

DISCOVER GRANDE PRAIRIE

MODULE 1

Local Government & its Functions

This is a comprehensive overview. Modules will incorporate material from the content below but may not cover everything due to time constraints.

This curriculum is designed to provide students with an engaging and comprehensive understanding of local government functions, emphasizing practical knowledge and active participation in municipal governance.

Curriculum Outline

1. Introduction to Local Government and its Functions

- **Overview Presentation:** Introduction to local government, its purpose, and its impact on the community.
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2. Councillor's Role in Local Government

- **Handout and Discussion:** Explanation of a councillor's duties and responsibilities.
 - **Interactive Session:** Q&A with a guest councillor to provide real-world insights.
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3. Local Government Services

- **Presentation:** Breakdown of the differences between federal, provincial, and municipal services.
 - Explanation of how taxes are collected and used to fund local services.
 - **Interactive Activity:** Students match various services to the correct level of government.
 - **Activity:** Budget simulation where students allocate tax funds to different services and discuss the importance of each.
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4. Your City at Work – Council & Operations

- **Operations Overview:** Explanation of how city operations are managed and maintained.
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5. Equity & Accessibility

- **Discussion:** Explore resources available to families and how local government ensures equitable access.
 - **Interactive Session:** Identify community resources and discuss their impact.
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6. Food Security

- **Presentation:** Overview of food security issues and local government initiatives.
 - **Group Activity:** Brainstorm ways to improve food security in the community.
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7. Council Debate

- **Instruction Sheet for Teachers:** Available for download prior to the visit.
 - **Website Scenarios:** Various community issues provided for the debate.
 - **Mock Debate:** Students participate in a simulated council meeting, debate issues, and vote on resolutions.
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Learning Objectives

- **Understand the role of local government** and its significance in daily life.
- **Identify the responsibilities of a councillor** and how they contribute to local governance.
- **Differentiate between federal, provincial, and municipal services** and understand their unique roles.
- **Explore the various services and operations** managed by the city council.
- **Learn about municipal facilities** and their functions within the community.
- **Understand the role of taxes** in funding local government services.
- **Discuss equity and accessibility** in accessing local government resources.
- **Examine food security initiatives** and the role of local government in ensuring community welfare.
- **Engage in a mock council debate** to understand the decision-making process and democratic governance.