



Educator's Workbook

A Guide to Teaching Parliament



Teaching Parliament

Aussi disponible en français

Parliamentary Protocol and Public Relations

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

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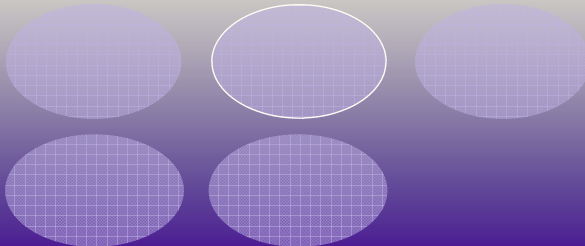


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Introduction



Purpose of this workbook

Welcome to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario! This educational resource provides a brief introduction to the history and role of parliament in Ontario.

Over the next few pages, you will find a variety of topics that may be used to complement course materials in the classroom or even satisfy any personal interest in Ontario's parliament. These topics include:

Parliament and Government: the differences between parliament and government, and the roles in which they play in our society;

Government in Canada: the three levels of government and their respective responsibilities;

Understanding Constitutional Monarchy: an understanding of the Queen's role in our parliamentary system;

Legislatures of Ontario: the history of Ontario's parliament buildings from Newark to Toronto;

Elections in Ontario: the electoral process, districts, and the impact of voting;

Members of Provincial Parliament: the roles and responsibilities of Members of Provincial Parliament;

Parliamentary Players: the various Ontario parliamentary players, including the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Clerk, the Sergeant-at-Arms, and the Legislative Pages;

How a Bill becomes Law: the three stages that a bill must pass before it can become a law; and

A Typical Day in the Legislative Chamber: comparing the day of a Member of Provincial Parliament to that of a student's.

To see these topics come alive, join us at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. Tours are offered Monday to Friday from September to May, and seven days a week throughout the summer months. For a quick overview of our tour offerings, please refer to page 20!

We hope to see you soon!





Parliament and Government

What is Parliament?

Parliament is the law-making body which is responsible for making and repealing laws. It is also responsible for examining government policy and administration. Parliament can also be referred to as “the House” or “the Legislative Assembly of Ontario” (in the case of the provincial parliament for Ontario).



What is Government?

In Canada, the government is comprised of three levels: federal, provincial, and municipal. The government is based on parliamentary democracy (choosing representatives at regular elections) and constitutional monarchy (when a monarch reigns with limited power along with the governing body).

What is the difference between Parliament and Government?

Parliament is the law-making body, made up of politicians who meet to decide laws. It is not the same as the government, which runs the country or the province/territory or city/town. The government is made up of members of a political party which has the majority of seats in the parliament. Parliament’s responsibility is to ensure the government is running everything properly, including the passing of laws and debating of major issues. In other words, parliament ensures that the principal of responsible government is being enforced.

What is Responsible Government?

A concept developed as early as the 13th century in Britain, responsible government refers to the idea that the government, led by the Prime Minister or Premier and supported by a Cabinet (members appointed by the leader), needs the approval of a majority in the Assembly. The formal Head of State, the Governor General or Lieutenant Governor, then must act under the advice of the Cabinet ministers who are members of the Legislature.

Responsible government, therefore, transfers effective political power from the Crown to the elected official.



Fun Fact:

Democracy literally means “the people rule” (from the Greek words *demos* meaning “people” and *kratos* meaning “rule”), thus indicating that it is the voices of the people of Canada that are heard.



Government in Canada

Canada: then and now

The first meeting of leaders from the Province of Canada and the Maritime colonies to discuss the idea of Confederation took place in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, in September of 1864. Participants of the Charlottetown Conference, as it was called, had meant only to discuss a union of the Maritime colonies, but leaders from Canada proposed a larger union. This larger union resulted into the Dominion of Canada on July 1, 1867.

The Canada of today is the result of many great debates over how to govern a country, especially one so diverse. Since Confederation in 1867, Canada has changed dramatically. Originally composed of four provinces (Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick), it now consists of ten provinces and three territories, whose inhabitants reflect a cultural, ethnic and linguistic makeup found nowhere else on Earth.

Federal Government

Located in Ottawa, Canada's capital, the federal government is responsible for issues that deal with Canada as a whole country; such as international relations, criminal law, taxes, national defence, and foreign policy. The head of the government is the Prime Minister.

In Canada, the federal parliament is made up of the House of Commons and the Senate. Members of Parliament (MPs) are elected by Canadian citizens, while Senators are appointed by the Governor General on the advice of the Prime Minister. When a parliament has two Houses (a Senate and a House of Commons), it is called bicameral.

Parliament of Canada, Ottawa



Provincial Government

Located in Toronto, Ontario's capital, the provincial government of Ontario is responsible for issues that affect the province as a whole; such as education, health care, the environment, agriculture, and highways. The leader of the province is the Premier and it is the Premier who appoints a Cabinet.



Did you know...?

The word Premier originates from the Latin word *primaries* which means "of the first rank, chief".

Legislative Assembly of Ontario, Toronto



Municipal Government

The municipal government receives its power from the provincial government. The city/town councils decide on by-laws for the cities and are led by mayors in cities and towns and reeves in villages and townships. The by-laws usually deal with issues that concern communities; such as roads, public parks, libraries, social services, local police and fire services, garbage removal, recycling, and public transportation.

City Hall, Toronto



Photo Credit: City of Toronto—Strategic communications





What is Constitutional Monarchy?



The Queen is the official Head of State of Canada. In the system of constitutional monarchy, The Queen rules symbolically; in reality the power belongs to parliament. Therefore, although The Queen ‘opens’ parliament each year and laws are passed in her name, The Queen herself plays no part in determining decisions made in the Legislature. In Canada, there are two levels of Vice Regal representatives; Governor General at the federal level and Lieutenant Governor at the provincial level. The Lieutenant Governor is appointed by the Governor General for a term usually of 5 years on the advice of the Prime Minister. Consultation by the respective Premiers is also undertaken.

The Lieutenant Governor’s role in the province of Ontario is to ensure the smooth functioning of the Constitution through the democratic election of the representatives.

Constitutional Role:

The Lieutenant Governor:

- ❑ Reads the Speech from the Throne, which outlines the government’s legislative plans;
- ❑ Grants Royal Assent (any bill that passes in the Legislature must be signed by the Lieutenant Governor in order for it to become a law);
- ❑ Swears in the Premier, Cabinet ministers and other officials selected by the Premier;
- ❑ Accepts the resignation of the Premier;
- ❑ Ensures that the will of the elected Legislative Assembly is respected in the event that a government has lost support of the House;
- ❑ Welcomes The Queen and members of the Royal Family, world leaders and other diplomats as the official host in the province.

Community Role:

The Lieutenant Governor:

- ❑ Attends and hosts a number of events, including the presentation of various orders, medals, decorations, and honours to outstanding Ontarians;
- ❑ Represents the people of Ontario and not necessarily the policies of the government of the day;
- ❑ Lends leadership of the office to promote worthwhile causes that will help better the quality of life for people in Ontario and Canada;
- ❑ Promotes the history, heritage, community, culture and people of the province.

The Vice Regal Standard

The Lieutenant Governor’s Standard is a royal blue flag with the shield of the Arms of Ontario at its centre. The shield is encircled by ten gold maple leaves that represent Canada’s provinces and is surmounted by a crown to symbolize the role of the Lieutenant Governor as The Queen’s representative in Ontario.





Legislatures of Ontario

The history of Ontario's parliament buildings is most definitely a colourful one. Since 1792, five different structures have housed Ontario's parliament, each contributing to the historic decisions that have shaped both our province and country.

1792 Newark

The first meetings of the Parliament of Upper Canada were held at Newark (present day Niagara-on-the-Lake) in September, 1792. It is thought that these meetings took place in several locations of the town, including Navy Hall (also a residence for Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe, 1752-1806), Butler's Barracks, the Free Masons Hall and even a large tent. Newark was never intended to be the permanent capital of the new colony and Simcoe was directed to survey a location on the north shore of Lake Ontario for a later move. He surveyed the location of present day Toronto in 1793, but it took four more years before the Legislature moved into new quarters in the re-named town of York.



Navy Hall, Niagara-on-the-Lake

1797-present day York

Over the years, York, known today as Toronto, became the seat of parliament for Ontario's Assembly meetings. Since 1797 to present day, parliament has been located in the heart of the city.

Located on the shores of Lake Ontario at the intersection of Parliament and King Streets, the 'Palace of Government' was York's first parliament building. During the War of 1812, this simple structure was burned to the ground on April 27, 1813 by an invading American army. Before setting fire to the building, the Americans took the first Mace of Upper Canada from the Legislative Chamber.



The 'Palace of Government'

Following the war, the Legislature met in several different locations across town until a new parliament building was built over the foundation of the first. Completed in 1820, the new building was destroyed in an accidental fire on December 30, 1824. Afterwards, the parliament was housed in a hospital and the Old Court House at King and Court Streets.



The Legislature of Upper Canada

The next permanent structure for parliament opened at Front and Simcoe Streets in 1832. This building was used for a period of over 60 years, until conditions in the Front Street building began to deteriorate in the early 1870s. The deterioration of the parliament building prompted the Department of Public Works to initiate plans for a new legislative building, choosing Queen's Park, a park in the north end of the city, as the perfect location.



The Front Street Legislature



Queen's Park, as it is most commonly referred to, opened on April 4th, 1893. Designed by English-born architect Richard Waite, the grounds are named after Queen Victoria who was Canada's monarch at the time. The building is large, imposing, and rich in materials and workmanship. It serves as both a formal meeting place for the Legislature and a modern office building for Members of Provincial Parliament and staff.





Elections in Ontario

A number of statutes, acts and guidelines govern the election process in the province of Ontario. For instance, **The Election Act** sets out the guidelines for the conduct of an election. This is the legislation which, for example, establishes the length of the election period and provides for the presentation of eligible electors. General elections are held on the first Thursday in October in the fourth calendar year following polling day in the most recent general election. The polling station will open from 9:00 a.m to 9:00 p.m on election day to allow everyone aged 18 or over the opportunity to vote. The area in which you live will be the riding for which you will be choosing a representative. It is through the process of voting, that a Member of Provincial Parliament is elected.

How does one become a Member of Provincial Parliament?

The Ontario election process is initiated when the Premier visits the Lieutenant Governor and advises that he or she would like to call an election. The Writs of Election, which are formal, legal documents, are put together by the Chief Election Officer and signed by the Lieutenant Governor. They are prepared for each of the electoral districts in the province as an official notice that the election process is under-way.

Once the Writs of Election are issued, the campaign period begins and can last between 28 to 56 days. During this time, candidates announce their ideas and policies they would propose if elected, seeking as many votes as possible. Eligibility requirements are the same for candidates seeking elections as they are for voters.

Both candidates and voters must:

- Be at least 18 years old,
- Be Canadian citizens, and
- Have resided in Ontario for the six months preceding the election.

To become a candidate for a particular political party, individuals must be nominated by that party. Some candidates choose to seek election as independents (with no party affiliation).

What are the Political Parties in Ontario?

Currently there are nine political parties in Ontario. Those presently represented in the Legislative Assembly are:
The Liberal Party www.ontarioliberal.on.ca
The New Democratic Party www.ontariondp.com
The Progressive Conservative Party www.ontariopc.on.ca

For a complete list of the registered parties visit www.electionsontario.on.ca



Fun Fact:

As of October 2007, 107 MPPs represent the people of Ontario. Previously, there were 103 MPPs.



Members of Provincial Parliament

What is a Member of Provincial Parliament?

Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs) are elected by the people to represent them in their electoral districts (constituencies). MPPs represent the approximate 12 million citizens in the various areas of Ontario, and address people's opinions and concerns in the Legislative Chamber. They introduce petitions on behalf of the people in their riding and debate issues which they feel should or should not become law. They also make amendments to current or potential laws. Each member takes on an active role as your Member of Provincial Parliament.

What are the Roles of Members of Provincial Parliament?

What is the role of the government?

The role of government is to protect the interests of the province by developing and proposing policies that determine how the province is run. The government is the political party which has the majority of the seats in the Legislature. That party remains in power as long as it has the majority of support in the Assembly for its main policies.



What is 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. For a list of Ontario's ministries, you can visit www.gov.on.ca.

What is the role of the opposition?

The principal role of the opposition is to present an alternative to the government of the day. The opposition may be comprised of one or more parties. The leader of an opposition party has a number of roles in our current political system, and will often lead debate on various bills and other matters. Providing leadership, being a prominent critic, and examining the government administration, legislation and decisions, are major parts of the role of the opposition.

What is a backbencher?

A backbencher is a Member of Provincial Parliament who is not a minister, parliamentary assistant or leading member of the opposition. Historically, he or she occupied a back bench in the Legislative Chamber, hence the term "backbencher". Today, these Members tend to occupy the back rows of the Chamber.

To find out who your MPP is, you can visit www.electionsontario.on.ca





The Many Roles of Members of Provincial Parliament

What is a Critic?

A critic is a member of the opposition who scrutinizes the programs and policies of a particular ministry/minister. The body of opposition critics is known as the **shadow cabinet** in each of the opposition parties.



Did you know...?



The word **critic** comes from the Greek work *kritikos* which means “one who discerns”, or “a person who offers reasoned analysis, interpretation, or observation.”

What is a House Leader?

Each party has one member who is appointed House Leader. The House Leader is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the party in the Legislature. The House Leader for the governing party is always a member of Cabinet and is responsible for announcing the daily order of House business. All House Leaders meet weekly to plan the business of the Legislature.

What is a Whip?

A Whip is a member of each party who ensures the presence of party members in the Legislature or at committee meetings to maintain adequate representation should a vote be held. This member also arranges the business of his or her party in the House and informs party members of forthcoming business. Should the Whip be unable to serve, Deputy Whips are assigned.

What is a Committee?

A Legislative Committee is a small working group of MPPs, responsible for detailed consideration of any matter that it is authorized to review. Most often the committees consider new laws or revisions to existing laws that have been proposed by the Legislature. A committee may hold public hearings, allowing citizens from across Ontario the opportunity to comment on, or provide evidence relating to the matter under review. The three most common ways in which individual organizations can engage in the committee process are by appearing as a committee witness; submitting written material to a committee; or attending committee hearings. There are three types of committees: Standing Committee, Select Committee, and the Committee of the Whole House.

❑ Standing Committee

A committee which exists for the duration of a parliament. This committee examines and reports on the general conduct of activities by government departments and agencies, and reports on matters referred to it by the House, including proposed legislation.

❑ Select Committee

Select Committees are set up specifically to study certain bills or issues and according to the Standing Orders, consists of not more than 11 members from all parties with representation reflecting the current standing in the House. In some cases, the committee must examine material by a specific date and then report the conclusion to the Legislature. After the final report, the committee is dissolved.

❑ Committee of the Whole House

A committee consisting of all members of the House which meets in the Chamber. The Speaker vacates the Chamber and the Deputy Speaker takes over as chair of the committee.



Committee Room



Parliamentary Players

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly



Shortly after a general election in Ontario, the first order of business conducted by the new parliament is to elect a Speaker. On the first day of the scheduled start of the new parliament, all members of the Legislative Assembly are called to order upon the arrival of the Lieutenant Governor. The Government House Leader announces that the Assembly will not officially commence nor will the Throne Speech be read, until a new Speaker has been chosen. The election process takes place following the exit of the Lieutenant Governor, and the new parliament generally commences the following day.

The Speaker of the House plays a key role in the functioning of parliamentary democracy. The Speaker upholds the rights and privileges of the parliament and enforces the rules by maintaining order in the House. In Ontario's system of government, which has its roots in British parliamentary tradition, the Speaker is the servant of the House (rather than the servant of the Crown, the government, or a particular party). Essentially, the Speaker of the House keeps the House and the debates running smoothly. The Speaker must conduct him or herself with absolute impartiality in the Chair, and considers it to be his or her duty to make decisions that are in the best interest of all Members. Although the Speaker of the

House remains neutral, he or she is not required to give up his or her party membership. However, the Speaker must refrain from participating in partisan activities and may not attend caucus meetings. In the House, the Speaker does not participate in the debates, nor does the Speaker vote, unless there is a tie. The Speaker wears a traditional uniform which consists of a black robe, a white shirt, and a tricorn hat.

Sergeant-at-Arms



The Sergeant-at-Arms is responsible for maintaining law and order of the House on behalf of the Speaker, overseeing security services in the legislative precinct and precinct properties. The Sergeant-at-Arms is also guardian of the ceremonial Mace.

The Sergeant-at-Arms, along with Legislative Security Officers, is responsible for keeping the legislative vicinity safe for staff and visitors. Before the House comes to order, the Sergeant-at-Arms, carrying the Mace, leads the procession into the Chamber. Part of the official uniform consists of a sword that is worn on the left side of the body, a bicorne hat, and a black swallow-tail jacket.



Legislative Procession



Clerk

The word clerk is derived from the term ‘cleric’, which is a member of the clergy. During the days of the early parliaments it was the clergymen who could read and write, and who therefore acted as parliamentary administrators.

Today, the Clerk is responsible for assisting the Speaker and is the principal officer of the House. The Clerk acts as an advisor to the Speaker and the members who may need clarification on parliamentary procedures. The Clerk also keeps track of the votes in the House and monitors time during debates. The compiling of all official documents for the House, such as **Orders and Notices** and **Votes and Proceedings**, and the Journals of the Assembly, are the responsibility of the Clerk. The Clerk swears in newly elected Members of Provincial Parliament and is also responsible for the overall direction and administration of the Legislative Assembly.

What are Orders and Notices Papers?

The Orders and Notices Paper is the schedule of House business. The publication lists bills, government business, written questions, private members' business, and committee information on a daily basis. Also referred to as the Order Paper, the publication lists everything available to the House for consideration.

What are Votes and Proceedings Papers?

Votes and Proceedings is a document of the official minutes of proceedings in the Legislative Assembly. Any recorded votes will be listed in this notice. The publications are produced daily and are available online within hours of adjournment.

Legislative Pages

The Legislative Pages are grades 7 and 8 students from all over Ontario. These high achieving students apply to the program and, if chosen, work in the Legislative Chamber for up to 6 weeks. The Pages act as messengers in the House and help the Members do their jobs efficiently by providing them with water, documents, and delivering messages to them. They are awarded the privilege of being in attendance on the House floor as the parliamentary process unfolds. From here, they can see up close the passage of legislation and be witness to, among other things, debates, petitions, and Question Period. Pages receive lessons about the legislative process in Ontario and have the opportunity to meet with Ontario's parliamentary players and visit local attractions, in addition to taking part in many special events.

The Legislative Page Program is open to students who have a current academic standing of Level 4 (80% or higher). Applicants must be actively involved in a variety of extra-curricular activities both inside and outside of school, show an interest in current affairs and get along with both their peers and adults. Applicants must also be residents of Ontario.





How a Bill Becomes a Law

What is a Bill?

A bill is an idea that may eventually become a law. Members of Provincial Parliament must present their ideas to the Legislative Assembly.



How a Bill Becomes a Law

Before a bill can become a law, it must first go through several stages. These stages give Members of Provincial Parliament a chance to study the bill and to give their suggestions on how the bill can be improved before it becomes a law.

1 Once a bill is introduced in the House, it will have its 'first reading'. The objectives of the bill are explained and the MPPs decide whether to accept the bill for future debate. If the bill is accepted, it is assigned a number, printed and scheduled for debate for second reading. Each member receives a copy of the bill. This debate is usually scheduled for several days later to give MPPs time to study the bill.

2 During the debate for second reading, MPPs discuss the principles of the bill. They are each allowed to speak only once during this time. After the debate, the MPPs vote on whether to let the bill proceed to the next step. In some cases, the bill may move directly to third reading, but often it is first examined by a standing or select committee.



The bill can be in the committee stage for a few days or up to several months. After review by the committee, the bill is reported back to the House. The bill may be sent to the Committee of the Whole House or directly to final debate.

3 During third reading, the MPPs debate the bill for the last time. Following the debate, the Speaker calls for a final vote about the proposed law. If the majority of MPPs vote to make the bill a law, it is presented to the Lieutenant Governor for Royal Assent. This procedure is called Royal Assent because the Lieutenant Governor is agreeing to the bill on behalf of The Queen. This last step is the proclamation, officially making the bill a law.



2ND SESSION, 38TH LEGISLATURE, ONTARIO
55 ELIZABETH II, 2006



2^e SESSION, 38^e LÉGISLATURE, ONTARIO
55 ELIZABETH II, 2006

Bill 11
(Chapter 12
Statutes of Ontario, 2006)

Projet de loi 11
(Chapitre 12
Lois de l'Ontario de 2006)

The No Candy for Kids Act

Loi édictant pas de bonbons pour les enfants

The Hon. Kandy Kane
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

L'honorable Kandy Kane
Ministre de la Santé et des Soins de longue durée

1st Reading	October 25, 2005
2nd Reading	May 8, 2006
3rd Reading	June 19, 2006
Royal Assent	June 20, 2006

1 ^{re} lecture	25 octobre 2005
2 ^e lecture	8 mai 2006
3 ^e lecture	19 juin 2006
Sanction royale	20 juin 2006





A Typical Day in the Legislative Chamber

A typical day of a Member of Provincial Parliament is very similar to that of a student's day in school. The following is a close comparison.

A Student's Day vs. an MPP's Day

At school, students probably have a daily routine. Likely, the bells ring acknowledging that the school day is starting. Announcements are made, the National Anthem is played, and time for prayers or personal reflection is given. Then, the business of learning begins, which is broken down into different subjects.

A day at Queen's Park is, in many ways, similar for Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs) when they are working in the Legislative Chamber. They have traditions that officially start the parliamentary day. Then, they must follow a schedule that is broken down into many different parts.



The Parliamentary Calendar

The parliament usually meets in the spring and in the fall (the Standing Orders, which are the rules of parliament, indicate that the meetings take place from February until June and from September until December). The meetings are held from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Mondays; 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays; 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Thursdays. Bells ring and lights flash in the hallways of the Legislative Building to let the members know that the meeting is about to begin in the Legislative Chamber.

The Speaker's Procession

The Legislative Assembly cannot meet until the Sergeant-at-Arms, carrying the ceremonial Mace, leads the Speaker into the House. The Speaker is followed by the Clerk, the Table Clerks and two Legislative Pages. The Sergeant-at-Arms lays the Mace at the end of the Clerk's table with the crown on a velvet cushion and facing the government side. During the procession, the MPPs and visitors in the public gallery are expected to remain standing.

Prayers

After the Mace is placed on the Clerk's table, the Speaker begins the sitting with prayers and or a moment of silence.

Introduction of Visitors

This is the designated time for invited guests who are visiting the Legislature to be recognized verbally in the Chamber by the Speaker of the House.

Oral Questions

The time for oral questions is also known as “Question Period”. During this one-hour period, members of the opposition and government backbenchers have the opportunity to ask the Government ministers about their programs.

Deferred Votes

Recorded votes deferred from the previous sessional day may be held during this time.

Members’ Statements

Three members from each party who are not ministers or party leaders may make statements on any topic for 90 seconds each.



Reports by Committee

After the statements, standing and select committees may report on bills and issues of the day that they have been discussing.

Introduction of Bills

At this point all new bills are introduced but not debated. If the members vote to discuss the bill further, it is printed and a copy is given to each member.

Motions

Motions are suggestions made by a member that the Legislature takes some action in the House (e.g. that they meet until 9:00 p.m.). The House will express its decision by either agreeing, disagreeing or amending the motion.

Statements by the Ministry and Responses

This is when Cabinet ministers may make statements about what is happening in their ministries, about what the government is doing or about other things they feel the House should know.



Petitions

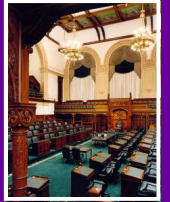
After Oral Questions, there is time for members to read petitions from their constituents. A petition is a document that requests the Legislative Assembly to make a change or take some action. It includes the signatures of the people who are making the request.

Orders of the Day

During this part of the day the members debate bills and motions that have been presented to them.



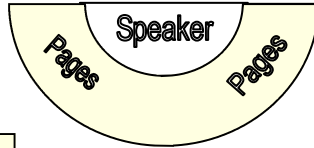
Seating Plan



The Government

The Official Opposition

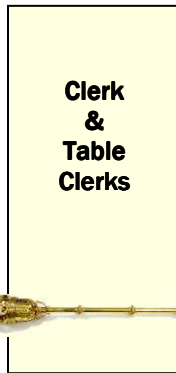
The Third Party



Government Backbencher	Cabinet Minister
Government Backbencher	Cabinet Minister

Official Opposition Backbencher	Official Opposition Backbencher
Official Opposition Backbencher	Official Opposition Backbencher

Government Backbencher	Cabinet Minister
Government Backbencher	Cabinet Minister



Official Opposition Backbencher	Official Opposition Backbencher
Official Opposition Backbencher	Official Opposition Backbencher

Government Backbencher	Cabinet Minister
Government Backbencher	Premier

Official Opposition Backbencher	Official Opposition Backbencher
Leader of the Official Opposition	Official Opposition Backbencher

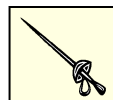
Government Backbencher	Cabinet Minister
Government Backbencher	Cabinet Minister



Leader of the Third Party	Third Party Backbencher
Third Party Backbencher	Third Party Backbencher

Government Backbencher	Cabinet Minister
Government Backbencher	Cabinet Minister

Third Party Backbencher



Sergeant-at-Arms





The Ontario Flag

The Ontario flag was adopted in 1965. The Union Jack which occupies the upper left quarter and the red background resemble the Canadian Red Ensign. The shield of the province occupies the centre of the flag, and bears the cross of St. George and three maple leaves. The Ontario Shield was granted by Royal Warrant of Queen Victoria in 1868.



Provincial Coat of Arms

The crest, supporters and motto were all granted by King Edward VII in 1909. The crest consists of a black bear on a wreath of gold and green (principal colours of the provincial shield), with a moose to the left and a deer to the right. These two animals were chosen because they are common throughout Ontario. The provincial motto on the bottom reads *Ut Incepit Fidelis Sic Permanent* (Loyal she began, loyal she remains).



The Common Loon



The common loon became the official bird of Ontario in 1994. One of four loon species (common loon, yellow-billed loon, arctic loon, red-throated loon), all of which live in the northern part of the Northern Hemisphere, it is also called the “great northern diver” and can feed in deep waters.

Eastern White Pine

The eastern white pine was named the official tree of Ontario in 1984. Today this tree is often used for ornamental purposes; however, it was an important source of income and trade during pioneer days. The wood is light, soft and easily worked, and is in large demand for construction purposes. It was once the single most important timber species in all of North America.



Amethyst



The amethyst was named the official gemstone of Ontario by the Legislature in 1975. It is a semi-precious stone found near Thunder Bay, Ontario and is the birthstone for the month of February. The word “amethyst” comes from the Greek *amethystos* meaning “not drunk”, whose origins can be traced to Greek Mythology in a parable about the god Dionysus (god of wine and intoxication) and the goddess Dianne. Ancient Greeks maintained that amethyst held many beneficial powers.

The White Trillium

The white trillium became the province’s official flower in 1937 as it grew in abundance in the province and because of its beauty. “Trillium” comes from the Latin word “*tres*” (triple) and the flower has three petals, three sepals, three leaves and belongs to the lily family. Picking the flower may not kill the plant, but will weaken the root so that the plant will not flower again for 7 to 8 years.



Fun Fact:

Ontario is derived from the Iroquois word “kanadario” meaning “sparkling water”. The province is aptly named: lakes and rivers make up one fifth of its area.





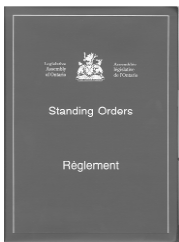
Legislative Symbols

Mace

The Mace, historically, was a blunt club-like weapon carried by clergymen because canon law forbade the carrying of bloodletting instruments such as swords. Introduced early in the fourteenth century into English parliament, the Mace is carried into the meetings of parliament by the Sergeant-at-Arms and signifies the permission granted by the crown to allow parliament to assemble. Today, the ceremonial staff used in parliament symbolizes the authority of the Speaker to oversee the Legislature.



Standing Orders



The Standing Orders are rules of procedure approved by the House to regulate its proceedings. These orders do not expire with the session in which they are made, but remain in force until they are amended or repealed by the House. They may be suspended by resolution either temporarily or for a particular purpose. The Standing Orders Committee reviews the Standing Orders and recommends amendments and reports to the House on all matters relating to them.

Legislative Coat of Arms

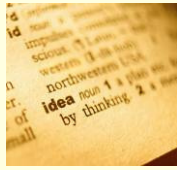
The Legislative Coat of Arms was introduced in 1992 to emphasize the distinctive character of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and distinguish the Assembly's identity from that of the government. The griffin symbolizes justice and equity, and clutches a Native pipe, known as a calumet, which honours Ontario's aboriginal peoples. The doe and stag represent the natural riches of the province. The present and historic Maces are depicted on the Legislative Assembly's shield along with the motto "Hear the Other Side".



Speaker's Chair



The Speaker's dais, installed for the opening session in 1893, was constructed of solid mahogany from San Domingo, Honduras. It displays the date 1867 (the date of the confederation of Canada), and is guarded by two sculptured lions on decorated columns. The Speaker's chair dates back to 1874. It was made in Toronto for Speaker Rupert Mearse Wells for \$100. Until World War II, it was the custom for each Speaker to take his chair with him when he retired. However, before the 1943 election, Speaker Clark made it clear he could not accept his chair and was instead presented with a portrait of himself. This has been the practice ever since. Every Speaker now uses Mr. Wells' chair, which was donated to the Legislature by his family. Other Speakers' chairs may be found on display in the Legislative Building.



Glossary of Terms

Act: A bill which has been given first, second and third reading by the Legislature. It becomes law upon receiving the signature of the Lieutenant Governor signifying Royal Assent.

Adjournment: The period between the termination of a meeting of the House and the start of the next meeting; an interruption in the course of the same session.

Amendment: A proposal of change by a member that seeks to modify a motion, or section of a bill in order to increase its acceptability or to present a different proposal. All amendments are in the form of a motion altering the text of the original motion.



Ballot: A paper for voting in an election which has the names of candidates running. Also refers to item numbers for Private Members' Business, and to sequential votes for election of the Speaker.

Bicameral: A legislative body with two Houses or two Chambers. For example, the Parliament of Canada has an Upper and a Lower House - the Senate and the House of Commons.

Bill: A proposed law. Bills must go through three readings, usually a committee process and Royal Assent before they become law.

Budget: The government's estimates on how much its programs will cost and where it will get the money to pay for them.

Cabinet (Executive Council): This governing body is made up of the ministers of government departments and the Premier. This body advises the Premier. The ministers are appointed by the Lieutenant Governor on the recommendation of the Premier and are usually chosen from elected members of the party which forms the government. The Cabinet formulates government policies and is responsible for the administration of all the

ministries of government. Cabinet meets regularly to determine the business it will propose to the Legislature.

Candidate: A person chosen to represent a political party for a certain electoral district or a person who runs as an independent in an election; a person who stands for election.

Caucus: All the elected members from one party; a private meeting of the parliamentary members of a party.

Chamber: The room in the Legislative Building at Queen's Park where the Legislative Assembly meets to discuss legislative matters.



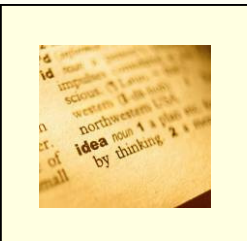
Citizen: From the Latin word "civitas" meaning "city". A citizen is an inhabitant of a province or country who has certain rights and responsibilities.

Committee: A Legislative Committee is a small working group of MPPs, responsible for detailed consideration of any matter that it is authorized to review. Most often the committees consider new laws or revisions to existing laws that have been proposed by the Legislature.

Committee of the Whole House: A committee consisting of all members of the House which meets in the Chamber. The Speaker vacates the Chamber and the Deputy Speaker takes over as chair of the committee.

Constituency (Riding, Electoral District): Electoral boundaries defined by population and rural or urban location. There are 107 constituencies (as of October 2007) in Ontario with a member elected from each one.





Glossary of Terms continued

Constitution: A document which sets out basic principles and laws of a nation, state or social group. These principles and laws determine the powers and duties of a government and guarantee certain rights to the people under it.



Constitutional Monarchy: A system of government in which the supreme law is the nation's constitution but the Head of State is the monarch. In Canada, the Head of State is The Queen represented by the Governor General. In the provinces, she is represented by the Lieutenant Governor.

Dissolution: Means by which the parliament comes to an end. The Lieutenant Governor dissolves the Legislature at the Premier's request. An election always follows dissolution.

Election: This is the process by which citizens choose a person to act as their representative.

Government: The political party with the greatest number of elected members; refers to the government body of a province, state or county, which makes and administers laws.

Governor General: The Queen's representative in Canada. This person is responsible for giving Royal Assent to all federal bills in order for them to become federal law.

Hansard: The verbatim record of daily proceedings of the House and its committees.



House: The Legislative Assembly of Ontario, consisting of 107 members, including the Speaker. Also refers to the Legislative Chamber, the room where the Legislative Assembly meets.

House of Commons: The legislative body of Canada which proposes, debates and passes laws.

Independent Member: A member of provincial parliament who does not belong to any political party.

Legislation: Laws; principles that govern actions and/or procedures of society which are administered by the government and enforced by the judiciary. A law is an act of parliament, or a law made by parliament. This is a bill which has passed all three readings in the House and has received the Lieutenant Governor's Royal Assent.

Legislative Assembly: The governing body which debates and makes laws. It is sometimes referred to as the Legislature or the House.

Legislature: See parliament, house, legislative assembly.

Lieutenant Governor: The person who is the provincial representative of The Queen and the ceremonial Head of State. This person is appointed by the Governor General on the recommendation of the Prime Minister. The Lieutenant Governor opens, suspends and dissolves the Legislative Assembly and gives or withholds Royal Assent to bills passed by the Legislative Assembly.

Mace: The ceremonial staff used in parliament which symbolizes the authority of the Speaker to oversee the Legislature. The Mace is carried into the Chamber each day at the beginning of a sitting.

Majority Government: The total number of government seats in the House exceeds the total number of opposition seats.

Minority Government: The total number of opposition seats in the House exceeds the total number of government seats.

Non-Partisan: An individual of a non-partisan position does not let personal or political opinions influence the way the job is done. In reference to the Speaker, the Speaker must treat all members equally and fairly, with no regard to political affiliation.

Official Opposition: The party with the second largest number of elected members. Its job is to study government legislation, politics and programs, and to offer alternatives.

Orders of the Day: The time of day when the agenda of legislative business for that day is presented.

Parliament: The Legislature, or Legislative Assembly. It is also the period from the opening of the first session immediately following a general election to the end of a government's term and the calling of another election. Each parliament consists of one or more sessions.

Political Party: Group of individuals united by common political and economic beliefs about society.

Premier: At the provincial level, the leader of the party with the greatest number of elected members .

Prime Minister: At the federal level, the leader of the party with the greatest number of elected members.

Private Bill: A bill which confers particular powers, benefits or exemptions from general law on a specific person or body of persons, including individuals, local authorities, and statutory and private corporations.



Private Members' Bill: A public bill which is introduced by a private member (not a Cabinet minister) instead of by the government.

Prorogation: The act by which the Lieutenant Governor brings a session of the Legislative Assembly to an end. This is different from dissolution which terminates a parliament. Prorogation is more like the suspension of parliament.

Public Bill: A bill which relates to matters of public policy. It usually has a general application over the entire province.

Readings: The stages through which a bill passes: first reading, second reading and third reading. A bill is introduced then proceeds to be debated during the second and third readings.

Routine Proceedings: The part of the parliamentary day that precedes "Orders of the Day", during which the routine business (e.g. motions, petitions) is addressed.

Royal Assent: The approval of a bill given by the Lieutenant Governor on behalf of The Queen.

Select Committee: Select Committees are set up specifically to study certain bills or issues and according to the Standing Orders, consists of not more than 11 members from all parties with representation reflecting the current standing in the House. In some cases, the committee must examine material by a specific date and then report the conclusion to the Legislature. After the final report, the committee is dissolved.

Senate: The Upper House of the federal parliament of Canada. The federal parliament has a bicameral system consisting of an Upper House called the Senate and a Lower House called the House of Commons. The Senate approves laws passed by the Lower House (House of Commons) and may introduce legislation that is not monetary in nature. The Senate consists of non-elected members who are appointed by the Governor General on the advice of the Prime Minister.

Session: A series of meetings in the Legislature, collectively making up a parliament. Sessions may be divided into spring and fall periods.

Shadow Cabinet: A collective term for the critics in each of the opposition parties, particularly those in the official opposition, who might comprise the cabinet should the party come to power. These critics scrutinize the programs and policies of the government department to which they are assigned.

Speech from the Throne: The speech delivered by the Lieutenant Governor at the beginning of each new session of parliament. This speech outlines the government's plans and initiatives for the session.

Standing Committee: A committee which exists for the duration of a parliament. This committee examines and reports on the general conduct of activities by government departments and agencies, and reports on matters referred to it by the House, including proposed legislation.

Standing Orders: The rules of procedure in the House.

Unicameral: Having only one House of parliament. Ontario's parliament is unicameral.

Whip: The member chosen from each party who ensures the presence of party members in the Legislature or at committee meetings to maintain adequate representation should a vote be held. He or she also arranges the business of his or her party in the House and informs party members of forthcoming business.





Visiting the Legislative Building at Queen's Park


Tours of the Legislative Assembly are extremely popular, so it is necessary to make group reservations in advance. The reservation line can be reached by calling 416 325-7500 and is open from Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. There are a variety of programs to participate in. The following is a quick summary. More information can be found on our website at www.ontla.on.ca.


Discovery Tour

Developed for grade 4-6 students, the Discovery Tour is our most popular program. It includes a one-hour interactive tour of the historic Legislative Building followed by a half-hour mock parliamentary debate on a topic students have chosen in class. Please book early because availability for this program is limited!

Outdoor Scavenger Hunt

If your group is coming to the Legislative Building, allow some extra time for your students to take part in a self-guided scavenger hunt on the legislative grounds. The questionnaire and teacher's answer sheet, along with a number of other educational resources, can be downloaded from the Legislative Assembly web site.

 = 90 minutes

 = 30-60 minutes


Evening Citizenship Program for Scouts and Guides

Scouts, Cubs, Guides and Pathfinders are given an opportunity to complete requirements towards various citizenship and heritage awards while learning about parliament and citizenship during this interactive evening tour. Offered monthly from September to May (twice monthly in January & February). Reservations required. Cost is \$2/person.

 = 90 minutes

March Break Program

This interactive program is available for children aged 6-12. During this two-and-a-half-hour program, participants meet Bill Law, who introduces them to the law-making process! Children participate in a craft activity, as well as in a scavenger hunt, and wear costumes similar to those of the parliamentary players.

 = 2.5 hours

Visiting the Public Galleries

When the Legislature is in session, groups may watch the parliamentary debates from the public galleries. Seating in the galleries is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Please call us to find out more about attending a session in the Legislature.

Coming Soon!

Currently under development are the *Exploration Tour* and the *Navigation Tour*. These programs are designed for elementary and secondary school students respectively and incorporate a viewing of the Legislature in session with an interactive debate component and a look at the historic hallways of the Legislative Building. Please ask about these programs when you call to book your next tour!



NOTES

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