Voices in Democracy

Chapter 1 Shaping Society Together

Why do we have rules?
- When playing games/sports/activities, do they all have rules? Can any player change rules?
- Why do we have rules? - to keep order; they let you know what you can and can't do; they make things fair;
- It is everyone's job to learn what the rules are and behave according

Inquiring minds: Why is it important for people and government to work together in a democracy?

What are Societies Rules?
- People in a society need rules to get along and guide how we act with others at home, school, community and country
- Canada's rules are written in our Constitution (it describes the powers of the government and the rights of the people)

Who Makes decisions about rules?
- In a democracy, people have the power to make decisions about laws
- Gov. makes laws ← People elect representatives to gov.

Who are members of the Canadian Society?
- The people who make up the communities across Canada

Why do we need Government?
- To make sure people are safe and our lives are comfortable
- Government 1. provide services (schools, hospitals, etc)
  2. Protects rights and freedoms
  3. Provides leadership

What are our Responsibilities as Citizens?
- Government need to listen to the citizens in order to make decisions about our country, province or community
- People have responsibility to inform the government of what they need and make their points of view known.

Skill Power: Telling Fact from Opinion
- Fact: a statement that can be proven to be CORRECT/TRUE. Can be checked in dictionaries, encyclopaedia's, reliable websites, etc
- Opinion: what someone BELIEVES. Can be proven to be right or wrong
- Discussion: Should Students Wear School Uniforms?

Why is it Important to Contribute?
- Become involved in actions that benefit others in the community
- Learn about issues in your community and school
- Become more active by forming group with people who feel the same as you
- This will help to correct injustices or wrongs from the past
- You can be active by supporting an action the government has taken

Viewpoints: Should Cell Phones be Allowed in Class?
Chapter 1 vocabulary

Society - people who share the same government rules and laws

Constitution - supreme law of the land; outlines the government structure

Citizen - someone who is born in or has legally become a member of a country

Majority Rule - decisions determined by 51% or more of the recorded votes

Responsibility - Something you should do, and keep on doing when you have a chance to, because you have the right to do it.

Values - principles about how people should act, or standards we consider important and just.

Compromise - to decide on a settlement that satisfies all parties

Diversity - respecting people from various cultures and backgrounds.

Justice - fair treatment of individuals and groups.

Equity - individuals and groups have the same opportunities in life.

Freedom - people have the right to think and speak as they wish

Representation - elected representatives act on behalf of citizens

Federal government - level of government responsible for matters that concern the whole country

Provincial government - government that is elected by the people of a province elected representatives act on behalf of citizens.

Local government governments elected in cities, towns, villages, reserves and other settlements, and other local areas across Canada.

Services - what the government does for its citizens... examples may include: schools, hospitals, libraries, and police.

Issues - concerns or problems that affect a community

Fact - a statement that can be proven to be true

Opinion - what someone believes, but cannot be proved to be right or wrong.

Injustice - an action that is not fair.