Welcome to What to Expect When You’re Electing, a series of short explainers designed to help you navigate the federal election (for an overview of how the federal election works, just ask why we don’t actually tell you the prime minister).

One more experience, get involved, get informed, get engaged.

### What to Expect When You’re Electing

#### 1 Getting Started

What’s being elected, and why?

The next federal election is on October 21 when millions of Canadians aged 18 and older will vote to elect the Members of Parliament (MPs) who are responsible for governing our country, the United Kingdom of Canada in Ottawa. That’s why Canada’s system of government is known as a representative democracy.

Constituencies

Constituencies are geographic areas of Canada. Some are enormous (like all of Nunavut) while others are tiny (like a dozen square blocks in downtown Toronto). They also vary in population size, but on average, about 100,000 people live in a constituency.

Who’s being elected, and when?

You vote in one of 338 election races: Constituencies are the geographic areas you live in and choose your Member of Parliament (MP) in them at elections. MPs elected to Seats in the House of Commons.

When to vote?

During the next four years, MPs will meet in the House of Commons to debate and pass legislation (laws) and to make sure that the government’s decisions on how to spend public money are carefully considered and explained. They also hear from people in their constituencies about issues that matter to their communities.

Election races

Election races are held in all 338 constituencies on issues that matter to their communities.

Who am I voting for?

To know who will be on your ballot this fall, here are the two things you need to understand:

1. Who’s being elected, and when?

2. Who am I voting for?

To find out which constituency you live in, go to elections.ca.

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