

Selecting a Prime Minister



Your Excellency -

You are the Governor General of Canada, and the country has just had a federal election. The most important constitutional duty of your office is to ensure that the country always has a prime minister at the head of its government.

From the scenarios listed below, please select the prime minister. REMEMBER that that total amount of seats in the House of Commons is **338**.

Scenario #1:

Political Party	# of Seats	Party Leaders
Conservative Party	190	Stephen Harper
Liberal Party	100	Justin Trudeau
New Democratic Party	40	Thomas Mulcair
Green Party	8	Elizabeth May
Communist Party	0	Miguel Figueroa

What type of government is this?

Scenario #2:

Political Party	# of Seats	Party Leaders
Green Party	160	Elizabeth May
Communist Party	140	Miguel Figueroa
New Democratic Party	30	Thomas Mulcair
Conservative Party	7	Stephen Harper
Liberal Party	1	Justin Trudeau

What type of government is this?

Scenario #3:

Political Party	# of Seats	Party Leaders
Maple Leaf Party	170	Selina Meyer
Donut Party	140	Frank Underwood
Hockey Stick Party	20	Josiah Barlet
Wampum Party	7	Francis Urquhart
Snow Party	1	Jim Hacker

These three parties have formed a coalition

What type of government is this?

Scenario #4:

Political Party	# of Seats	Party Leaders
Atomic Tangerine Party	172	Will hold a leadership race in one week
Orange Peel Party	98	Jane Doe
Vermilion Party	40	John Doe
Persimmon Party	14	Average Joe
Bittersweet Shimmer Party	14	John Q. Public

Two months after the last federal election the leader of the Atomic Tangerine Party has had to resign from politics. Who will you invite to become the next prime minister of Canada?

What have you learned from this activity?

***Note: The same constitutional setup exists in the provincial order of government – the lieutenant governor, as the representative of The Queen, acts as the governor general would for the federal government.**

