

## Preparing to vote

### ACTIVITY



45 minutes  
approximately

# The levels game

This activity teaches voters in training about the different levels of government (federal, provincial and municipal). Participants will also gain a better understanding of how government affects their daily lives.

## OBJECTIVE

*Learn about the different levels of government and each one's responsibilities*

### MATERIAL REQUIRED

- ✓ Copies of the Voters in Training activity sheet

### LINKS TO THE QUÉBEC EDUCATION PROGRAM

**Subject area:** Social sciences

*Competency: Understand the organization of a society in its territory*

**Broad area of learning:** Citizenship and community life

*Focus of development: Promotion of the rules of social conduct and democratic institutions*

**The levels game****ICEBREAKER ACTIVITY**

Ask participants who they would ask for permission in each of the following situations:

- Spending the weekend at a friend's house.
- Putting up a poster or artwork on a classroom wall.
- Organizing a fundraising campaign to help families in need, at school or in a youth organization.
- Installing basketball hoops in a municipal park.

Help participants realize that decisions don't always rest with the same person or the same entity. The same goes for government: each level makes decisions related to its area of jurisdiction.

**A BIT OF THEORY**

The government and the decisions it makes affect our daily lives. You don't need to look far to find examples! Our political system includes different levels of government: federal, provincial and municipal. They share powers or jurisdictions.

**Federal and provincial jurisdictions**

The Canadian Constitution defines the division of powers between the provinces and territories and the federal government. Some jurisdictions are exclusive, but others are shared between the federal and provincial governments.

Examples of **federal jurisdictions**:

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| ● National defence (Armed Forces, Royal Canadian Mounted Police) | ● Employment insurance                |
| ● Postal services  | ● Citizenship                         |
| ● Money and banking  | ● Passports                           |
| ● Indigenous affairs   | ● Air, sea and rail transportation    |
| ● Foreign affairs and trade                                      | ● Telecommunications and broadcasting |
| ● Criminal law   |                                       |

## The levels game

### Examples of **provincial jurisdictions**:

- Education
- Hospitals and health care
- Administration of justice
- Civil law
- Vehicle registration and driving licences
- Recreational or sport fishing licenses
- Labour (employment standards, health and safety)
- Birth certificates
- Lotteries
- Highway signage

### Examples of **shared (federal and provincial) jurisdictions**:

- Agriculture
- Immigration
- Transportation
- Culture
- Environment

## Municipal jurisdictions

Municipal politics play an important role in our democracy. At this level, elected officials are responsible for issues that are closest to the community.

### Examples of **municipal jurisdictions**:

- Urban planning and development
- Public transit
- Housing, including social housing
- Assistance for the homeless
- Social and community development
- Municipal parks and recreation
- Libraries
- Public safety (police and fire services)
- Residual materials management (garbage collection, as well as waste recycling and reuse)
- Local roads (e.g., street maintenance and snow removal)
- Water and sewer services



## **SUGGESTED STEPS**

- 1.** Referring to the section titled “A Bit of Theory,” introduce participants to the different levels of government and their respective jurisdictions.
- 2.** Draw the group’s attention to the squares on the activity sheet. Each square lists a different jurisdiction.
- 3.** Working individually, have participants cut out the names of the jurisdictions and then sort them by level of government (federal, provincial or municipal).
- 4.** Review the correct answers with the entire group.

## The levels game

## ACTIVITY SHEET

# The levels game

As you just learned, there are different levels of government. This activity will test your knowledge of the jurisdictions that belong to each level. Each square names a jurisdiction. Sort the squares according to whether they are federal, provincial or municipal jurisdictions.

Deploy soldiers to help a country that has been struck by an earthquake	Start work on expanding a hospital	Broadcast the Olympic Games	Update the elementary math program
Issue driving licences	Produce coins for collectors	Announce recreational programming for the coming season	Manage programs and services for Indigenous peoples
Deliver a letter mailed to a friend	Make improvements to the library	Provide funding to schools	Build bicycle paths
Purchase new equipment for the fire station	Issue recreational fishing licences for the weekend	Open a new community centre for families	Increase the minimum wage
Set rates for public transit	Add play areas to a municipal park	Process passport applications	Collect waste


  
Broaden
   
Your
   
Horizons

Want to learn more about the role of government in your community? Create a map showing various key places and features (hospital, school, park, library, museum, highway, etc.) and then note the level of government responsible for each of them.



## The levels game

## ACTIVITY SHEET ANSWER KEY

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Issue driving licences PROVINCIAL	Produce coins for collectors FEDERAL	Announce recreational programming for the coming season MUNICIPAL	Manage programs and services for Indigenous peoples FEDERAL
Deliver a letter mailed to a friend FEDERAL	Make improvements to the library MUNICIPAL	Provide funding to schools PROVINCIAL	Build bicycle paths MUNICIPAL
Purchase new equipment for the fire station MUNICIPAL	Issue recreational fishing licences for the weekend PROVINCIAL	Open a new community centre for families MUNICIPAL	Increase the minimum wage PROVINCIAL
Set rates for public transit MUNICIPAL	Add play areas to a municipal park MUNICIPAL	Process passport applications FEDERAL	Collect waste MUNICIPAL