

Name/Date:

**Social Studies 11 Unit 2 Canadian, Eh: Politics, Government, and Identity**

## **2B: Foundation of our Government**

### **Big Ideas:**

1. How does our system of government work and what's our role?
2. Why bother voting?



Canadian Parliament as seen from across the Ottawa river in Hull, Quebec

### **Focus Questions that you should be able to talk and write about by the end of the unit:**

- How do our beliefs translate to political action? How do we know what we are voting for?
- How can Canadians make change at different levels of government? (and what needs changing?)
- What are our power structures and how do these affect the kind of society we live in?

### **What do you know already?**

Use this space to jot down what you already know about the way our government works, and how people can affect the government's direction and decisions.

### **Unit Opener**

Take a look through Counterpoints p. 286-289 to get a sense of what we we will be learning about. Jot down any questions you might have about "the government and you" as we start the unit:

### **Current Events**

What have you seen in the news lately that relates to Canadian government?

### **Questions**

1. Explain DEMOCRACY in Canada (Counterpoints p. 290)

2. What are some issues that are important to Canadians? (p. 290) DO you agree? Would you add anything to this list?

3. What are some ways in which Canadians can influence government? (Counterpoints p. 291-292)

4. What kind of work is done by lobbyists and why are they considered controversial? (Counterpoints p. 293). Think of some examples.

5. How does our court system help shape our society? (Counterpoints p. 294). Think of some examples.

6. How is the media used by politicians and how does the media help shape our society? (Counterpoints p. 294). Think of some examples.

8. What's your opinion on negative advertising ("Attack Ads") before and during elections campaigns?

9. What is Civil Disobedience? (Counterpoints p. 295-296). Think of some examples. Quote: *"If the machinery of government is unjust, break the law. Let your life be a counter friction to stop the machine."* Who said this? When is it ever acceptable or justifiable to break the law as a way of protesting government actions ?

8. Mention/describe the three principles governing civil disobedience?

9. Read the piece on Clayoquot Sound (p. 296). Do you think that this civil disobedience is as relevant (or relative) as Gandhi or Martin Luther King's civil disobedience acts? Why or why not?

### **Keynote and Video**

Use this space to make a few brief notes about some of the big ideas from the presentation. What kind of government do we have in Canada? How does it work? The presentation might also be used to compete some of the notes above.

**Fun**

After seeing the “coat-of-arms” from our last few Governor-Generals, you get a sense that they have great freedom to include elements that really mean something to them. If you were the Governor-General of Canada, what would your coat-of-arms look like?