

# Creating your own Provincial Law

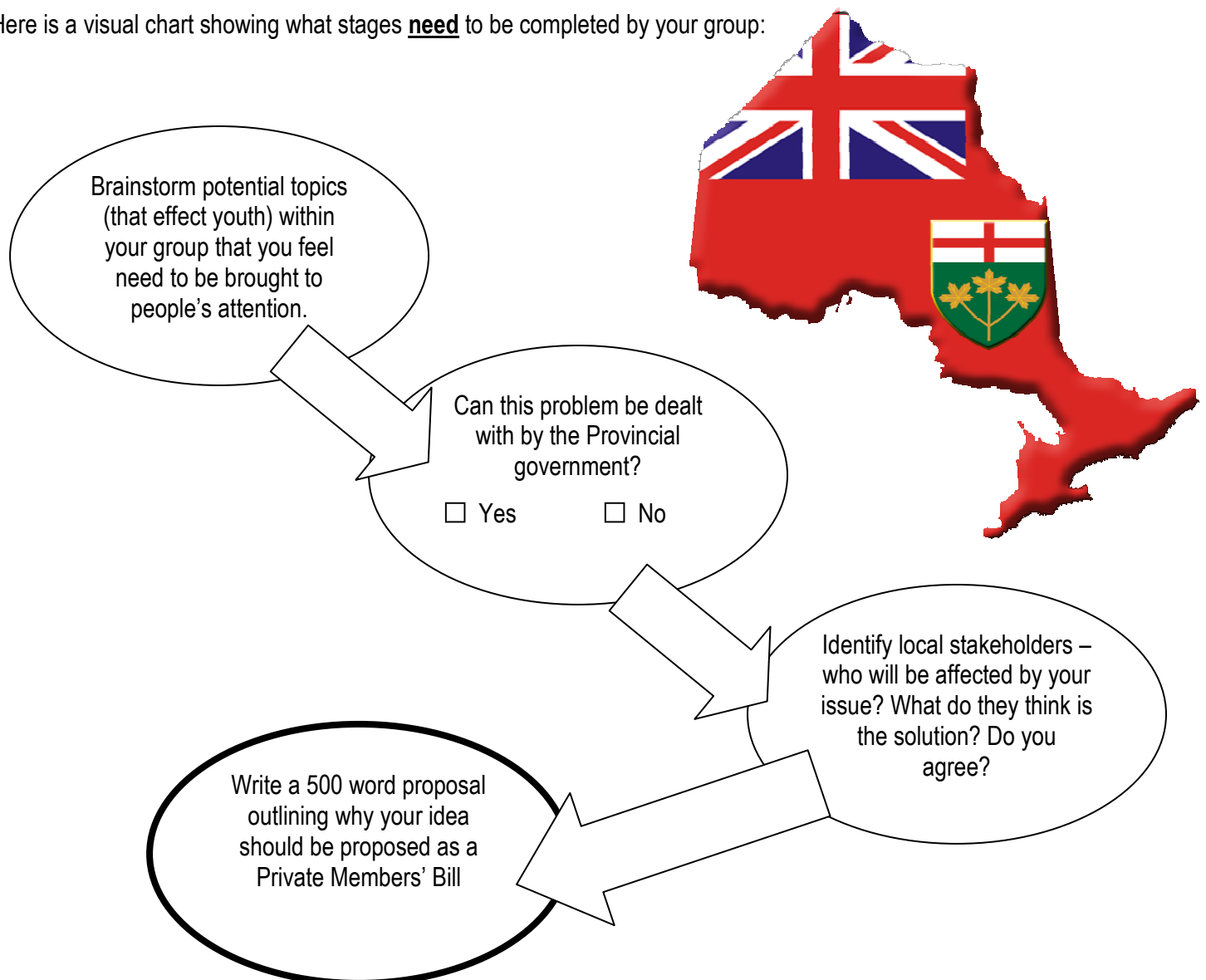
## Active Citizenship in the classroom

**In partnership with the office of  
The Honourable Ted McMeekin**

- Students will develop an idea for a Private Member's Bill that will actually be introduced in Queen's Park by a Member of Provincial Parliament.
- Students will learn the process of passing a bill into law, as well as all the people involved.
- Students will be able to highlight an issue that is important to them, and bring it into the community spotlight.

Students will be put into groups of four (4) to research an issue or problem in the community. They can consult newspapers, their peers, personal experiences, online sources, etc. in researching their issue.

Here is a visual chart showing what stages need to be completed by your group:



Things to keep in mind:

- Your bill should be something that highlights an important **YOUTH** issue to the community.
- Make sure you are doing something you are passionate about – if you are not excited, how will you influence others to pick up on your idea?
- Check your textbook to make sure you know which areas the provincial government has the power to make laws over.

This is a chance to change your community –  
**YOUR PROVINCE.** Think hard about an issue  
that you think is important enough to bring to  
the attention of 10 million Ontarians.



# Examples of Student Led Private Member's Bills

## **Bill 93: Healthier Cafeterias**

Fifteen year old Nupur Dogra of Iroquois Ridge High School did not want to eliminate fast-food, but rather have the school offer healthier alternatives for those who desired it

## **Bill 95: Informing Students of their Employee Rights**

Students argued that the language on the Ontario Labour Code was too complex for students to understand which resulted in many students being taken advantage of at the workplace. They rallied for a simplified version that would explain labour rights to students in an effective manner.

## **Bill 147: School Waste Reduction**

Students from Georgetown District High School called for an amendment to the Education Act which would require that all classrooms be equipped with at least 2 recycling bins.

## *Successful Private Members Bills introduced by an MPP*

### **Bill 209: Drinking and Boating Offences**

An amendment to the Highway Traffic Act which prohibits people from boating under the influence of alcohol. A conviction may trigger the suspension of an Ontario Driver's License (Passed in 2006).

### **Bill 203: Ontario Wine Week Act**

An act to recognize the efforts of Ontario grape growers and wine makers by designating the third week in June as Ontario Wine Week (Passed in 2005).

### **Bill 43: Sandy's Law**

An amendment to the Liquor License Act which requires all liquor vendors to display signs cautioning pregnant women that the consumption of alcohol during pregnancy is the cause of fetal alcohol syndrome which can result in the child being developmentally handicapped or having a reduced lifespan (Passed in 2004).

## *Unsuccessful Private Members Bills Introduced by an MPP*

### **Liquor License Statute Law Amendment Act (Liquor Labels), 2007**

An amendment to the Liquor License Act which would require sellers and manufacturers of alcohol to affix a warning label to containers of liquor cautioning pregnant women about the risks of alcohol consumption.

### **Fair Access to Vote Act, 2007**

An act that would allow residents to use a mail-in ballot system during elections while vacationing outside of Ontario.

#### *Previous bills suggested by WDHS students:*

A bill to create a provincial Mental Awareness Day to bring attention to this issue, highlighting its impacts on the people of Ontario (including its youth).

A bill to create mandatory Celiac and Gluten-free food options in high school cafeterias

A bill to make it mandatory to have snow tires in Ontario



# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Q: What is an MPP?**

**A:** *An MPP (Member of Provincial Parliament) is an elected official which represents residents of a specific riding in the province. They often represent a certain political party and bring the views of their constituents to introduce and debate laws at the main legislative building in Toronto.*

Example: Ted McMeekin is the Liberal MPP for Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Westdale. Mr. McMeekin's website is [www.tedmcmeekin.com](http://www.tedmcmeekin.com)

## **Q: What is a Backbench Member of Parliament?**

**A:** *A Backbencher is an MPP that has not been appointed to cabinet.*

Example: Ted McMeekin, Minister of Government Services *cannot* introduce a Private Members Bill but Sophia Aggelonitis, MPP for Hamilton Mountain *can* introduce a Private Members Bill.

## **Q: What is a Private Members Bill?**

**A:** *A private members bill is a proposed law introduced by a backbench member of parliament either from the government or the opposition side.*

## **Q: What is a Stakeholder?**

**A:** *An individual, group or organization with an interest or conflict in the intended results of activities being carried out by another organization*

Example: If the government decides to pass a law that lowers the legal drinking age to 17, a number of corporate bodies will be affected including corporations such as The Beer Store and AGCO (Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario) as well as organizations like MADD (Mother's Against Drunk Driving) and AA (Alcoholics Anonymous).



## Proposal Template for Private Members' Bill

1. Make sure that your proposal has a title page with the following information:

**Your Group Members' Names:**

**Teacher's Name:**

**Course Code: CHV203**

**Assignment Name: Private Member's Bill Assignment**

**Date:**

2. The first section should be labelled "**Proposal.**" This will be a paragraph (approximately 100 words) describing your idea for a new law in Ontario. Write this paragraph like you would an Introduction Paragraph for a Deductive Essay (the type of essay you write in English at WDHS).
3. The second section should be labelled "**Rationale.**" This section will be two or three paragraphs outlining in detail the reasons why you think this law would be a good idea for the people of Ontario. It is here that you will outline the law's impact on the community, and in particular the youth of the province.
4. The third section should be labelled "**Support.**" It is in this section that you will outline any interviews, surveys, or other forms of support you have found for your new law.
5. Remember, when preparing the final draft of this assignment presentation is key. Don't hand in a paper that is folded, stained or damaged in any way. You want to be as professional in this assignment as possible. The report must follow the following parameters:
  - Be typed in 12-point Arial font
  - Be double-spaced







## Private Members' Bill Assignment Rubric

	Below Expectations	Level One	Level Two	Level Three	Level Four
Syntax <b>/ 10</b>	Syntax is not acceptable.	Syntax is not clear. Many spelling and grammatical errors.	Syntax is somewhat clear. Numerous spelling and grammatical errors.	Syntax is clear. 1-2 spelling and grammatical errors.	Syntax is clear and effective.
Research <b>/ 20</b>	Research is not acceptable.	Proposal does not reflect a high amount of research. Opinions are given, with very little facts to back them up.	Proposal demonstrates that some research has been done on this topic. More detail is needed in sub-topics.	Proposal demonstrates that the topic has been properly researched.	Proposal demonstrates that the topic has been thoroughly researched.
Proposal <b>/ 20</b>	Proposal is inappropriate, and may highlight an issue that the provincial level of government has no control over.	Proposal is not effective and reflects an issue that is relevant to youth in Ontario. <b>This issue may not be something that falls within the provincial jurisdiction.</b>	Proposal reflects an issue that is relevant to youth in Ontario. <b>This issue is something that falls within the provincial jurisdiction.</b>	Proposal is effective and reflects an issue that is relevant to youth in Ontario. <b>This issue is something that falls within the provincial jurisdiction.</b>	Proposal is highly effective and reflects an issue that is relevant to youth in Ontario. <b>This issue is something that falls within the provincial jurisdiction.</b> This issue links in with other initiatives currently being highlighted in our society.
Organization <b>/ 10</b>	Organization abilities of the group/individual were unacceptable.	Group made poor use of class time – teacher had to remind them constantly to stay on task. Final product reflects a poor level of commitment.	Group made fair use of class time – teacher had to remind them periodically to stay on task. Final product reflects a fair level of commitment.	Group made good use of class time. Final product reflects a good level of commitment.	Group made good use of class time. Final product reflects a high level of commitment.

