

By the end of this course, you will:

- describe the key features of citizenship and democracy;
- evaluate the influence of various forms of citizen action on public policy;
- explain ways in which social and cultural identity influence political participation.

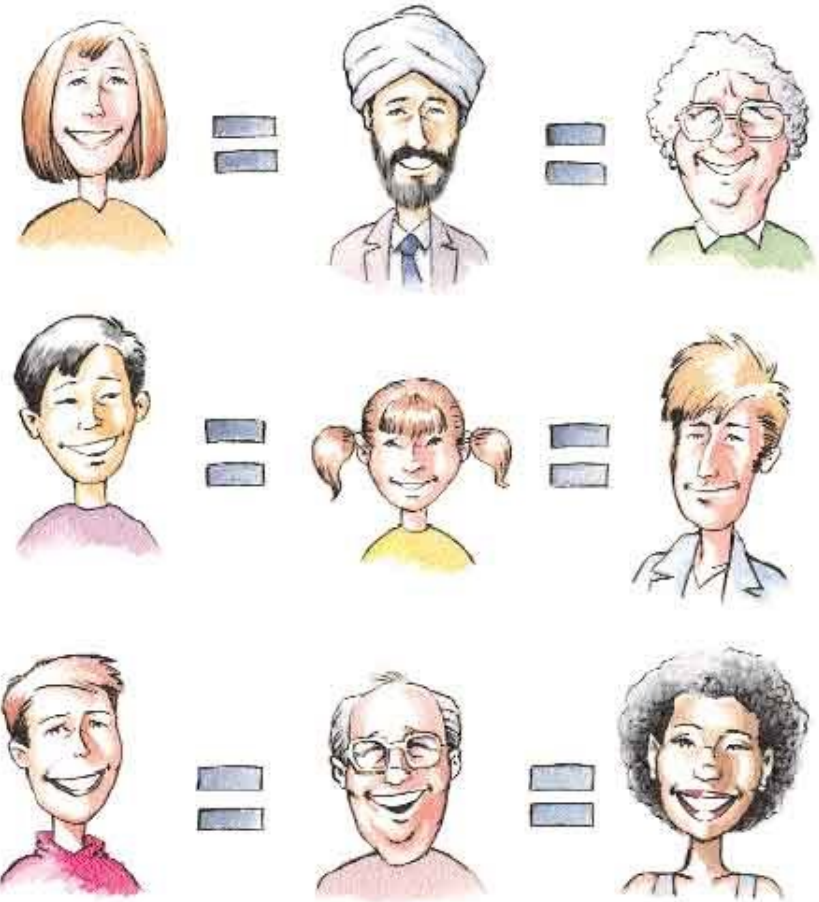
PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRACY

POLITICAL EQUALITY

The **Principle of Political Equality (PPE)** asserts that even though no two citizens are biologically equal all have equal authority to vote on every law and policy of their society.

The American Declaration of Independence declares :
“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.”

And women ? Are they ‘created equal’ with men?
Are ANY two creatures created equal?



MAJORITY RULE

The principle that the greater number should exercise greater power.



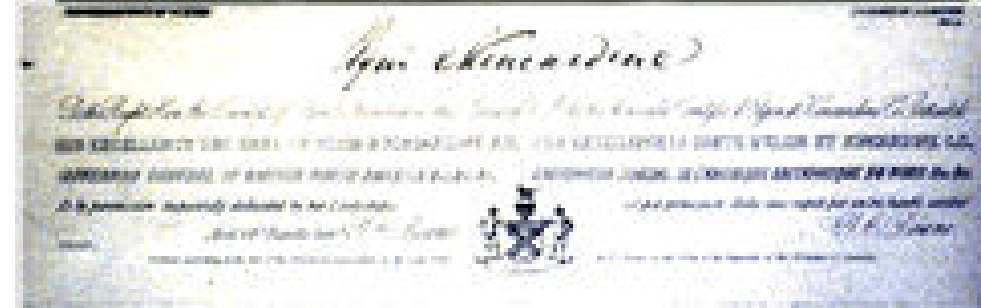
MINORITY RIGHTS

Minority rights are the normal individual **rights** as applied to members of racial, ethnic, class, religious, linguistic or sexual **minorities**; and also the collective **rights** accorded to **minority** groups. **Minority rights** may also apply simply to individual **rights** of anyone who is not part of a majority decision.



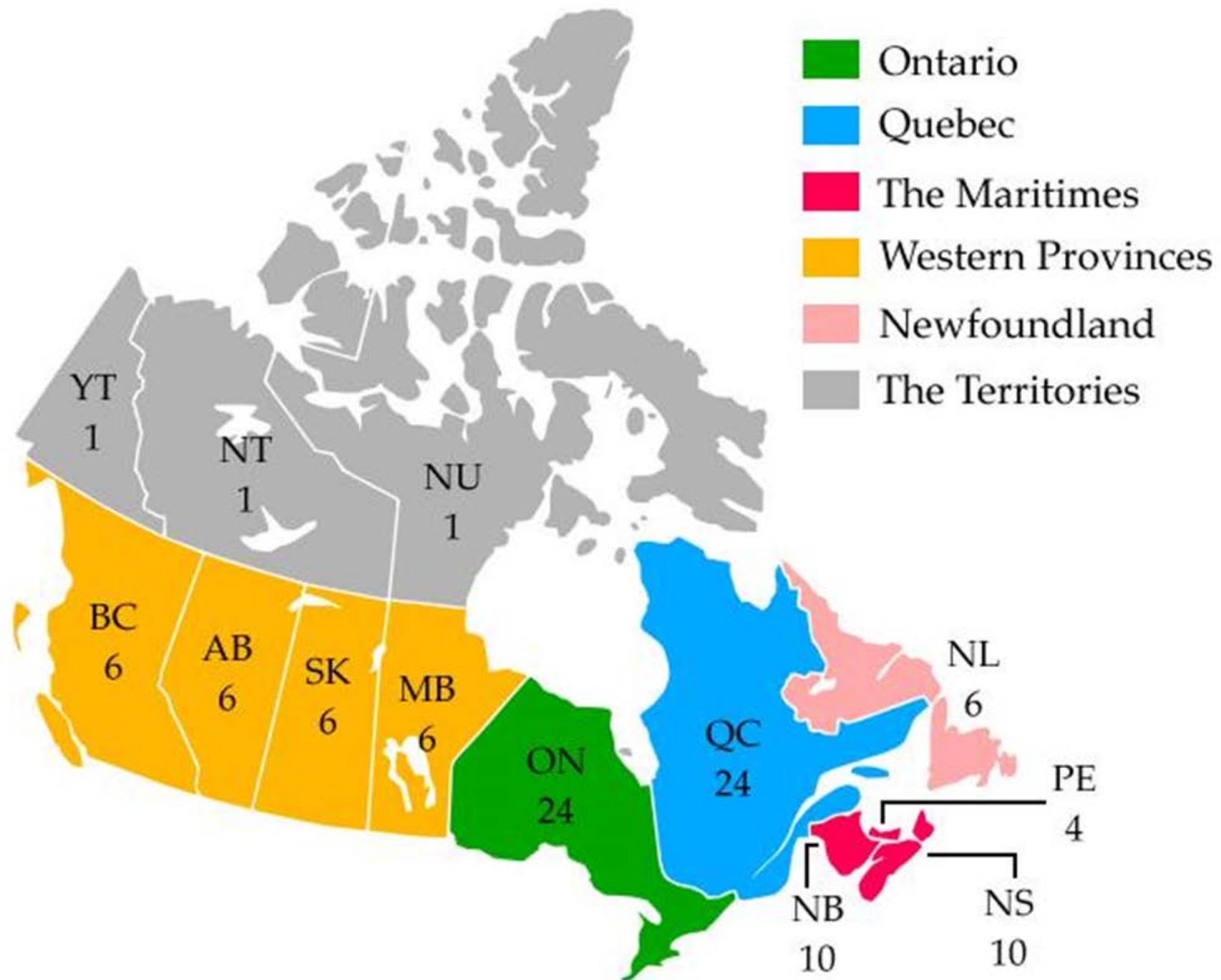
RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

Responsible government refers to a **government** that is **responsible** to the people. In Canada **responsible government** is more commonly described as an executive or Cabinet that is dependent on the support of an elected assembly, rather than on the monarch.



Representation by Population

- **Rep by Pop (Representation by Population)**
- The expression "rep by pop" is an abbreviation of "representation by population."
- Under the [Act of Union](#), which became effective in 1841, Canada West and Canada East were given an equal number of representatives in Parliament. This measure had been requested and obtained by the British population of United Canada, who wished to ensure equal Parliamentary representation even if, at the time, the largely francophone Canada East had the higher population.



RULE OF LAW

The **rule of law** (also known as nomocracy) is the **legal** principle that **law** should govern a nation, as opposed to arbitrary decisions by individual government officials.

It is the principle that all people and institutions are subject to and account to law that is fairly applied and enforced.

It is the principle that everyone is under the law and no one is above.

What is the "Rule of Law"?

- No-one is above the law
- Government is obliged to obey the law