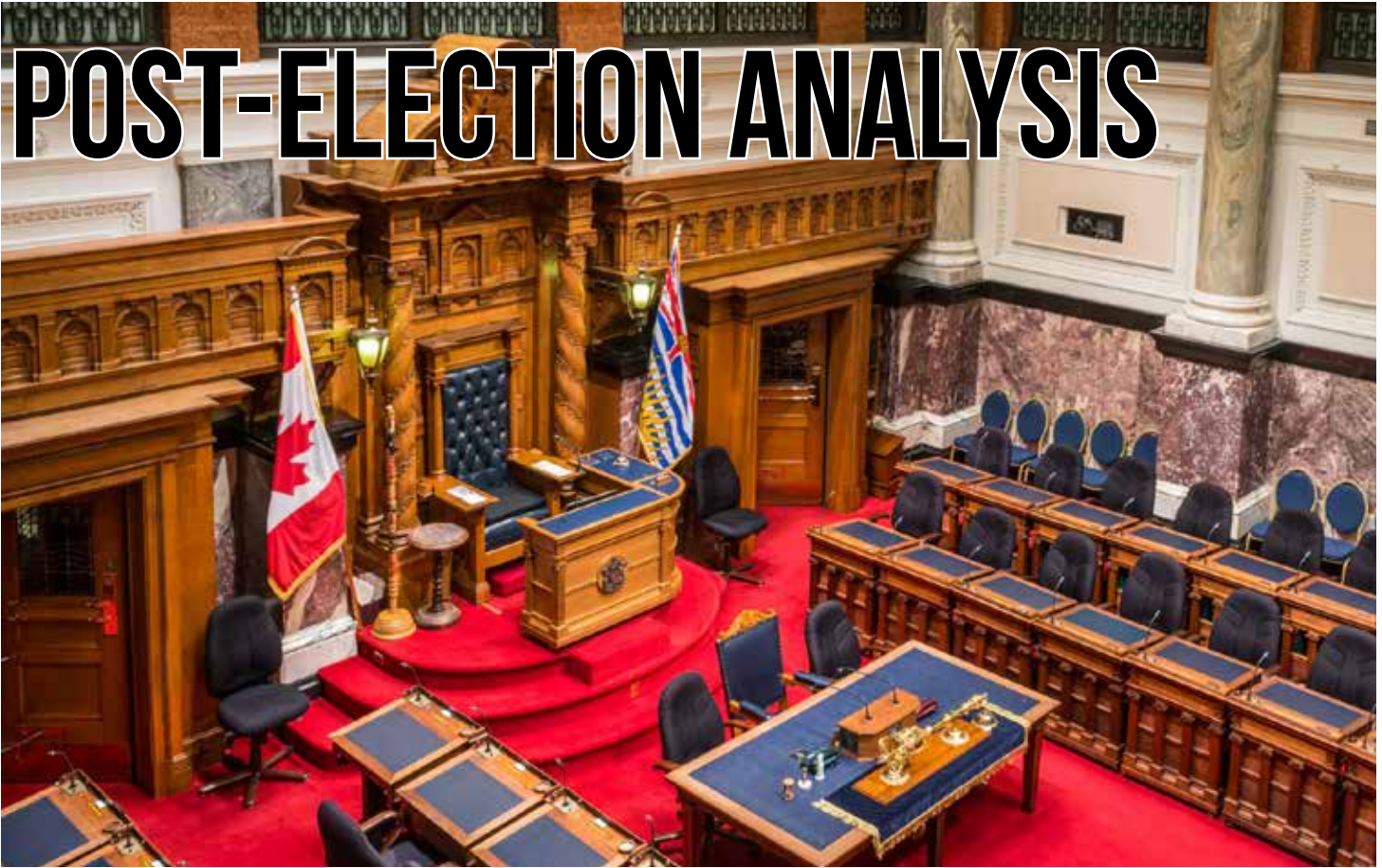


POST-ELECTION ANALYSIS



After the close of voting on voting day, election officials count the ballots for their voting place and share them with Elections BC, who shares the results publicly.

Seat count is the term used to reflect the number of representatives that each party will have in the legislature. It represents the number of local electoral district races won by each party. The 87 seats contested in this election will be awarded to the candidate in each of the electoral districts who receives the greatest number of votes.

Popular vote is the term used to show the total support a political party received across the province. It is shown as a percentage and is calculated by dividing the number of votes a party received by the total number of votes in the provincial election. Under our electoral system (FPTP), the seat count is not related to the popular vote percentage and therefore has no impact on the election outcome.

The political party with the most seats usually forms the government and their leader becomes the premier. If the governing party has more than half of all the seats (44 or more), they will have a **majority government**. If they have less than half (43 or fewer), they will have a **minority government**.

The party that has the second-highest number of seats usually becomes the **official opposition**. Any other party is called an opposition party. It is the responsibility of the opposition parties to hold the government to account and to question its actions. The official opposition organizes a shadow cabinet to act as expert critics on the portfolios or government ministries managed by each cabinet minister.

In order to pass any **legislation** (laws) or budgets, the bills must have support from more than half of the members of the Legislative Assembly. If the governing party has a minority government, they will need to gain the support of some of the opposition parties or independent candidates in order to pass any legislation.

The **Speech from the Throne** (also known as the Throne Speech) outlines the government's plans and initiatives. The speech is delivered by the lieutenant governor at the beginning of each new session of the legislature.

LESSON 8: POST-ELECTION ANALYSIS

BIG IDEA

The outcome of the election impacts the future direction of the province and the government.

LEARNING INTENTIONS

Upon completion of the lesson, students are expected to know the following:

- How the electoral system works in B.C.;
- How election results are analyzed in B.C.;
- The difference between a majority and minority government; and
- The results of the general election and Student Vote locally and provincially.

Students are expected to be able to do the following:

- Evaluate how factors, forces, events or people influence developments, outcomes or decisions;
- Discuss how campaign events influenced the outcome of the election; and
- Recognize the importance of voting and being an active and engaged citizen.

RESOURCES

- Slide Deck 8: Analyzing Election Results
- Handout 6.2: 2017 British Columbia Provincial Election Results
- Student Vote British Columbia results page (www.studentvote.ca/bc)

(Videos, slide decks and digital versions of the activity sheets can be found at www.studentvote.ca/bc)

ACTIVITIES

 Hook: 5 min

1. Announce the results of your school's Student Vote election. Who received the most votes? Was it a close race?
2. Compare the results of your school's vote with the results of other schools in your electoral district. Are they similar or different? How did the results vary between schools? (All school results can be found at www.studentvote.ca/bc).
3. Share the province-wide Student Vote results. Which party attracted the greatest support? Which party won the most seats and formed the government? Are you surprised with the Student Vote results?

Teacher Note: You must wait until the official polls close in your electoral district to share the Student Vote results. Student election workers at your school should be sworn to secrecy.



Essential Concepts: 20 min

Use Slide Deck 8 and the 'Parliamentary Democracy in British Columbia' video to review the key terms and concepts regarding the results of the election: analyze, seat count, popular vote percentage, voter turnout, minority government, majority government, official opposition, opposition party, Speech from the Throne.



Discussion: 5 min

Which candidate was elected in your school's electoral district in the general election? Which party formed the government? Which party will be the official opposition? Is it a minority or a majority government?



Action: 25-40 min

In groups, have students analyze the results of the general election and Student Vote for the 42nd British Columbia general and last election. Use the following comparisons for group discussion:

- a) Seat count comparison (general election vs. Student Vote);
- b) Popular vote comparison (general election vs. Student Vote);
- c) Current vs last election (seat count and popular vote);
- d) Current vs last election (seat count and popular vote); and
- e) Electoral district results comparison (general election vs. Student Vote).

Teacher Note: Use Handout 6.2 to compare the election results against the results of the 2017 provincial election.

Have a group discussion after analyzing the results and media reports. Consider some of the following questions:

- Were there any big surprises in the election results?
- Which parties gained or lost seats since the last election? Why do you think that happened?
- Were the Student Vote results similar to the general election results? Why or why not?
- Which type of graph works best for displaying election results (e.g., pie chart, line graph, bar chart)?

LESSON 8: POST-ELECTION ANALYSIS

Extensions:

A. Once a candidate is elected to the legislative assembly, they must make decisions about how to pursue issues on behalf of their electoral district. Have students write to their newly elected MLA regarding an issue they believe should be considered a priority.

B. Choose a local candidate in your electoral district who received a significant portion of the votes in Student Vote but did not secure a seat in the Legislative Assembly. Invite the candidate into your school for a conversation with your class. Consider asking questions about their campaign experience and the candidate's future plans.

C. Give students a chance to share their election scrapbooks from the campaign. Each student could choose two of their favourite entries to share with the class.

D. The province of British Columbia has a diverse population. Do you feel that the make-up of the Legislative Assembly represents all British Columbians? Explain the reasons for your answer.

E. Ask students to keep a running journal on election night to record the results as they come in. What were their reactions? Did their perceptions change as the night went on?

Reflection: 5 min

Have a closing discussion about the outcome of the election and participation in the Student Vote program. Alternatively, ask students to write a reflection for their election scrapbook or learning log (see *Assessment Opportunities*).

- Why is it important to analyze the results? What is there to be learned?
- Did the election results turn out as expected? Were there any events that might have influenced the results?
- What did you learn about politics and the election process from your participation in the Student Vote program?
- Did your participation in Student Vote influence anyone in your family to vote? Did it influence the choice they made in who to vote for?

EXTERNAL RESOURCES

- General election results — www.elections.bc.ca
- Student Vote B.C. results page — www.studentvote.ca/bc
- Newspaper and media websites