

STUDENT WORKBOOK

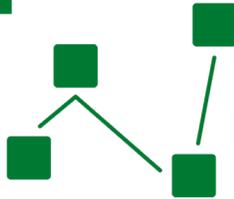
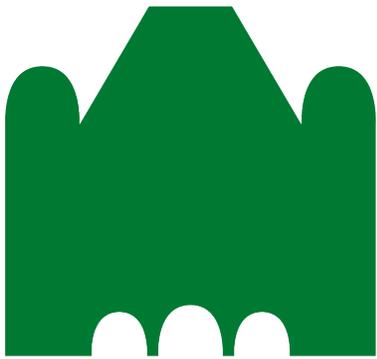
**HIGH SCHOOL
EDITION**

**LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY
OF ONTARIO**

Answer
Key



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WHAT IS GOVERNMENT?

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

1. What is the difference between Provincial Parliament and Government?

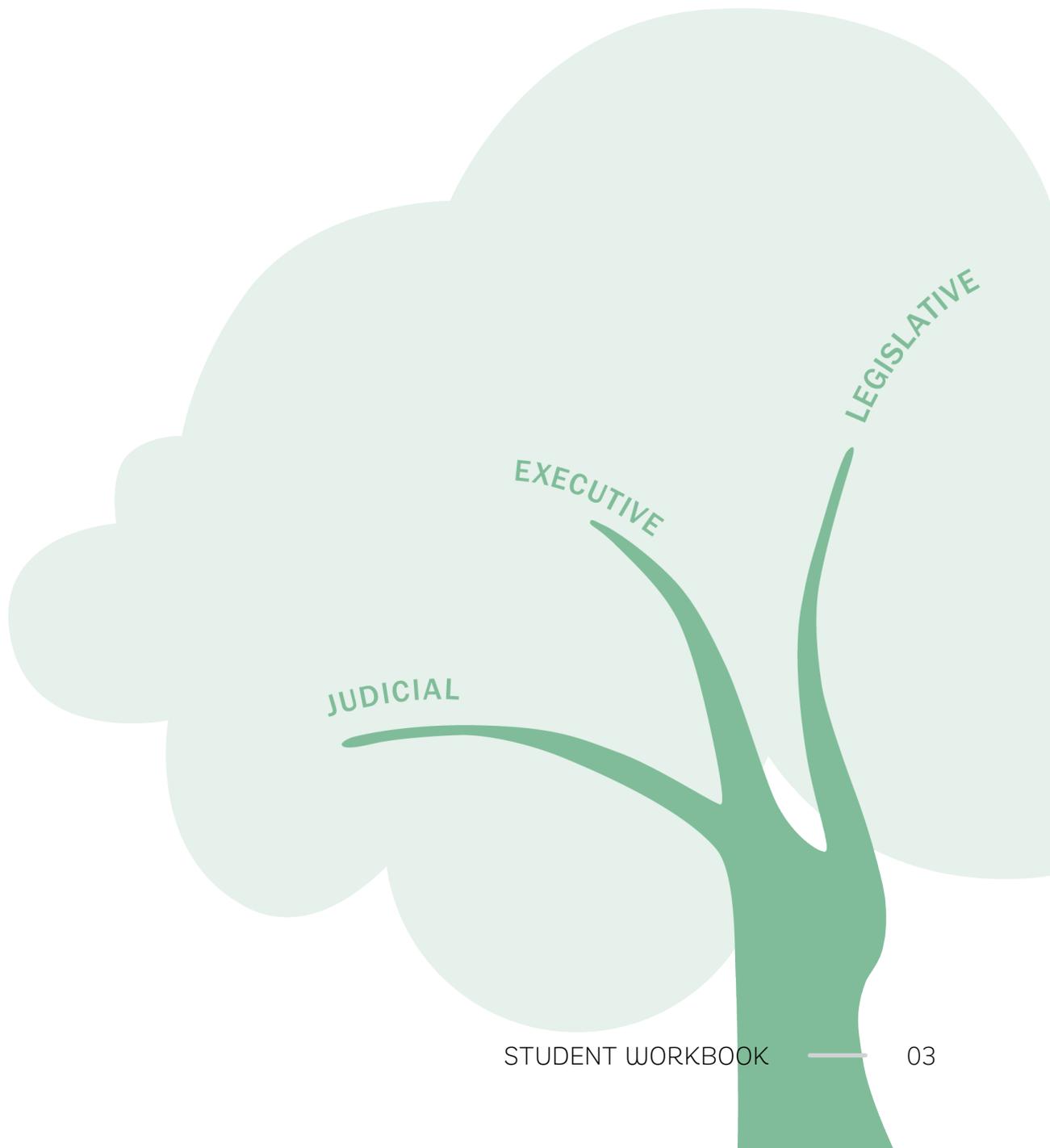
Parliament is the legislative or law-making body, responsible for debating, amending, and passing laws, and is comprised of all Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs). Government is made up of the Premier, and the Cabinet Ministers who administer the ministries. The political party with the greatest number of elected members forms the government and becomes the administrative body that sets public policy.

2. How does the Government affect your daily life?

Answers will vary and may include: Government decides the curriculum I learn at school, what age I can drive, etc.

3. What is the role of the Opposition?

To keep the Government accountable.



LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

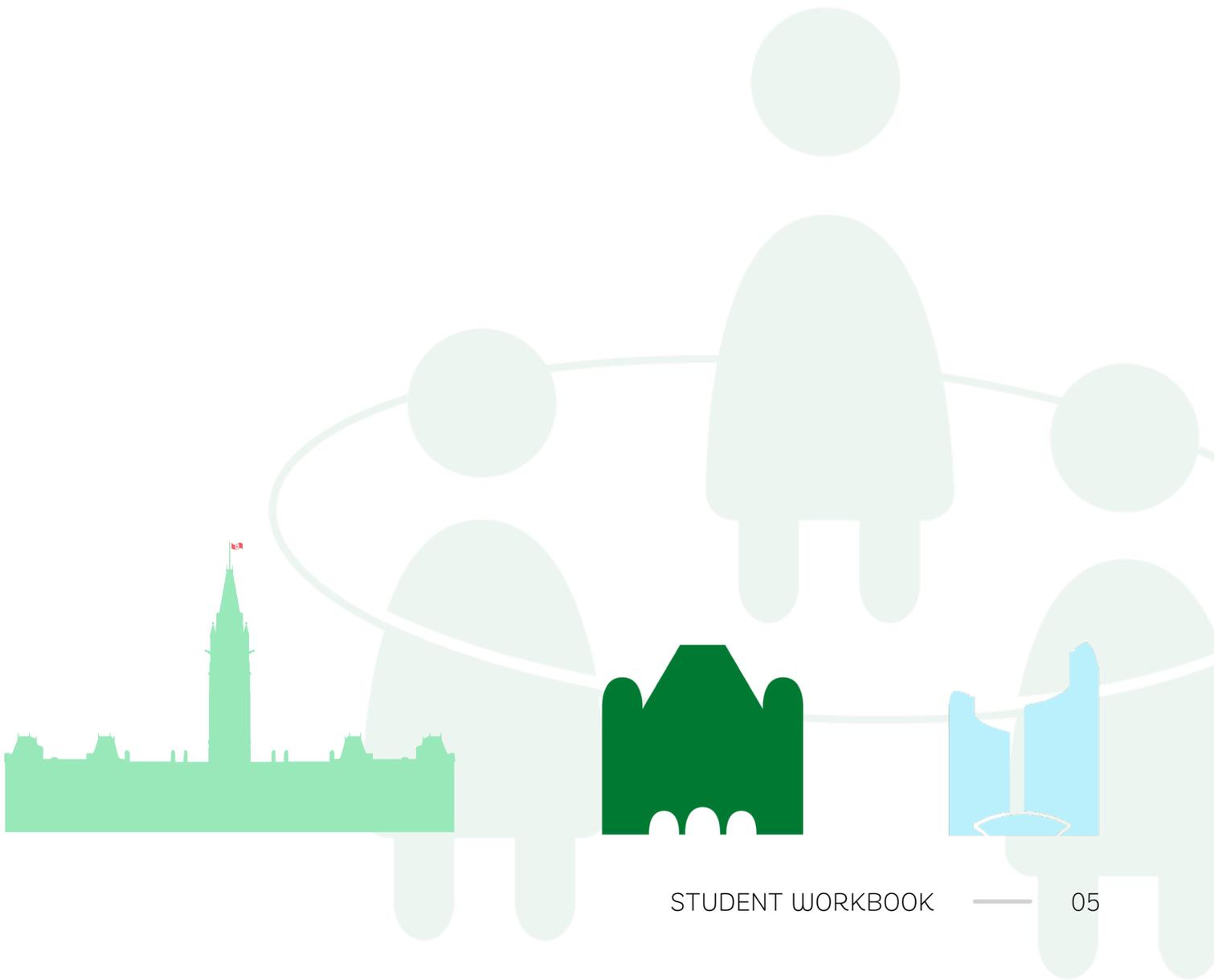
1. Select which level of government (municipal, provincial, or federal) you would contact in the following scenarios:

Scenario	Municipal	Provincial	Federal
a. You suspect that the college you have enrolled in is fraudulent.		x	
b. You want to know if it is safe to travel to a particular country.			x
c. You lost your driver's license and need a replacement.		x	
d. You want to rent the local rink for your upcoming birthday party.	x		
e. You wish to bring your non-Canadian spouse to Canada permanently.			x
f. You need to complain about the large pothole on your street.	x		

2. In your opinion, which level of government has the greatest impact on your daily life and why? Think about services that you use most often.

Answers will vary.

Example: Municipal - because I take a local bus to school, my commute is terrible because of all the pot holes in the road, I swim at my local pool, study at the public library, and am a time-keeper at the local rink in winter.



ABOUT THE CROWN

Canada is a **constitutional monarchy**, which means the Queen—Her majesty Queen Elizabeth II—is Canada’s Head of State. However, the heads of government are the elected figures – the Prime Minister and Premiers of each province. Although all laws in Canada are passed in the Queen’s name, the power of governing rests with the government of the day, led by the Prime Minister or the Premier, not the Queen. The Head of State has no influence over decisions made by the country’s elected officials and does not interfere with the decisions of parliament. The Governor General and the Lieutenant Governor represent the Queen in Canada and the provinces and act on her behalf.

LEFT TO RIGHT: HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II, CANADA’S HEAD OF STATE; THE HONOURABLE ELIZABETH DOWDESWELL, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF ONTARIO



1. Select one of these figures...

1) Her Majesty
Queen Elizabeth II

2) Governor General
of Canada

3) Lieutenant
Governor of Ontario

...for each responsibility:

- 3 a. presents medals honouring outstanding Ontarians
- 2 b. presides over the swearing-in of the Prime Minister
- 3 c. grants Royal Assent to bills passed by the Legislative Assembly
- 2 d. ensures that Canada has a Government which holds the confidence of Parliament

- 3 e. prorogues the Legislative Assembly on the advice of the Premier
- 2 f. welcomes new ambassadors to Canada
- 1 g. appoints the Governor General on the advice of the Prime Minister
- 1 h. is Canada's Head of State

2. Why do we have both a Governor General and a Lieutenant Governor?

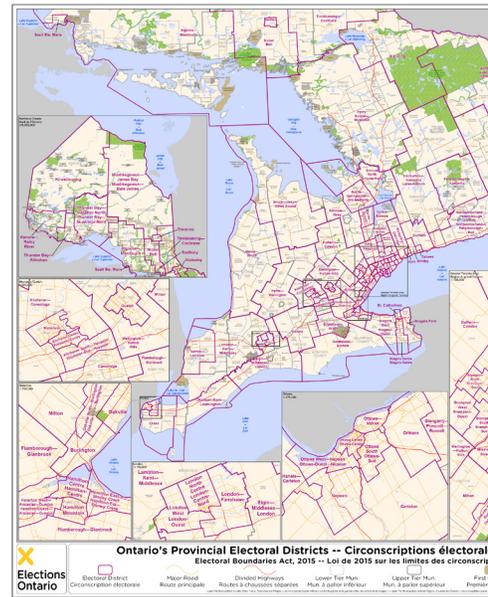
The Governor General represents the Queen at the federal level, and the Lieutenant Governor at the Provincial level.



MEMBERS OF PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT



Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs) are elected by the people of Ontario to represent them at the provincial parliament. Ontario is divided into 124 ridings, each of various geographical sizes due to the population density of the area. Each riding is represented by an MPP who works in the Legislative Chamber, in the Legislative Building in Toronto, and in their communities near the people they represent.



1. Who is your Member of Provincial Parliament? Visit the Elections Ontario website at www.elections.on.ca and enter your postal code to find out the name of your riding and MPP.

Answers will vary.

2. List five different ways to contact your MPP:

Answers will vary and may include:

Call their office

Attend an event hosted by the MPP

Send an email

Reach out on social media

Set up an appointment or meeting

Visit their constituency office

Write a letter



3. What are three places where you might see your MPP at work?

The Legislative Assembly, their constituency office, at an event in their riding



4. Select the responsibilities below that do not apply to MPPs:

- Vote on bills in the Legislative Chamber
- ~~x • Campaign on behalf of federal candidates in their riding~~
- Present petitions in the Legislative Chamber
- ~~x • Send constituents birthday cards on their 100th birthday~~
- Attend community events in their home riding
- ~~x • Be present for every meeting in the Legislative Chamber~~
- Meet with their constituents to discuss matters important to them
- Bring concerns from their own riding to the attention of the government

5. What criteria must you meet before you can campaign to be an MPP?

You must be a Canadian citizen, at least 18 years old, and be a resident of Ontario.

VOTING IN ONTARIO

ONTARIO'S ELECTORAL SYSTEM: FIRST-PAST-THE-POST

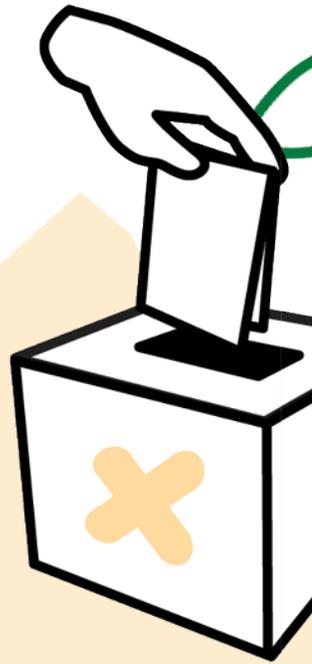
Canada and all provinces have the single-member plurality electoral system, more commonly called first-past-the-post, which means the candidate with the highest number of votes in each electoral district wins regardless if this is less than 50 percent of the votes cast. In Ontario, the winning candidate takes a seat in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and represents that electoral district as an MPP. General elections in Ontario occur every four years.

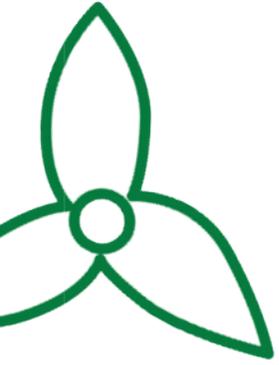
1. What are the eligibility criteria for voting in a provincial election in Ontario?

You must be a Canadian citizen, at least 18 years old, and a resident of Ontario.

2. In Canada, youth voter turnout is among the lowest of all demographic groups. What are some reasons that eligible people do not vote?

Answers will vary and may include: they feel uninformed; they do not think their vote will matter, they are apathetic, they are too busy, they do not agree with the candidates, the weather is bad on election day, there are long line-ups, etc.





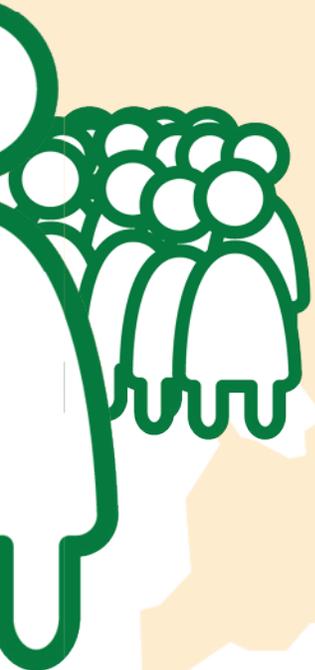
3. If you had 5 minutes to convince someone to vote in the next provincial election, what reasons would you list to encourage them to vote?

Answers will vary and may include: to have a say in who creates the laws for your province, to ensure candidates are aware of issues that are important to you, because many people in the world do not have the right to vote, it does not take very long, it is our responsibility as Canadian citizens, etc.

4. Choose one: **Should the voting age be lowered to 16 OR should voting be mandatory?** Research other jurisdictions that may have made these changes and give reasons why you are in favour or opposed to such a change.

“Should the voting age be lowered” answers will vary, and may include: at 16 year old you are not well enough informed to vote, you should be allowed to vote at the age of 16 because you are old enough to drive, even at 16 years old, you are affected by the decisions made by government so you should have a say, etc.

“Should voting be mandatory” answers will vary, and may include: people might feel resentful; people refuse to vote as a form of protest, people would face consequences for not voting and that is not fair, voting is a responsibility and making voting mandatory would ensure all citizens are participating in choosing their representatives, etc.



POLITICAL PARTIES IN ONTARIO

1. What factors do you consider when deciding which political party or candidate to support?

Answers will vary and may include: their values, their platform, the candidate's personality, etc.

2. How many political parties are currently represented in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario?

4: The Progressive Conservative Party, The New Democratic Party, The Liberal Party, and The Green Party

3. What is the difference between a registered political party and one that has representation in the Legislature?

Not all candidates for all the registered parties are elected. A political party must have candidates elected in order to be represented in the Legislature.

PARLIAMENTARY PLAYERS

MPPs and House Officers sit in the Legislative Chamber when the House is in session. This is where MPPs have an opportunity to debate, and work to change laws or create new laws for Ontario. The House Officers play a vital role in the function of parliament.

Select one of these House Officers...

...for each responsibility:



1) The Speaker



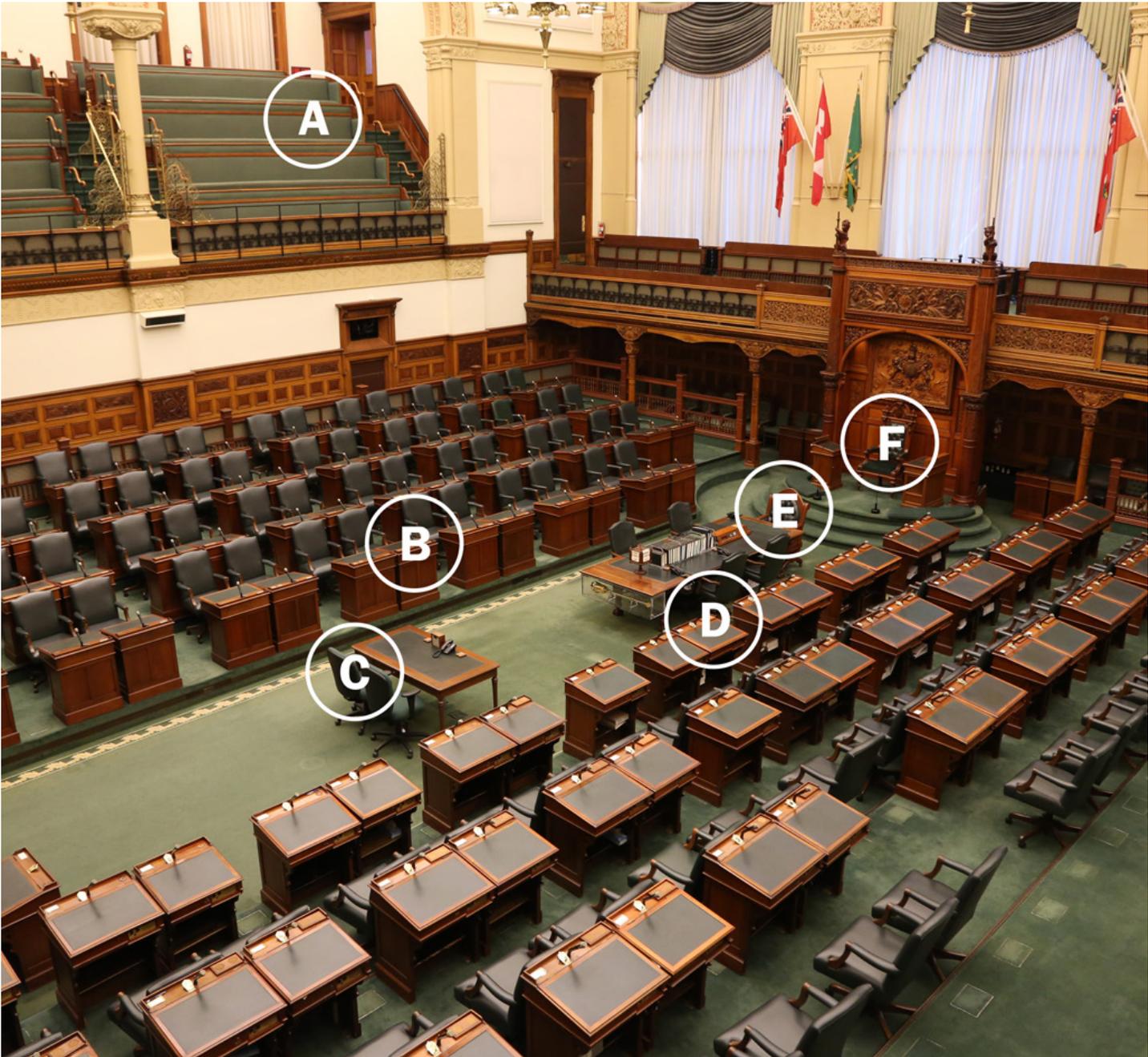
2) The Clerk



3) The Sergeant-at-Arms

- 2** a. records votes in the Legislative Chamber
- 3** b. ensures the security of the Legislative Chamber and the building
- 2** c. provides advice to MPPs on the Standing Orders
- 1** d. welcomes visiting dignitaries to the Legislative Chamber
- 1** e. maintains order and decorum in the Chamber
- 3** f. carries the Mace into the Chamber

THE LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER



1. Using the image of the Legislative Chamber, identify where the Speaker, the Clerk and the Hansard Reporter sit. It may help to go to www.ola.org to watch archived House videos (under “Legislative business”).

Speaker: F

Clerk: E

Hansard Reporter: C

2. Can you identify who sits at the other seats that have been indicated in the image?

A: The public (these seats are called The Public Galleries)

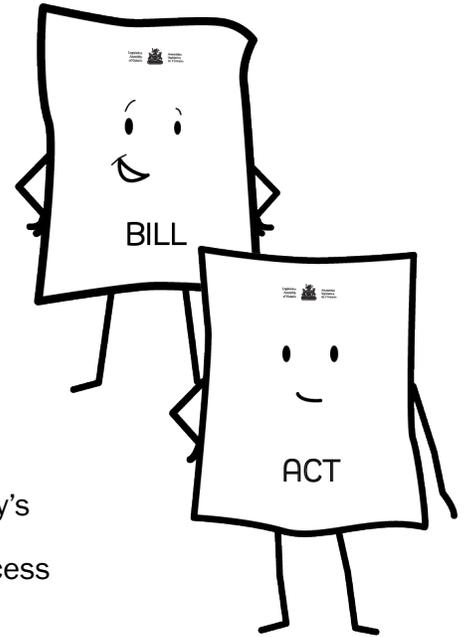
B: The Premier

D: The Leader of the Opposition

3. How would you find out what is being discussed in the Legislative Chamber?

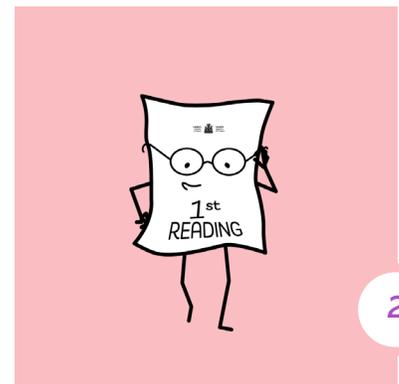
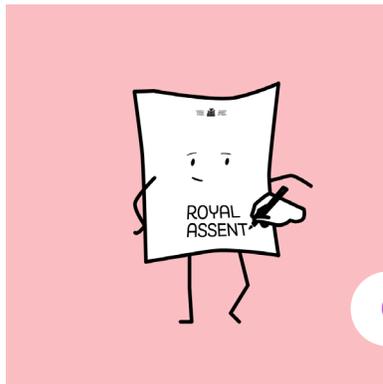
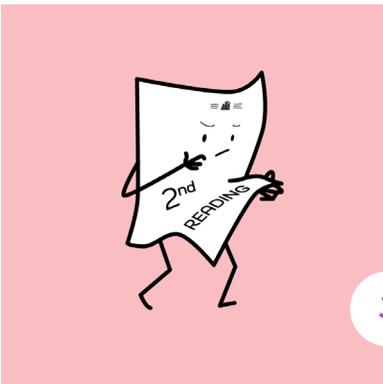
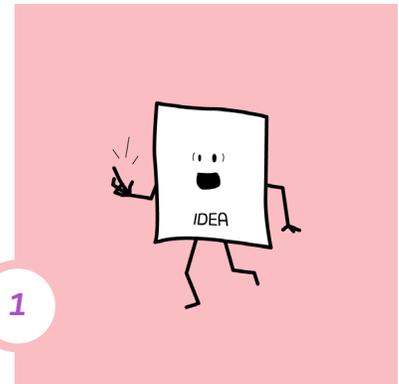
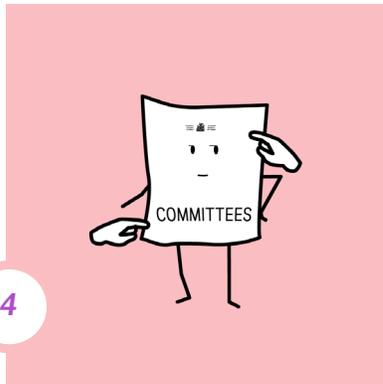
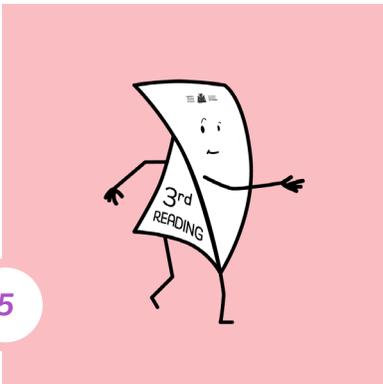
By watching on television, by reading the news, by looking online, by consulting Hansard (the official record of House debates), live streaming on the web

STAGES OF A BILL



The process of passing bills into law is one of the main tasks of the Legislative Assembly, and it takes up a major portion of the Assembly's time. All bills must pass through several stages of the legislative process before becoming law.

Unscramble the stages of legislative process by selecting a stage number for each of the circles below...



... and then determine which events happen during each stage.

Hint: read the steps carefully, there may be clues.

Event	Stage
A bill is drafted based on an idea.	<i>Idea</i>
<p>The bill is introduced in the House.</p> <p>The bill carries at First Reading.</p> <p>The bill is assigned a number.</p> <p>The bill is printed.</p>	<i>First Reading</i>
<p>The bill is debated at Second Reading.</p> <p>The bill is voted on at Second Reading.</p> <p>The bill is normally referred to a Standing Committee.</p>	<i>Second Reading</i>
<p>A Standing Committee considers the bill. This normally includes public hearings and clause-by-clause consideration of the bill.</p> <p>The Committee reports the bill back to the House for Third Reading, with or without amendments.</p>	<i>Committees</i>
<p>The bill is debated at Third Reading.</p> <p>The bill is voted on at Third Reading.</p>	<i>Third Reading</i>
<p>The Lieutenant Governor grants Royal Assent to the bill.</p> <p>The bill becomes an Act.</p> <p>The Act comes into force and becomes law.</p>	<i>Royal Assent</i>



Not all bills will go through the full legislative process, sometimes a parliament will end before a bill completes all the stages and becomes a law, or MPPs will vote to not send a bill through to the next stage. Not all bills are required to go through the committee stage - although many bills do, as it allows the committee Members to review the bill clause by clause and, for public consultation.

Legislative
Assembly
of Ontario



Assemblée
législative
de l'Ontario

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO
PARLIAMENTARY PROTOCOL
AND PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
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