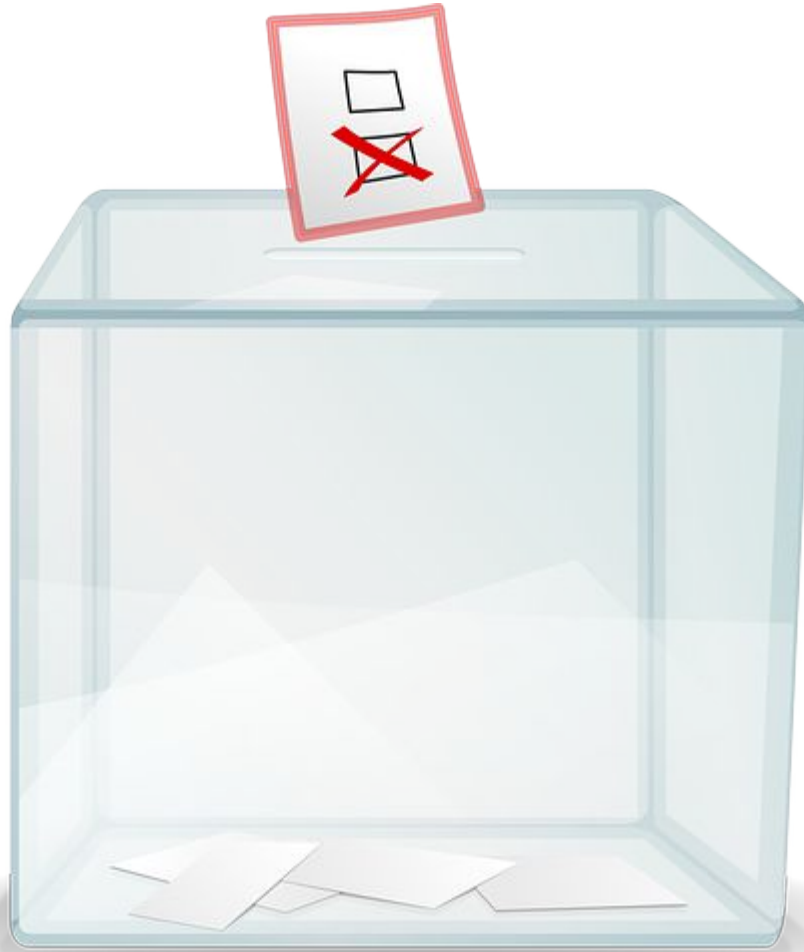


The Canadian Federal Election Worksheet Pack



thecanadianhomeschooler.com

In this pack, you will:

- Take a look at the different parties
- Take a look at the issues
- Compare your opinions with the various parties
- Make your own party



The Federal Government

In Canada, our government is run on a **democracy**. That means that we, the people, vote for who we want to represent us in our government. We pick who we think has the closest opinions to our own.

The government in Canada is divided into three sections: **federal** (the whole country), **provincial** (the province or territory you live in), and **municipal** (your town or city). Each one of these sections is complete independent from each other.

At least once about every 4 or 5 years, a federal election is called. When the election is over, the leader of the political party that has the most members voted into the government becomes the **Prime Minister**.

Current Prime Minister: _____

His Political Party: _____

What people like about
him as Prime Minister

What people don't like
about him as Prime Minister

Political Parties

Let's find out more about the political parties in Canada. How many parties do you know of? It's likely you have seen red signs and blue signs at the very least when election seasons start. These are from the Liberal Party and the Conservative Parties. These two parties are based on the same two parties that originally founded Canada, back at Confederation in 1867.

Even though they are the biggest and most common parties, new parties have been created. Some of the more popular additional parties are the NDP (they are the orange signs you might see) and the Green Party. Let's check out all the options.

Check out all the different political parties that are registered in Canada. Visit [Elections.ca](https://elections.ca) (or scan the QR Code) to see a list.



Look at all the different names and kinds of political parties there are.

Most of the parties began because they felt strongly about something particular – whether it be an issue, a faith or belief, or that they could do a better job than those in the main parties can.

To vote, you need to look at the stand points of each party and see which party best represents the same opinions you have, or the same approach to a problem that you would take.

Of course, if the party that you like the best isn't one of the major ones, you might not have a person from their group in your area, so you also need to consider which party's candidate best represents you.

Political Parties

What do you think was the main reason each of the following political parties started their group?

- Animal Alliance Environment Voters Party of Canada: _____
- Christian Heritage Party of Canada: _____
- Pirate Party of Canada: _____

A logo image can really represent what you stand for. Each of the following pictures is from an actual Canadian Political Party. What do you think of when you see these logos?



What do you think the biggest challenges are for a political party to be successful?

The Issues

Each election, there are several key issues that are the main topics of discussion. Often it's about money – how the government should or shouldn't spend the country's money and how to balance the budget.

But there are other issues and concerns too that political parties need to discuss and debate. This is where we get to see what party best matches up with our own ideas.

For example, one party might propose that, if elected, they will create an oil pipe that goes through some special, protected land, but will create jobs and income for the country. Another party thinks that oil pipes are dangerous and that, if elected, would fund the use to tank trucks to transport the oil to where it needs to be. It would be more expensive and take longer, but the land would be safe. Another party thinks the oil company just needs to be stopped and wants to shut them down.

You need to decide which party you think has the same opinion as you.

What are some of the main issues in this current election?

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Think about these issues. What is your opinion on each one? Compare your ideas to some of the political party standpoints on the next worksheet. (Make some copies to think about more than one issue.)

Issue: _____

My
Opinion

Political Parties Standpoints

Does this Party have the same ideas as me?: _____

Conservative

Leader's Name:

Key Issues:



Our Local
Candidate:

Liberal

Leader's Name:

Key Issues:



Our Local
Candidate:

NDP

Leader's Name:

Key Issues:



Our Local
Candidate:

Green

Leader's Name:

Key Issues:



Our Local
Candidate:

Make Your Own Party

You are going to make your own political party. First, think of what key issues matter to you the most. What do you think the government should change or what do you think needs the most help in Canada? That is where you will base your party's standpoint and decisions.

Come up with a name for your party. How will it reflect your party's opinions on your issues?

Next, make a logo that represents what your party is all about. Make it something that others will be able to recognize as special to your party.

Now, write up your main campaigning issues and how you would approach solving them if you were elected.

Design a campaign ad – a video, poster, radio ad – that could be shared with the public to showcase your new party so they could consider voting for you. Instead of using this advertising outlet as an opportunity to bash other parties – use it to show more about YOUR group and their plans or goals.

My Party's Name: _____

What is the main issue you are focusing on?

logo

What is your party's stand on the key issues for this election?

Why Vote?

When you turn 18 years old, you are able to vote. There are many reasons that everyone who can vote, should vote.

1. Voting is your one opportunity to help use your voice to choose a person that will bring ideas similar to yours to the government. It's your chance to speak up for yourself.

2. Not voting allows other people to speak for you – and many times they aren't saying the same thing that you would say.

3. There are many countries around the world that don't allow the people who live in it to vote. Decisions are made by leaders only – leaders who don't really care about the opinions of the people. 100 years ago, women in Canada weren't allowed to vote. Women had to fight to be allowed to vote. Being able to vote is a very wonderful privilege of living in a democratic country.

4. It shows that you care about your country and how it is run.

Unfortunately, there is a growing problem. Less people are voting than ever before. Why do you think that is? What do you think that says about Canada?

What ideas do you have to help encourage people to get out and vote?
