Elections - Federal

How do we get Federal Elections?

* As of 2007, Canada holds an election every 4 years
* Maximum under the constitution is to hold one within 5 years
  + Can be extended in emergencies
* Governor General can call an election any time earlier upon the advice of the Prime Minister
* To start an election period, the governor general **dissolves** parliament
  + Campaign is then held with restrictions applied (money spent, advertising, polls, etc)

What is a Riding/ Constituency/ Electoral District?

“First-past-the-post”

* Candidate with the most votes in a riding wins
* This is the system Canada uses for each riding
* Is this the best and only way?

Majority vs Minority Government

* Currently, Canada has a total of 338 seats
  + You need 170 seats for a majority government

“Proportional Representation”  
Is this the solution?

“STV – Single Transferable Vote”

Information/ Campaign limits

* Public opinion polls
  + Disallowed within 24 hours of an election
* Campaign spending
  + Proportional to the amount of people in the ridings you are running in
  + Limits on [3rd party spending](http://www.elections.ca/content.aspx?section=pol&document=42ge&dir=thi/tie&lang=e)
  + No corporate donations
  + Personal donations capped at $1100 a year (tax deductible)

Election dates

* Federal = within 5 years based on constitution (fixed @ 4 years as of 2007)
* BC = 4 years
* Municipal = varies (2-4 years usually)
  + 3 years in Metro Vancouver