

What's in the Democracy folio?

Parliamentary Democracy in Nova Scotia: How it Began, How it Evolved is a valuable teaching tool and learning resource. This 68-page booklet was written to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the birth of parliamentary democracy in Canada. It tells about Nova Scotia's remarkable past. It also tells about how today's governments are elected, the role of the Cabinet and opposition parties, how laws are passed, and a lot more.

It was Nova Scotia that laid the foundations upon which all governments in Canada were built, and many beyond. These foundations were the starting point for the institutions that guarantee many of our rights and freedoms today.

L'ÉVOLUTION DE LA DÉMOCRATIE PARLEMENTAIRE EN NOUVELLE-ÉCOSSE

C'est notre histoire, celle de l'instauration du premier gouvernement représentatif au Canada, de la lutte qui suivit pour l'obtention d'un gouvernement responsable, et des nombreux autres développements importants qui menèrent aux droits et aux libertés dont nous jouissons aujourd'hui.

The **Novascotian** newspaper: a brief review of democracy in Canada with focus on Nova Scotia. The articles in the newspaper will provide the background necessary to complete the crossword puzzle.

Le Nouvelle-Écosse

Wordsearch (7-9 year olds) E+F

Crossword Puzzle (10-14 year olds)

Electoral Map of Nova Scotia: The province is currently divided into 51 electoral districts that elect one Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) each.

Ask students to find their electoral district on the map. Next colour the electoral districts according to the colour associated with the political party of the MLA – orange, red, blue. The ambitious with access to the Internet can finish colouring the map with the appropriate colour for each electoral district.

Which is the smallest electoral district by area? The largest? Which is the smallest by population? The largest?

A sample ballot

A sample write-in ballot

The *Elections Act: Then and Now*: This year, the Nova Scotia Legislature passed Bill 59, ***Elections Act***, An Act Respecting the Election of Members to the House of Assembly and Electoral Finance. The Act for the better *Regulation of Elections* (1789) reflects that voters – English-speaking male, Protestant land owners – voted by declaring the preference out loud before the county sheriff at a poll that was open for voting for six days. Some of the differences are reflected in an article in the newspaper and can be used to discuss progress and other elements of fairness that might be considered in the future.