

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As part of a teacher's commitment to supporting students' understanding of society and their role as informed citizens, all teachers encourage families to engage in conversations at home about education, government, and current events.

Understanding how education systems and governments work helps students develop critical thinking skills, media literacy, and responsible citizenship. These skills are part of Alberta's curriculum and are essential for participating thoughtfully in a democratic society.

Here are a few topics you may wish to explore with your child:

### **Education and Schools**

- Why education matters and how schools are funded and governed
- How decisions about curriculum, assessment, and school policies are made

### **Government and Civic Systems**

- What municipal, provincial, and federal governments do
- What an MLA (Member of the Legislative Assembly) and an MP (Member of Parliament) are and how they represent citizens
- What the House of Commons is and how laws are proposed and debated
- How citizens can participate in democracy through voting, community involvement, and respectful dialogue

### **Being an Informed Citizen**

- How to evaluate information and identify reliable sources
- Why it is important to understand different perspectives
- How respectful discussion helps strengthen communities and democracy

We encourage families to explore reputable, age-appropriate resources together and to model respectful, informed conversations. These discussions help students become thoughtful, engaged members of their communities.

Thank you for supporting your child's learning and civic development.

Sincerely,

A concerned teacher who wants the best for all our students, parents, and countrymen here in Canada.

## **Quick Information Basics for ALL Albertan, Canadian Families on Turtle Island**

- **MLA:** A provincial representative who helps make laws and decisions for Alberta.
  - Don't know who your MP is in Alberta?  
Check out [www.albertawatch.ca](http://www.albertawatch.ca)
- **MP:** A federal representative who helps make laws for Canada.
- **House of Commons:** The part of Parliament where elected MPs debate and vote on national laws. The best place to understand what laws are being passed, and how they can/will affect Canada and you as a Canadian
  - Did you know you can get involved and be educated about all the politics happening?  
<https://www.ourcommons.ca/en/pw-agenda-publications>
  - Did you know politicians in Canada want your Canadian citizen voice heard at this big House of Commons table?! We do! ☺
- **Democracy:** A system where citizens have a say in how they are governed, often through elections.
  - Elections = voting for the people who represent us and will speak for us at the table
  - This means if you are a Canadian citizen, your voice matters!
  - We value your perspective.
  - To build the Canadian future we all dream of, we need to come together as a multicultural and proud nation and participate in our democracy.
- **Critical Thinking:** Asking questions, checking the sources, and thinking carefully before forming opinions. Never believe only one side of a story, no matter who tells you! Always look up multiple perspectives and sources, and then decide for yourself what is the best choice. That is our duty here in Canada! To be as educated, informed and involved in helping our country as possible. Here is a great resource about one-sided stories:

### **Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie: The Danger of a Single Story**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9Ihs241zeg>

- This and more resources, transparent information, and educational sources, are available at [www.lavenderlibrarypress.ca](http://www.lavenderlibrarypress.ca) or follow @lavenderlibrarypress on social media APPs ☺

*\*NB\* - "Turtle Island" is an Indigenous term used by many First Nations to describe North America. Contemporary names such as Canada and the United States reflect later political and historical developments. This resource includes both terms to support historical and cultural understanding.*