

Government in our lives

TEACHER'S NOTES

GRADE 6 CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:

Grade 6 Social Studies Skills Outcomes that correspond to this activity:

Communication

- 6-S-400 Listen to others to understand their perspectives.
- 6-S-403 Present information and ideas orally, visually, concretely, or electronically.
- 6-S-404 Elicit and clarify questions and ideas in discussions.
- 6-S-405 Articulate their beliefs and perspectives on issues.

Grade 6 Social Studies Knowledge and Values Outcomes that correspond to this activity:

6.4.2 Government in Canada

- 6-KP-049 Describe the main features of the Canadian government.
Include: parliamentary system, federal democracy.
- 6-KP-052 Identify the main responsibilities of municipal, provincial, First Nations, and federal governments in Canada.
- 6-KP-053 Identify elected or appointed municipal, provincial, and federal government representatives and describe their main responsibilities.

Hand out or visually share the Government in Our Lives activity and ask students to review it and try to identify the government services identified in the images, along with the level of government – municipal, provincial and/or federal.

Answers could include, but not be limited to:

- Hydro-electricity production (provincial)
- Mosquito fogging (municipal) – also pesticide application permits (provincial) and pesticide approval (federal)
- Fishing licenses and regulations (provincial)
- Hospitals and health services (provincial)
- Provincial parks (provincial)
- Social insurance numbers (federal)
- Driver's licences (provincial)
- Public library (municipal)
- Stamps/postal services (federal)
- Police services (municipal) – also RCMP (federal)
- Money/banking (federal)
- Transit (municipal)
- Weather monitoring and forecasting (federal)
- Drinking water (municipal) – also surface water and groundwater management (provincial)
- School (provincial)
- Time, for example daylight savings time (provincial and sometimes municipal)
- Passports (federal)
- Construction/building permits (municipal)
- Road maintenance and closures (municipal or provincial depending on whether the roadway is municipal or provincial)

GRADE 9 CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:

Grade 9 Social Studies Skills Outcomes that correspond to this activity:

Communication Skills

- S-400 Listen to others to understand their perspectives.
- S-401 Use language that is respectful of human diversity.
- S-402 Express informed and reasoned opinions.
- S-404 Elicit, clarify, and respond to questions, ideas, and diverse points of view in discussions.
- S-405 Articulate their perspectives on issues.
- S-406 Debate differing points of view regarding an issue.

Grade 9 Social Studies Knowledge and Values Outcomes that correspond to this activity:

Cluster 2: Democracy and Governance in Canada

Learning Experience 9.2.1: Law, Order, and Good Government

KC-005 Give examples of ways in which government affects their daily lives.

KP-044 Describe the division of power and responsibilities of federal, First Nations, provincial, and municipal governments.

Students might also suggest different answers, for example, the social insurance card could be associated with federal employment services, or the passport could be associated with international travel. There are many associations that students may make.

Initiate a discussion with students about how many aspects of our lives are affected by government. It's surprising how often we interact with government in different ways every day.

Use this discussion to introduce the role of the ombudsman in making sure that people are treated fairly and properly by government. If government has made a decision or taken an action that affects an individual or group of people and they are concerned about the decision or action, the affected individuals may make a complaint to the ombudsman.

Manitoba Ombudsman is an oversight office that deals with municipal governments and provincial government departments and agencies. At the federal level, there are some ombudsmen for different purposes (for example, a veteran's ombudsman, a taxpayer's ombudsman, Canadian Forces ombudsman, etc.)

ABOUT THE OMBUDSMAN

Manitoba Ombudsman is an independent office of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba and is not part of any government department or agency. The office's mission is to promote and foster openness, transparency, fairness, accountability, and respect for privacy in the design and delivery of public services.

The ombudsman conducts independent, impartial, and non-partisan investigations about access to information and privacy matters, the fairness of government actions or decisions, or serious wrongdoings that may have occurred. In Manitoba, four laws establish the ombudsman's authority to conduct investigations -- the Ombudsman Act, the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the Personal Health Information Act, and the Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Act.

In Manitoba, the ombudsman is appointed by all parties of the legislature. The ombudsman is appointed for a term of six years, and may be re-appointed for a second term of six years (but not for more than two terms).

Visit Manitoba Ombudsman's website at <https://www.ombudsman.mb.ca> for more information.

Historically, the first independent parliamentary ombudsman was established in 1809 in Sweden. The word "ombudsman" is Swedish, and is often translated as "citizen's representative" or "representative of the people." After Sweden, ombudsmen were established in Finland (1919), Denmark (1954), Norway (1961) and New Zealand (1962).

In 1970, Manitoba became the fourth province (after Alberta, New Brunswick and Quebec) to establish an ombudsman.