

# How to write to your MPP about poverty

Writing a personal message is simple and should take only a few minutes. Follow these steps for an effective letter:

1. Ask for a specific action, using your own words or this sentence: I urge you to invest in and protect key programs that will end hunger and reduce poverty in Ontario.
2. Mention a specific bill or policy if relevant.
3. Give reasons for your request.
  - Share a personal reason that motivates you to write. Letters with personal stories are the most compelling and effective.
  - Show your own commitment to ending poverty: “My church is already helping by [example], but I also expect you to pass budget and spending bills that will end homelessness by 2025.”
4. Write your name and address at the end of your letter and on the envelope so your MPP knows you are one of their constituents.
5. Send your message to Queen’s Park or their constituency office. If you are mailing your letter, put each letter in a separate envelope and address it. Find your MPP’s contact information here:

<https://www.ola.org/en/members/current/contact-information>

The MPP for SPSS is Suze Morrison, MPP for Toronto Centre:

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Adapted from Bread for the World (bread.org)

## Tools for Participating in the Process: Communications Tips

### COMMUNICATING INFORMATION EFFECTIVELY

Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Be comfortable and confident with the topic</li> <li>▪ Focus on the key messages or important things the person needs to know</li> <li>▪ Make sure the information you are providing is accurate – don't guess – if you don't know, let the person know you will try to find the answer</li> <li>▪ If you will be using aids/materials make sure they are ready</li> </ul>
Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Start by introducing yourself</li> <li>▪ State why you would like to speak with the person</li> <li>▪ State the topic</li> <li>▪ Say why you think the information may be important to them</li> <li>▪ Clearly outline the areas to be covered</li> </ul>
Delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Speak in a clear voice at an appropriate volume</li> <li>▪ Provide opportunities for the listener to be involved in the conversation – people get bored if only you are talking</li> <li>▪ Don't overload the person with information – assess what might be most important to them and focus on that</li> <li>▪ Speak slowly and pay attention to pronunciation</li> <li>▪ Keep focused</li> </ul>
Summary and Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Review key points</li> <li>▪ Thank the individual for their time</li> <li>▪ If there will be follow-up, let them know about it</li> <li>▪ Leave contact information so the person can follow up if they have more questions or ideas</li> </ul>
Dealing with Unrealistic Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Be proactive. At the first available opportunity clearly state your role</li> <li>▪ Maintain clear boundaries. Be firm but polite</li> <li>▪ Recognize the consequences of deciding to do something outside of your job description. Remember your conflict of interest guidelines</li> </ul>
Dealing with Resistance or Conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Try not to get defensive and argue</li> <li>▪ Remain neutral</li> <li>▪ Listen to what the person's concerns are</li> <li>▪ Ask questions to clarify</li> <li>▪ Stay calm and centred</li> <li>▪ Provide any information you have that may address the person's concerns</li> <li>▪ If it is an individual and they are not prepared to talk in a calm way, then remove yourself respectfully</li> </ul>

## Provincial/Federal Governments: Structures, Systems, Decision-Making and Influence

### HOW GOVERNMENT WORKS: STRUCTURE DISCUSSION

#### THE PARTY SYSTEM

In parliamentary tradition, each riding sends an MPP or MP to represent their interests. Their voice ought to reflect the will of the community. That's who they are accountable to.

#### PREMIER/PRIME MINISTER

All the things MPs and MPPs want are controlled by their leaders. That puts a lot of power in a few hands.

The leader of the governing party gets to be the Premier or Prime Minister. They make all the government appointments. They assign people to Cabinet posts, the best jobs. They also assign people to committee chairs, house leader roles, and other important posts that not only give profile but also extra pay. They have the right to take away those jobs as well, any time they want.

So, in most situations, government MPs and MPPs are strongly inclined to do what makes the leader happy.

In opposition parties, the same is true. The Leader appoints critics for each ministry –the critics of the prominent ministries get on TV more and they play a bigger role in parliament. Committee appointments are also done by the leader and give some prominence but also, again, provide extra pay. So opposition MPs and MPPs are also strongly inclined to do what makes the leader happy.

#### CABINET

The Premier or Prime Minister chooses MPs and MPPs to be Ministers, responsible for parts of the government. There's a Finance Minister who looks after the budget.

- What other Ministries are there at the Federal Level?
- What other Ministries are there at the Provincial Level?

The Ministers meet together, usually once a week, to talk about key issues. The Premier is the key decision maker but the Cabinet Ministers are powerful people and potential future leaders, so their input means a lot. The more powerful the cabinet post, and more potential for future leadership, the more their input means.

Cabinet ministers know that resources are limited though. If funding goes to one program, there is less funding left for theirs. If a piece of legislation gets prominence, theirs gets less. So, even though they are all working for the success of the government, it is a somewhat competitive environment. If Cabinet opposes an issue, it's in big trouble. If Cabinet supports it, it will do well.

## CABINET COMMITTEES

Some of the early work in approving items to go to Cabinet gets done in Cabinet Committees. They meet less often and usually are required to give ideas a thorough review before they can get before Cabinet. They tend to focus on particular policy areas, such as social policy, economic policy. Cabinet Committees aren't always the most rigorous review, but they can tie up or slow down a policy initiative.

## PREMIER'S OFFICE/PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

Though power should reside with elected officials, the overwhelming power of the Premier or Prime Minister means that the people closest to him or her have a lot of power. Usually the Premier or Prime Minister will have a Chief of Staff or Principle Secretary, as well as Policy Advisors assigned to most ministries. These people have power that is similar to that of Ministers. If the Premier's Policy Advisor for Energy says that an energy policy is a bad idea, it will probably be opposed by the Premier and probably won't get through Cabinet. That means the Minister has to think twice about pushing it forward, and the people who work for the Minister will be hesitant to put as much energy into a doomed plan.

## CAUCUSES/WHIPS

While most of the power rests with the leader, each party does have many MPs or MPPs. Together they are called the "party caucus". When it comes time to vote on legislation, or to run in elections, the caucus needs to show up and be supportive of the government.

Sometimes, they disagree with their leader. Sometimes they have ideas of their own. To keep things in order, every caucus has a Whip – a person assigned to keep the MPs or MPPs doing what they need to do (showing up for votes, attending committees).

- How do you think a Whip can do that?

*The Whip will use a combination of rewards and threats to get that to happen.*

- What do you think happens if the caucus gets asked to do too many things that they don't want to do?

- What happens if the caucus gets asked to do something they think their local voters won't like?

*The Whip tries to keep a good sense of the mood of the caucus. They meet regularly and talk about what's happening. If the caucus is really unhappy, there can be a "caucus revolt" where the caucus tells the leader they won't cooperate unless something changes. Leaders have a lot of power, but they only stay leaders if they can show they can lead effectively. If the leader loses the caucus, his or her leadership is in trouble.*

## THE OPPOSITION

Winston Churchill's father once famously said, "the duty of the opposition is to oppose". While few people think that is still an adequate description of the job, much of the opposition's efforts are spent in finding ways to disrupt the government agenda. That's their main activity.

They want to win the next election so they have to make themselves look good and make the government look bad.

Though not in government, they have a lot of power. They get to play a role in deciding who gets heard by committees, what laws are voted on when, and they get to raise issues in Parliament. They can introduce new laws, read petitions, make statements and hold the occasional vote.

While none of this has the prominence of what the government does, it gets issues in front of decision makers and with enough repetition, increases their visibility.

If you're opposed to the government, on an issue that will potentially draw attention and votes, the opposition will likely be an ally.

If you're working closely with the opposition, the government will, however, see you as opposed to them and will not want to work with you.

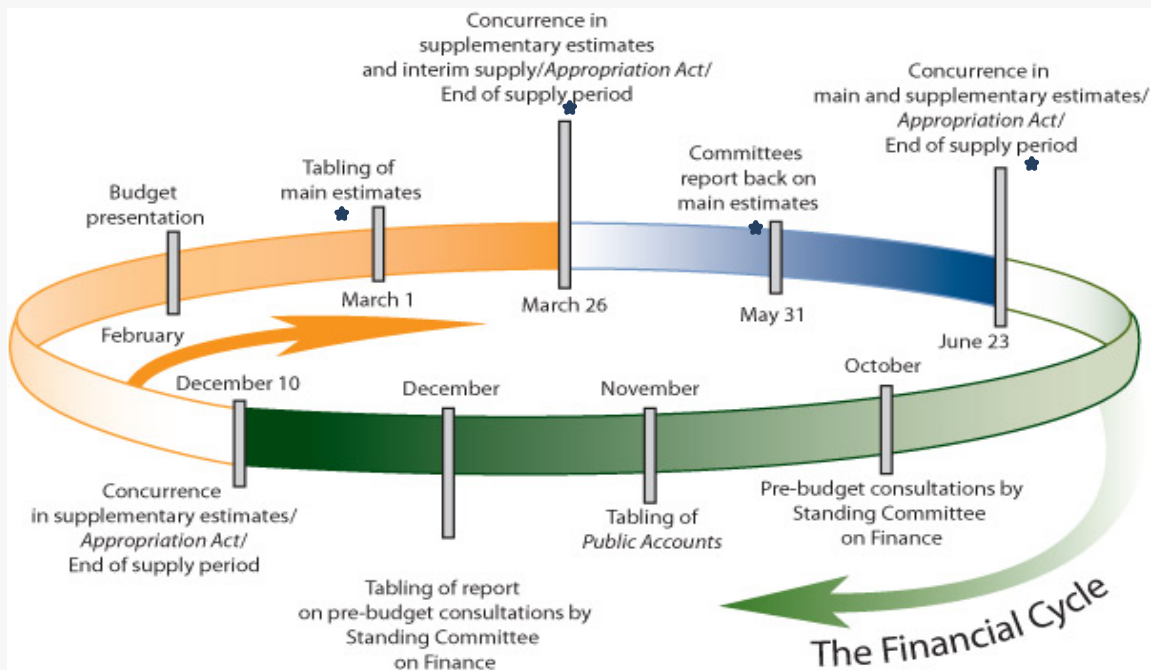
#### **THE CIVIL SERVICE**

Behind the elected officials are staff – the Civil Service. Some of them are very, very powerful. A deputy Minister is a staff person working directly for the minister. Deputy Ministers generally stay in place longer than Ministers and know more about the issues than the Ministers and can have a lot of influence. Since Deputy Ministers can hire, fire and promote the staff in the Ministry, staff are loyal to the Deputy more than the Minister. Staff give a lot of advice to the Minister, and, since the Minister is usually not an expert in the field (John Snobelen was Minister of Education without having completed high school), that advice has a lot of impact.

Staff can also speed up or slow down policies. If a Minister wants a new policy in place, there are proposals to write and papers to submit. That can take weeks or months, and sometimes years. If staff are driven to make it happen, it happens faster, if they really want it to slow down, it can take so long it never comes about.

## Provincial/Federal Governments: Structures, Systems, Decision-Making and Influence

### BUDGET



★ Internal government process

[www.parl.gc.ca/About/House/compendium/web-content/c\\_d\\_financialcycle-e.htm](http://www.parl.gc.ca/About/House/compendium/web-content/c_d_financialcycle-e.htm)

The Budget is a blueprint for how the government wants to spend and invest the funds and resources for Ontario or Canada. The Ministry of Finance is responsible for preparing the provincial budget and the Department of Finance is responsible for preparing the federal budget.

Budgets outline the government's priorities for the year – what they choose to fund and by how much. Typically, budgets are presented early in the year, either in February or March. In many instances, the provincial government will wait for the federal government to present its own budget so that the province can adapt its own budget to reflect the funding forthcoming from the other level of government.

Both levels of government traditionally hold “pre-budget” consultations where individuals and groups are able to make presentations to committee members (MPs, MPPs). Individuals and groups are given five minutes to outline their own priorities and provide feedback on where they think the government should focus their funding. These pre-budget consultations traditionally happen late in the fall and in the winter months.

Federal Department of Finance: [www.fin.gc.ca](http://www.fin.gc.ca)

Ontario Ministry of Finance: [www.fin.gov.on.ca](http://www.fin.gov.on.ca)

# Provincial/Federal Governments: Structures, Systems, Decision-Making and Influence

## THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

### PARLIAMENT

Three branches work together to govern Canada: the executive, legislative and judicial branches.

- The executive branch (also called the Government) is the decision-making branch, made up of the Prime Minister, and the Cabinet.
- The legislative branch is the law-making branch, made up of two parts of parliament: the appointed Senate and the elected House of Commons.
- The judicial branch is a series of independent courts that interpret the laws passed by the other two branches. Parliament itself is made up of the following three parts: the Monarch, the Senate and the House of Commons. Canada is a constitutional monarchy, which means that we recognize the Queen or King as the Head of State. In Canada, the Monarch is represented by the Governor General while the Prime Minister is the Head of Government.

(Our Canada, Our Parliament- <http://www.parl.gc.ca/About/Parliament/Education/OurCountryOurParliament/index-e.asp>)

### EXECUTIVE

#### PRIME MINISTER

In Canada, the leader of the political party that wins the most seats in the House of Commons becomes Prime Minister. (This is in contrast to some countries, where citizens vote to elect their leader directly, such as the President in the United States.) The Prime Minister is usually an MP who, after winning the election, is officially sworn in by the Governor General.

(Our Canada, Our Parliament- <http://www.parl.gc.ca/About/Parliament/Education/OurCountryOurParliament/index-e.asp>)

#### CABINET

The Prime Minister chooses members of the Cabinet. These are usually elected MPs (at least one Senator), and normally belong to the party in power. Those who head government departments are called Ministers. By custom, each province has at least one Cabinet Minister. The Cabinet meets regularly to decide government policy and takes collective responsibility for government policies. It must, in public, agree with the government's decisions or resign.

(Our Canada, Our Parliament- <http://www.parl.gc.ca/About/Parliament/Education/OurCountryOurParliament/index-e.asp>)

**Ministers** are responsible to Parliament for their official actions and those of their departments.

**Ministers / Secretary of State** are assigned to assist a Minister in the carrying out of the Minister's responsibilities.

**Parliamentary Secretaries** are named to assist a Minister as the Minister directs.

**Opposition Party Critics** are responsible for presenting party policies in a given area and commenting on those of the Government.

## Provincial/Federal Governments: Structures, Systems, Decision-Making and Influence

### LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

#### MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

A Member's job is as varied as the many regions of Canada and the people who live here. To understand their role, it helps to look at the different places where Members work.

- *In the Office*

To meet their constituents' needs, MPs have an office in Ottawa and one or more in their riding. Their offices are often the first stop for people who need help.

- *In the Chamber*

This is where Members help to make Canada's laws by debating and voting on bills. They represent their constituents' views by presenting petitions, making statements and asking questions in the House.

- *In Committee*

In committee, Members can look at bills in greater depth than is possible in the Chamber, where there is a large group of people involved and a full timetable. With the range of committees and sub-committees that operate, Members may sit on more than one. Committees can sit from 4 to 40 hours a week and sometimes travel across the country to hear from people.

[www.parl.gc.ca/About/Parliament/GuideToHoC/member\\_parl-e.asp](http://www.parl.gc.ca/About/Parliament/GuideToHoC/member_parl-e.asp)

#### HOUSE OF COMMONS

The House of Commons is the elected lawmaking body in Parliament. When MPs meet together in the House of Commons Chamber in Ottawa, we say that the House is in session or is *sitting*. In the House of Commons Chamber, politicians from the same party normally sit together. The governing party sits to the right of the Speaker of the House of Commons. The Official Opposition sits directly opposite the government. Where the members of the other opposition parties sit depends on the number of MPs elected from each party.

The work of an MP in the Chamber includes reviewing and debating new bills that affect all Canadians. It also includes taking part in question period, making statements about important events and issues from the riding, raising issues and presenting recommendations and reports. Usually it is the Government that introduces bills, but Opposition and individual MPs can also introduce new bills (called Private Member's bills), so long as the bills do not involve taxes. The House is also where the budget estimates for each ministry or area of government services are debated and passed.

(Our Canada, Our Parliament- <http://www.parl.gc.ca/About/Parliament/Education/OurCountryOurParliament/index-e.asp>)



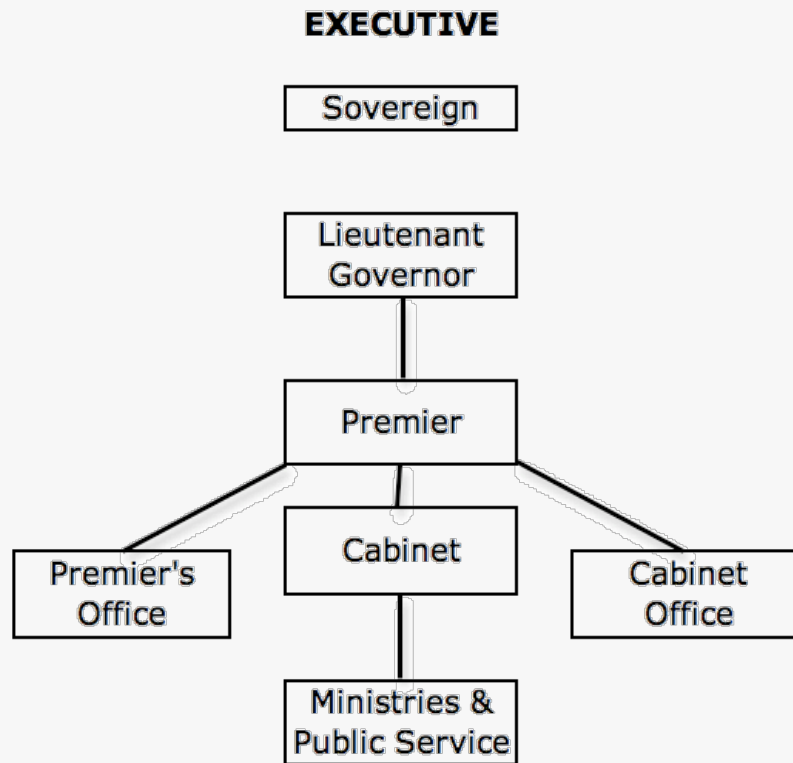
## SENATE

Senators are appointed by the Governor General on the Prime Minister's recommendation. The formula for the number and distribution of Senators was written into the Constitution. In 1867, the Senate started with 72 members, but this increased as the country's population and geography grew. In 2009, the number of seats in the Senate was 105. A Senator must be at least 30 years old and must retire on his or her 75<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The Senate has an important role in the law-making process: it reviews and debates bills proposed by both Chambers. Although Senators usually consider bills proposed by the House of Commons, they also suggest new bills (but these bills cannot be about spending public money or creating taxes). Bills must pass through both Chambers – the Senate and the House of Commons – and be given Royal Assent before becoming a law. All debates that take place in the Senate are recorded and published in both official languages. In addition, Senators present petitions, table documents, discuss committee reports and make statements in the Chamber.

*(Our Canada, Our Parliament- <http://www.parl.gc.ca/About/Parliament/Education/OurCountryOurParliament/index-e.asp>)*

## The Provincial Government – Structure



### THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

The provincial level of government has powers that are different from those of the federal government, including:

- Education and schools
- Health care delivery
- Natural resources
- Licences
- Social Assistance
- Direct taxes
- Prisons
- Marriage
- Property and civil rights

The power over agriculture and immigration should be shared between the federal and provincial governments

(Our Canada, Our Parliament- <http://www.parl.gc.ca/About/Parliament/Education/OurCountryOurParliament/index-e.asp>)

## Provincial/Federal Governments: Structures, Systems, Decision-Making and Influence

### EXECUTIVE

#### PREMIER

The premier is the head of government in a province or territory and selects the members of provincial parliament that will serve in cabinet, also called the executive council. As head of the executive council, the premier is the chief minister or first minister in the province. It is the custom in Ontario that all premiers are also MPPs.

#### CABINET

The Executive Council of Ontario, more commonly referred to as “the Cabinet”, is a body of high-ranking members, generally from the governing party, who have been appointed by the Premier to serve as heads of government ministries. Members belonging to the Cabinet are called Cabinet ministers and they formulate and administer government policy, such as curriculum standards or environmental standards. These policies relate to the various responsibilities of the provincial government, such as education and the environment. The Cabinet meets regularly to review government policy.

(Teaching Parliament - [http://ontla.on.ca/educational-resources/supporting-content/files/teaching\\_parliament\\_workbook\\_en.pdf](http://ontla.on.ca/educational-resources/supporting-content/files/teaching_parliament_workbook_en.pdf))

#### CABINET COMMITTEES

There are Cabinet committees that review policy or legislation before it comes to Cabinet. These committees include:

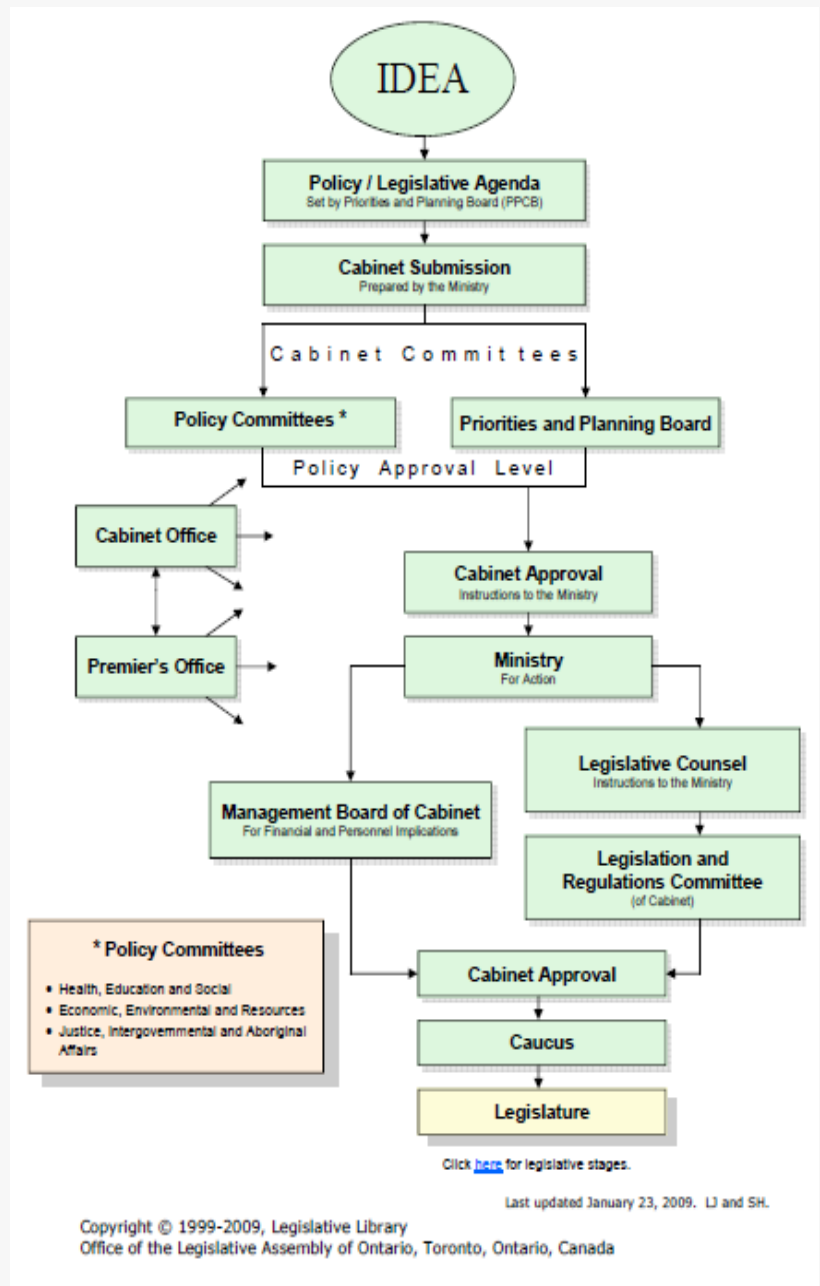
- Treasury Board/Management Board of Cabinet
- Legislation and Regulations
- Committee on Emergency Management
- Priorities and Planning Committee
- Health, Education and Social
- Economic, Environmental and Resources
- Justice, Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs

([www.premier.gov.on.ca/team/committees.asp?Lang=EN](http://www.premier.gov.on.ca/team/committees.asp?Lang=EN))

## Provincial/Federal Governments: Structures, Systems, Decision-Making and Influence

### HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW – Pre-Legislative Process

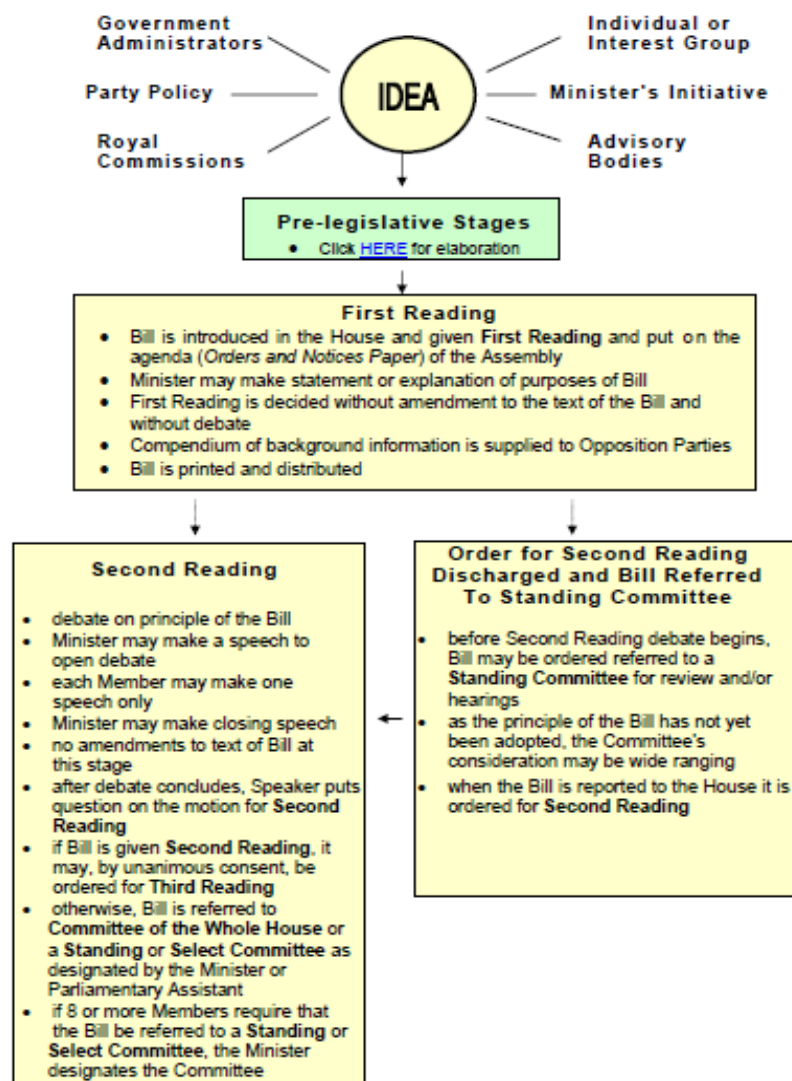
- Firstly, it occurs almost entirely out of the public eye, protected by rules and conventions of confidentiality. The opposition, the press, and—most importantly—citizens learn only of the legislative proposals that survive the pre-legislative process, not the many more that are rejected or set aside at some step along the way.
- Secondly, the process is never quite the same from one government to the next. The prelegislative stages involve the various structures and processes of cabinet, and these are entirely the prerogative of the premier to organize as he or she sees fit.
- Thirdly, while the actual drafting of legislation and regulations and much of the background briefing material is prepared by the ministry(ies) involved, significant direction is given by both the Cabinet Office and the Premier's Office, two central agencies with a significant and ongoing interest in shaping, if not controlling, the government's legislative agenda.
- Finally, the ultimate authority for any legislative proposal to proceed to the Assembly as a bill rests with the Cabinet, which is involved in the process at several points. Perhaps the most important of these is right at the start, when the Cabinet establishes the strategic priorities that are to dominate the government's policy agenda. It will be expected that legislative proposals received from ministers, ministries or elsewhere will be geared to these priorities.



# Provincial/Federal Governments: Structures, Systems, Decision-Making and Influence

## The provincial Government

### HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW



#### Select or Standing Committee

- purpose is to comment on, ask questions about and/or propose amendments to various sections of the Bill
- proceedings are less formal than in House and members may speak more than once
- Committee may invite individuals, groups and Ministry officials to comment on the Bill in writing or in person before the Committee
- Committee may travel to various locations in the province to receive public comment or to view a situation first hand
- following public submissions, Bill is considered clause by clause. Each clause of the Bill may be considered, amended or deleted, and new clauses may be added
- Bill is reported back to House after completion of clause-by-clause consideration
- if amendments have been made, Bill is reprinted
- when Committee reports Bill to the House, Bill is ordered for **Third Reading** unless Minister or Parliamentary Assistant directs that it be referred to **Committee of the Whole House**

#### Committee of the Whole House

- purpose is to comment on, ask questions about and/or propose amendments to various sections of Bill
- proceedings are conducted in the Legislative Chamber but are less formal than under House rules and members may speak more than once. All Members of the Assembly are members of Committee of the Whole House
- Bill is considered clause by clause. Each clause of the Bill may be considered, amended or deleted, and new clauses may be added
- individuals and groups cannot participate in the proceedings
- Ministry officials may sit on the floor of the Chamber to provide advice to Minister
- if amendments have been made, Bill is reprinted
- when **Committee of the Whole House** reports Bill to House, Bill is ordered for **Third Reading**

#### Third Reading

- debate is more restricted than at Second Reading and is limited to the contents of the Bill
- no amendments to text of the Bill may be moved at this stage
- after debate concludes, Speaker puts question on the motion for **Third Reading**



#### Royal Assent

- Bill is presented to the Lieutenant Governor for assent
- Lieutenant Governor assents to Bill in the Queen's name (the power of the Lieutenant Governor to withhold assent or reserve assent has fallen into disuse)
- when Bill is given **Royal Assent** it becomes an Act and is given a statute number and is reprinted



#### In Force

- statute is in force:
  - upon Royal Assent, or
  - when it is proclaimed by the Lieutenant Governor (by and with the advice of the Executive Council of Ontario), or
  - on a day specified in the Act
- different sections may come into force at different times

Last updated August 2, 2001. CB and LJ.

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## Tools for Participating in the Process: Reading Reports and Bills

### Reading Municipal Reports

- *Introduction*

Reports tend to have an introduction that provides an overview of the issue and the purpose of the report.

- *Recommendations*

Reports tend to put recommendations up front. These are the action items, but what they mean may not be clear without reading some background.

- *Background*

Most reports add background after the recommendations. This should explain the reasons for the recommendations and why the matter is an issue of importance. If the background or discussion sections do not explain it, this may be an attempt to avoid addressing the issue.

- *History of the issue*

Many reports also have a section explaining the history of the issue. This section will include references to previous reports or decisions. This may cast more light on reports that don't seem to make sense.

- *Structure*

The reports are structured more like an email thread than a story. In a story, you start at the beginning and go forward toward a conclusion. In reports, like in emails, the most recent information – usually the recommended conclusion is up front, but the background discussion that makes it all make sense follows, in reverse chronological order.

### Bills

Bills are designed for lawyers to interpret. They set out rules and often also change existing laws, regulations or rules.

- *Outline*

Bills begin with a brief outline of what the bill does. The outline is usually quite short and in most cases does not explain why the bill is needed or why the government chose to pass it.

- *Section descriptions*

The next section of the bill usually outlines what each section of the bill does. Again, this will tend to be a technical description of which laws are changed and which rules are set. It will provide little or no explanation of the impact of those changes on everyday life.

- *Definitions*

Most bills include a section called “definitions” that makes it clear what words in the bill mean, in case there is a legal issue of interpretation. Generally this section is technical but at times, subtle differences in interpretation can be important and the definition of a term really matters. Those issues will always be addressed here.

- *Sections*

The main body of the bill is usually divided up into sections. Each section is about one aspect of the bill. For instance, if a bill is designed to change the school system, one section may be about changes to administration, and the next section about changes to teachers, and another on changes to the buildings. Each section is divided up into clauses that set out on specific rule. For example, the section on administration may have a clause on the powers of principals and another on the appointment of principals and another on the firing of principals. If there are several clauses on a related topic, the bill may have a subsection to group them together.

- *Labeled Clauses*

Because the bills tend to be long, the clauses are all labeled, with a very short description often in small or marginal type. The clause relating to hiring principals will, as a result, have a small heading or marginal note saying “hiring of principals” so people who are only concerned about that issue can skip to that section.

- *Language*

The language in each clause is formal, and will seem unfamiliar, but it is designed to be understood quite precisely. Read the clause very slowly and very carefully and it will usually be possible to understand what it does. Since each clause does only one specific thing, understanding the bill generally requires readers to think about how the clauses work together. So the clause that says “the school will only hire principals who have served as vice principals in that board for three years” and the clause that says “teachers can only be vice principals after 5 years of service in the local school board” means among other things that teachers who want to be principals have to serve 8 years without changing boards. The bill might never set out the requirements for 8 years of service without transferring, but the cumulative effect of the clauses is precisely that. Reading bills requires that kind of linking of clauses to get at overall effects.



## Session 1

### Provincial/Federal Governments: Structures, Systems, Decision-Making and Influence

#### GOVERNMENT WEBSITES

	Description	Website
Government of Canada	Information on this website includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Information from the governing party</li> <li>- Departments, agencies</li> <li>- Government services (Employment Insurance...)</li> <li>- All MPs and their contact information</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.canada.gc.ca">www.canada.gc.ca</a>
Parliament of Canada	Information on this website includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Senate and House of Commons</li> <li>- Committee information</li> <li>- LEGISinfo (legislation)</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.parl.gc.ca">www.parl.gc.ca</a>
Elections Canada	Information on this website includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Federal riding boundaries</li> <li>- Federal election rules</li> <li>- How and where to vote</li> <li>- Information for federal parties and candidates</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.elections.ca">www.elections.ca</a>
Government of Ontario	Information on this website includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Information from the governing party</li> <li>- Ontario budget</li> <li>- Ministries, agencies</li> <li>- Government services (drivers license...)</li> <li>- Publications</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.ontario.ca">www.ontario.ca</a>
Legislative Assembly of Ontario	Information on this website includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bills and lawmaking</li> <li>- Committees</li> <li>- All MPPs and their contact information</li> <li>- Hansards (meeting minutes)</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.ontla.on.ca">www.ontla.on.ca</a>
Elections Ontario	Information on this website includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provincial riding boundaries</li> <li>- Provincial election rules</li> <li>- How and where to vote</li> <li>- Information for provincial parties and candidates</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.elections.on.ca">www.elections.on.ca</a>