

Canadian Federal Elections

When Do Elections Happen?

- An election must be called every _____ or sooner according to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms
- The Prime Minister may choose to call an election earlier, but a new law (2006) sets fixed elections dates for the _____, 4 years after previous election
- An election can be called following a “_____” in a minority government

What Type of Electoral System Do We Have?

- _____: One person is elected from each riding (electoral district) to become an MP
 - In order to get elected this person must receive the plurality of the votes (the most votes, a majority is not necessary)
- This system is also known as _____

Electoral Districts (Ridings)

- There are _____ ridings in Canada

Election Process

1) The Call

- Prime Minister asks the _____ to _____ Parliament and call an election
- The Chief Electoral officer “drops the writ”, or officially signs the documents

2) Nominations

- Candidates (usually representing a _____) submit nominations and stand for election

3) The Voters List

- _____ in each province makes up a voters list of who is eligible to vote

4) The Campaign

- Each party uses this time to promote their _____
- _____, tours, lawn signs, appearances on television, door to door, and lots and lots of promises

On The Election Trail

- Some events on the election trail, whether that be an unfortunate picture or a controversial comment, can negatively affect the party.
 - Can you think of other examples of events that could positively or negatively impact the party?

5) The Voters

- Eligible voters are informed of _____ specifically they can vote (e.g., churches, school)

6) Election Day

- Voters go to _____ to vote
- Each polling station has a returning officer and polling clerks, and may have scrutineers from political parties

7) The Count

- Ballot boxes are collected and votes are counted
- Each political party may have _____ present to make sure vote is fair

8) The Winner

- The candidate with the most votes is elected as _____ from that riding (not necessarily by a majority)

How is the Prime Minister Elected?

- The leader of the _____ elected becomes Prime Minister
- We do not vote directly for the Prime Minister
- The Prime Minister is elected as an MP
- The Prime Minister will formally take the position after a ceremony involving the

What Does An Election Cost?

Voter Turnout

- Traditionally, voter turnout for federal elections is between _____. (2008 – 59%; 2011 – 61%; 2015 – 69%)
 - Participation of voters aged 18-24 _____ (from 39% in 2011)
 - Participation of voters aged 25-34 _____ (from 45% in 2011)
 - Participation of voters aged 65-74 _____ (from 75% in 2011)
- If you were eligible to vote, for what reasons would you choose to vote? For what reasons would you stay away from voting?

Electoral reform?

- Some have suggested that Canada's system is broken and needs to be fixed
- Possible solutions:
 - A. _____ instead of multiparty
 - If only 2 parties, would never have a minority
 - Examples: US, Britain, New Zealand, Australia
 - B. _____
 - Canada has one of the worst participation rates of democracies
 - Example: Australia – 94% because mandatory
 - C. _____

What is Proportional Representation?

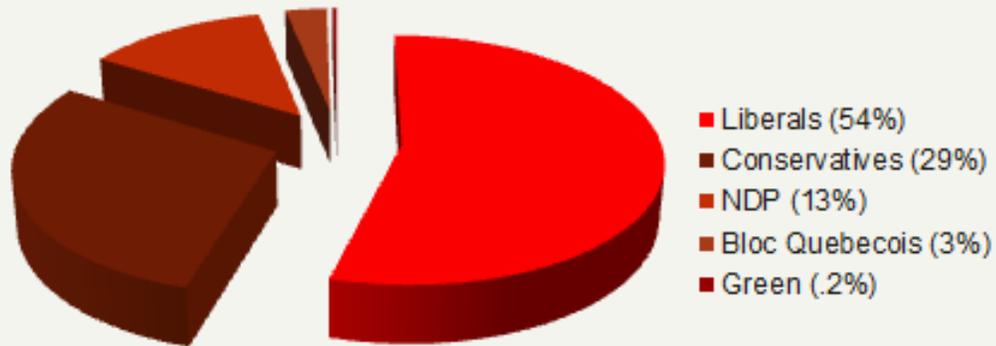
- A PR system divides up the 308 seats according to the _____ of votes each party receives
 - I.e. If a party got 20% of the vote, they would get 20% of the seats.
- Canadians would vote for a _____, not a candidate
 - The party would choose the candidates from their lists to fill the seats
- To consider:**
- Could lead to greater voter turnout because your vote "counts" more
 - BUT: not electing _____, but parties
- Would allow _____ parties to be represented (ie. Green Party – would have more seats with PR)
 - BUT – could lead to more minority governments because more smaller parties...

What is a Referendum?

- a form of _____
- Voters get to vote on a particular issue instead of the elected representatives deciding
- Example: Quebec sovereignty vote – 1980 and 1995

Division of Seats with Single Member Plurality

Seats



Division of Seats with Proportional Representations

Seats

