Chapter 5: How does Local Government Work?

5.1: Why Do We Have Local Government?

Why do we have local Governments?

Why Do We Have Local Government?

Read page 100 - 101
On your handout, respond to the questions on the bottom of page 101.

Having a level of government that can respond to local needs is important in a democracy. In this chapter you will discover the way local government works and how members of the community can influence it.
In what ways is local government a part of a democracy?

How can citizens participate in local government?

How can people organize themselves to meet needs not met by the government?

Vocabulary

councillor – a person elected to local government

council – a group of elected representatives who make decisions for a local area

municipal district

- government form in rural areas of the province

- similar to a county or a rural municipality

reeve – a local official of a municipal district

hamlet – an unincorporated community under council of a municipal district

constituents – those who live within a constituency and can elect members to represent them

constituency – a group of citizens who are entitled to elect a representative within their

electoral district

Provost is found in the **Municipal District of Provost**. The **MD does not make decisions** on **behalf of the people in Provost**, but **those who live in the outlying areas** such as hamlets and villages. There is a **council** that consists of **seven representatives**, with one being the elected **reeve** and another person who is the **deputy reeve**. The council **meet two times a month.** The **Town of Provost** has **six councillors** and **one mayor**. The Town Council meeting is held **once a month**.

The MD and the Town both **work cooperatively** to ensure that both people living in town and those in the rural areas **have access to such services** as health care, recreational programs, utilities (electricity, gas, water), safe roads.

Lapbook: Steps to starting this chapters lapbook:

1. Cut out the "My Work In Progress" shape.
2. Fold the flaps inward.
3. Glue the flaps to the BACK of the lapbook.
4. Insert the extra papers in the back for safe keeping.

5. Colour the title page.
6. With the folder closed and the title page on the INSIDE of the folder, draw a line down from the top to the bottom that is the shape of the folder edges.

7. Cut along the line.
   1. Glue both sides to the FRONT of the folder.

All levels of government have different responsibilities depending on what the **constituency is responsible for, what services are provided by that level of government and what the needs of the people are.**

Provincial Government

- Aboriginal Relations
- Agriculture and Rural Development Culture
- Education Energy
- Enterprise and Advanced Education
- Environment and Sustainable Resource Development
- Health
- Human Services Infrastructure International & Intergovernmental Relations

- Justice and Solicitor General
- Municipal Affairs
- Service Alberta
- Tourism, Parks and Recreation
- Transportation
- Treasury Board and Finance

Local **Government**

- Agriculture services
- Airports
- Ambulance services
- Animal control
- Business licences
- Bylaw enforcement
- Cemeteries
- Community or convention centres or halls
- Cultural facilities (museums, libraries)
- Emergency and disaster services
- Family and community support services
- Waste management

- Fire services
- Municipal land use planning
- Parks and pathways
- Police services
- Public lighting
- Public transportation
- Recreation facilities and programs
- Roads, streets and walks
- Sanitary sewage and treatment
- Storm sewers and drainage
- Tourism
- Water supply and distribution

How Do These Services Get Paid For?

It costs millions of dollars to ensure that the people in our area are provided for.
The **annual budget** for both the MD and the Town must be used to **cover the services** listed above, as well as **the wages to pay for the people who work for these government offices.**

Where does the money come from?

Transfer payments

Operating funds provided by the provincial and federal government. These fluctuate each year depending on various initiatives, public issues, and provincial mandates (pandemic, disaster relief, special programing in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commissions 94 Calls to Action.

Taxes

- Income tax
- Fuel tax
- Tobacco tax
- School taxes (collected on the property tax)

How do the People Benefit from the Local Government?

If we have a federal and provincial government who can collect taxes and pay for our local services, then why do we have a local government?
People who live in our community have a **better understanding of what our local needs are.**
Having a local government **gives all citizens** a better opportunity to **participate in the democratic process** either through **running for office** or by **taking part in town hall meetings.**

5.2: How Are Local Governments Organized?

Vocabulary

<u>Departments</u> – separate groups who are in charge of a specific section of the municipality.
   examples: finance and land development

<u>Civil servants</u> – those hired by the government to run or work in a specific department

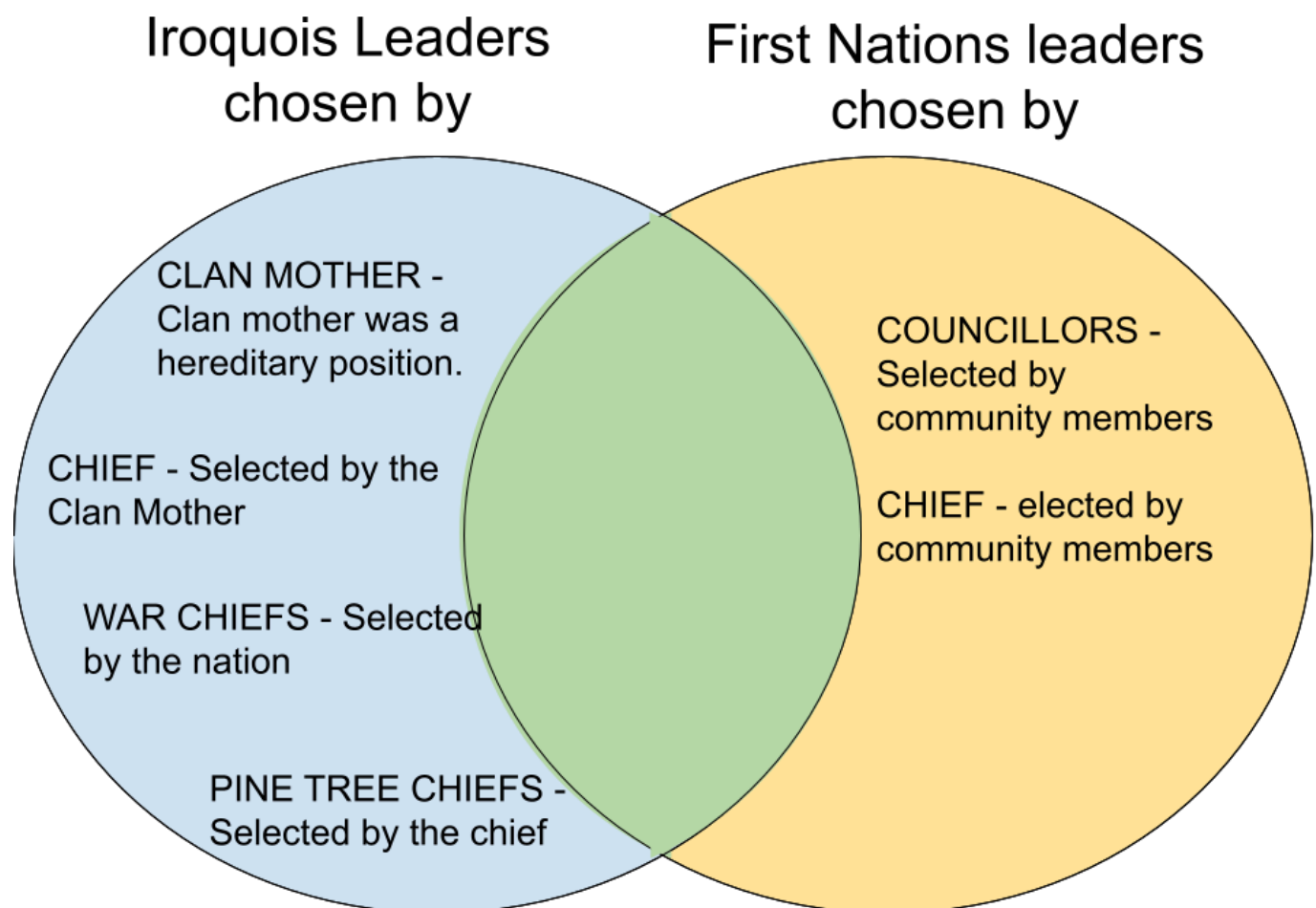| Municipal Areas – Urban	Municipal Districts – Rural
Regions that have their own local government	Rural areas that have their own local government
Cities	Municipal districts
Towns	Rural municipalities
Villages	Counties

Review of elected officials

Local Government	Top Elected Officials	Council
Urban	Mayor a councilor elected as the chief electoral officer by the council	Councilors elected by citizens
Rural	Reeve Elected by members of the community	Councillors Selected by the community
First Nations	Chief Elected by members of the community	Councillors Selected by the community
Métis	Chairperson Selected by council members	Council of 5 Selected by community members

How do Modern Day First Nations Govern Themselves?

Governments on a **reserve** are called **bands**. The head of the band is called the **chief**. In conjunction with the council, the **election of representatives** may be done according to the **Indian Act** or the way the **community always did it**. The band may choose to do it **both ways**. When a **bylaw has been passed** by the council, it is called a **Band Council Resolution** (BCR).

Compare how leaders were chosen by the Iroquois with how leaders are chosen by local first nations communities today?
On your handout, use the Venn Diagram to compare how the Iroquois chose their leaders compared to the first nations communities today.

Iroquois Leaders chosen by

First Nations leaders chosen by

CLAN MOTHER - Clan mother was a hereditary position.

CHIEF - Selected by the Clan Mother

WAR CHIEFS - Selected by the nation

PINE TREE CHIEFS - Selected by the chief

COUNCILLORS - Selected by community members

CHIEF - elected by community members

Making Decisions for the Community

      Members of the **council, reeves and mayors** are **elected** by the community to do the job of **attending council meetings**, **making decisions** about programs, services, and bylaws. The mayor or reeve ensure that meetings are **run according to the rules of each municipality**.

Committees are organized which assist in **helping members** of each **subcommittee** to **oversee that section of government**. At some of these subcommittee meetings, **discussions are generated** that must be **taken back to the main council meeting for further discussion.** Some councilors sit on **advisory committees** to receive **advice from the local people** on issues such as the policing, library, arts foundations and many more. People in each community can **apply to sit on any number of these committees**, as a way to **stay involved in the local government**.

How is the municipal government an example of representative democracy?

Delivering Services to the Community

It takes a **large number of people** to help make a **community run smoothly**. Each community **civil servants** to be **in charge of certain departments** of the town. Their responsibility are:
- to make sure the **decisions made** by the council are **carried out**
- keep the **council informed** on how **municipal operations**

5.3: How Are Local Governments Elected?

ballot – a piece of paper used for voting that lists the names of the candidates
nominate – identify a person as a possible candidate for an elected position

Together, read [page 114.](#)
Steps in an election
Complete the information in your lapbook on The Election Process

Ballot Vs. LotterY

What are the advantages and disadvantages of selecting people through ballot or lottery? Consider equality and fairness.

How Can you get involved in an Election?

1. Keep an eye open for upcoming elections and read up on information about the upcoming election

2. volunteer as a candidate

3. Canvas for a candidate

4. Write letters to the editor supporting a candidate

5. Invite a candidate to speak to your class

6. Organize a forum for candidates to speak at your school

5.4: How Can You Get Involved in Your Community?

Using this planning format, you can create presentations that are organized, impactful, and memorable.

POPP – Prepare, Organize, Practise, and Present

Prepare Research topic thoroughly	Make inquiry questions to guide research
	Set a timeline to prepare presentation
	Use reliable resources
Organize Make sure your presentation has an introduction, a body of the information, and a conclusion	Get audience's attention in the introduction by explaining what you will tell them
	Make an outline of your main points
	What visuals, charts, Maps, multimedia Etc will you use?
	Use conclusion to give audiences a summary of your main idea
Practise Know what you are going to say and practice, practice, practice!	Practice your presentation in front of friends
	Check your time and make sure you do not have too much or too little to say
	Think of ways to keep your audience engaged
Present Try to make it a comfortable experience for yourself and your audience	Make eye contact with audience
	Speak clearly and not too fast

Read page 117

Chose a you scenario and respond to the following skill developments:

Think of at least three inquiry questions that you would use to guide your research for your presentation.	1.
	2.
	3.
List sources where you might get information to answer your questions. consider how you might use email to gather information	● ● ● ●
Ask your teacher how much time you have to prepare your presentation schedule	
● Final Date to work on in class	
Describe how you would use visuals are multimedia elements in your presentation	

5.5: Why do we have School Boards?

Buffalo Trail Public Schools has representatives from various areas in our division, who have an important responsibility to **ensure that our school division is running the way school boards should be run.**

Board of Trustee Jobs:

DECISIONS - Make decisions on
- **services and programming**
- **school buildings and student transportation**
- **how the budget is spent**

LISTEN - Listen to
- **people's complaints and make fair judgements**
- **what people think is important for their children's education**

CURRICULUM - Make sure the **provincial curriculum is taught**

POLICY - make **rules and policies for schools**

HIRE the superintendent

Vocabulary

Superintendent - Responsible for running the schools in a jurisdiction (division)

Budget - a list of items that shows how much money will be spent on each item.

How Do Trustees Become Part of the School Board

Every school has a board of trustees. They are **elected officials** who serve a **three year** term. Elections are held at the **same time as municipal government elections**.

Why do you think someone would want to run to be a school board trustee?

In Provost, we have a **public and separate school**. However, there are students who may choose to be **homeschooled** through a home-school program.

School Choices in Alberta

Public Schools
- Most schools in Alberta are public
- Teach Alberta curriculum

- Can be English only or have bilingual options such as French, Chinese, Arabic, and Ukrainian.
- Must accept all resident students

Separate Schools
- **Primarily Catholic** - constitutional right to minority religious education under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms
- **Teach Alberta curriculum**
- Teach **faith-based** curriculum content

Francophone Schools (French first language)
- Can be **public or separate**
- Francophone parents have **the right under the Canadian Charter of Rights** and Freedoms to have their children **educated in French**

Charter Schools
- **Non-profit organizations**
- Schools that offer **specialized programing** such as Science, Music, Religion, or sport academy's

Private
- Programs **funded by the province**
- Permitted to **charge a tuition fe**e to parents

Home Education
- Programming provided by **parents**
- Must be **supervised by a school board**

Alternative Programs
- **Public or separate school**
- Emphasize particula**r language, culture, religion, subject matter**, or style of teaching
- **Not permitted to charge tuition**

Shared Responsibility Programs
- Parents and school authorities **agree to share the responsibility** of educating the student
- **Parent and teacher directed**
- **flexible programming**

First Nations Band Operated Schools
- First Nations students **living both on and off reserves** can attend
- Funded by the **federal government**