

# THINKING ABOUT FORMING A GOVERNMENT

## WE ELECT MLAS, NOT PREMIERS

We do not directly elect the premier. Instead, 61 elections happen in 61 constituencies across the province, to choose 61 Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs). Usually, the party with the most elected members forms government. The leader of that party becomes the premier.

1. Why do you think there is such an intense focus in politics on parties and their leaders?
2. What is the risk of not paying close attention to who you vote in as your local MLA?

## COMPROMISE: MINORITY AND COALITION GOVERNMENTS

Sometimes no party will win enough seats to form a majority government. If this is the case, usually a minority or a coalition government will form. Minority and coalition governments are common, having ruled most everywhere from Israel to Japan to Brazil to the United Kingdom, and beyond. Saskatchewan has twice been governed by a coalition, from 1929 - 1934 and from 1999 - 2003.

1. A majority of MLAs must support a bill for it to become the law. This means that minority and coalition governments must take diverse views into account when crafting laws.
  - a) Do you believe compromise between political parties can create better laws?
  - b) Can there be times when compromise is not the best solution?
2. A coalition or minority government takes many views into consideration when creating laws, arguably more views than a majority government will take. However, taking a broader approach does not guarantee everyone will be satisfied.
  - a) Even if you do not support a law, is it important to respect it? Why?
  - b) What can be done to change a law that you do not believe in?

