

UNIT 5: LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

PART A - LOCAL (CHAPTER 8)



NAME: _____









CLASS: _____












I can describe the structure and functions of local government in Alberta.

- I know how representatives are chosen to form a local government (i.e., electoral process)
- I know the responsibilities of local governments (i.e., bylaws, taxes, services)
- I can explain how local governments are structured differently in rural and urban settings
- I can explain the role played by school boards (i.e., public, separate, Francophone) within local communities

Unit 5 Part A Vocabulary

Local Government

TERM	DEFINITION	PICTURE
Agenda	A schedule of points to discuss at the meeting.	
Bias	When you make a decision or comment because you are personally connected (subjective point of view).	
Budget	A plan that describes how money will be spent	
Bylaw	A law passed by the local government.	
Council Chambers	Room where local government meets.	
Councillors	An elected representative of a local government.	
Debates	A discussion that explores two opposing views on a topic.	
Department	A part of government with a specific purpose and staff; also called a ministry (in provincial government)	

First Nations Authorities (FNA's)	Government for aboriginal people on reserves.	
Forums	A public discussion where voters ask questions of candidates and candidates respond.	
Local Governments	The people elected to make decisions about affairs in a district city by its own people.	
Mayor	The elected head of an urban local government	
Minutes	The written record of the meeting.	
Municipalities	A local government.	
Nomination	The process of putting forward someone's name as a candidate for an election.	
Oath	A promise enforced by law.	
Polling Stations	Where people go to vote.	
Publicly Funded	Paid for by taxes.	
Quorum	A minimum number of people required to make a decision for a group, such as an association or a government.	

Rally	A meeting or assembly of many people for a common purpose or action.	
Reeve	The head of a rural local government, elected by councillors of the government.	
Returning Officer	Election official responsible for adding up all votes in an election.	
School Board	A group of people, usually elected, who manage the schools in a certain area	
Scrutineer	Person who observes voters to make sure everything is fair.	
Taxes	Fees people pay so that government decisions can provide services. Governments collect taxes from individuals and businesses.	
Transparency	Making government decisions without secrecy.	
Trustee	An elected representative of a school board	
Wards	An area within a city or rural district whose residents elect a representative to the local government.	

Extra Terms:

City of Lethbridge Website

Scavenger Hunt

Go to the website: www.lethbridge.ca and try to find the following answers:

1) Using the 2023 census results, what was the **TOTAL** population of Lethbridge in 2023? _____

2) Which part of the city has the highest population?

a. North

b. South

c. West

3) Name our current mayor and 2 of our councillors:

a. Mayor: _____

b. Councillor: _____

c. Councillor: _____

4) Property taxes are taxes that are paid by every individual who owns property in Lethbridge. The money provides many essential services for citizen of Lethbridge.

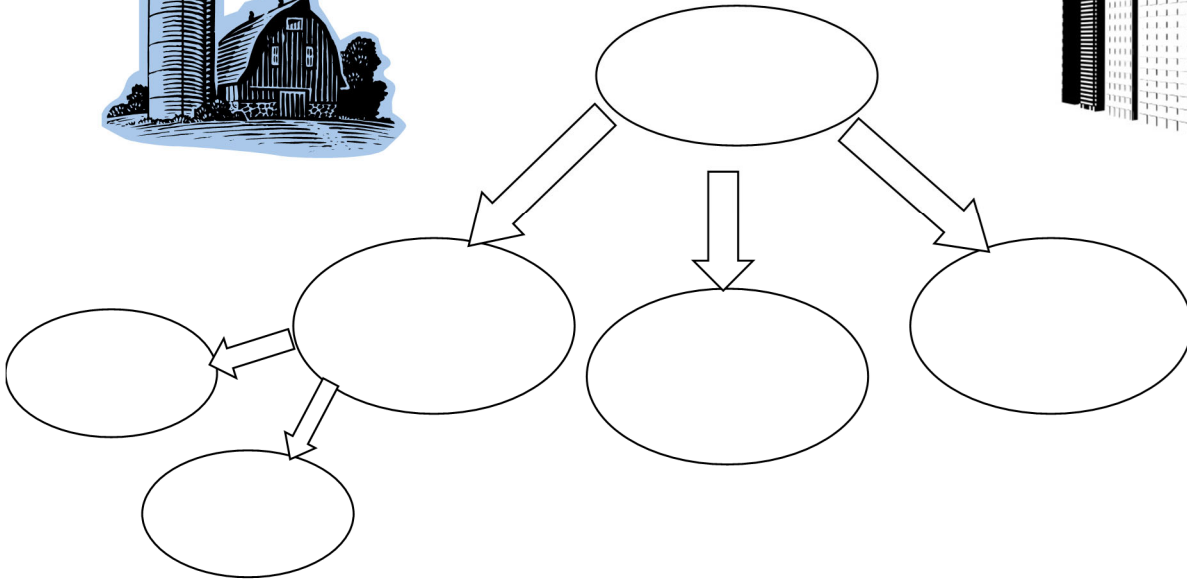
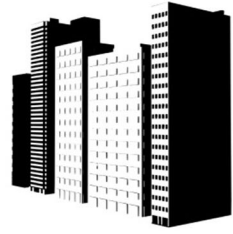
Property taxes are due on the last business day in _____

5) What are 2 nuisance bylaws in the city of Lethbridge?

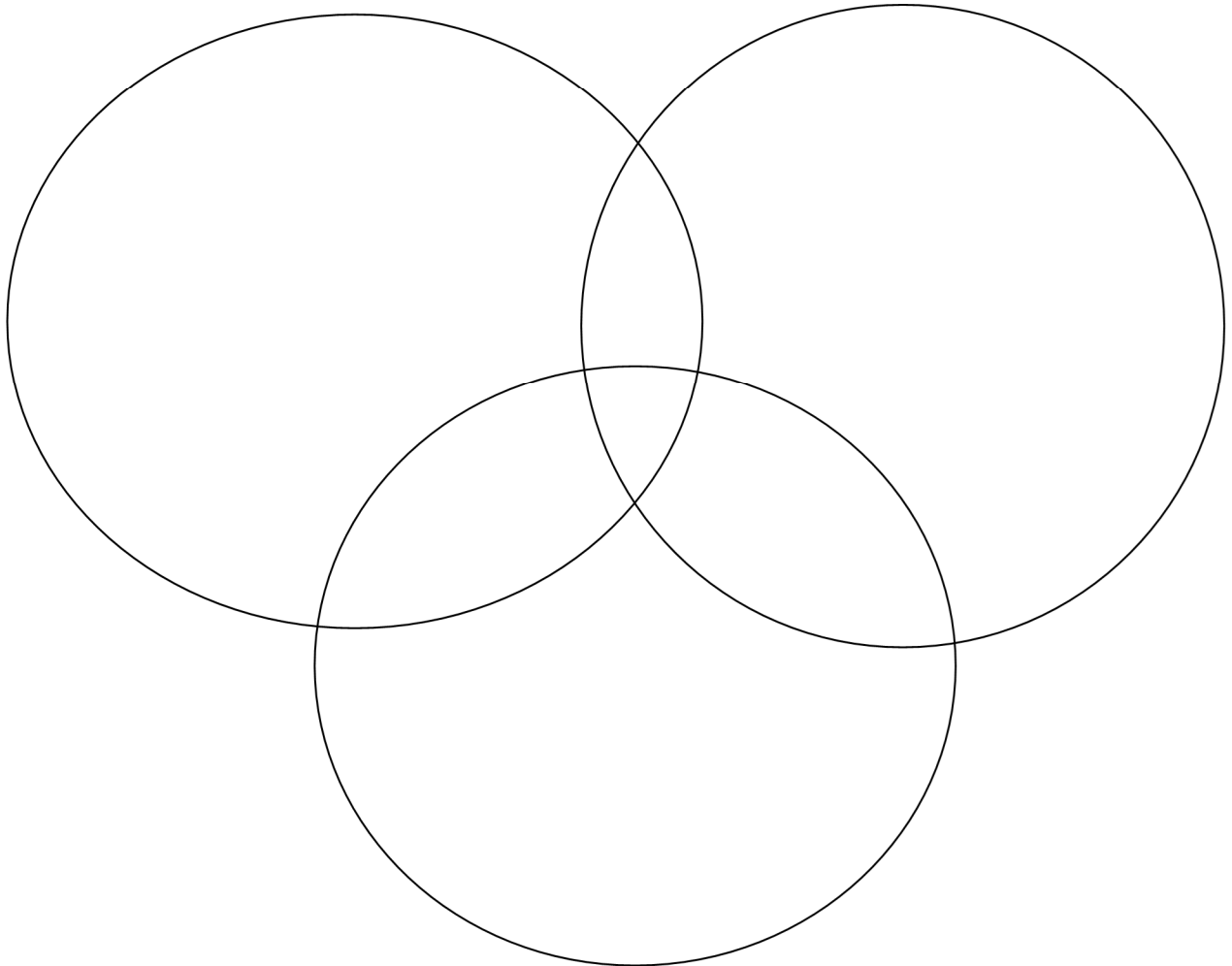
a. _____

b. _____

Types of Local Government



Rural, Urban and First Nations Governments



WHY WE NEED LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

We need a local government who is committed to taking care of the services and laws that relate to our towns and cities. If we only have one level of government for all of Canada, it would be very difficult to manage all of the cities and town efficiently.

SERVICES & TAXES

Imagine not having your garbage and recycling picked up every week... what would you do with it all? Where would it go? We need services in our cities for them to run properly. However, services cannot be provided without MONEY! The local government collects taxes in many ways: property taxes, user fees, funds from other levels of government, etc.

LAWS

Imagine living in a city where there were no laws: no speed limits, dogs could run around the city without leashes, citizens didn't have to shovel sidewalks...

The local government makes rules that are called bylaws to tell citizens in the city what they can and can't do. Each local government may have different bylaws that relate to their town or city but many are similar.

WHO'S WHO IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Position	Job Description	How do they get the position?
Mayor (or Reeve)	-Leads the town council -Works with the council to run the local government	-Elected by the community
Councillor	-Works with mayor and other councillors to run the local government	-Elected by the community
City Manager	-Responsible for helping organize council meetings and for the day-to-day running of local affairs	-Hired by the local government

How are Representatives Elected to Form a Local Government?

Nomination

Campaigning

Preparing
Polling Stations

Show Eligibility
to Vote

Cast and Count
Votes

Declare
Outcome

What Responsibilities Do Local Governments Have?

TAXES:

SERVICES:



STEPS IN PASSING A BYLAW

There are a few steps that the town council must take before a new bylaw is official. Before it is brought to council, we need to identify a need: what is something that is missing or needed in the community?

A council member introduces a _____, or a proposed bylaw.

The council will be read and considered _____ different times before it is voted on. During these 3 readings, citizens of the community can contact council and discuss the motion.

Once the motion has been read _____ times, council will _____ on the motion- whether to support the new bylaw or oppose it. If more than half of council supports it, it officially becomes a _____.

THINK ABOUT IT

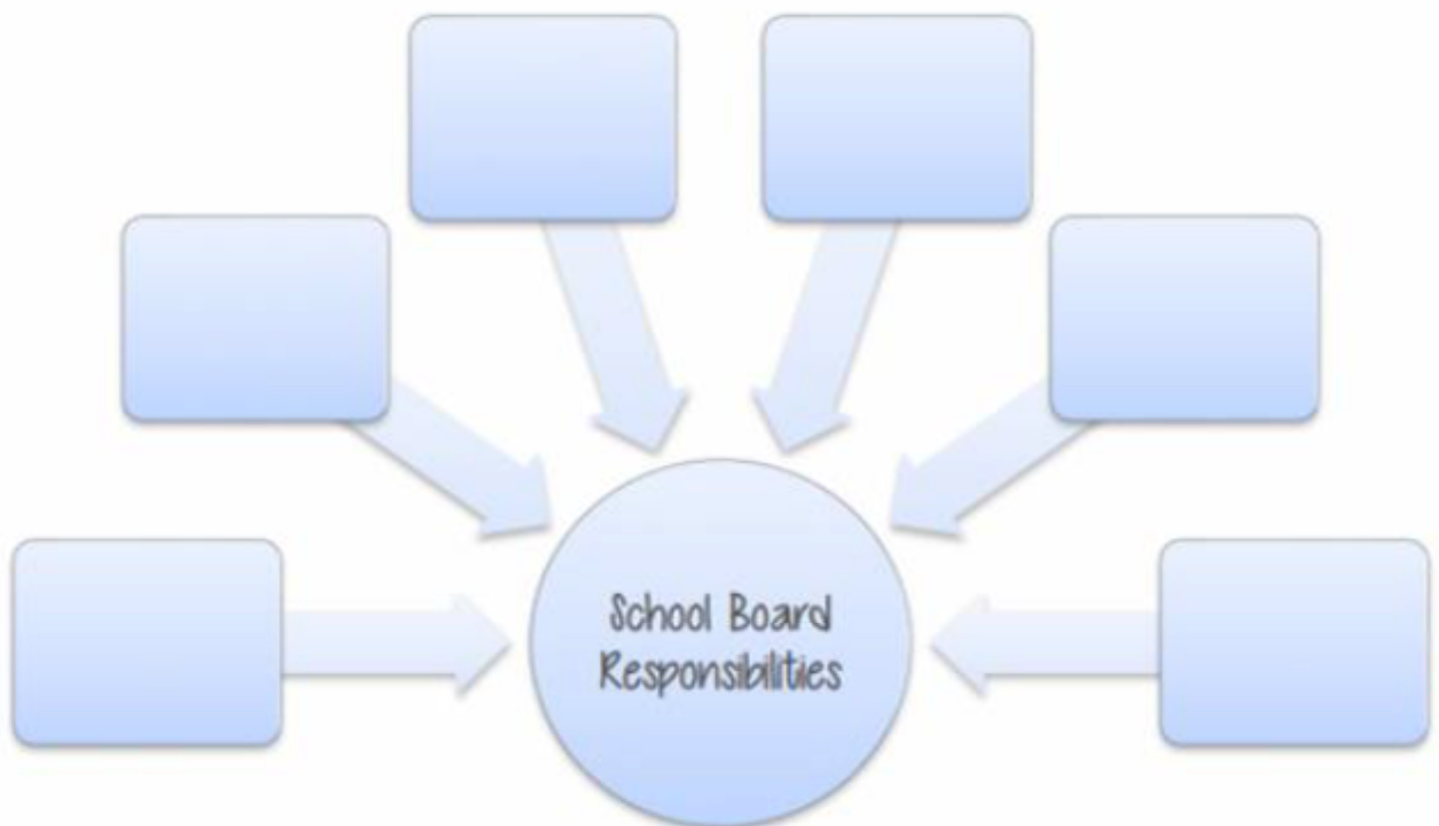
We know that representative governments are the most efficient way to run a democracy in our modern societies. While the council we vote in is responsible for running the government, it is important to remember we, as citizens, still have a role in democracy. What are some ways that the community can influence the bylaws created by the council?

SCHOOL BOARDS

Another type of local government is a school board. It is made up of a group called _____ who are elected by the public during a local government election. There are 61 different school boards across Alberta.

What is the role of a school board?

- They are responsible for making decisions regarding schools and education in their jurisdiction
- They look out for the best interests of all their students, parents, teachers, and administrators
- They hire a _____ who makes sure that all the decisions they make are carried out



WHERE DO SCHOOL BOARDS GET THEIR MONEY?

Education is a provincial service, so the Province of Alberta gives money to Alberta Education. From there, Alberta Ed disperses money to each school board. This is based on student population as well as student need. From there, the school board decides how to use this money. Local governments also give some money to school boards and they are also responsible for the areas surrounding schools (such as grass and fencing). The city gives land to use for the school as well.

TYPES OF SCHOOL BOARDS IN ALBERTA

PUBLIC

-trustees are voted in by the public during a local election

-Public schools

-Example: Lethbridge School Division
Schools: _____

SEPARATE

-trustees are voted in by the public during a local election

-Catholic schools

-Example: Holy Spirit School Division
Schools: _____

FRANCOPHONE

-Alternative school that does not elect trustees in local election

-a Francophone school for French-speaking students

-protected by Minority Language Education Rights

-Example: L'École La Vérendrye

PRIVATE / CHARTER

-Alternative school that does not elect trustees in local election

-not fully funded by the province. Instead, students pay tuition to attend and they often offer different programming such as religious studies, additional language classes, etc.

-protected by Minority Language Education Rights

-Example: Calvin Christian School