

## Federal Government

### Legislative Branch

Legislative Branch – This is the branch of government with the power to make and change \_\_\_\_\_.

The legislative branch of the federal government has three parts: 1) \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, and 3) \_\_\_\_\_.

These parts of the government are called \_\_\_\_\_.

#### **A) Governor General**

The Governor General has a \_\_\_\_\_ role in the legislative branch.

Once Parliament passes a bill, the governor General must give \_\_\_\_\_ before the bill can officially become a law of Canada.

#### **B) House of Commons**

The House of Commons has \_\_\_\_\_ elected seats.

These seats are taken by elected \_\_\_\_\_ (MPs) from many different parties. (Example: Tracy Gray is the MP for Kelowna – Lake Country.)

Elections are based on the principle of \_\_\_\_\_.

The \_\_\_\_\_ is formed by the party with the most seats.

The "Government" party sits to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Speaker, with the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ sitting in the front row.

The remaining members sit behinds, and are therefore called \_\_\_\_\_.

The "Government" plays the dominate role in making and changing laws.

The \_\_\_\_\_ parties sit to the left of the Speaker.

The \_\_\_\_\_ is formed by the party with the second most seats in the House of Commons.

All opposition parties play the role of keeping the "Government" in check and accountable to the people.

**Representation by Population** – The number of seats given to any province is based on the population of that the province, and therefore provinces with large populations have \_\_\_\_\_ seats in the House of Commons than provinces with smaller populations.

**Riding** - An electoral district that can elect one \_\_\_\_\_ (MP) to be its representative in the House of Commons. (Example: Tracy Gray, Kelowna – Lake Country)

**Speaker** – An elected member of Parliament, who is elected by fellow MPs to act as the referee of the debate in the House of Commons.

**Prime Minister** – The leader of the party that wins the most seats in the House of Commons, which is also called the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Cabinet Ministers** – Elected MPs who are appointed by the \_\_\_\_\_ on the recommendation of the \_\_\_\_\_ to lead government departments. (Example: Minister of Foreign Affairs)

Generally, Cabinet Ministers introduce the most legislation to the House of Commons.

**Cabinet** – The collective group of Cabinet Ministers.

**Opposition Leader** – The leader of the party that wins the \_\_\_\_\_ most seats in the House of Commons.

**Shadow Cabinet** - Elected MPs who are appointed by the \_\_\_\_\_ to criticize specific government departments. (Example: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

**Caucus** – A policy meeting of elected MPs from the \_\_\_\_\_ party that takes place behind closed doors.

**Party Discipline** – A strategy of all members of a party showing public \_\_\_\_\_ for a party decision, and supporting party legislation.

**Free Vote** – A method of allowing elected MPs to break ranks with their party, and vote according to their constituents or conscious.

(Example: Prime Minister Stephan Harper allowed a free vote on the issue of gay marriage.)

### C) Senate

The Senate has \_\_\_\_\_ appointed seats.

Senators are appointed by the \_\_\_\_\_ based on the advice of the \_\_\_\_\_.

Senators must retire by age \_\_\_\_\_.

The Senate is supposed to provide a “\_\_\_\_\_”  
to bills from the House of Commons.

The Senate is supposed to provide \_\_\_\_\_, plus offer protection for \_\_\_\_\_.

Senate Seats . . .

Ontario Division: \_\_\_\_\_ seats

Quebec Division: \_\_\_\_\_ seats

Western Division: \_\_\_\_\_ seats ( \_\_\_\_\_ seats per province!)

Maritime Division: \_\_\_\_\_ seats ( \_\_\_\_\_ New Brunswick)

( \_\_\_\_\_ Nova Scotia)

( \_\_\_\_\_ Prince Edward Island)

Addition Representation:

Newfoundland & Labrador \_\_\_\_\_ seats

Northwest Territories \_\_\_\_\_ seat

Yukon Territory \_\_\_\_\_ seat

Nunavut \_\_\_\_\_ seat

The Senate can \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ bills introduce in the House of Commons.

The Senate can also introduce bills, but cannot propose any bills requiring the spending of

\_\_\_\_\_.

Some Canadians want to see the Senate \_\_\_\_\_.

**Executive Branch**

**Executive Branch** – This is the branch of government with power to \_\_\_\_\_ government \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

The executive branch of the federal government \_\_\_\_\_ the country.

The executive is made up of the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_.

**A) Governor General**

The Governor General has a \_\_\_\_\_ role in the executive branch.

The Governor General is appointed by the \_\_\_\_\_ on the advice of the \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_.

The Governor General is \_\_\_\_\_.

The Governor General asks the new \_\_\_\_\_ to form a government if the Prime Minister resigns.

The Governor General calls \_\_\_\_\_, and appoints \_\_\_\_\_ for the provinces.

The Governor General gives the \_\_\_\_\_, which is written by the Prime Minister.

On the advice of the Prime Minister, the Governor General can \_\_\_\_\_ a session of parliament without dissolving Parliament. (MPs take a break, and there is no new election!)

**B) Prime Minister**

The Prime Minister is \_\_\_\_\_.

The Prime Minister appoints \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

The Prime Minister sets \_\_\_\_\_, changes the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of cabinet, and gives \_\_\_\_\_ to government departments.

The Prime Minister advises the \_\_\_\_\_ when to dissolve Parliament.

**C) Cabinet**

Cabinet Ministers are normally \_\_\_\_\_, but can also be \_\_\_\_\_.

Cabinet Ministers are normally from the \_\_\_\_\_, but not always.

Once appointed to the Cabinet, they are called \_\_\_\_\_.

Cabinet Ministers are in charge of the \_\_\_\_\_.

**D) Public Service**

Top civil servants in each department are called \_\_\_\_\_.

The public service includes \_\_\_\_\_ like the Department of Defence,  
\_\_\_\_\_ like the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC),  
\_\_\_\_\_ like the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and  
\_\_\_\_\_ like the National Advisory Board on Forest Research.

**Judicial Branch**

**Judicial Branch** – This is the branch of government with the power to \_\_\_\_\_ laws.

Judges are independent from the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ branches of government.

This allows the judicial branch to interpret the Constitution and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms without government interference!

The judicial branch is a \_\_\_\_\_ on government power, and it is design to protect \_\_\_\_\_ from government tyranny.

**A) Supreme Court**

The Supreme Court of Canada is the \_\_\_\_\_ court of appeal in Canada.

Supreme Court judges are appointed by the \_\_\_\_\_ on the recommendation of the \_\_\_\_\_.

**B) Provincial Courts**

These courts handle legal interpretation at the provincial level, but decisions can be appealed to the \_\_\_\_\_.