Welcome to What to Expect When You’re Electing, a series of short explainers designed to help you navigate the federal election!

First up: an overview of how Canadian federal elections work (and why we don’t actually elect the prime minister).

1 Getting Started

Welcome to What to Expect When You’re Electing, a series of short explainers designed to help you navigate the federal election!

First up: an overview of how Canadian federal elections work (and why we don’t actually elect the prime minister).

LEARN ABOUT:
- Canada’s representative democracy (and what that means!)
- Canada’s four orders of government
- Canada’s voting system

2 Didn’t I just vote in an election last year?

Possibly, but it was likely for a different order of government. Canada has four orders of government, each with its own set of responsibilities and its own elections that happen at different times:
- Federal (or national) government
- Provincial and territorial governments
- Municipal (or local) governments
- Indigenous governments

The federal government, which we focus on here, mainly looks after issues that affect the whole country like:
- Citizenship
- Foreign affairs
- National defence
- Relations with Indigenous Peoples
- Old age security
- Fisheries

...and much more! It also shares some responsibilities with other orders of government, such as health, immigration, and the environment.
The Samara Centre for Democracy is a non-partisan charity dedicated to strengthening Canada’s democracy. To learn more, visit samaracanada.com.

SamaraCDA       SamaraCanada       SamaraCDA

You may also be thinking of the United States, where the president is directly elected.

Still have questions? Want to learn more?
Visit samaracanada.com/what-to-expect or email info@samaracanada.com

Coming up next:
Tips on what to consider when voting, including party platforms and why they matter

The Samara Centre for Democracy