**Area of Learning: SOCIAL STUDIES — Political Studies Grade 12**

**BIG IDEAS**

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| Understanding how political decisions are made is critical to being an informed and engaged citizen. |  | Political institutions and ideology shape both the exercise of power and the nature of political outcomes. |  | Decision making in a democratic system of government is influenced by the distribution of political and social power. |

**Learning Standards**

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| **Curricular Competencies** | **Content** |
| *Students are expected to be able to do the following:*   * **Use Social Studies inquiry processes and skills to ask questions; gather,  interpret, and analyze data; and communicate findings and decisions** * **Assess the significance of political issues, ideologies, forces, decisions,  or developments, and compare varying perspectives on their significance  at particular times and places, and from group to group (significance)** * **Analyze political data and assess the reliability of sources (evidence)** * **Compare and contrast continuities and changes for different political institutions  and organizations at particular times and places (continuity and change)** * **Assess how underlying conditions and the actions of individuals or groups  affect events, decisions, and developments, and analyze multiple consequences (cause and consequence)** * **Explain and infer different perspectives on political issues, decisions,  or developments (perspective)** * **Make reasoned ethical judgments about political issues, decisions,  and developments (ethical judgment)** | *Students are expected to know the following:*   * **structure and function of Canadian and  First Peoples political institutions** * **major ideologies and political systems** * **election processes and electoral systems** * **methods used by media, governments, or political groups to influence public opinion** * **political power in democratic and non-democratic societies** * **current and future public policy** * **scope and characteristics of the international system** * **issues in local, regional, national,  and international politics** |