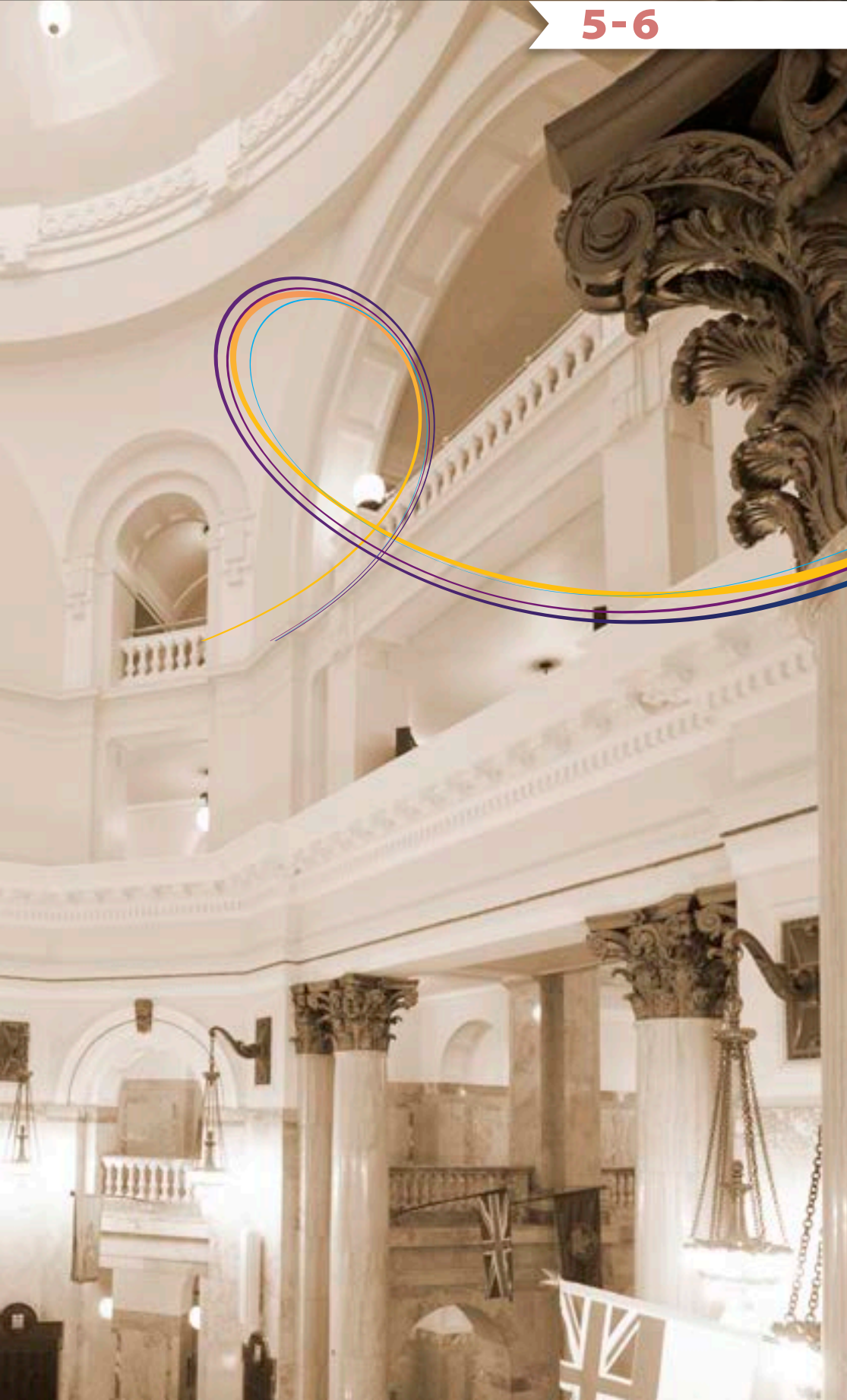


ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

ANSWER KEY

5-6



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Symbols of the Legislature

Reading*

Look at the Alberta coat of arms image.

1. With a partner identify as many symbols on the coat of arms as you can. What do you think they mean?
2. Read the following paragraph about the symbols in the Alberta coat of arms.
3. Label each symbol in the image with the appropriate circled number.



Part 1

Coat of Arms: On May 30, 1907, King Edward VII gave Alberta its first coat of arms, in the shape of a **shield [1]**. At the top of the shield is a red **St. George's Cross [2]**, a component of the coat of arms of the Hudson's Bay Company. The **mountains [3]**, **foothills [4]**, **prairies [5]** and **wheat fields [6]** unfold beneath it, symbolizing the province's variety of landscapes. In 1980, on Alberta's 75th anniversary, a crest and supporters were added to the shield to form our present coat of arms. The crest consists of a **beaver [7]**, a symbol of the fur trade that led to the exploration and settlement of Canada, with the **royal crown [8]** on its back. The supporters, a **lion [9]** (or golden lion) on the left and a **pronghorn antelope [10]** on the right, stand for Britain and Alberta respectively. Below them is a grassy mound dotted with **wild roses [11]**. The motto at the base reads Fortis et Liber, Latin for "strong and free."

* Paragraphs 1 to 8 of this reading are adapted from pages 72-74 of the *Citizen's Guide to the Alberta Legislature*, 9th Edition (2016)



Levels of Government

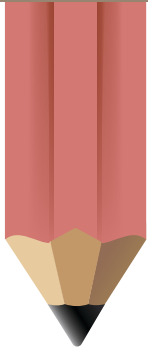
Reading Comprehension

Matching Vocabulary

Canada's political system is called a **parliamentary democracy**. In this system citizens hold the power to **elect** people to represent them. Citizens choose their **representatives** by **voting**. In the provinces these people are called **Members** of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs). Some MLAs are chosen to be **Cabinet Ministers**. These MLAs are given responsibility for a particular government department. In a province those who are elected become part of the **Legislative Assembly**. This is the government body that is responsible for **passing** laws and making sure that the government does what the people want it to do. The representative of the King or Queen gives **assent** to the Bills that are passed, but they do not make or choose the Bills.



Levels of Government



Underline the sections that deal with the responsibilities of different levels of government. Circle the words (e.g., federal government, provinces) that tell you which level of government is being described.

Federal State

There are federal, provincial, territorial and municipal governments in Canada. The responsibilities of the federal and provincial governments were defined in 1867 in the *British North America Act, 1867*, now known as the *Constitution Act, 1867*.

In our federal state the federal government takes responsibility for matters of national and international concern. These include defence, foreign policy, interprovincial trade and communications, currency, navigation, criminal law and citizenship.

The provinces are responsible for municipal government, education, hospitals, natural resources, property and civil rights and highways. The federal government and the provinces share jurisdiction over agriculture and immigration. Federalism allows different provinces to adopt policies tailored to their own populations and gives provinces the flexibility to experiment with new ideas and policies.

Every province has its own elected Legislative Assembly, like the House of Commons in Ottawa. The three northern territories, which have small populations, do not have the status of provinces, but their governments and assemblies carry out many of the same functions.



Levels of Government

Parliamentary Democracy

In Canada's parliamentary democracy the people elect members to the House of Commons in Ottawa and to the provincial and territorial Legislatures. These representatives are responsible for passing laws, approving and monitoring expenditures and keeping the government accountable.

The government is responsible to the Assembly, which means it must retain the "confidence of the House" and has to resign if it is defeated in a nonconfidence vote. Parliament has three parts: the Sovereign (Queen or King), the Senate and the House of Commons.

Provincial Legislatures comprise the Lieutenant Governor and the elected Assembly. In the federal government the Prime Minister selects the Cabinet Ministers and is responsible for the operations and policy of the government. The House of Commons is the representative Chamber, made up of members of Parliament elected by the people, traditionally every four years. Senators are appointed by the Governor General on the advice of the Prime Minister and serve until age 75. Both the House of Commons and the Senate consider and review Bills (proposals for new laws). No Bill can become law in Canada until it has been passed by both Chambers and has received royal assent, granted by the Governor General on behalf of the Sovereign.



Levels of Government

Other Levels of Government in Canada

Local or municipal government plays an important role in the lives of its citizens. Municipal governments usually have a council that passes laws called bylaws that affect only the local community. The council usually includes a mayor (or a reeve) and councillors or aldermen. Municipalities are normally responsible for urban or regional planning, streets and roads, sanitation (such as garbage removal), snow removal, firefighting, ambulance and other emergency services, recreation facilities, public transit and some local health and social services. Most major urban centres have municipal police forces. Provincial, territorial and municipal elections are held by secret ballot, but the rules are not the same as those for federal elections. It is important to find out the rules for voting in provincial, territorial and local elections so that you can exercise your right to vote.

The First Nations have band chiefs and councillors who have major responsibilities on First Nations reserves, including housing, schools and other services. There are a number of provincial, regional and national aboriginal organizations that are a voice for First Nations, Métis and Inuit people in their relationships with the federal, provincial and territorial governments.

Reprinted with permission from Discover Canada (p.33)

	Federal	Provincial/Territorial	Municipal
Parts of government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◉ Sovereign (King/Queen) (represented by the Governor General) ◉ Senate ◉ <i>House of Commons</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◉ <i>Lieutenant Governor</i> ◉ Elected Assembly (Provincial and territorial Legislatures) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◉ <i>Council</i>
Members of government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◉ <i>Prime Minister</i> ◉ Cabinet Ministers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◉ Premier ◉ Cabinet Ministers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◉ <i>Mayor or Reeve</i> ◉ Councillors or aldermen
Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◉ <i>Defence</i> ◉ Foreign policy ◉ Interprovincial relations ◉ <i>Currency</i> ◉ Navigation ◉ <i>Criminal law</i> ◉ Citizenship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◉ <i>Agriculture</i> ◉ <i>Immigration</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◉ Municipal government ◉ <i>Education</i> ◉ <i>Health</i> ◉ National resources ◉ Civil rights ◉ <i>Highways</i> ◉ Urban or regional planning ◉ <i>Streets and roads</i> ◉ Garbage removal ◉ Snow removal ◉ <i>Firefighting</i> ◉ <i>Emergency and ambulance</i> ◉ Recreational services ◉ <i>Public transit</i> ◉ Local health and social services

Based on the context, explain

- a. The difference between a Bill and a law (see end of “Parliamentary Democracy”)

A Bill is a proposal for a new law. No Bill can become a law until it has been accepted by all three parts of the federal government (the House of Commons, the Senate and Governor General).

- b. The difference between a law and a bylaw (see “Other Levels of Government in Canada”)

Bylaws are laws that are passed by municipal or local governments that only apply to that area; laws apply to the whole country or province.

The terms “Indian” and “native” are no longer appropriate words for describing the peoples that first lived in Canada. Find two terms that are appropriate:

First Nations and Aboriginal

*Instructor's Note**

"Aboriginal" or "First Peoples" are general terms used to describe all three of the different indigenous peoples of Canada: *First Nations, Inuit and Métis*.

- ⦿ Inuit is the contemporary term used for Eskimo.
- ⦿ First Nation is the contemporary term used for Indian.
- ⦿ Métis refers to the cultural group that are descended from mixed European and First Nation heritage.

* <https://www.itk.ca/note-terminology-inuit-metis-first-nations-and-aboriginal>



The People of the Assembly

Role-play

What did you learn from networking?

- ☒ Lieutenant Governor
- ☒ Cabinet Minister
- ☒ Media
- ☒ Speaker
- ☒ Clerk
- ☒ Sergeant-at-Arms
- ☒ Opposition member
- ☒ Premier
- ☒ Leader of the Official Opposition
- ☒ Page
- ☒ Private government member

Represents the Queen in Alberta?

Lieutenant Governor

Keeps order in the Chamber during session; chairs the meetings of the Legislative Assembly?

Speaker

Leads the government; leads the party with the most elected representatives?

Premier

Leads the party with the second most elected representatives?

Leader of the Official Opposition

Assists and advises the Speaker?

Clerk

Is responsible for security in the Legislative Assembly; carries a Mace and a Black Rod?

Sergeant-at-Arms

Assists the Member, the Speaker and the Table Officers so they don't have to leave their desks?

Page

In addition to representing those who elected him/her; heads a government department?

Cabinet Minister

Represents those who elected him/her; debates and usually supports government Bills?

Private government member

Represents those who elected him/her; critiques government policies?

Opposition member

Informs citizens about the activities of their elected representatives?

Media



Famous Five Persons Case

Reading Comprehension

Prereading: Vocabulary

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> relic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> petition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> reformer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> to interpret	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> eligible
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> status	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> equality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> evolution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> terminology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> gender
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> to link	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> minority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exclusion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> to be appointed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> to deny
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> individual	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> barbarous			

petition a formal request (often signed by a group) presented to an authority

individual a single person, in contrast to a group

minority a smaller group of people, often one that is discriminated against

relic a very old object, something from an earlier time in history

status position

barbarous primitive, uncivilized, savage, brutal

reformer someone who works to change and improve society

evolution the gradual development or improvement of something

gender relates to socially constructed roles labelled as “boy/man” and “girl/woman,” et cetera

equality the state of having equal rights, status, opportunity

eligible the state of having the right to do or be something

exclusion the state of not allowing someone to take part in a place, group or right

to be appointed to be chosen or named for a position

to interpret to explain the meaning of something

to link to make a connection between

to deny to refuse to accept something

terminology words, vocabulary

Comprehension questions

1. Which statement below best summarizes the main idea of the reading?

- a. In Canada women were not considered persons until October 1929.
- b. Women were not appointed as Senators in Canada until 1979.
- c. **Five women from Alberta changed the legal status of women in Canada.**
- d. Individuals can make a difference!

2. Understanding textual references

⦿ What does “this terminology” in the third sentence refer to?

Women not being persons under the law.

⦿ What does “this decision” in the sixth paragraph refer to?

The Supreme Court’s decision not to define person as only men, or the Supreme Court’s decision to deny their request.

3. Why did the five women take their question to the Judicial Committee in London?

Because the Supreme Court in Canada had turned down their request, and they felt this decision was unfair. And because there was a higher court than the Supreme Court in Canada, the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London.

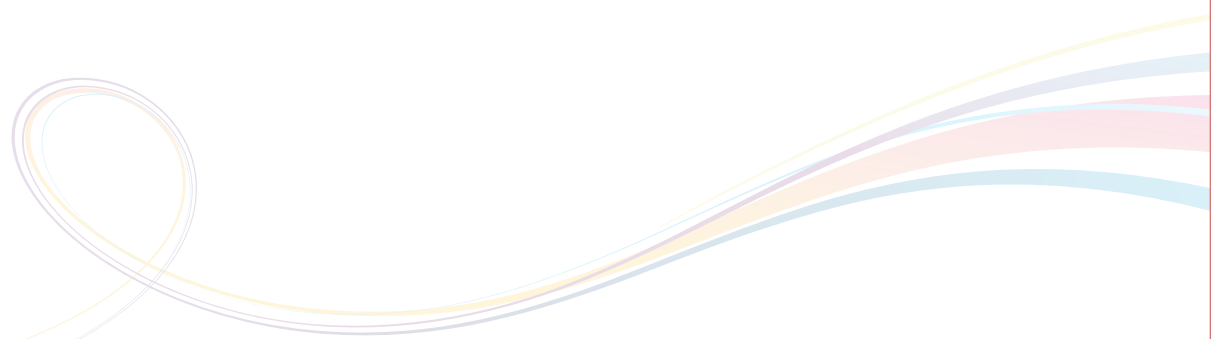
4. Back in 1929 Lord Sankey stated that “The exclusion of women from all public offices is a relic of days more barbarous than ours.” If he was saying this today, he would probably use different words. Use your own words to state his message.

“Not allowing women to hold political office is uncivilized and much too old fashioned!”

5. Put the following sets of events in chronological order (number them 1 to 11)

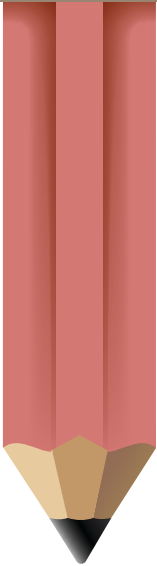
- 3 Emily Murphy, Nellie McClung, Louise McKinney, Irene Parlby and Henrietta Muir Edwards all worked individually to bring change to their communities.
- 2 Women were allowed to vote and become *Members of Parliament*.
- 1 The British North America Act was written and defines “persons” as men.
- 7 The Famous Five sent a petition to the highest court of appeal in London.
- 5 The Famous Five sent a petition to the Supreme Court of Canada.
- 6 The Supreme Court said that women were not persons and could not join the Senate.

-**4**..... Emily Murphy asked four women to help in her fight that women should be eligible to be appointed to the Senate.
-**9**..... Martha Bielish became the first female Senator in Canada.
-**11**..... The Famous Five were appointed honorary *Senators*.
-**8**..... Lord Chancellor Sankey and his committee ruled that women were persons and could be appointed to the Senate.
-**10**..... A woman from Alberta became a Senator.





The Role of the People in Governing Alberta



Writing a Paragraph

Step 1: **Gathering ideas**

In groups students should brainstorm for symbols, objects, traditions, aspects of the building, et cetera, that emphasize the role of the people in governing Alberta. You may wish to elicit ideas from the groups and put them on the whiteboard. You may wish to help them group their ideas into categories.

Following is a list of some of the ideas that students may come up with:

1. Architectural style is Greek and Roman influenced... early democracies.
2. The building is open almost every day of the year, open to all Albertans to visit.
3. The tradition that the Lieutenant Governor (Queen's representative) cannot enter the Chamber unless invited (the Lieutenant Governor is appointed rather than elected.) The Sergeant-at-Arms has to knock with the Black Rod to ask if the Lieutenant Governor can enter. The Chamber is on the opposite side of the building from the office of the Lieutenant Governor. (All of this indicates the the voice of the people in electing representatives is more important than the monarch.)
4. A Premier is a leader of the political party that has the most seats/most MLAs elected.
5. The Mace (which represents Parliament...the idea that the people have the power, not the monarch).

6. In the Chamber the public is allowed to come watch whenever there is a Session. There are TV cameras on the walls, meaning the people can watch on TV or online. There is a media gallery in the back (i.e., the media must be allowed to cover government proceedings and tell the people what is happening.)
7. There are 87 ridings representing all of Alberta.
8. The fact that children had a part in choosing the symbols of Alberta.
9. The inclusion of symbols representing the people, their land and their industry not just the monarchy (e.g., beaver).
10. The inclusion of symbols/displays related to people who had not been allowed to vote in the past and now are: aboriginal symbols (Chief Crowfoot), the inclusion of the Famous Five display, shows the importance of women being allowed to vote.

Legislative Assembly of Alberta - Visitor Services

English Language Learners: Answer Key – 5 to 6

Phone: 780.427.7362 • Toll Free: 310.0000 • visitorinfo@assembly.ab.ca

