

## Chapter 5

### How Does Local Government Work?

#### **Inquiring Questions:**

1. In what ways is local government part of a democracy?
2. How can citizens participate in local government?
3. How can people organize themselves to meet needs not met by government?

### **1. Why do we have Local Government?**

#### **A. Local government provide services**

-services meet some of the needs of the citizens of a city/town/etc.

##### **1. Local Government Services**

- Senior's facilities
- Public transportation
- Streets and roads
- Libraries
- Fire, Police, EMS
- Animal control
- City parks and recreation
- Waste disposal (garbage)

#### **B. Local government collects taxes**

-services cost money and the government needs a way to pay for them all.

***How do they pay for it???***

-local government collect most the money from **Property Taxes** to pay for it all.

-this is **Revenue** (making money) for our government

Other sources of Revenue are:

- user fees (transit, pools, parking, licenses (businesses & pets), permits, etc)
- sale of goods
- transfer payments (money from other levels of government)
- Property taxes (owning a home or business)
- Rental of equipment

-governments spend money to maintain and run the city... this is called

**Expenditures** which are:

- roads
- agricultural services
- parks and recreation
- protective services
- administration
- water and waste management

#### **C. Local Government Makes Laws**

-they make rules called **bylaws** which are enforced by bylaw officers

-check out the City of Calgary Website to read about some pending bylaws and some of the bylaws have recently been passed

-laws are discussed 3 times.

#### **D. Local Government gives People a Voice**

- contact the mayors office or alderman via email, phone, letter, fax, in person

- Petitions, Rallies, demonstration, attending town hall meetings, voting, etc.

## **2. How Are Local Governments Organized?**

Type of Government	Top Elected Official	Elected Official	Council Made Up Of:
Urban	Mayor	Councillors (alderman)	
Rural	Reeve	Councillors	
First Nations	Chief	council selected by community	
Metis	Chairperson	Council of 5	

### **A. Making Decisions for the Community**

- council meetings to discuss and make decisions
- they organize committees that are responsible for services
- advisory committees

### **B. Delivering Services to the Community**

- many people are hired to work for the city – Civil Servants
- all departments report to the “Town or City Manager”

## **3. How are Local Governments Elected?**

-elections occur every 3 years

Steps to an election

1. Nomination –must be Canadian Citizen, 18 yrs, live in area for 6 months
2. campaign – getting your name and ideas out there to the public
3. election day – go to polling stations and ...
4. vote – pick the person you want to be your mayor

## **4. How Can you Participate at the local Level?**

- Petitions, Rallies, demonstration, attending town hall meetings, voting, etc.

### **A. Getting Involved in the Community**

- start programs that collect and distribute food or clothing
- bring meals to elderly people in their homes
- organize cleanup campaigns to pick up litter
- raise money to start youth or sports programs
- helping with the homeless

## **5. Why do we have School Boards?**

They make decisions about educational services and programming in schools.

They are familiar with needs and values of the community they serve..

They have a superintendent and trustees who make decisions.

### **A. What are your choices of Schools?**

Public Schools – they are available for all citizens

Separate Schools – Catholic faith

Francophone Schools – run by Francophones (French)

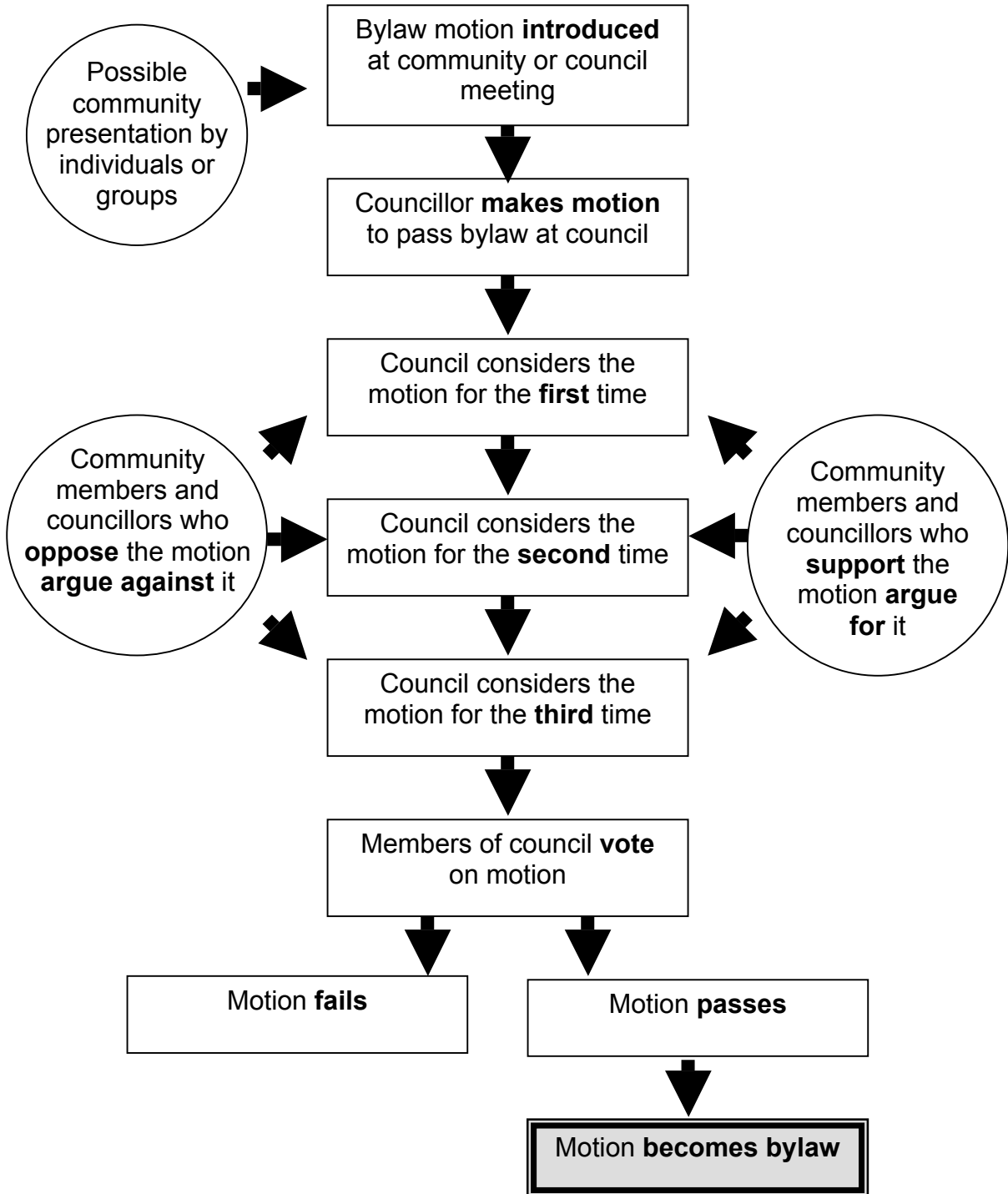
Charter Schools – same curriculum as public but with a special focus (Science, music, etc.)

First Nations School – Run by the aboriginal groups

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Passing a Bylaw



In summary...

## Chapter 5 Words Matter – Vocabulary and Definitions

<b>Word</b>	<b>Text Definition</b>	<b>My Definition</b>	<b>Symbol or Image or example</b>
<b>Bylaw</b>	Laws that are passed by a local government		
<b>Motion</b>	Is an idea or proposal discussed and voted on at a meeting		
<b>Councillor</b>	Person elected to local government		
<b>Council</b>	Is a group of elected representatives who make decisions for a local area		
<b>Forum</b>	Is a meeting place where public discussions		
<b>Municipal Area</b>	Is a region that has its own local government		
<b>Municipal District</b>	Is a rural area that has its own local government		
<b>Urban</b>	Are places like cities, towns and villages		
<b>Rural</b>	Municipal district and counties		
<b>Advisory Committees</b>	Groups of concerned citizens and members of government. They give advice to the council.		
<b>Departments of Govern.</b>	In a local gov. departments provide various kinds of services to the community		
<b>Civil Servants</b>	People hired to run or work in the gov. departments.		
<b>Ballot</b>	Piece of paper used for voting that lists the names of the candidates		
<b>Nominate</b>	Identify a person as a possible candidate for an elected position		
<b>Petition</b>	A written request that contains the signatures of people who support its content		
<b>Superintendent</b>	Is responsible for running the schools in a jurisdiction.		
<b>Budget</b>	List of items that show how much money will be spent on each item		
<b>Trustee</b>	Person who serves on a school board		