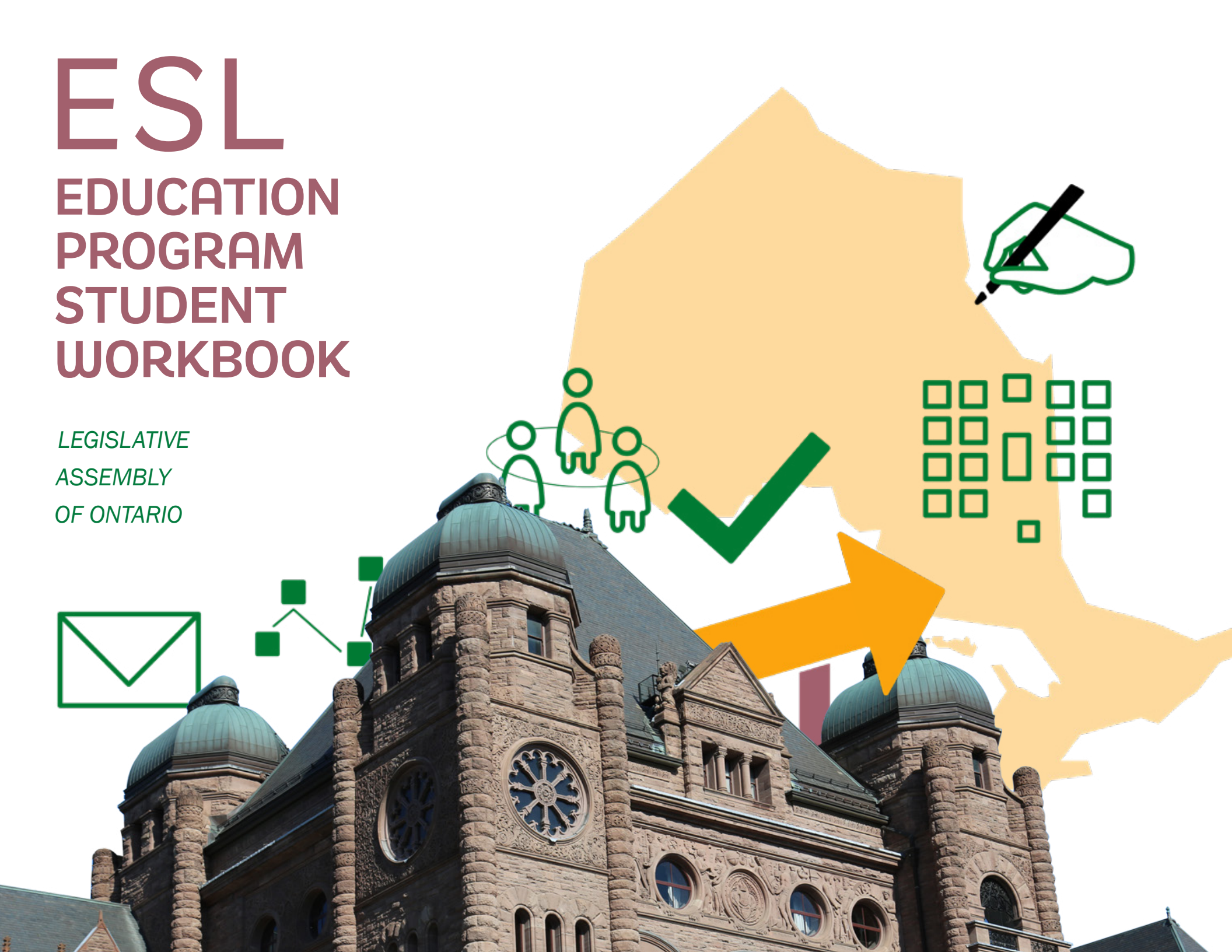
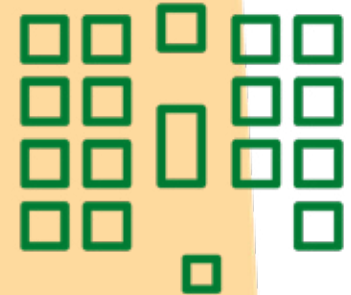


# ESL EDUCATION PROGRAM STUDENT WORKBOOK

LEGISLATIVE  
ASSEMBLY  
OF ONTARIO



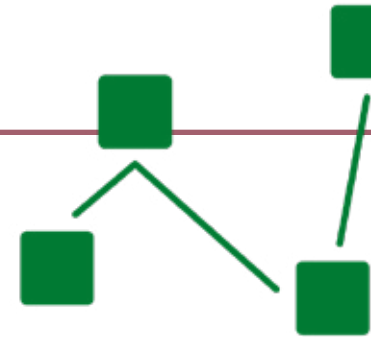
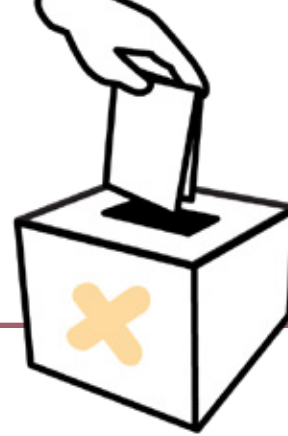
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# LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT IN CANADA

There are three levels of government in Canada; each administers specific responsibilities.



## THE FEDERAL LEVEL

The Parliament of Canada is located in Ottawa, Canada's capital city.

The federal government is responsible for things that affect Canada as a country, like citizenship, money/currency, and national defense/the army.

The leader of our federal government is the Prime Minister. What is his or her name?

---



## THE PROVINCIAL LEVEL

There are 10 provinces and 3 territories in Canada. Ontario's Parliament, also called the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, is located in Toronto.

The provincial government is responsible for things that affect Ontario as a province, like drivers' licences, health care, education, and marriage.

The leader of our provincial government is the Premier. What is his or her name?

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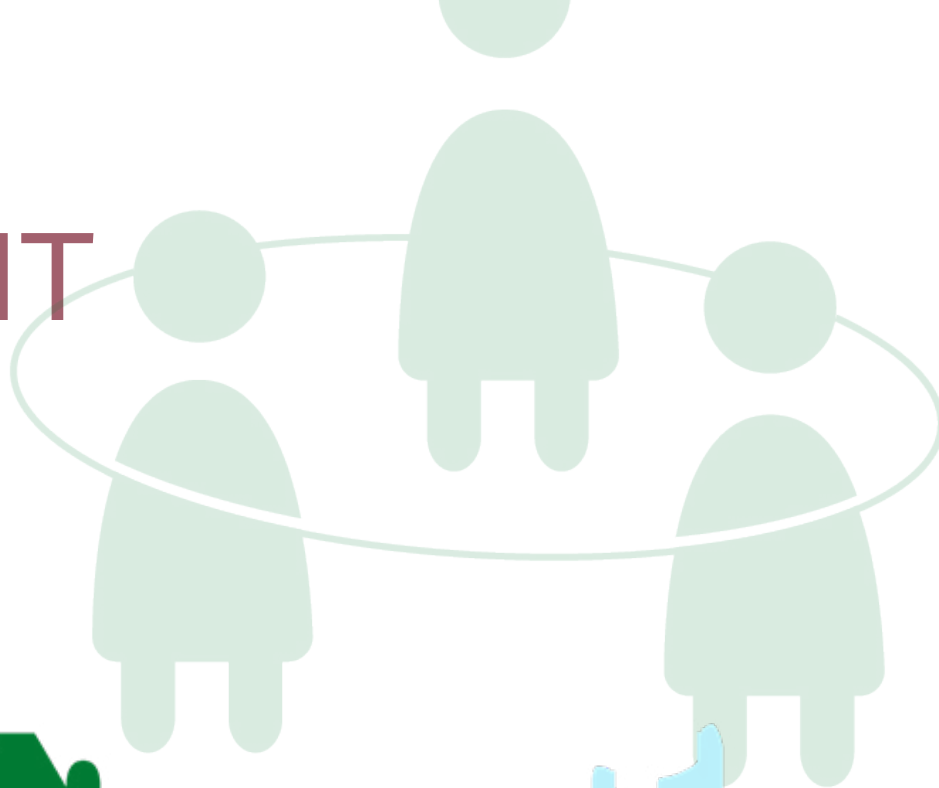
## THE MUNICIPAL LEVEL

Each city or town has its own local government.

The municipal government is responsible for local issues, like local roads, public parks, fire services and local police.

The leader of a municipal government is usually called a mayor. What is the name of your municipal leader?

---



# ACTIVITY

## WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

List each responsibility under the appropriate level of government.

### RESPONSIBILITIES

Army	Fisheries	OPP
Birth Certificates	Foreign Affairs	Provincial Parks
Canada Post	Garbage Pick-up	Public Transit
Citizenship + Immigration	Healthcare	RCMP
City Parks	Libraries	Recycling
Criminal Law	Local Police	Road Signs
Driver's Licence	Lottery	Snow Removal
Education	Marriage Certificates	Tourism
Firefighters	Money	Transportation

### LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

#### FEDERAL

#### PROVINCIAL

#### MUNICIPAL

# RIDINGS IN ONTARIO

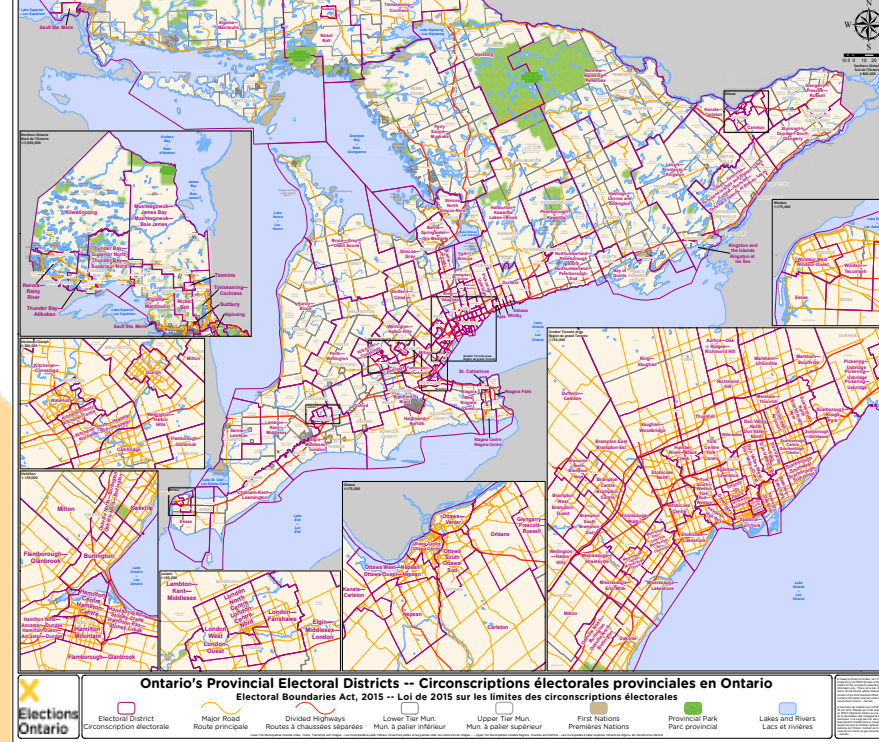
A riding, constituency, or electoral district is a geographic area usually defined by population. During an election, eligible voters will elect a candidate in their riding who will represent all the people who live in that area. There are 124 ridings in Ontario.

At the federal level of government, the candidate with the most votes in each riding, becomes the Member of Parliament (MP). The leader of the party with the most MPs will become the Prime Minister of Canada.

At the provincial level of government, the candidate with the most votes becomes the Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP). The leader of the party with the most MPPs will become the Premier of Ontario.

At the municipal level of government, eligible voters elect a candidate as their City Councillor and they also select their mayor. This system of election is different than the federal and provincial levels.

**LEFT:  
A MAP OF ONTARIO'S  
124 PROVINCIAL  
ELECTORAL DISTRICTS.  
FOR MORE INFO AND  
MAPS, VISIT THE  
ELECTIONS ONTARIO  
WEBSITE.**



## WHO ARE MY REPRESENTATIVES?

1. What is the name of your provincial riding?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Who is the MPP for your riding?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What political party does your MPP belong to?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Is your MPP a member of the government or the opposition?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Who is the MP for your riding?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Who is the City Councilor for your area?  
\_\_\_\_\_



To find your riding, call Elections Ontario at 1-888-668-8683 or visit their website: [www.elections.on.ca](http://www.elections.on.ca). You must know your mailing address or postal code to find this information.

# MEMBERS OF PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs) are elected by the people of Ontario to represent them at the provincial parliament. After a provincial election, the political party with the most MPPs forms the government. Some government MPPs become Cabinet Ministers. A Cabinet Minister is responsible for the administration of one of the responsibilities of the provincial government, for example education or health.

MPPs work in the Legislative Chamber, in the Legislative Building at Queen's Park in Toronto, and in their ridings near the people they represent.



ABOVE: MPPs AND PARLIAMENTARY OFFICIALS FROM THE 42ND PARLIAMENT, 2019

## IN THE LEGISLATIVE BUILDING...

MPPs have many responsibilities sit in the Legislative Chamber where they:

- Discuss, debate, vote and pass laws
- Speak about events in their riding
- Ask questions to the government or Cabinet Ministers about issues and concerns in Ontario and their communities
- Read petitions\* from people in their riding
- Take part in committee meetings that study bills carefully before they become laws

## IN THEIR RIDING...

MPPs work in their riding and in their communities, where they:

- Meet with the people they represent and help solve their problems
- Go to events in their communities, such as fundraisers or community picnics
- Present awards
- Meet with interest groups in their communities



\* A petition is a request from people in Ontario asking the Legislative Assembly to do something or to change a decision that has already been made. It includes the signatures of the people who are making the request.

# POLITICAL PARTIES

## POLITICAL PARTY LEADERS IN ONTARIO AS OF JANUARY 2020

A political party is an organized group of people who have similar views about issues affecting the people of a country, province or city. There are many political parties in Canada and Ontario. Most candidates in an election belong to a political party. If they don't, they are called independents. After an election, the political party with the most elected Members forms the government, and the party with the second highest number becomes the official opposition.

There are 4 political parties represented in Ontario's Parliament at this time. They are the Progressive Conservatives, the New Democratic Party, the Liberals, and the Green Party. There are also a few Independent Members.

The party with the most MPPs forms the government.

Which party is the government in Ontario?

---

The party with the second highest number of MPPs is called the official opposition.

Which party is the official opposition?

---



**Doug Ford**  
Progressive  
Conservative Party

**Andrea Horwath**  
New Democratic  
Party

**Steven Del Duca**  
Liberal Party

**Mike Schreiner**  
Green Party

How many Members belong to the Liberal Party?

---

How many Independent Members are currently seated at the Ontario Legislature?

---

How many Members belong to the Green Party?

---

# LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER SEATING PLAN

MPPs and various House Officers sit in the Legislative Chamber when the House is in session. The Speaker sits on a large chair on the Speaker's dais at the front of the Chamber, facing all the Members. The government always sits on the right side of the Speaker, while the official opposition sits on the left side, closest to the Speaker, with their Leader seated across from the Premier. Other opposition MPPs are also seated on the left side of the Speaker. When there is a large majority, some government MPPs may also be seated on the opposition side.



GOVERNMENT

SPEAKER

PAGES

CLERK  
AND TABLE  
CLERKS

HANSARD  
REPORTERS

SERGEANT  
-AT-ARMS

OPPOSITION



# ROLES IN PARLIAMENT

To make sure each meeting of parliament is run fairly, there are a number of neutral roles that need to be filled. The people in these positions do not vote or participate in debates. They are non-partisan.

## THE SPEAKER

The Speaker is an MPP and is elected on the first day of parliament by all MPPs. The Speaker does not take part in the debates and oversees each meeting in the Chamber. He gives MPPs permission to speak, enforces the rules of parliament and makes sure that the business of the Chamber happens in an orderly manner. The Speaker will only vote in the case of a tie.



RIGHT:  
HONOURABLE TED ARNOTT,  
SPEAKER OF THE  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
OF ONTARIO



## THE CLERK

The Clerk is the Principal Officer of the House and is the person who advises the Speaker and MPPs on the rules of parliament. The Clerk counts the votes in the House, monitors time during the debates. After a provincial election, the Clerk swears-in the new MPPs.

ABOVE LEFT:  
TODD DECKER, CLERK  
OF THE LEGISLATIVE  
ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO



ABOVE:  
THE CLERK AND  
TABLE CLERKS IN THE  
LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER

## THE SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

The Sergeant-at-Arms is in charge of the security of the Chamber and the Legislative Building. The Sergeant-at-Arms is also the guardian of the Mace. The Mace symbolizes the authority of the Speaker to oversee the Legislature, and must always be present during all legislative meetings.



BELOW LEFT TO RIGHT:  
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS JACKIE GORDON; AN INTERPRETER IN THE LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER'S INTERPRETATION BOOTH; A HANSARD REPORTER AT THE HANSARD DESK; AND LEGISLATIVE PAGES

## THE HANSARD REPORTERS

In the Legislative Chamber, when the MPPs are meeting, the Hansard Reporters use a computer to note who is speaking and the first few words the MPP says. Hansard is the official record of the debates.



## THE LEGISLATIVE PAGES

The Pages are in Grades 7 and 8. They are selected from across Ontario and must have high marks in school, and be involved in their communities. In the Legislative Chamber, they deliver messages and learn how the provincial parliament works.



# CANADA AND THE MONARCHY

CENTRE:  
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

RIGHT:  
THE HONOURABLE  
ELIZABETH DOWDESWELL,  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR  
OF ONTARIO

Canada is a constitutional monarchy, and is an independent country. In this system of government, the monarchy's power is limited by the laws written in Canada's Constitution. The monarchy does not have the direct power to govern - the power to govern is passed to parliament.

## THE QUEEN

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is Queen of Canada and Canada's Head of State. In this system, the monarchy has a constitutional and a ceremonial role. The Queen is represented in Canada by the Governor General, and by the Lieutenant Governors in each province.

## THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF ONTARIO

As The Queen's representative in Ontario, the Lieutenant Governor carries out many of The Queen's responsibilities. For example, they open and dissolve sessions of parliament, and they give Royal Assent to bills – this is the last step before a bill becomes a law. The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell is Ontario's current Lieutenant Governor.

The Lieutenant Governor visits communities across Ontario, hosts members of the Royal Family and dignitaries, and gives awards to celebrate outstanding Ontarians.



# ACTIVITY

## WHO AM I?

### PARLIAMENTARY QUIZ



1. I am in charge of security in the Chamber. I carry the golden Mace, the symbol of the Speaker's power and authority.

Who am I?

-----

2. I record the beginning of every statement and all the interjections that any MPP says during the meeting in the Chamber. I am responsible for the official record of parliament, which anyone can read on the Internet or in public libraries.

Who am I?

-----

3. We are the youngest people who work in Ontario's Parliament. We are grades 7 and 8 students who deliver messages in the Chamber. To qualify, we must have high marks and be active in our communities.

Who are we?

-----

4. We are elected in 124 ridings across Ontario, to represent the people in our area, at the provincial parliament.

Who are we?

-----

-----

-----

5. In Canada, there are three administrative levels of government: federal, provincial, and municipal. I am the leader for the provincial level of government in Ontario.

Who am I?

-----

6. I am the Premier of Ontario. My name starts with the title 'Honourable.'

Who am I?

-----  
-----

7. I am the Head of State of Canada. I am represented by the Governor General at the federal level of government, and by the Lieutenant Governors in each of the provinces.

Who am I?

-----  
-----

8. I represent The Queen in Ontario. In my role, I open each session of parliament, give Royal Assent to bills, the final step before it becomes law, and I open and end sessions of parliament.

Who am I?

-----  
-----

9. I am elected by MPPs on the first day of parliament. I make sure MPPs follow the rules in the Chamber and give them permission to speak when it is their turn. I am not allowed to take part in debates and I only vote when there is a tie.

Who am I?

-----

10. I know the rules of parliament and give advice to the Speaker and the MPPs. I count the votes during debates.

Who am I?

-----





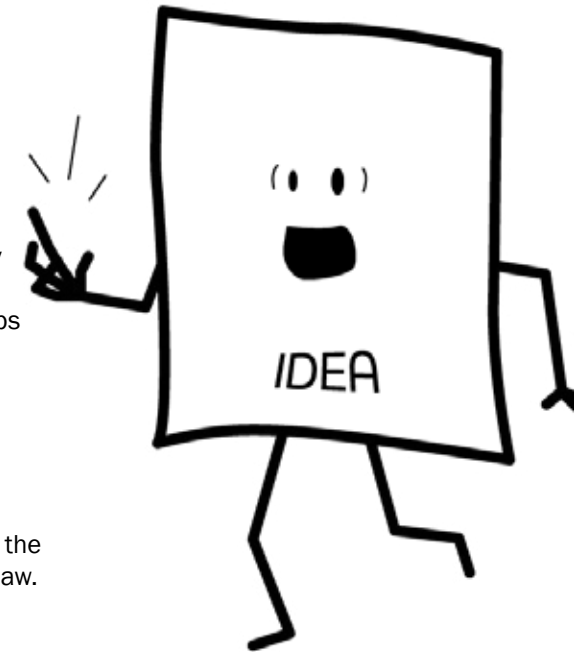
# HOW ARE LAWS MADE?

## A LAW STARTS AS AN IDEA

An idea for a new law or to change an existing law becomes a bill. A bill is an idea written in legal language. Each bill is presented to the Legislative Assembly by a Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP). The bill must complete some steps before it can become a law.

## WHAT ARE THE STEPS?

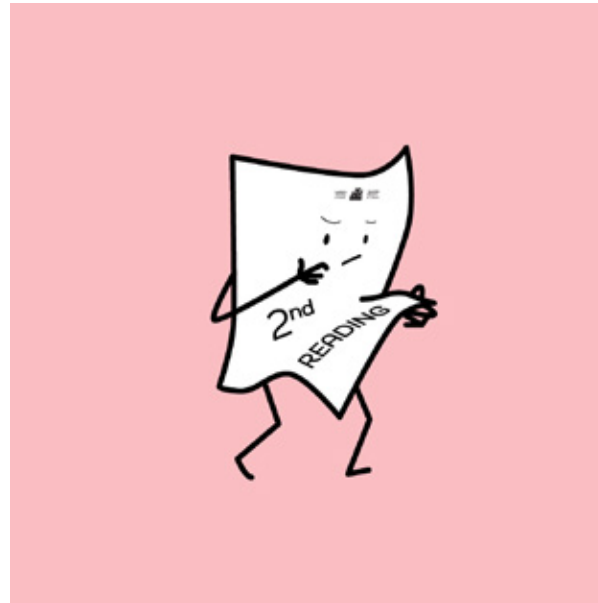
There are three steps for each bill called readings. Each bill must pass through all the steps or readings to become an Ontario law.





## STEP 1: FIRST READING

First reading is when a Member introduces a bill to all the MPPs in the Legislative Chamber. The Member gives a short explanation of their bill or idea, and if most of the MPPs want to learn more, the bill goes to the next step called Second reading.



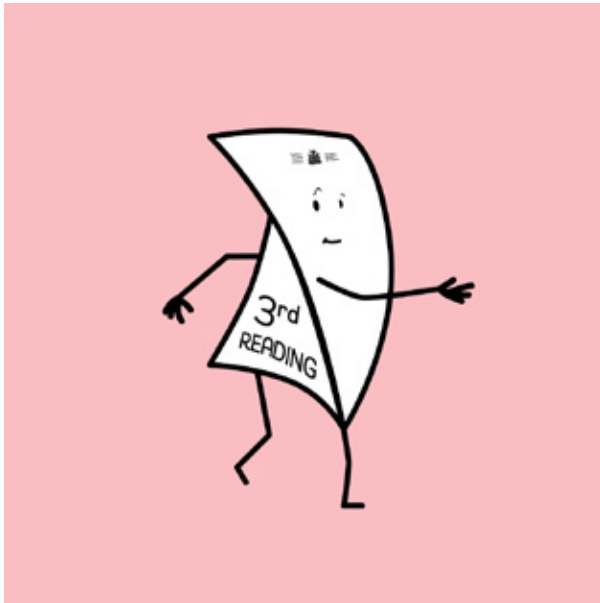
## STEP 2: SECOND READING

Second reading gives MPPs the chance to talk about and debate the main idea of the bill. Sometimes MPPs decide to send the bill to a committee to examine it more carefully.



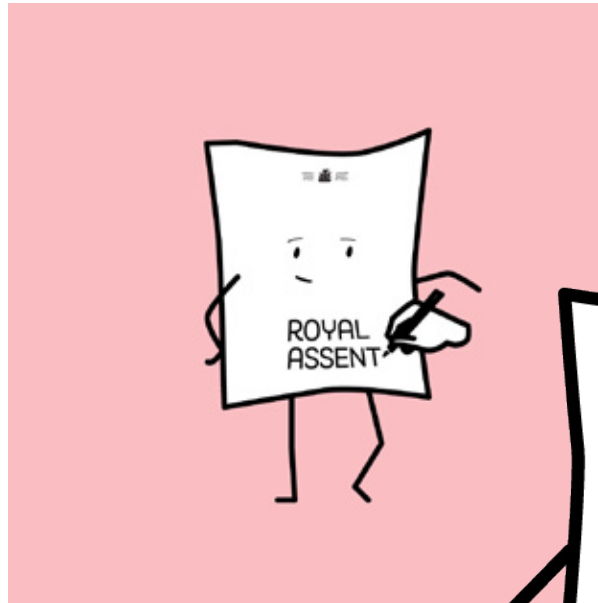
## COMMITTEE

A committee is a small group of MPPs from all the parties, who look at the details of the bill very carefully. They can also invite other people to speak about the bill, and the committee can make changes to the bill, called amendments. The committee stage can last a few days or a few months. When the committee is finished, the bill goes to the next step called third reading.



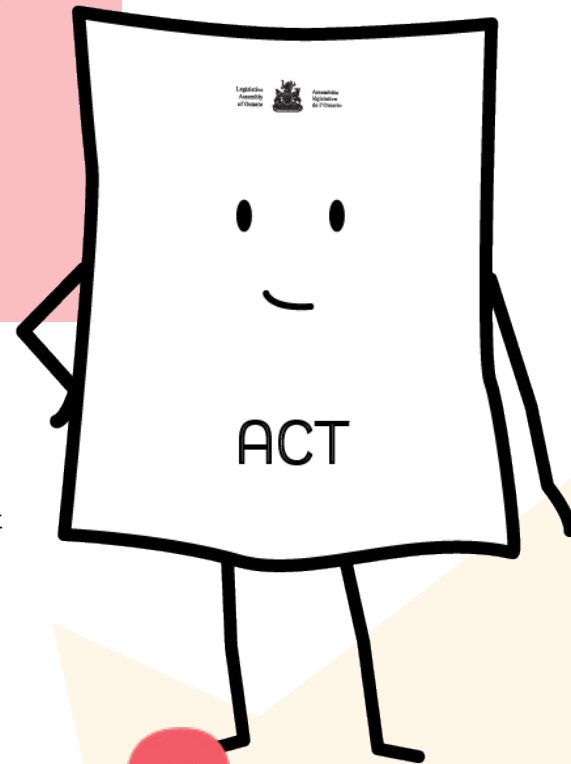
### STEP 3: THIRD READING

Third Reading allows the MPPs to debate the bill for the last time. After the debate, the Speaker asks the MPPs to vote. If most of the MPPs vote for the bill to become a law, it is passed on to the Lieutenant Governor for Royal Assent.



### STEP 4: ROYAL ASSENT

Royal Assent is given when the Lieutenant Governor signs the bill on behalf of The Queen. When this is done, the bill becomes a law.



**?** DID  
YOU  
KNOW

A law is also called an Act.



# ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

## GET INFORMED AND BE INVOLVED

All Canadians have the right to be informed and to get involved. You can find out who is running to be elected in your riding, or learn about the political parties and what they believe. You can help a candidate during an election or volunteer in your community. There are many ways to get involved.

**Visit** - When parliament is in session, everyone is welcome to watch the debates from the public galleries in the Chamber. For more information about sessional dates and times, check the Legislative Assembly website [www.ola.org](http://www.ola.org).

**Watch** - Sessions of the provincial parliament are broadcast via cable TV across Ontario. You can also watch live streaming of the parliamentary debates on the Legislative Assembly's website under [Legislative business » House video](#).

**Read** - You can obtain copies of Hansard, the word-for-word printed record of the daily proceedings in the Chamber on the Assembly's website under [Legislative business » House documents](#).



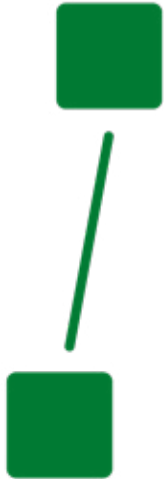


## FIND YOUR MPP

If you're not sure who your MPP is, visit the Elections Ontario website at [www.elections.on.ca](http://www.elections.on.ca). You can identify your riding or electoral district with your home address or postal code. Once you know your riding, then you can find your MPP.

## CONNECT WITH YOUR MPP

Your MPP is your representative and will listen to your concerns and ideas. There are many ways you can contact your MPP. You can write a letter, send an email, or meet your MPP at his or her office. For information about elected MPPs, visit the Legislative Assembly of Ontario website at [www.ola.org](http://www.ola.org).



## PRESENT AT A LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

A committee is made up of a small group of Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs) from all political parties. Members of the public can share their thoughts and ideas about a bill during committee meetings. Most committee meetings take place in Ontario's Legislative Building, but some committees travel throughout Ontario so that more people can attend the meetings. Anyone can have their voice heard at a committee meeting – either in person or through their MPP.

## START A PETITION

A petition is a request that the Parliament of Ontario do something about a public concern. Any resident of Ontario can ask an MPP to present a petition for them. The government has to give an answer to the petition. The action you ask for must be within the responsibility of the province, and must be clear and respectful.



Legislative  
Assembly  
of Ontario



Assemblée  
législative  
de l'Ontario

**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO  
PARLIAMENTARY PROTOCOL  
AND PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH  
ROOM 191, LEGISLATIVE BUILDING,  
TORONTO, ONTARIO M7A 1A2**

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