

What is the structure of Canada's federal political system?

WHAT'S IN THIS SECTION

In this section you will read about the structure of Canada's federal political system. You will find:

- A comic-book tour introducing the executive, legislative and judicial branches of Canada's government.
- A description of the roles and responsibilities of government members.
- Interviews with government members who share their views about involving Canadians in the political process.

In this photo from 2006, Prime Minister Stephen Harper, leader of the Conservative Party of Canada, makes a speech in the House of Commons.

What are you looking for?

As you read this section, look for:

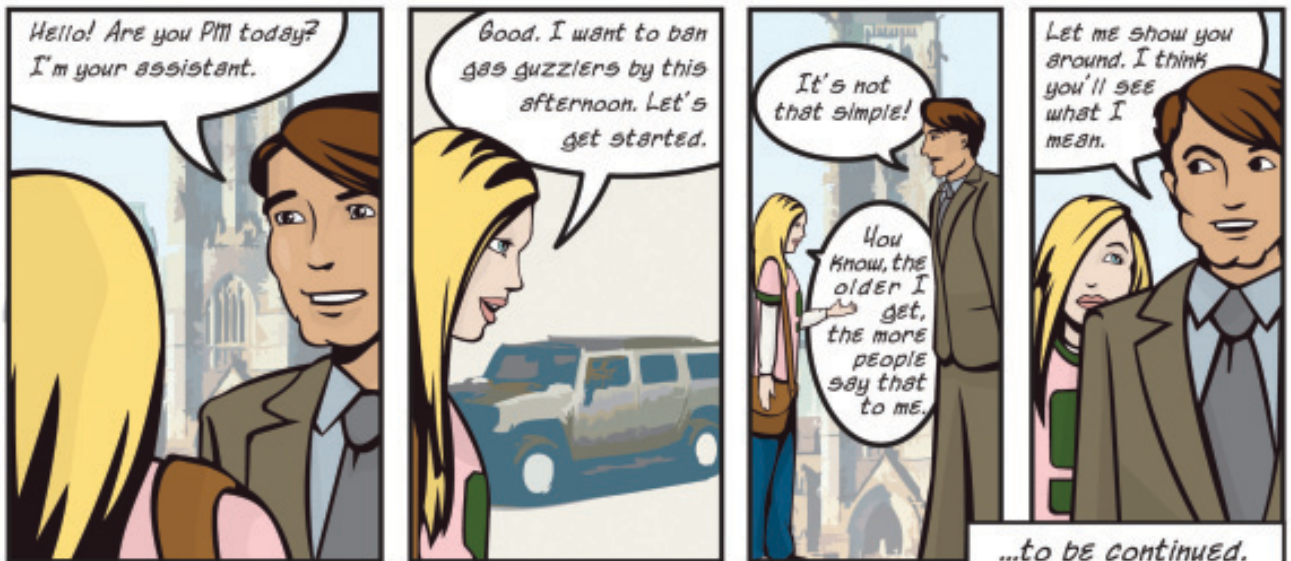
- How governance in Canada creates opportunities and challenges for responding to the multiple views and perspectives of Canadians.
- The ways that the federal political structure involves citizens in government decision making.





PM FOR A DAY

Canada's parliament: the place of power.



WELCOME TO YOUR TOUR OF CANADA'S FEDERAL POLITICAL SYSTEM!



**YOUR TOUR
STARTS HERE**

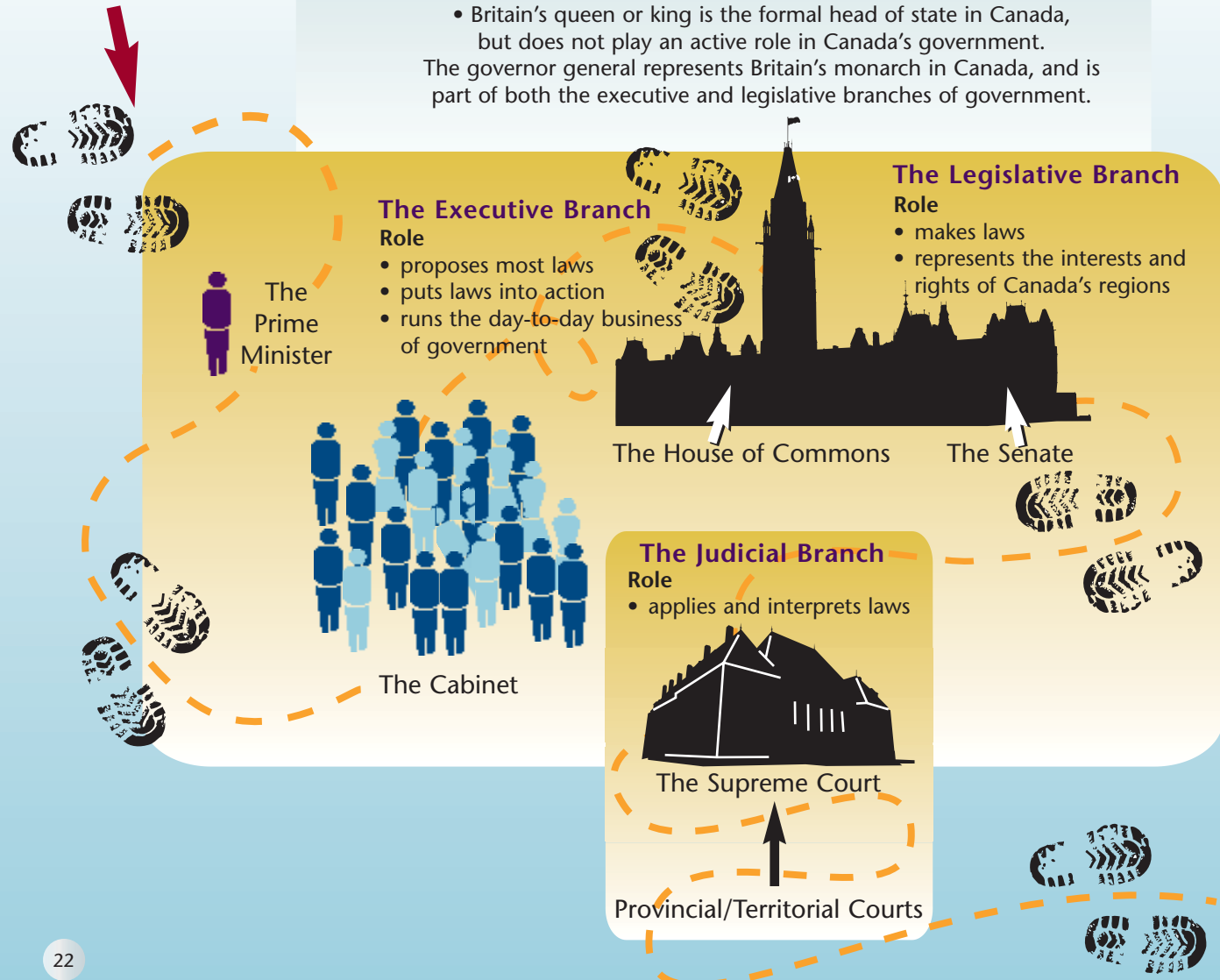
Canada's Constitution

Canada's constitution is the law that describes governance in Canada. It sets out the role of the governor general, and the different roles of the three branches of government. It describes how the three branches of government work together to exercise the decision-making authority of government. The constitution also sets out other important institutions in Canada, such as the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.



Monarch of Britain

- represented in Canada by the governor general
- Britain's queen or king is the formal head of state in Canada, but does not play an active role in Canada's government. The governor general represents Britain's monarch in Canada, and is part of both the executive and legislative branches of government.



The Prime Minister

The Executive Branch

- Role**
- proposes most laws
 - puts laws into action
 - runs the day-to-day business of government



The Cabinet

The Legislative Branch

- Role**
- makes laws
 - represents the interests and rights of Canada's regions



The House of Commons

The Senate

The Judicial Branch

- Role**
- applies and interprets laws



The Supreme Court

Provincial/Territorial Courts

