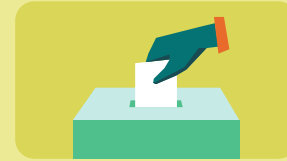


# Parliament and Elections

Canada is a representative democracy, where citizens elect members of Parliament (MPs) to represent them in the House of Commons.

## When and why do elections take place?

- **By constitutional rule:** According to Canada's Constitution, a federal election must be held at least once every five years. This gives Canadians the chance to consider whether the government should stay in power.
- **A question of confidence:** The government must maintain the support of a majority of members in the House of Commons. If it loses an important vote known as a confidence vote, it loses that support, and an election may be called.

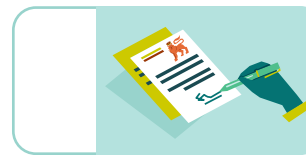


## There are many steps involved in planning an election and beginning a new Parliament. Can you put them in the right order?

Write down a number from 1 to 9 in front of each step to put them into the correct order.



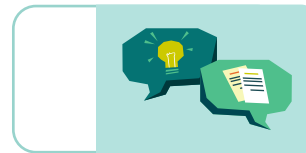
Candidates campaign for voters' support.



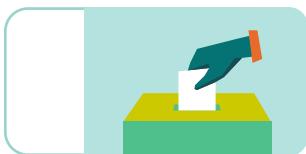
The Governor General dissolves Parliament. This means a federal election must be held.



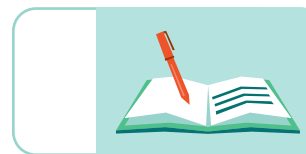
The Prime Minister visits the Governor General and recommends that they dissolve Parliament.



The new group of parliamentarians proposes, debates and passes laws.



Canadians vote for the candidate of their choice.



Members of Parliament are sworn in.



Parliament meets for the first time. A Speaker of the House of Commons is elected.



Official election results are announced. The candidates who receive the most votes in their ridings will become members of Parliament.



The Governor General opens Parliament by reading the Speech from the Throne, which sets out the government's priorities for the upcoming session.