

THINKING ABOUT FORMING A GOVERNMENT

WE ELECT MLAS, NOT PARTY LEADERS

We do not directly elect the premier. Instead, 61 elections happen in 61 constituencies across the province, to choose 61 MLAs. Each voter casts a ballot for their local member of the legislature. Usually, the party with the most elected members forms government. The leader of that party becomes the premier.

1. Party leaders and party policies are important factors in how we vote. However, if we focus too heavily on parties and party leaders, will we make good choices when picking our local MLAs?
2. What is more important? The quality of our local representative, or the qualities of the party and leader they represent?

MINORITY AND COALITION GOVERNMENTS REQUIRE COMPROMISE

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 and beyond. Saskatchewan has twice been governed by a coalition, from 1929 - 1934 and from 1999 - 2003.

1. The support of a majority of MLAs is required to pass laws. This means that minority and coalition governments must take many diverse views into account.
 - 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. However, this does not guarantee that every law will satisfy everyone.
 - a) Even if you do not support a law, is it important to respect it?
 - b) What can we do to change a law we do not believe in?

