

Step 7: Winning an Election / Types of Government:

(Tb p.310, Wb p.25-26)

frequent	more than half	compromise	power	status quo	without
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Majority Government ☐ (ultimate goal of a party) is when a political party wins _____ the number of seats in the legislature. At the Federal level, 170 seats = majority (338 total). At the Provincial level, 44 seats = majority (87 total).

Example of 2020 BC Provincial Election			
BC NDP - 57	Liberal - 28	Green - 2	(Total = 87)

Advantages:

- it's easier for the party to hold on to _____
- it can pass legislation fairly easily, _____ much debate

Disadvantages:

- they are less responsive to the public
- debate about legislation should be a good thing

Minority Government ☐ political party elects more MP's than any other party **but** does not elect more than all the other parties added together (not more than half)

Example of 2021 Federal Election:		
Liberal - 158	Bloc Quebecois - 34	Green - 2
Conservative - 119	NDP - 25	(Total 338)

Advantages:

- they have to _____ , and therefore, more responsive to the public
- they rely on "confidence"; less likely to pass bills that are controversial.

Disadvantages:

- things stay relatively the same, " _____ " is maintained
- difficult to implement policies and enact change.
- can be unstable; leads to _____ elections

Coalition Government ☐ sometimes, a minority elected party will make an official agreement form government with another party. This is a **coalition government**. A leader is chosen from the two parties, and Cabinet is selected from the two parties. It

means they both govern, but still retain their own identities and policies. This differs from a **merger** where two parties combine to form a new party. Coalition governments are uncommon in Canadian political history.

Supply Confidence Agreement □ most often, Minority elected government will make working agreements with other parties. This can be either an agreement on basic principles or legislation, or a set amount of time. Or, it can be done on a vote-by-vote basis on key issues and bills. Example: The NDP and minority Liberal government, 2019-2021.

Task: *Create a chart that outlines the Pros and Cons of Majority / Minority Governments.*

Step 8: How are the winners chosen? Electoral systems

When the polls close, after 12 hours, the ballot boxes are taken to one location and all the votes are counted by hand. The candidate with the most votes in each riding is declared the winner. This is called **First Past the Post (FPTP)**

Controversy:

- The winner might not have the majority of the votes
- The winner might not reflect the popular vote (total number of votes)

Example:

Ridings & Voters	Liberal	Conservative
British Columbia		
A. 100 voters	99	1
B. 100 voters	99	1
C. 100 voters	99	1
Alberta		
A. 100 voters	49	51
B. 100 voters	49	51
C. 100 voters	49	51
Quebec		
A. 100 voters	49	51
# of Seats won	3	4
% of Popular Vote	593 votes / 800 = 74% of the votes	207 votes / 800 = 26% of the votes

Why? Because we vote for a person, not a party

Pros of FPTP	Cons of FPTP
- _____ - results in a stable gov't - people get local representation - can _____, not a party - no chance for extremist parties	- at odds with popular vote - accentuates _____ - large number of _____ votes

Another voting system is called **Proportional Representation**.

- Used in Italy, Holland, New Zealand, Israel
- Voters vote for a party, not a person
- Parties gain seats according to the proportion of votes they get

How it works:

- Each party puts forward a list of candidates
- Citizens go to the polls and vote for the party of their choice
- The percentage of votes the party gets translates into the number of candidates that will sit in the legislature
 - Example: Greens win 38% of the votes = 38 MP's in the House of Commons. They must take the first 38 from their list.

Pros of Proportional Rep	Cons of Proportional Rep
- every vote _____ - leads to power-_____ - parties get represented - _____ regionalism	- minority / _____ gov'ts - no link between MP & region - allows for crazy fringe parties - _____to get a majority

Extra Practice: *What do you think is the best system? Defend your position.*