

## BIG IDEAS

Understanding legal rights and responsibilities allows citizens to participate more fully in society.

Laws can maintain the status quo and can also be a force for change.

A society's laws and legal framework affects many aspects of people's daily lives.

Laws are interpreted and these interpretations many evolve over time as a society's values and worldviews change.

## Learning Standards

Curricular Competencies	Content
<p><i>Students are expected to be able to do the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Use Social Studies inquiry processes and skills to ask questions; gather, interpret, and analyze legal concepts, issues, and procedures; and communicate findings and decisions</b></li> <li>• <b>Assess and compare the significance and impact of legal systems and codes (significance)</b></li> <li>• <b>Assess the justification for differing legal perspectives after investigating points of contention, reliability of sources, and adequacy of evidence (evidence)</b></li> <li>• <b>Analyze continuities and changes in legal systems and thought during different time periods and across jurisdictions (continuity and change)</b></li> <li>• <b>Assess the development and impact of legal systems and ideas of justice (cause and consequence)</b></li> <li>• <b>Explain different perspectives on past or present people, places, issues, and events by considering prevailing norms, values, worldviews, and beliefs (perspective)</b></li> <li>• <b>Recognize implicit and explicit ethical judgments in a variety of sources (ethical judgment)</b></li> <li>• <b>Make reasoned ethical judgments about controversial decisions, legislation, or policy (ethical judgment)</b></li> </ul>	<p><i>Students are expected to know the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>key areas of law such as criminal law, civil law, and family law</b></li> <li>• <b>foundations of Canadian law</b></li> <li>• <b>structures and powers of the federal and provincial courts and administrative tribunals</b></li> <li>• <b>the Constitution of Canada and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms</b></li> <li>• <b>legislation concerning First Peoples</b></li> <li>• <b>role of the judiciary as a constitutional check on legislative power</b></li> <li>• <b>Canada's correctional system</b></li> <li>• <b>legislation concerning children and youth</b></li> <li>• <b>legal resources and services, both online and in the community</b></li> <li>• <b>structures and roles of global dispute resolution agencies</b></li> </ul>

**Curricular Competencies – Elaborations**

**Use Social Studies inquiry processes and skills to ask questions; gather, interpret, and analyze legal concepts, issues, and procedures; and communicate findings and decisions:**

*Sample activities:*

- Examine and explain how to resolve a legal issue in an area of civil law, such as rental agreements, employment, or separation.
- Investigate which legal resources are available in the community to help people deal with a selected legal issue, including how to represent themselves in court or in front of a tribunal.
- Research alternative methods and strategies to resolve conflicts before they become legal problems.
- Assess different types of evidence and how to determine bias, reliability, and relevance in a source of evidence.
- Conduct a mock trial or debate to judge a legal case or issue.

**Assess and compare the significance and impact of legal systems and codes (significance):**

*Sample activities:*

- Assess the significance of the Constitution Act, 1982, and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms to human rights in Canada.
- Analyze the role of global dispute resolution institutions and agencies in international human rights and economic development issues.

**Analyze continuities and changes in legal systems and thought during different time periods and across jurisdictions (continuity and change):**

*Sample activity:*

- Compare and contrast different views over time on the role of the correctional system in Canada.

**Explain different perspectives on past or present people, places, issues, and events by considering prevailing norms, values, worldviews, and beliefs (perspective):**

*Sample activity:*

- Analyze whether Canadian laws regarding the rights of minority groups evolved because of, or in spite of, popular support for change.

**Recognize implicit and explicit ethical judgments in a variety of sources (ethical judgment):**

*Sample activity:*

- Investigate ways the legal system has been used in the past to maintain inequalities.

**Make reasoned ethical judgments about controversial decisions, legislation, or policy (ethical judgment):**

*Sample activity:*

- Assess cases in which the legal system has made rulings on human rights, and evaluate the extent to which these decisions advanced or infringed on the rights of those affected.

## Content – Elaborations

**key areas of law such as criminal law, civil law, and family law:***Sample topics:*

- Criminal Code
- burden of proof (reasonable doubt versus balance of probability)
- the importance of checks and balances to prevent wrongful convictions

**foundations of Canadian law:***Sample topics:*

- discriminatory laws and reform processes
- importance of independence of the judiciary and lawyers
- case and common law
- role of deterrence and denunciation in the correctional system

**structures and powers of the federal and provincial courts and administrative tribunals:***Sample topics:*

- victims' rights and the Canadian Victims Bill of Rights
- rights of the accused
- appeals process
- small claims

**the Constitution of Canada and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms:***Sample topic:*

- renewed focus on individual rights

**legislation concerning First Peoples:***Sample topics:*

- Aboriginal self-government
- the treaty process
- alternative dispute resolution processes, including restorative justice
- 1763 Royal Proclamation

**role of the judiciary as a constitutional check on legislative power:***Sample topics:*

- greater role of judicial oversight
- reinterpretation of legislation

**Content – Elaborations****Canada’s correctional system:***Sample topics:*

- provincial versus federal institutions
- rehabilitation versus punishment

**legislation concerning children and youth:***Sample topics:*

- Young Offenders Act
- Youth Criminal Justice Act

**structures and roles of global dispute resolution agencies:***Sample topics:*

- International Court of Justice
- World Trade Organization
- United Nations

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