

# 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?**

#### Bold Words

Society  
Constitution  
Citizen  
Issues  
Fact  
Opinion  
Injustices

## 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.