

UNIT 5: LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

PART A - LOCAL (CHAPTER 8)



NAME:

CLASS:

I can describe the structure and functions of local government in Alberta.

- I know how representatives are chosen to form a local government (i.e., electoral process)
- I know the responsibilities of local governments (i.e., bylaws, taxes, services)
- I can explain how local governments are structured differently in rural and urban settings
- I can explain the role played by school boards (i.e., public, separate, Francophone) within local communities

VOCABULARY

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Local Governments: The people elected to make decisions about affairs in a district city by its own people.

Mayor: The elected head of an urban local government

Councillors: An elected representative of a local government.

Wards: An area within a city or rural district whose residents elect a representative to the local government.

Reeve: The head of a rural local government, elected by councillors of the government.

Municipalities: A local government.

First Nations Authorities (FNA's): Government for aboriginal people on reserves.

Nomination: The process of putting forward someone's name as a candidate for an election.

Debates: A discussion that explores two opposing views on a topic.

Forums: A public discussion where voters ask questions of candidates and candidates respond.

Oath: A promise enforced by law.

Polling Stations: Where people go to vote.

Scrutineer: Person who observes voters to make sure everything is fair.

Returning Officer: Election official responsible for adding up all votes in an election.

Agenda: A schedule of points to discuss at the meeting.

Transparency: Making government decisions without secrecy.

Minutes: The written record of the meeting.

Council Chambers: Room where local government meets.

Bylaw: A law passed by the local government.

Taxes: Fees people pay so that government decisions can provide services.

Governments collect taxes from individuals and businesses.

Department: A part of government with a specific purpose and staff; also called a ministry (in provincial government)

School Board: A group of people, usually elected, who manage the schools in a certain area

Trustee: An elected representative of a school board

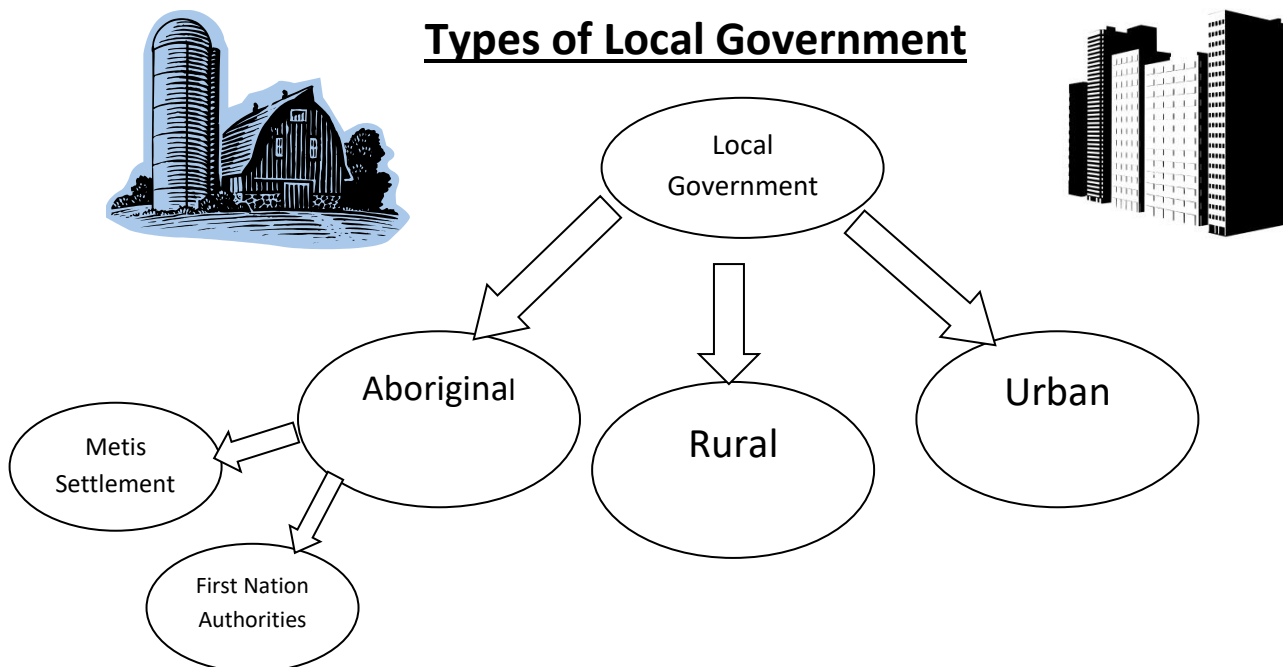
Budget: A plan that describes how money will be spent

Publicly Funded: Paid for by taxes.

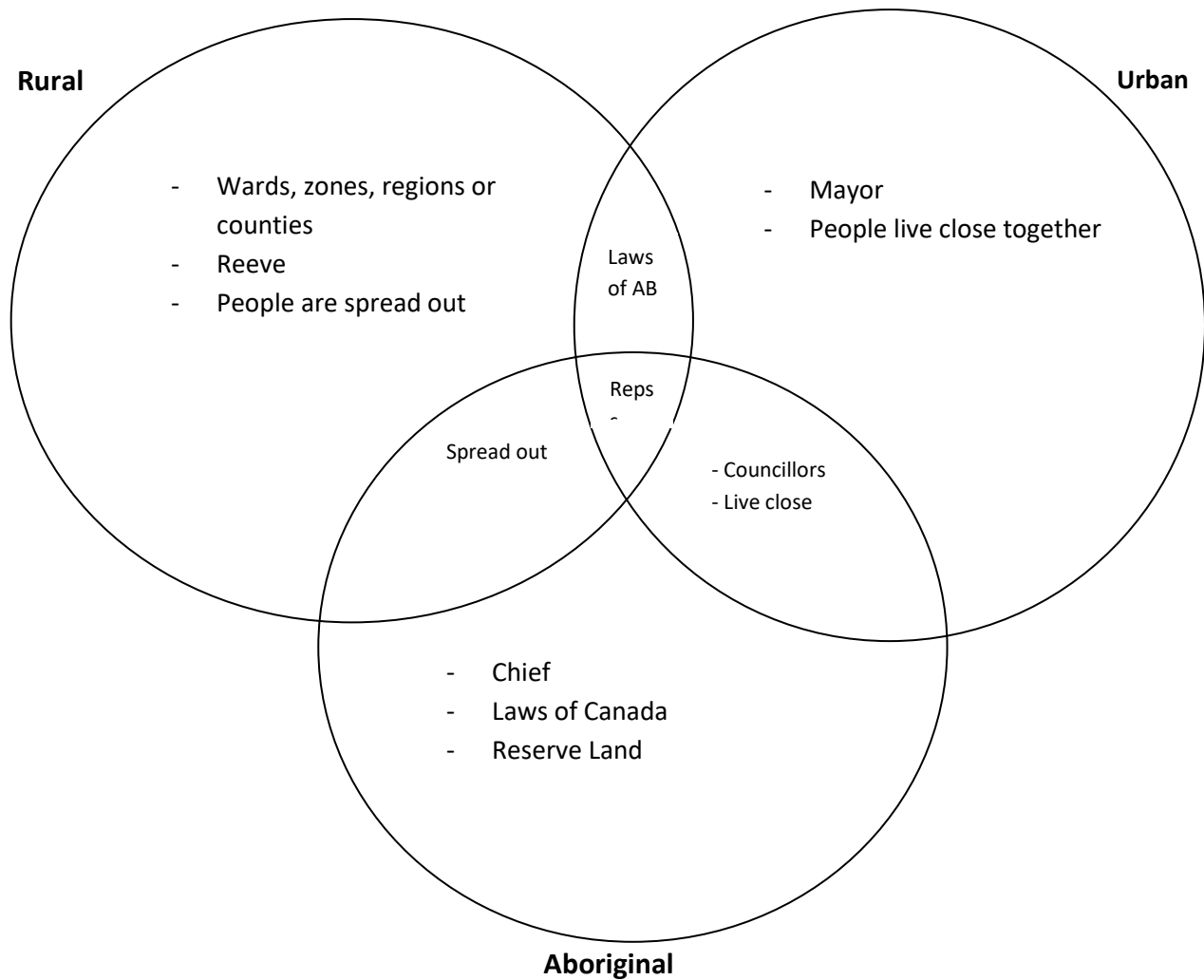
Rally: A meeting or assembly of many people for a common purpose or action.

Quorum: A minimum number of people required to make a decision for a group, such as an association or a government.

Bias: When you make a decision or comment because you are personally connected (subjective point of view).



Rural, Urban and First Nations Governments



FACT FINDER

Type of Government		Population size	Characteristics and/ or Example Communities	Representatives
		Number found in Alberta		
Urban Municipal Government	Cities	1000 – 10 000	Edmonton, Calgary, Red Deer	Top Elected Official: Mayor
		17 Cities		Other Representatives: Councilors
	Town	More than 10 000	Coaldale, Coalhurst, Cardston	How are they selected?: Elected to represent all citizens
		108 Towns		
	Villages	300 - 1000	Barnwell, Champion, Nobleford	Top Elected Official: Mayor
		93 Villages		Other Representatives: Councillors
			How are they selected?: Elected by all citizens.	
Type of Government		Number in Alberta	Characteristics and/ or Example Communities	Representatives
Rural Municipal	Municipal Districts (Counties)		Residents live on farms and in hamlets.	Top Elected Official: Reeve
		64		Other Representatives: Councillors
	Specialized Municipalities		These are unique areas, very large with few residents.	How are they selected?: Elected from wards or zones
		5		

Métis Settlement Councils		Metis settlement lan established by Alberta`s Law.	Top Elected Official: Chair person Other Representatives: Councilors How are they selected?: Elected by all Metis Settlement
	8		
First Nations Authorities		FNA come from treaty rights. These Treaties are historical agreements made by the First Nations and the Canadian Government.	Top Elected Official: Chief Other Representatives: Councillors How are they selected?: Elected by members of the First Nations
	48		

How are Representatives Elected to Form a Local Government?

Nomination

- Candidates must fill out and sign a form
- Consider the commitment
- Signatures to prove they're suitable

Campaigning

- Set up a campaign office
- Volunteers make calls, deliver flyers, post signs
- Debates are organized
- Attend forums

Preparing Polling Stations

- Always planned in advance
- Workers must take an oath of secrecy
- Workers set up tables, chairs and chalkboard screens
- Polling stations are where people go to vote

Show Eligibility to Vote

- Local governments each have their own way to prove eligibility (register, ID...)
- Must be at least 18 years old

Cast and Count Votes

- Use an "x" to record vote
- Candidates or scrutineers can come observe
- Counting is done by election workers

Declare Outcome

- Central election office is set up to collect results.
- The returning officer declares the results.

What Responsibilities Do Local Governments Have?

TAXES: Fees people pay so that governments can provide services.

1. **Property Tax:** Pay for land you own ***local***
2. **Income Tax:** Money you make to pay ***federal*** government
3. **Sales Tax:** Money paid while making purchases ***Provincial or Federal***

SERVICES: Things the government provides to help citizens.

- Paid for by taxes
- Departments: employees who provide these services.

IS THIS SERVICE PROVIDED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT:

Sometimes: Aboriginal Sometimes: Rural Yes: Urban 	Sometimes: Aboriginal No: Rural No: Urban 	Sometimes: Aboriginal Sometimes: Rural Yes: Urban 
Sometimes: Aboriginal Sometimes: Rural Yes: Urban 	No: Aboriginal No: Rural Yes: Urban 	Yes: Aboriginal Yes: Rural Yes: Urban 
Yes: Aboriginal Yes: Rural Yes: Urban 	Yes: Aboriginal Yes: Rural Yes: Urban 	Sometimes: Aboriginal Sometimes: Rural Yes: Urban 

How Do You Pass a Bylaw?

Idea is
proposed by a
member of
council

Proposal is
read and
considered 3
times

Proposal is
voted on -
Majority vote
passes law

Give an example of 3 bylaws:

Cat Bylaw 3382	Noise Bylaw 1926	<u>Street Bylaw 1556</u>
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SCHOOL BOARDS

What kinds are found in Alberta?



<u>Public School Board</u>	<u>Separate School Board</u>	<u>Francophone School Boards</u>
Responsible for schools that are available to any member of the public.	Usually for students of the Roman Catholic faith. The reason has roots in Alberta's past, when the majority of people living in the province were either Roman Catholic or Protestant.	Responsible for the education of Francophone students in the French language. They can be either Catholic or public. They were created to meet Francophone constitutional right as an official language minority group in Alberta.

What Do School Boards Do?

