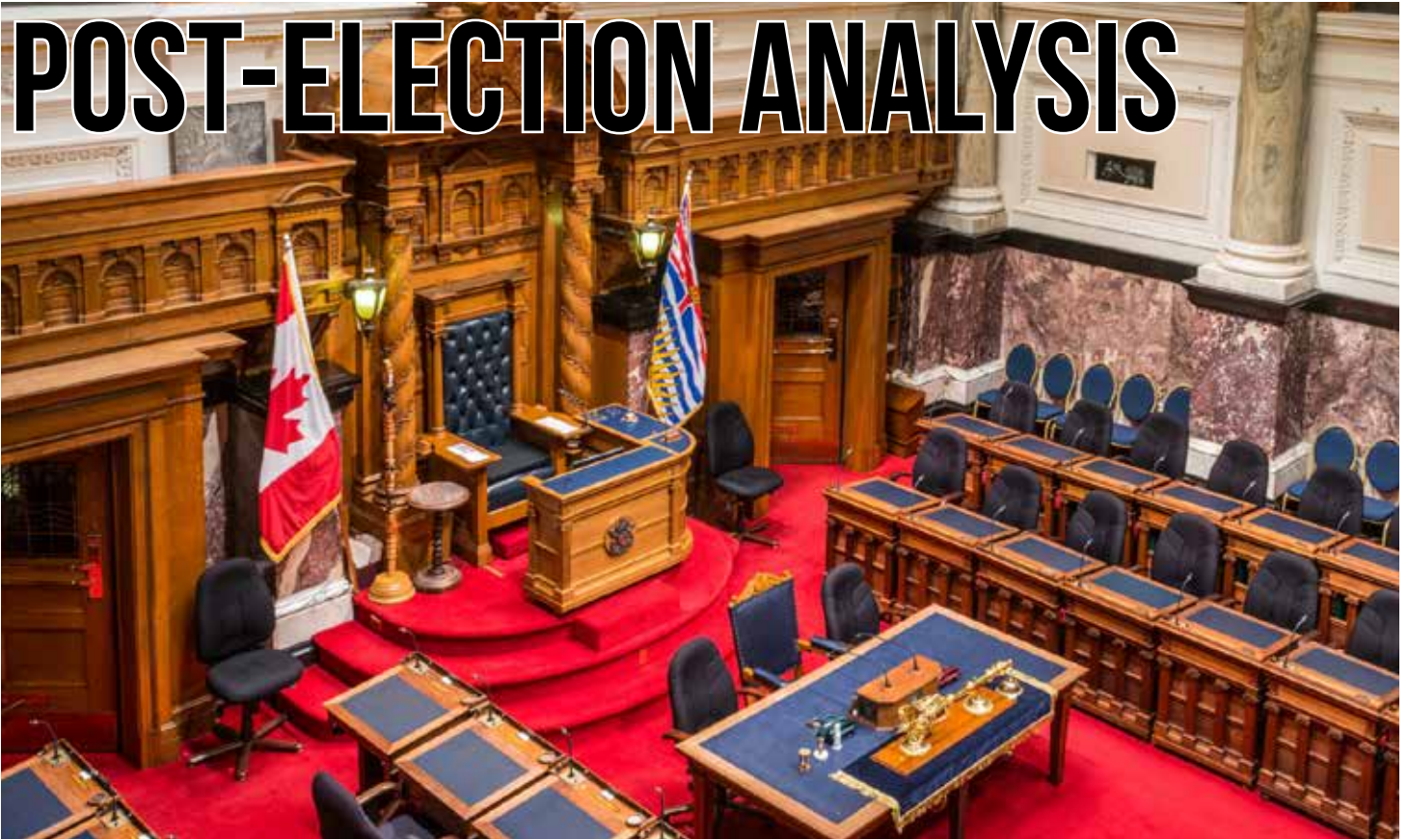


# POST-ELECTION ANALYSIS



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 9: 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 9: Analyzing Election Results
- Video: Parliamentary Democracy in British Columbia.
- Activity Sheet 9.1: Results Comparison
- Handout 6.1: 2017 Provincial Election Results
- Student Vote British Columbia results page ([www.studentvote.ca/bc](http://www.studentvote.ca/bc))

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

### ACTIVITIES

#### Hook: 15-20 min

1. Announce the results of your school's Student Vote election. Who won the most number of votes? Was it a close race?
2. Compare the results of your school's election with the results of other schools in your electoral district. Are they similar or different? Is this surprising? Why or why not? Which candidate won in your electoral district in the Student Vote? (All school results can be found at [www.studentvote.ca/bc](http://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 poll officials at your school should be sworn to secrecy.*

#### Discussion: 5-10 min

How do you feel about your participation in Student Vote? Would you like to participate again? What did you learn through the experience?

#### Essential Concepts: 15 min

Use Slide Deck 9 and/or 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.

#### ★ Action: 25-40 min

1. Using the Student Vote website, Elections BC website and/or media reports, ask students to compare the Student Vote and general election results and complete Activity Sheet 9.1 in groups or pairs.
2. Take up Activity Sheet 9.1 as a class and have a closing discussion:
  - Which parties gained or lost seats? Why?
  - Do you know which party will form the government? Is there any uncertainty?
  - Do you know which party will form the government? Is there any uncertainty?
  - Does the popular vote reflect the seat count? Should it?
  - Were there any big surprises or upsets in the election results?
  - Did results from certain regions change drastically since the last election? If so, why?
  - Did the Student Vote results reflect 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)?

*Teacher Note: Use Handout 6.1 to compare the election results against the results of the 2017 provincial election.*

## LESSON 9: POST-ELECTION ANALYSIS

3. Compare news stories from several different media websites and regional and/or local newspapers to analyze the portrayal of the election outcome. Have a class conversation after analyzing the results and media reports: Did the sources report the results in a similar way? Can you detect any bias? What groups seem the happiest or unhappiest with the results?

### Extensions:

A. In groups or pairs, have students analyze the results of the general election and Student Vote. Assign each group a different comparison and ask them to make a short multi-media presentation or report. This can include analysis, commentary, graphs and/or charts.

Suggested analyses:

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

B. Once an electoral candidate is elected to the Legislative Assembly, they must make decisions about how to pursue issues on behalf of their constituency. Have students write to their newly elected or re-elected MLA regarding an issue they believe should be considered a priority for the MLA and their party (if applicable).

C. The 2017 B.C. provincial election had a very close result, with the top two parties finishing within a few seats of each other — and with neither party winning enough seats to form a majority government (Handout 6.1). It took more than six weeks after voting day for the governing party to be confirmed. Review media stories from May and June 2017 to recount the post-election intrigue, and the various key events. Based on the results of the current election, is a similar scenario possible? Why or why not?

D. After the election, the premier must confirm the organization of government ministries and select the cabinet ministers to head each ministry. Which criteria should the premier use for selecting the cabinet (e.g., geography, experience, gender, ethnicity, age)? Follow the news and analyze the decisions made by the premier.

E. Choose a local candidate in your electoral district who received a significant proportion of the votes in Student Vote but did not secure a seat in the Legislative Assembly. Invite the candidate to speak with your class for a post-election debrief to discuss their experience and future plans.

F. Ask students to write a reflection about their Student Vote experience. Focus questions: Did you feel ready to vote on Student Vote Day? What were the most helpful activities you did to prepare for making your decision? What other activities could you do in the future? Why is voting important? How does voting help shape your community and future?



### 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 (see *Assessment Opportunities*).

- Were you pleased with the results? Why or why not?
- Did your participation in Student Vote influence anyone in your family to vote? Did it influence the choice they made about who to vote for?
- Should politicians be held accountable for keeping promises made in campaigns?
- What do you think the priorities of the newly elected British Columbia government will be?
- Do you feel that the make-up of the Legislative Assembly reflects the diverse population of British Columbia?
- What ways can you become involved in politics between elections?

## EXTERNAL RESOURCES

- General election results — [www.elections.bc.ca](http://www.elections.bc.ca)
- Student Vote results — [www.studentvote.ca/bc](http://www.studentvote.ca/bc)
- Newspaper and media websites