

Glossary of Terms

- **Alderman** is an elected member of a municipal or city council
- **Bill** is a proposed law put before Parliament or a Provincial Legislature for approval for it to become a law
- **Bloc Quebecois** is a party that promotes the interest of the province of Quebec and its sovereignty in the House of Commons
(For further information: <http://www.bloquebecois.org>)
- **Cabinet Minister** is an elected representative who holds a significant public office in a provincial or national government. Examples are the Minister of Justice, the Minister of Seniors, the Minister of National Defence and the Minister of Finance. The cabinet minister is appointed by the Prime Minister of Canada or Premier of a Province and together all of the appointed ministers form the cabinet of the government
- **Campaign** is a process in which the views of a candidate or political party are promoted
- **Candidate** is a person who seeks a political office. In Alberta, to run as a candidate to be a Member of the Legislative Assembly, a person must not be disqualified by a law, must be a Canadian citizen, and must be at least 18 years of age. There is no residency requirement to run as a candidate in a particular electoral district. To run as a candidate to be a Member of Parliament, the person must not be disqualified under the Canada Elections Act, must be at least 18 years old on the day of the election and must be a Canadian citizen
- **Charter of Rights and Freedoms** is a bill of rights that forms a part of the **Constitution Act, 1982**. It protects the political and civil rights of Canadians from the policies and actions of government
- **Confederation** is the union of the British North American colonies in 1867 which became Canada. The **British North America Act, 1867** is the first constituting document in Canada which sets out the rules of the union
- **Conservative Party of Canada** has a political platform that includes these aspects: emphasis on the market economy and privatization of business, fiscal conservatism, a strong military, social conservatism including opposition to same sex marriage (although they favour civil unions), limited government in Ottawa with stronger governments in the provinces (decentralization), lower taxes, tougher standards on law and order (they do not favour the legalization of cannabis), and a strong union with the United States. Their color is blue
(For further information about the Conservative Party of Canada: <https://www.conservative.ca>)
(For further information about the Progressive Conservative Association of Alberta: <http://www.albertapc.ca>)
- **Constitutional Monarchy** is a government with a hereditary monarch as the head of state and an elected Prime Minister as the head of government who are guided by the constitution
- **Democracy** is government in which the people rule through a freely chosen form of government. In Canada, adult citizens select government representatives in a free election

- ***Dissolution of Parliament*** occurs when the Governor General, upon the advice of the Prime Minister, calls for this. Seeing that a general election will follow, the timing is usually advantageous to the Prime Minister and his or her party. Dissolution also occurs when: the Prime Minister loses support in the House of Commons or the parliamentary term expires which is five years after it begins. The Legislative Assembly of a Province may also be dissolved for the same reasons by the Lieutenant-Governor upon the advice of the Premier
- ***Her Majesty's Pleasure*** is a phrase which honors the origins and traditions of the United Kingdom and its monarchy in Canada
- ***House of Commons*** is a group of people who are elected by adult citizens to represent them in the Parliament of Canada. Although the approval of both the House of Commons and the Senate is needed to pass laws in Parliament, the Senate rarely disapproves
- ***The Legislative Assembly*** of a province is a group of people who are elected by adult citizens to represent them and form the government in a province. The Legislative Assembly passes the laws of the province
- ***Liberal Party of Canada*** has a political platform that includes the following aspects: balanced budgets, delegating social programs to the province, national childcare, tax cuts for low income earners, tougher firearms, increased support for seniors, immigrants and aboriginal people, increased military and finances to support research and higher education. The party's color is red
(For further information about the Liberal Party of Canada:
<http://www.liberal.ca>)
(For further information about the Alberta Liberal Party:
<http://www.albertaliberal.com>)
- ***New Democratic Party*** has a political platform that includes: environmental protection, increased corporate taxation, reduced poverty, human rights protection, increased public transportation, social assistance that promotes re-entry into the workforce, gender equality, equal rights for minorities, aboriginal rights, balanced budgets, and a foreign policy that emphasizes diplomacy, peace keeping and humanitarian aid. The color of this party is orange
(For further information about the New Democratic Party of Canada:
<http://www.ndp.ca>)
(For further information about the Alberta New Democrats:
<http://www.albertandp.ca>)
- ***Not-For-Profit Organization*** usually provides programs or services that are of benefit to the public. No one benefits financially including the Board of Directors
- ***Parliament*** is the national government composed of the Governor General, the House of Commons and the Senate
- ***Parliamentary Democracy*** requires that the party with the greatest representation in parliament or the legislature of a province forms the government. The leader of this majority party becomes the Prime Minister of Canada or the Premier of the Province
- ***Political and Civil Rights*** include the right to fair procedures in law, protection from discrimination, freedom of belief, speech, association, and the press as well as political participation and voting

- ***Private Member's Bill*** is a bill introduced in the House of Commons or the Legislative Assembly by a Member of Parliament or a Member of the Legislative Assembly who is not a Cabinet Minister. A private member's bill follows the same legislative process as a government bill, but the time allocated for its consideration is restricted
- ***Ridings*** are the electoral areas represented in Parliament or the Legislative Assembly by elected politicians
- ***The Rule of Law*** ensures that no one is above the law. All individuals in Canada and the governments must obey laws
- ***Senate*** consists of members appointed on a regional basis by the Governor General on the advice of the Prime Minister. The Senate usually approves the laws passed by the House of Commons
- ***Supreme Court of Canada*** is the highest and final court in Canada
- ***Universal Voting Rights*** are rights to vote that are not restricted by race, gender, belief, age, or social status