**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 andnon-democratic societies**
* **current and future public policy**
* **scope and characteristics of the international system**
* **issues in local, regional, national, and international politics**
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