

Lesson 6: The Provincial System of Government

LESSON 6: THE PROVINCIAL SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT

1. Possible Inquiry Questions:

1. Who is the premier of Saskatchewan and what party do they represent?
2. What are the benefits of electing MLA's by constituency?
3. Who is the MLA in our constituency?
4. How are laws made in provincial government?
5. How does the provincial government interact with the federal government?
6. How are the provincial government's responsibilities different from the municipal government's responsibilities?
7. Why is it important to have a provincial government?
8. What are some responsibilities of our provincial government?
9. What is the process of becoming an MLA in Saskatchewan?
10. What are some ways that you can become involved in your provincial government?

2. Background information for the teacher:

3. Key Vocabulary:

Premier • MLA • Party • Revenue • Tax

4. Focus/Supplementary outcomes:

PAA 4.2 - Demonstrate an understanding of the provincial system of government.

(d) identify elected local, provincial and federal heads of government

(e) compare how laws are made at the provincial level

PAA 4.1 - Analyze the relationship between governance institutions in Saskatchewan and the quality of life of people in the province.

(a) identify ways in which Saskatchewan people can be involved in making decisions which affect their local communities (e.g., run as a candidate for school board, local government, or band elections; vote during elections; attend community forums).

(e) investigate the methods the provincial government uses to raise revenue (e.g., resource revenues, taxes on consumption, provincial sales tax, fuel tax, tax on cigarettes and alcohol) to pay for services and evaluate the impact on quality of life for Saskatchewan people (e.g., health care, education, highways, social services, justice).

5. Timeline: Approximately 1 hour

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6. Materials:

- Student Handout Booklet
- Chart paper or bulletin board with 6 columns titled from left to right:

School Board	Municipal (town or city)	Provincial (Saskatchewan)	Federal (Canada)	First Nation	Métis Nation

(Adapted with permission from Hands-On Social Studies, Grade 4, Saskatchewan Edition)

- Small images to place in the “Provincial” column. You may choose to use Velcro dots on the back of cards and on the chart for easy maneuverability.
 - Picture of the premier
 - Small Government Services Pictures (from Lesson 5)(See teacher resources for sample images)
- Optional:
 - make multiple copies and have students work in groups
 - Glue the chart to a file folder. Place smaller images in an envelope and have students work at a centre, adding items as the unit progresses.

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7. Motivational Set:

- Continuation from motivational set regarding municipal governments.
- Do we disagree with our original thoughts?
- Should things be switched?
- Are there ones we know for sure are correct?

School Board	Municipal (town or city)	Provincial (Saskatchewan)	Federal (Canada)	First Nation	Métis Nation

- Keep this visual hanging in classroom throughout the unit and make changes where necessary
- In addition, add new pictures as the unit progresses

8. Process:

1. Prior to lesson, contact the MLA in your school's constituency to set up a virtual or in person meeting.

<https://www.legassembly.sk.ca/contact-us/>

2. Prior to meeting with your MLA,
 - a). Invite students to complete a mind map of what they think they know about the provincial government. Mind Map is located in the Student Handout Booklet. Students can use words, pictures, diagrams, symbols etc. to show all the things they may know.
 - What roles do you think a provincial government has?
 - Which services do you think are the responsibility of the provincial government?
 - b). Invite students to share their mind maps in partners or small groups.
3. Refer back to the classroom definition of "Government" in lesson 3.

A Government is...

Then clarify that the Provincial Government is...

- A group of people who are elected to make decisions for Saskatchewan people
- We call these elected people Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLA)
- They try to make the best decisions for all the people of Saskatchewan

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4. Watch the youtube video: “the Levels of Government” (2 min 35 seconds)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7C8uDuhLqvg>
5. Explain the following:
 - Saskatchewan is divided into 61 areas called **ridings**, or **constituencies**
 - One person is elected from each area to be an MLA – **Member of the Legislative Assembly**
 - They meet in Regina at the **Legislative Building**
6. OPTIONAL videos which may enhance instruction, be used in small groups as they complete the assignments or as an activity in an iPad/computer centre.
 - The electoral map of Saskatchewan:
<https://www.elections.sk.ca/candidates-political-parties/maps/>
 - Saskatchewan Legislature Building: (1 min 26 seconds)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WXQXk-RVYzs>
 - The Electoral System:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=USK3Q4rsgnw>
7. Have students complete the handout page ‘What is Government?’ either by themselves or in small groups.

*** Possible stopping point here. ***

8. Re-visit the services chart from beginning of lesson. After learning about the provincial government, students should be able to make decisions about the services that government provides. Make changes to the chart as needed.
9. Ask students if they know what the word “Revenue” means. Explain that in order to pay for education, healthcare, highways etc, the government needs to make money.
 - How do they do this? What do you think? Any guesses?
 - PST (sales tax) – this is extra money that you have to pay on things that you buy – clothes, gas, shoes, cars.
 - Income tax – this is money taken off your pay cheques when you have a job.
 - Property tax – this is money you pay every year for the property you own – like farmland or houses. The more you have, the more you pay.

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10. Complete the “Government Services” page in the Student Handout Booklet.
You can have students complete individually or have students meet with 4 Clock Buddy Appointments (See Lesson 1: Rules, Laws, Rights and Responsibilities) to complete each section of the handout.
11. Ask students to share some ideas that they discussed from the Government Services handout. Which other government services might they add to the chart?
12. Tell students that you have invited (Name) an MLA from (constituency) to meet with your class on (date). At that time, they will have the opportunity to ask some questions about the Provincial Government.
 - Look at the Sample Questions in the Student Handout Booklet or create questions as a class.
13. Students can take their own jot notes or fill in answers on the question page as they listen to the MLA.
14. Be sure to send a thank you note or letters to the MLA after the meeting.

9. Assessment:

- Continue working on – “Who governs me?” assessment. Students should be given time to complete the Provincial Government graphic organizer of the assessment.
- “Verbal Exit Slip” – as students are leaving the classroom, ask each student one of the questions from the “Government Services” handout page. If they can’t answer, they can use a ‘help line’ such as “check their notes” or “ask a friend”. If they ‘ask a friend’, and the friend responds correctly, they both leave.
- If time, you may wish to ask students to work in groups to create posters/advertisements about the ways in which a particular service benefits them. Post these in the classroom or hallway.

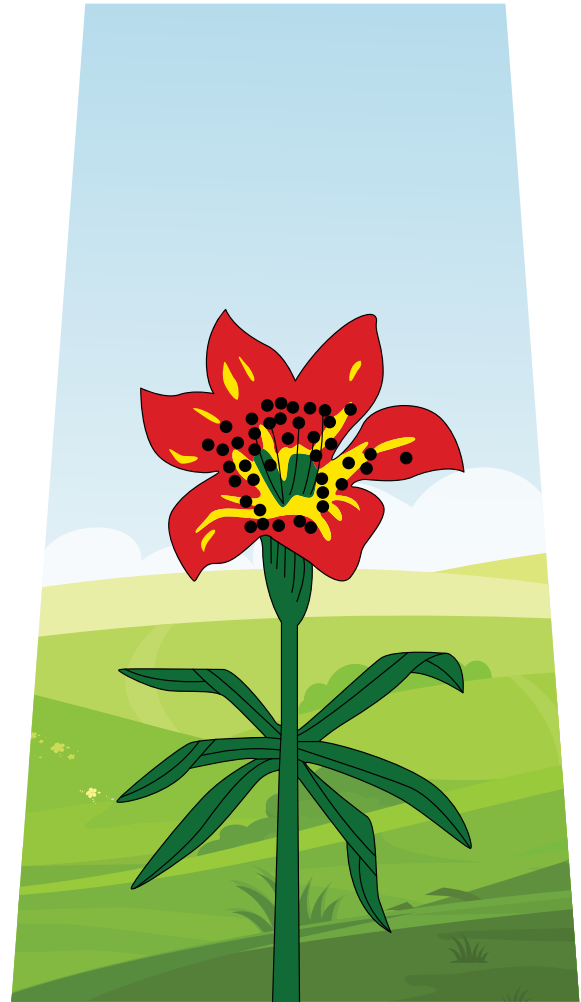
10. Teacher resources:

Power and Authority

Social 4

Student Handbook

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Name: _____

The purpose of Our Government Unit is to learn about how decisions are made to help Canadians and people in Saskatchewan.

What Do You Think the Provincial Government Does?

Mind Map

Use pictures, word and/or symbols to show what you think you know.

A large, empty rounded rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a student to draw a mind map. The box is centered on the page and occupies most of the lower half of the page.

What Is Government?

Why is it important to have a provincial government?

In Saskatchewan, the group elected to make decisions for us is the political party that received the most votes. The political party that oversees the Provincial Government is the _____

Saskatchewan is divided into 61 areas called _____.

The person elected in each area becomes a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA).

Our constituency is called: _____

Who is the MLA for our area? _____

Where do all of the MLA's meet to discuss and make decisions for Saskatchewan? _____

The political party with the most MLA's makes up the government. They have the most seats in the Legislative Assembly and get the most votes. The leader of this party becomes the

_____ of Saskatchewan. Who is ours? _____

Government Services:

Service - which government provides this service? 1. Municipal? 2. Provincial?	What Would Happen if this Service Didn't Exist? (list 3-4 ideas)	Ways this Service Benefits Me (list 3-4 ideas)
Education		
Medicare/Hospitals		
Water and Sewage		
Recreation Facilities - pools, rinks and playgrounds		

Meeting with MLA:

Job Questions:

1. What is your job when you are an MLA?
2. How long have you been an MLA?
3. How busy are you as an MLA?
4. What do you think is the most important thing you do as an MLA?
5. How often do you visit the Legislative Building?
6. Do you travel? Where do you travel to?
7. Do you enjoy being an MLA?
8. Is it hard to be an MLA?

Government Questions:

1. What does the Government of Saskatchewan do to make the lives of Saskatchewanians better?
2. How does the government decide what is best for the people especially when everyone has different opinions?
3. For what services is the provincial government responsible?
4. Who decides what services are provided by what government?

Getting Involved Questions:

1. Why is it important for young people to learn about government when we can't even vote?

2. What can young people do to get involved in their government?

