Socials 11 Influencing Government - How Can You Influence Government?

Individually?

- Contact \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Write letters to civil servants (run day-to-day operations of govt)
* Blog
* Call radio show

In a group?

* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** share interest; organized to influence govt policy
* Some are institutionalized like: Assembly of First Nations
* Some are issue-oriented like a group trying to install a traffic light or stop construction at a certain West Van high school…

Exerting More Influence

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – people paid to try to influence key decision makers like bureaucrats (non-elected govt officials) in the public service (govt administrators) or politicians
  + Often former high-ranking members of the public service with influential connections

The Courts

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will use the courts to influence govt and effect change
* Courts must interpret laws w/i context of Constitution and Charter
* Courts can only strike down laws, can’t replace them – only govt can do that

The Role of the Media

Traditional media – gives chance for politicians and political commentators to get their message out – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ recognition

* + Politicians also get feedback from citizens
  + Media can also frame an issue by focusing on what generates the most public interest
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – coach candidates on what to say (talking points) and make sure they look good

Civil Disobedience:

Civil Disobedience: intentionally breaking \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ one considers unjust.

Principles of Civil Disobedience

1. Should not involve violence
2. Should be directed against laws that are seriously harmful
3. Willingness to face punishment to show strength in one’s beliefs.