

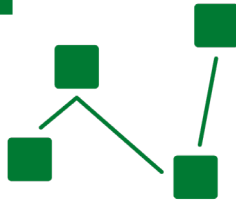
STUDENT WORKBOOK

**HIGH SCHOOL
EDITION**

**LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY
OF ONTARIO**



CONTENTS



What is Government? 2

Levels of Government:

Who is Responsible? 4

About the Crown 6

Members of Provincial

Parliament 8

Voting in Ontario 10

Political Parties in Ontario ... 12

Parliamentary Players 13

The Legislative Chamber 14

Stages of a Bill 16

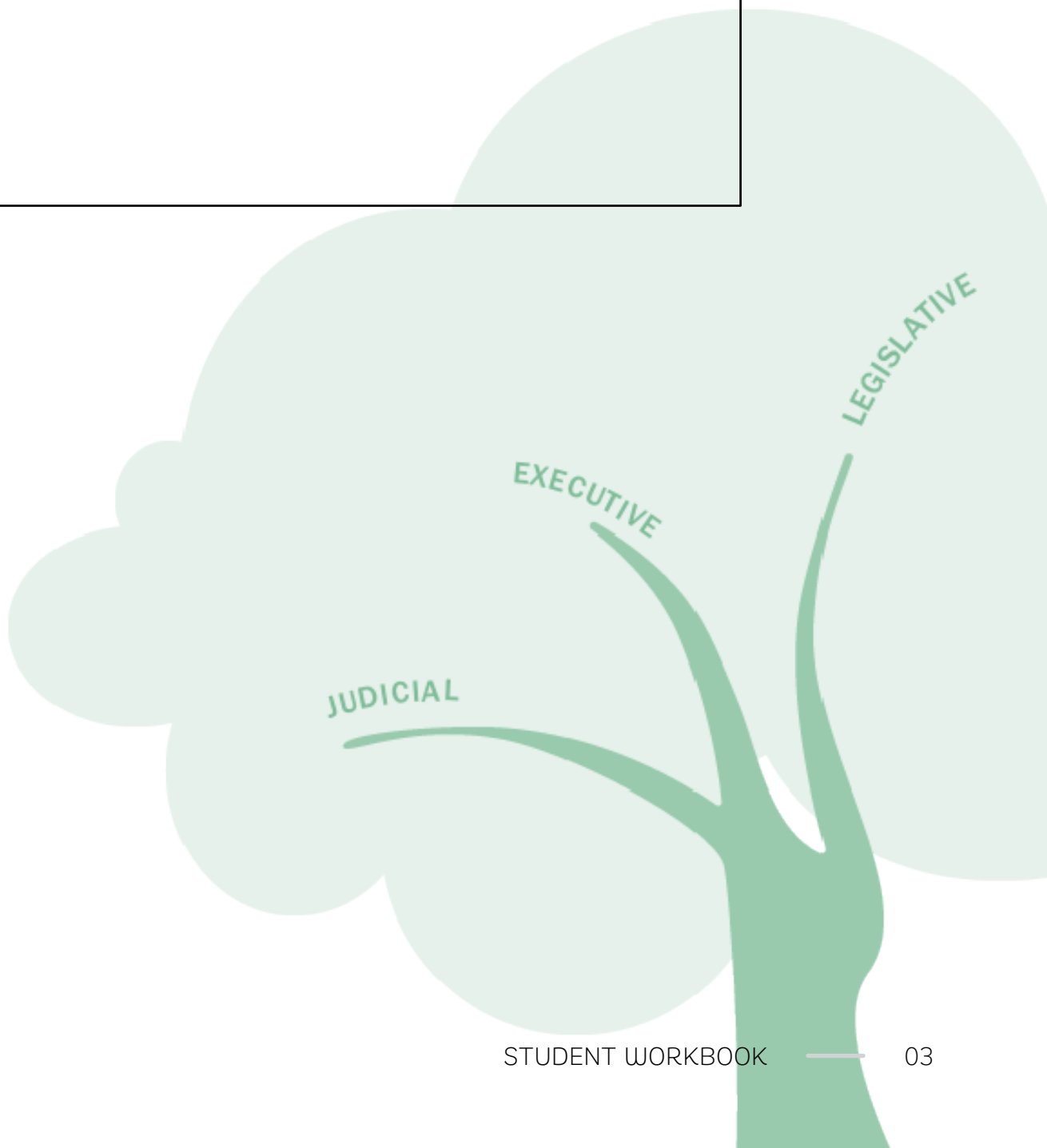
WHAT IS GOVERNMENT?

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

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

2. **How does the Government affect your daily life?**

3. What is the role of the Opposition?



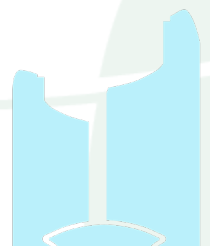
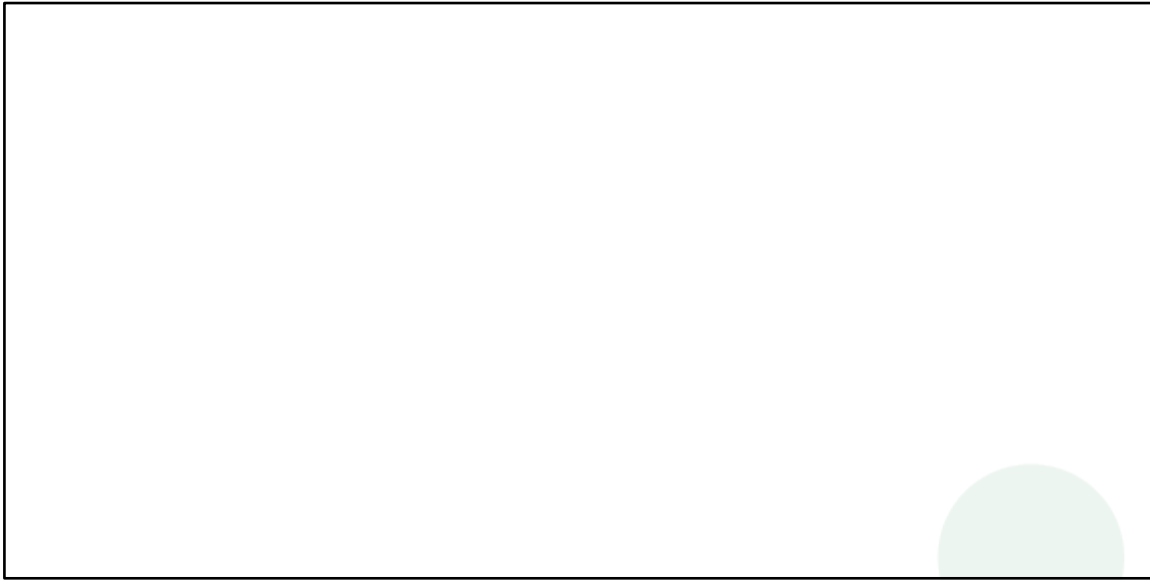
LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

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.			
b. You want to know if it is safe to travel to a particular country.			
c. You lost your driver's license and need a replacement.			
d. You want to rent the local rink for your upcoming birthday party.			
e. You wish to bring your non-Canadian spouse to Canada permanently.			
f. You need to complain about the large pothole on your street.			

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.



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:

- a.** presents medals honouring outstanding Ontarians
- b.** presides over the swearing-in of the Prime Minister
- c.** grants Royal Assent to bills passed by the Legislative Assembly
- d.** ensures that Canada has a Government which holds the confidence of Parliament
- e.** prorogues the Legislative Assembly on the advice of the Premier
- f.** welcomes new ambassadors to Canada
- g.** appoints the Governor General on the advice of the Prime Minister
- h.** is Canada's Head of State

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



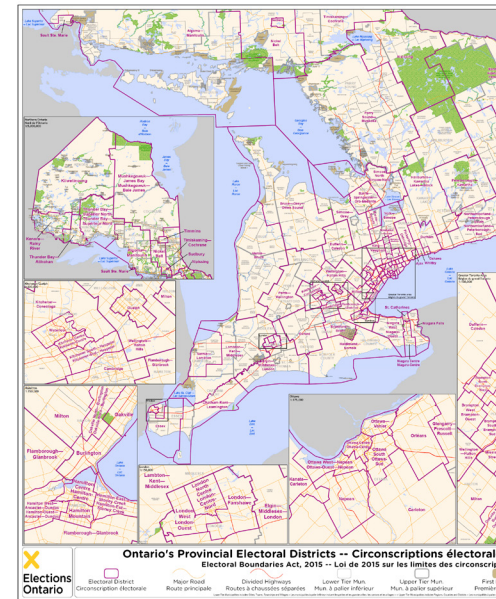
MEMBERS OF PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT



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.

2. List five different ways to contact your MPP:





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



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

- a.** Vote on bills in the Legislative Chamber
- b.** Campaign on behalf of federal candidates in their riding
- c.** Present petitions in the Legislative Chamber
- d.** Send constituents birthday cards on their 100th birthday
- e.** Attend community events in their home riding
- f.** Be present for every meeting in the Legislative Chamber
- g.** Meet with their constituents to discuss matters important to them
- h.** 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?

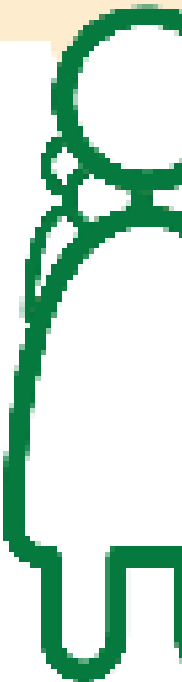
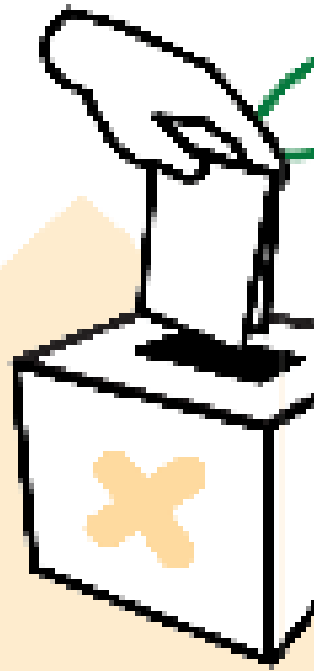
VOTING IN ONTARIO

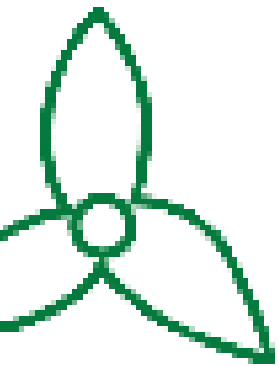
ONTARIO'S ELECTORAL SYSTEM: FIRST-PAST-THE-POST

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?

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





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?



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.



POLITICAL PARTIES IN ONTARIO

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

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

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



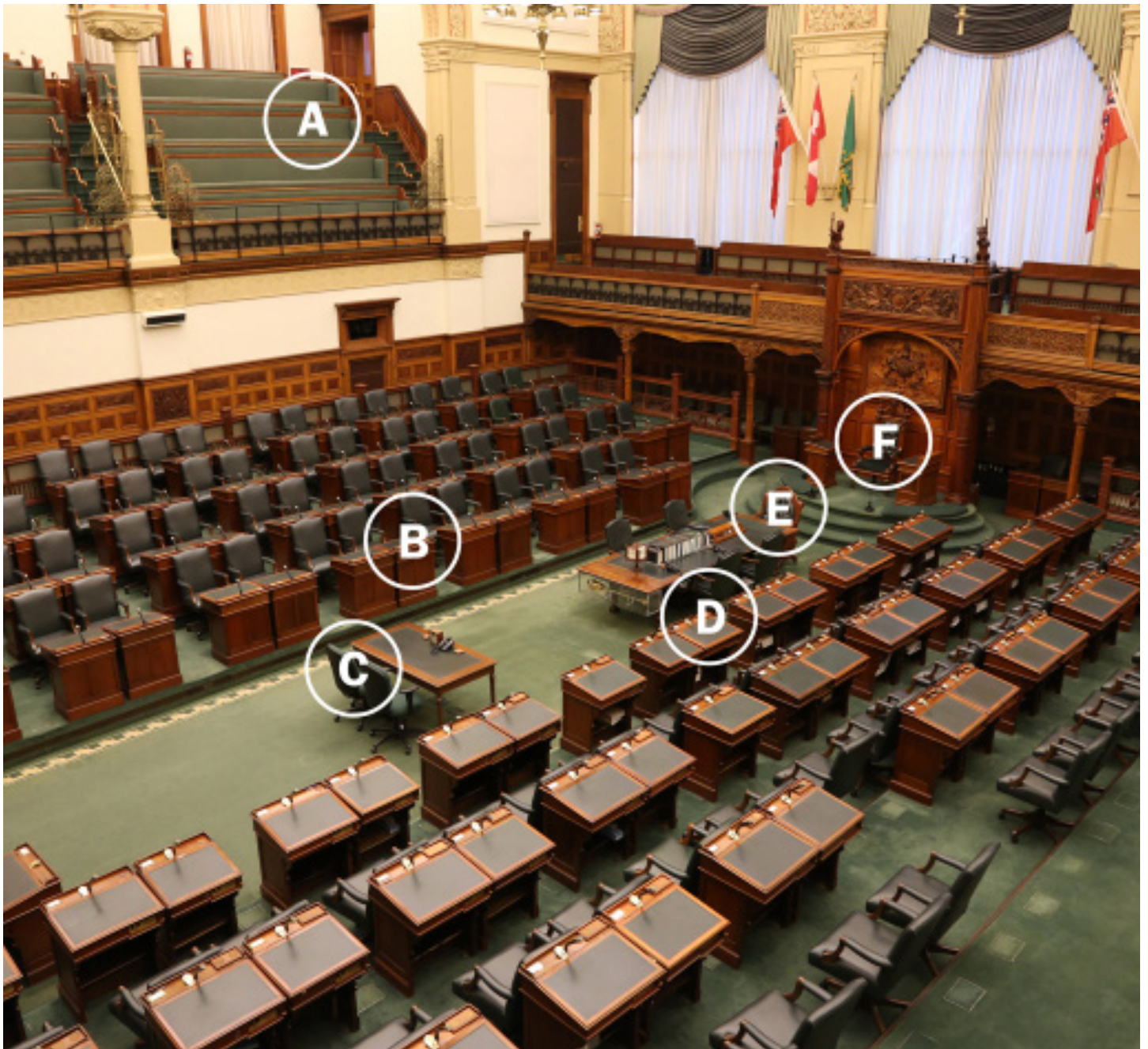
2) The Clerk



3) The Sergeant-at-Arms

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

THE LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER

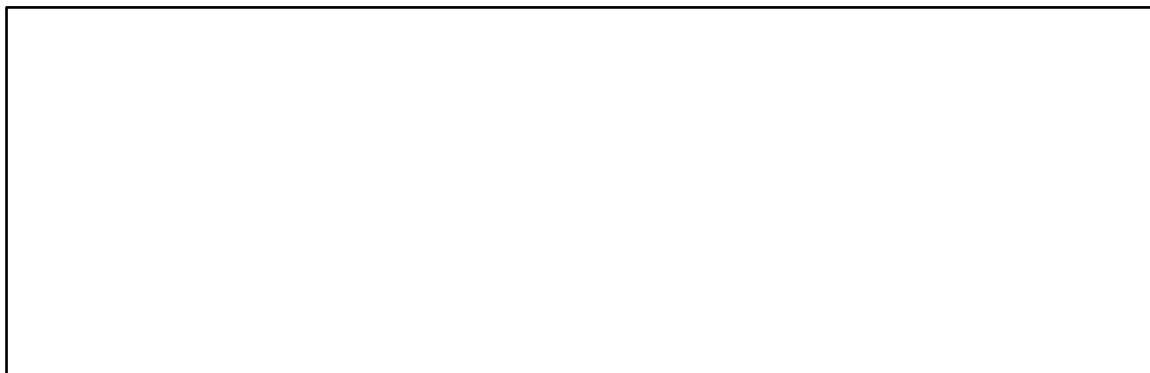


1. Using the image of the Legislative Chamber on page 14, identify where the Speaker, the Clerk and the Hansard Reporter sit.
It may help to go to www.ola.org to watch archived House videos (under “Legislative business”).

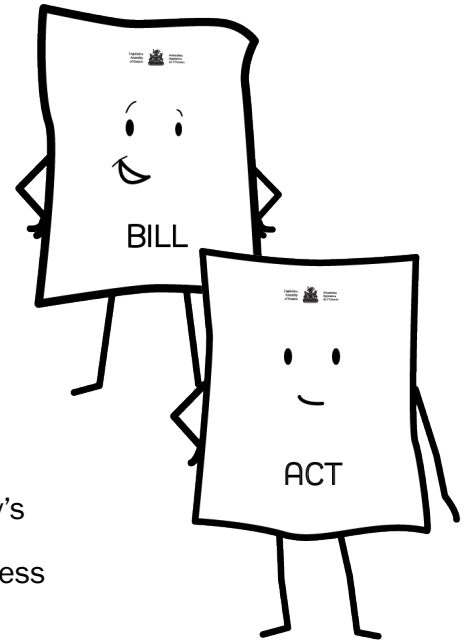
2. Can you identify who sits at the other seats that have been indicated in the image?



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

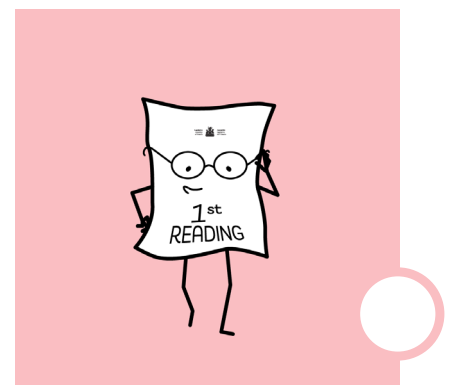
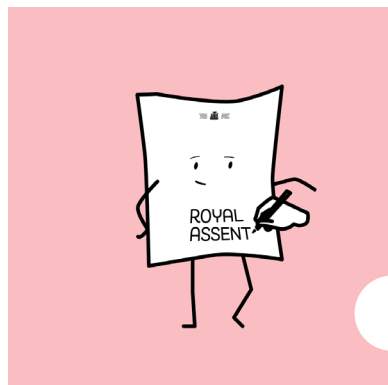
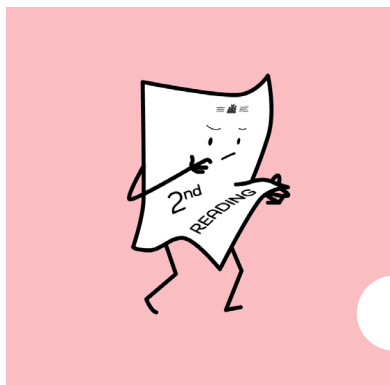
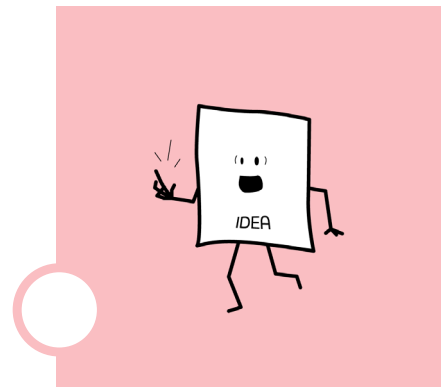
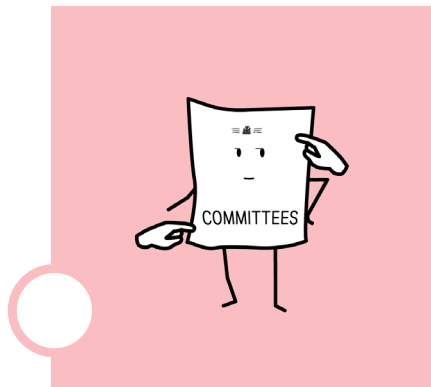
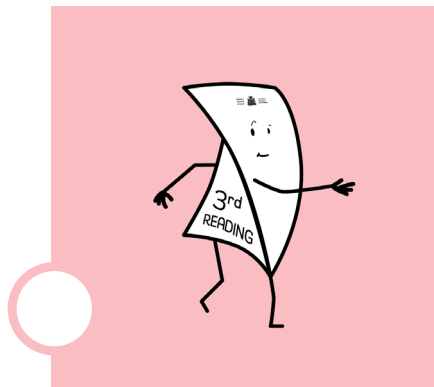


STAGES OF A BILL



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



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. Also, bills are not required to go through the committee stage, though most bills do as it allows 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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