

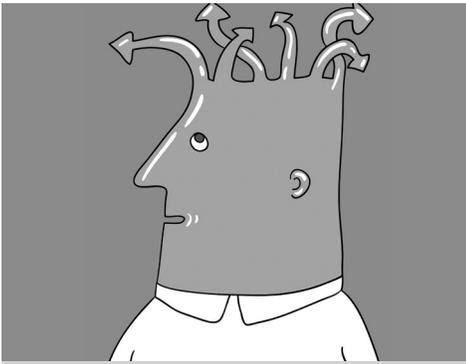
LESSON PLANS  
AND ACTIVITIES

Representation,  
Voters List and  
Eligibility  
Grade 9

**YOUR**  
**power** **TO**  
**CHOOSE**

ElectionsManitoba





# GRADE 9

## Representation, Voters List and Eligibility

### Lesson Outcomes

Students learn about the Manitoba electoral process:

- Eligibility for voting
- Importance of the Manitoba Voter Register (voters list)
- Electoral divisions
- Effective representation
- Alternative voting opportunities

### Teaching Strategies

- KWL
- Group Quiz
- Online Scavenger Hunt

### Activating Strategy

1. **KWL:** Ask students to fold a piece of paper - twice, in thirds - to create three columns, or use the KWL handout (see page 4). Ask them to write the following headings at the top of the columns:

*i. What do I already know about the Manitoba Voter Register (voters list)?*

*ii. What did I learn about the voters list today?*

*iii. What do I still want to know about the voters list?*

2. Give students 5-10 minutes to answer the first question (Already Know...) in the first column.

3. Have students pair up and share their ideas, adding additional ideas from their partner's list to their own.

4. Have a brief, full group discussion to share ideas aloud. Ask students to record any additional ideas they hear from the group.

### Supports

#### Curriculum Outcomes:

9-KC-008

9-KC-011

9-KC-013

9-KC-014

9-KP-046

### Resources/Materials

- KWL Handout
- Group Quiz and answer key
- Online Scavenger Hunt and answer key

## How to



### Group Quiz

- Tell students they are about to take part in a group quiz, and the goal is for them to get all their answers from other students
- Once they get the signal to begin, their task is to go around the room and ask other students for answers to the questions.
- Students may not get more than two answers from any one student.
- Ask students to keep track of who gave them answers by writing that person's name in the margin next to the question.
- Tell students to return to their seats once they have found answers to all of the questions. Once seated, students will not be able to help others with their questions.

## Acquiring Strategy

### Group Quiz

1. Hand out Group Quiz (see pages 6 & 7) face down to students.
2. Explain the rules of the activity.
3. As students return to their seats when they finish the group quiz, give them a copy of the Manitoba Voter Register (see page 5) to read on their own, and ask them to add any additional information they find to their quiz answer sheets.
4. Correct the quiz together as a class (see pages 8 & 9 for answer key).

### Did you know...

1. Ask students to think about this question:

*If you move out of province temporarily to go to university or college, can you still vote if an election happens back home?*

2. Poll the class. Ask those who believe they can vote to raise their hands and then ask those who believe they cannot vote to raise their hands. Ask a few individuals to explain their thinking to the group.
3. Explain that if you are living temporarily out of the province, but intend to return to Manitoba, you can still vote as a resident of Manitoba.
4. Ask students if they remember what this type of voting is called.

## Applying Strategy

### Online Scavenger Hunt Activity

1. Hand out Online Scavenger Hunt questions (see pages 10 & 11) face down to students.
2. Individually or in pairs, have students visit the Elections Manitoba website ([www.electionsmanitoba.ca](http://www.electionsmanitoba.ca)) to find answers.
3. Review answers with class when all students are finished the task (see pages 12 & 13 for answer key).

## Debriefing

1. Ask students to take out the KWL folded paper from the beginning of the lesson and complete the remaining two columns:

*What did I learn about the voters list today?*

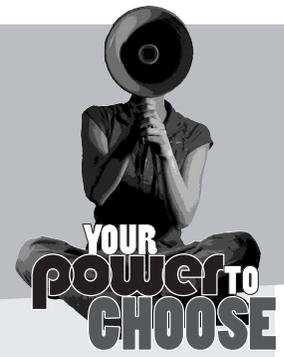
*What do I still want to know about the voters list?*

Earn a 

Give students the remainder of class to fill out their sheets. This activity can be discussed as a class or handed in for marks.

# KWL HANDOUT

## Election Experience Begins



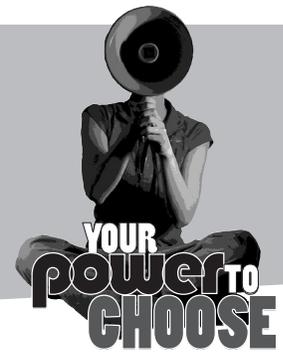
What do I already know about \_\_\_\_\_?

What did I learn about \_\_\_\_\_ today?

What do I still want to know about \_\_\_\_\_?

# MANITOBA VOTER REGISTER

## Election Experience Begins



*What does it mean for a country to be democratic?*

*How does a government make sure elections are free, fair, and accessible?*

Canada is a democratic country. That means our elections are free, fair, and accessible. Every citizen who is eligible to vote in Canada has:

- The right to vote, and the right to be registered to vote
- The right to run as a candidate in elections
- The freedom to vote for any candidate – in secret and without fear of intimidation

One of the most important ways for citizens to take part in their country is to exercise their right to vote. Elections are a chance to voice opinions about civic matters. Elections decide who takes a seat in government, and governments make laws that affect our daily lives.

### ***Manitoba Voter Register***

One of the cornerstones of a successful democracy is the voters list. This is an official record of the citizens who are eligible to vote in elections. The voters list is the foundation of free and fair elections. In Manitoba, the provincial voters list is officially called the Manitoba Voter Register.

Manitoba is divided into 57 areas, called electoral divisions. Each area has about 22,000 people, who are called constituents. During an election, voters in each division elect one person to represent them. That person becomes their Member of the Legislative Assembly, or MLA.

There are 57 MLAs in our provincial government, one for every division. These divisions are small enough that MLAs get to know their local area and voters' needs. MLAs become the voice of their constituents as they represent them in government. Having the same ratio of MLAs to constituents helps ensure effective representation.

### ***Keeping the Voters List Up to Date***

Voters need to be able to participate in elections. The best way for that to happen is for the voters lists to be up to date – and accurate – in each electoral division. New people who move into an area, and young people turning 18 years of age must register to vote. The names of those who move out of an area, and people who die, need to be removed from the list.

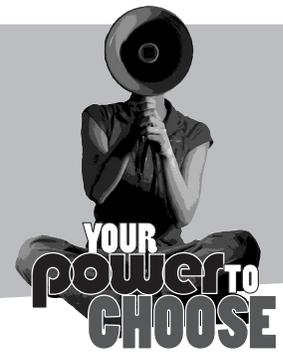
In Manitoba, a provincial agency known as Elections Manitoba keeps the voters list up to date. They have many ways to update the list. They can get voter information from other provincial agencies, such as Manitoba Health or Driver Licensing. They also get information from Vital Statistics and Elections Canada.

*Democracy* means “rule by the people.” It comes from the Greek word *demokratia*.

*Demos = People*  
*Kratos = Power*

# GROUP QUIZ

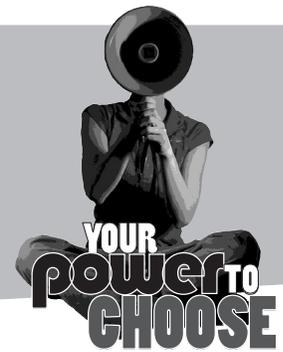
## Election Experience Begins



1. What are the three requirements to be an eligible voter in Manitoba?
  - i.
  - ii.
  - iii.
2. What is the person who runs for election called?
3. What is a registration agent, and who do they work for?
4. What is Elections Manitoba?
5. Give four reasons why the voters list is important.
  - i.
  - ii.
  - iii.
  - iv.
6. Give two ways a voter can register to vote.
  - i.
  - ii.
7. If you are absent on election day, you can vote through advance voting or absentee voting. (Circle your answer.)  
True or False
8. What does MLA stand for?

# GROUP QUIZ

## Election Experience Begins



9. What is an MLA's main responsibility?

10. What is an electoral division? How many are there in Manitoba?

11. Are there more electoral divisions or more MLAs in Manitoba?

12. What is the current ratio of MLAs to constituents? Why is effective representation important to constituents?

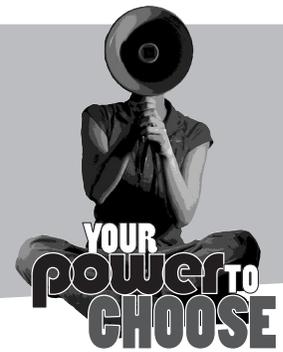
13. If you are unable to get to a voting station on election day due to a disability, a voting officer will bring a ballot to you. What is the name given to this type of voting? (Circle your answer)

- a) Absentee voting
- b) Institutional voting
- c) Homebound voting

# GROUP QUIZ

## ANSWER KEY

### Election Experience Begins

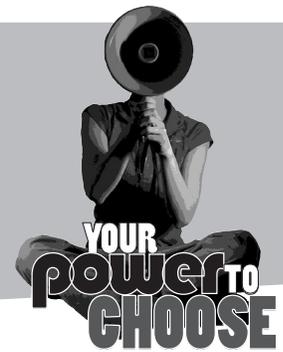


1. What are the three requirements to be an eligible voter in Manitoba?
  - Canadian citizen
  - 18 years old or older
  - A resident of Manitoba for at least six months prior to election day
2. What is the person who runs for election called?
  - Candidate
3. What is a Registration Agent, and who do they work for?
  - During elections, a person hired temporarily by Elections Manitoba to visit homes to update the voters list
4. What is Elections Manitoba?
  - Elections Manitoba is the provincial office in charge of running elections in Manitoba. Elections Manitoba is independent, or non-partisan. This means the office works with political parties and candidates, but not for them. The job of Elections Manitoba is to conduct free, fair, and accessible elections for Manitoba voters.
5. Give four reasons why the voters list is important.
  - Cornerstone of democracy
  - Foundation for free, fair, accessible elections.
  - Easier for voters to cast ballots on election day. If voters are registered, they only have to show ID to get their ballot. (If they do not have ID, they can have someone from the same electoral division, and whose name is on the voters list, vouch for them.)
  - Helps candidates in their campaign. Candidates have access to voters' addresses and telephone numbers in the area where they are running.
  - Helps create level playing field for all candidates. The number of names on the list determines spending limits for candidates and political parties, and keeps the election fair for all candidates, no matter how wealthy some may be.
  - After an election, the list is used to calculate voter turnout. This allows government to see if citizens are participating in elections.
6. Give two ways a voter can register to vote.
  - Contact Elections Manitoba directly
  - Go to a voting station on election day with proper identification

# GROUP QUIZ

## ANSWER KEY

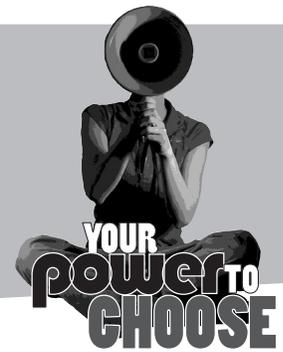
### Election Experience Begins



7. If you are absent on election day, you can vote through advance voting or by absentee voting.
- True
8. What does MLA stand for?
- Member of the Legislative Assembly
9. What is an MLA's main responsibility?
- To be the voice of, and represent the needs of constituents in their electoral division in the legislature
  - To support or disagree with proposals put forward by government
10. What is an electoral division? How many are there in Manitoba?
- A geographic area of Manitoba. The boundaries of electoral divisions are drawn according to population to make sure there is equitable MLA representation for all the citizens of Manitoba. The current ratio of electoral division to population is one division (and one MLA) for every 22,000 people. An independent, non-political group called the Electoral Divisions Boundaries Commission is created every 10 years to review electoral division boundaries to make sure they are still fair.
  - There are 57 electoral divisions in Manitoba.
11. Are there more electoral divisions or more MLAs in Manitoba?
- There are exactly the same number. One MLA is elected in each electoral division. There are 57 MLAs, one for each of the 57 electoral divisions.
12. What is the current ratio of MLAs to constituents? Why is effective representation important to constituents?
- The ratio is one MLA for about every 22,000 people.
  - The voices of all citizens need to be heard by the government, so everyone's needs are reflected in government decisions, policies and laws. When every electoral division has approximately the same number of citizens, all MLAs have the same opportunity to fairly reflect the voices and needs of their constituents, or effectively represent them in the legislature.
13. If you are unable to get to a voting station on election day due to a disability, a voting officer can bring a ballot to you. What is the name given to this type of voting?
- Homebound voting

# ONLINE SCAVENGER HUNT

## Election Experience Begins



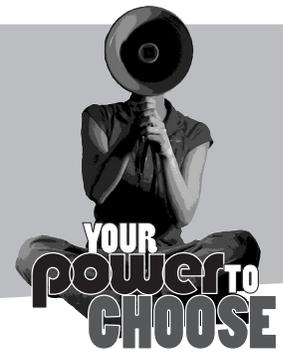
1. What is the mission of Elections Manitoba?
2. Name two ways to contact Elections Manitoba.
3. What is the role of Manitoba's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO)?
4. Approximately how many people are in each electoral division?
5. How many election workers were hired to work in the 2019 election?
6. What percentage and number of eligible voters actually turned out to vote in the 2019 election?
7. What is the role of the assistant voting officer?
8. What is a scrutineer? What job do they have on election day?



# ONLINE SCAVENGER HUNT

## ANSWER KEY

### Election Experience Begins

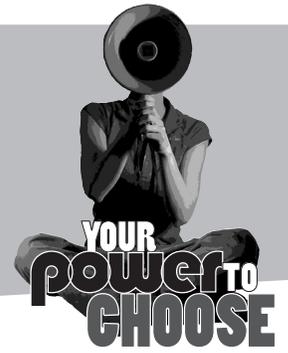


1. What is the mission of Elections Manitoba?
  - To secure the democratic rights of all Manitobans through the conduct of free and fair elections by enhancing public confidence in and awareness of the electoral process and by ensuring compliance with political financing laws.
2. Name two ways to contact Elections Manitoba.
  - I. Email: [election@elections.mb.ca](mailto:election@elections.mb.ca)
  - II. Phone: 204.945-3225 or 1-866-628-6837 (Toll Free)
3. What is the role of Manitoba's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO)?
  - To administer provincial elections. To ensure elections are fair and free of political influence.
4. Approximately how many people are in each electoral division?
  - 22,000 people
5. How many election workers were hired to work in the 2019 election?
  - Over 7,000 people
6. What percentage and number of eligible voters actually turned out to vote in the 2019 election?
  - 55.04%
  - 478,926 voters
7. What is the role of the assistant voting officer?
  - Records voters' names, and any oaths taken, in the voting book
  - Assists the voting officer at the voting station
8. What is a scrutineer? What job do they have on election day?
  - These are people appointed by candidates to represent the candidate at the voting stations on election day.
  - Scrutineers observe, (or scrutinize) the conduct of all the people, including election officials, at each voting station to ensure the election is operating in a free and fair manner.
9. What must members of the media do if they want to take photos on election day?
  - Contact Elections Manitoba in advance to make arrangements.

# ONLINE SCAVENGER HUNT

## ANSWER KEY

### Election Experience Begins



10. List four types of identification, or ID, that voters may use at a voting station on election day.

Option 1: One government-issued photo ID:

- Driver's license
- Enhanced Manitoba identification card
- Passport
- Treaty card

Option 2: Two documents with voter's name:

- Manitoba Health card
- Social Insurance card
- Utility bill
- Credit card

11. What electoral division do you live in?

- Not everyone will necessarily live in the same division. Students can use the city/town or municipality search to figure out which divisions they live in. Also try searching the school's location.

12. Are voters lists posted for the public to view?

- No

13. How might a person who is on the voters list, but does not have proper identification, be able to vote on election day?

- They may have another voter with ID from their electoral division vouch for them. Vouching is acceptable only if the voter's name is on the voters list. The person vouching must sign an oath affirming the voter's identity.

14. What are the requirements to be a candidate in a provincial election?

- Canadian citizen
- At least 18 years of age
- Resident of Manitoba for at least six months prior to election day
- Not acting as an election official
- Never found guilty of an election offence