Chapter 6 Provincial Government

A. Why do we need a Provincial government?
   a. take care of Albertans and protect their interests
   b. the following is what Provincial Governments takes care of to help its Citizens. These are all the services the Provincial government gives to its citizens of Alberta
      i. Health and Wellness
      ii. Energy
      iii. Education
      iv. Seniors and community support
      v. Tourism and parks
      vi. Agriculture and food
      vii. Sustainable resources
      viii. Aboriginal relations
      ix. Children’s services

1. Provincial government provides services
   - 20 departments in the Alberta government
   - share responsibility for services with other levels of gov.
   - ex. Alberta roads is shared with local, provincial, and federal gov.
   - collect taxes to pay for services

2. Educating Albertans
   - Alberta government decides (through Alberta education) what is taught and it is common throughout Alberta.
   - This department gives money to school boards, support students with special needs

3. Managing Alberta’s Resources
   - Energy resources (oil and gas) are the Prov. Gov. Responsibility

4. Keeping Albertans Healthy
   - Health services such as hospitals

5. Provincial Governments Makes Laws
   - elected representatives are called MLA’s (members of the legislative assembly)
   - MLA’s make laws that are obeyed by people of province
   - How a law becomes a law:
     1. Motion (known as a BILL) called the 1st reading
     2. members and public study bill and give opinion, hold meetings, petitions, etc
     3. 2nd reading in the Legislative assembly – debate and vote
     4. vote passes and goes to 3rd read by the legislative assembly – discuss again
     5. vote again and if passed
     6. sent to Lieutenant Governor to be signed
     7. becomes a law

B. How is the Provincial Government Elected?
   - candidates run for positions (MLA’s) in the provincial government on behalf of their political party
   - they run for the voting district (constituencies) in their area

1. Becoming a Candidate – must be:
   - and eligible voter
   - get a form from the Elections Alberta signed by at least 25 electors in their district
2. Making the Decision – the vote on Election Day – Voters must:
- live in the constituency where thy want to vote
- be a Canadian citizen and 18 years or older
- live in Alberta for 6 months before election day.

3. How do you vote?
1. go to voting stations
2. Find the poll clerk and match my card # to the # on their ballot box
3. give them card and get a ballot
4. Go behind screen and put X beside my candidate
5. Fold and give ballot back to returning officer

C. What is the role of the Lieutenant Governor?
- Canada is a Constitutional Monarchy
- The Queens Representative in the federal government is the Governor General
- The Queens Representative in the provincial government is the Lieutenant Governor, who is appointed by the Governor General

D. How is the Alberta Government Structured?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alberta Legislative</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lieutenant Governor</strong></td>
<td><strong>Premier</strong></td>
<td><strong>Cabinet Ministers</strong></td>
<td><strong>Legislative Assembly</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Queen's Representative - inviting the leader of the party that wins the election become premier - issuing the Royal Proclamation that calls the Legislature into session - reading the Speech from the Throne to open new session of the Legislature - dissolving or closing the Legislative Assembly so elections can be held</td>
<td>Leader of the Government - leader of the party that got elected and is in power - Ed Stelmach</td>
<td>Responsible for departments - these departments provide services to the province - examples include: Minister of Education, Minister of Environment Minister of Employment Minister of Industry - meet with premier to discuss what should be done in province - working with people in their department to create a budget - research, write and vote on bills - serve of MLA's for constituency</td>
<td>MLA’s - serve the needs of the people in their constituency - take part in government Jobs: - bring concerns and views to ministers - ask opinions about programs and government - attend celebrations/events - meet with special interest groups - keep informed about issues <strong>Opposition members</strong> are members of a party not in power (NDP)</td>
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D. How can people participate at the provincial level?
- people can influence decisions by
  - voting in referendums,
  - expressing opinions about bills,
  - becoming a candidate for the Legislature,
  - contacting MLA’s about concerns,
  - voting in elections
A REFERENDUM allows eligible voters to vote on an issue proposed by the government.

SUBSIDIES are funds that the government gives to those who need help to participate in a program.

A BILL is a proposed law. It has to do with the province. When you want to suggest a bill you talk to your MLA (see Our MLA's).

A CABINET MINISTER is an elected representative who is in charge of a provincial government department.

An ACT is a bill that has been passed by the legislative assembly and signed by the Lieutenant Governor. It is also known as a law.

A POLITICAL PARTY is an organization made up of people who have similar points of view about how to govern.

Voting districts are called CONSTITUENCIES. Alberta is divided into different CONSTITUENCIES for federal elections.

A CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY is a system of government in which a monarchy is the head of state. In Canada the prime minister is the head of government.

The SPEECH FROM THE THRONE describes what the government plans to do during the upcoming session of the legislature.

CONSTITUENTS are the people living in the constituency that a member of government represents.

An OPPOSITION MEMBER is an elected member of the Legislative Assembly who is not a member of the party in power.