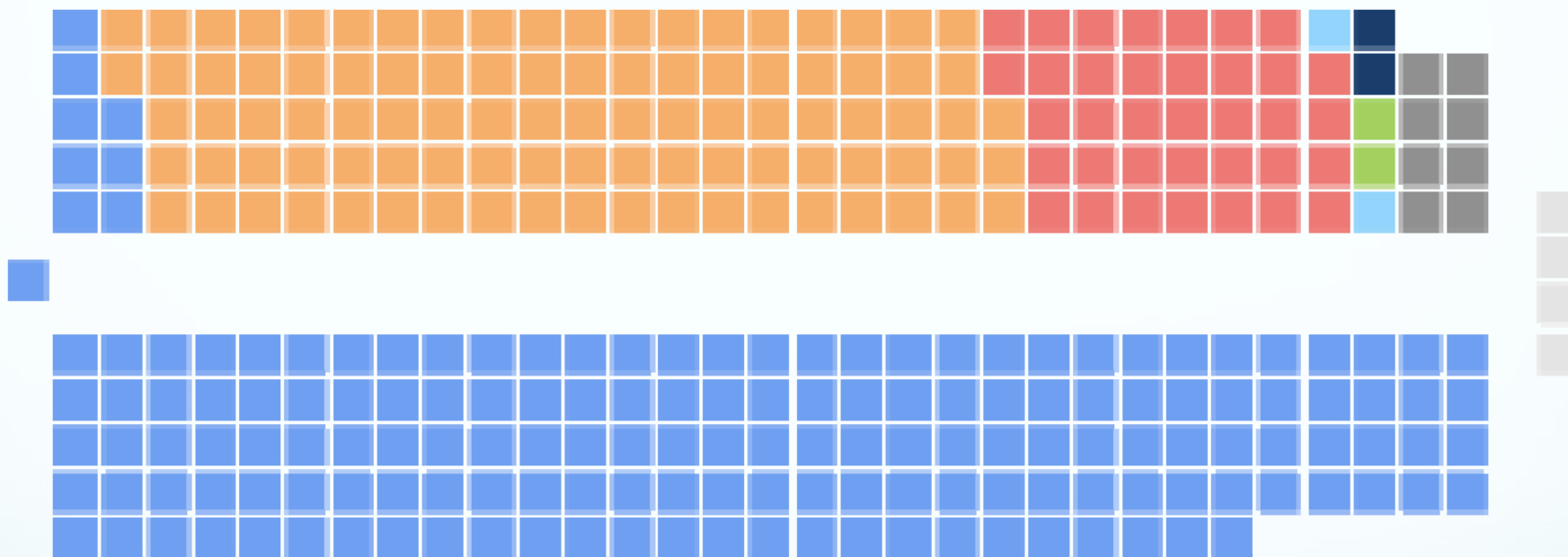
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Current Parliament

Total of 308 Members of Parliament (MP' s)

- 161 Conservatives (**majority**: Stephen Harper)
- 96 New Democrats (**official opposition**: Thomas Mulcair)
- 35 Liberals (leader: **Justin Trudeau**)
- 13 Other (Bloc, Green, etc.)
- 3 Vacant

Seats in Parliament



Blue = Conservative

Red = Liberal

Orange = NDP

Blue = Quebec

Majority Government

- Canadians **do NOT vote for** a Prime Minister. We vote for a local representative.
- Second place in each riding does not count, because the **first past the post** wins.
- If one party wins more than **half** of the seats, they are called a **majority** government and their leader becomes the Prime Minister.
- If one party wins, but has **less than half** of the seats, then a **minority** government is formed. This is a more fragile situation.

Why do people NOT vote?

- Only 61% of eligible voters went to vote in the last Canada election
- Some people are too busy, don't care, or don't understand
- Some people don't like any of the parties and so end of not voting, or voting for the group they dislike the least
- Some people don't figure out what the issues are, and just vote the way their parents did or for who has better ads on TV.

Why is it important to vote?

- Because we should value democracy
- We pay a LOT of taxes
- The government should be held accountable
- It's not that hard
- “If you don't vote, then you don't have a right to complain”

VOTE!

