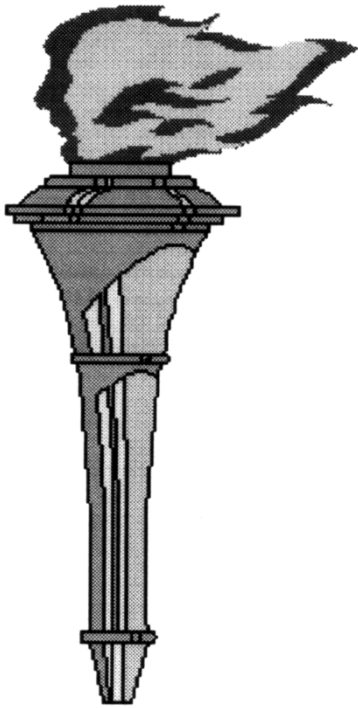


POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES



THE PURPOSE OF GOVERNMENT

To organize society for common action so that the needs of every individual can be met

- **Economic needs**
 - food, shelter, employment, trade
- **Social Needs**
 - health care, welfare, education
- **Legal Needs**
 - law and order, national defense



GOVERNMENT IN CANADA

There are three levels of government in Canada

1. Federal

This is the government for all of Canada.

2. Provincial

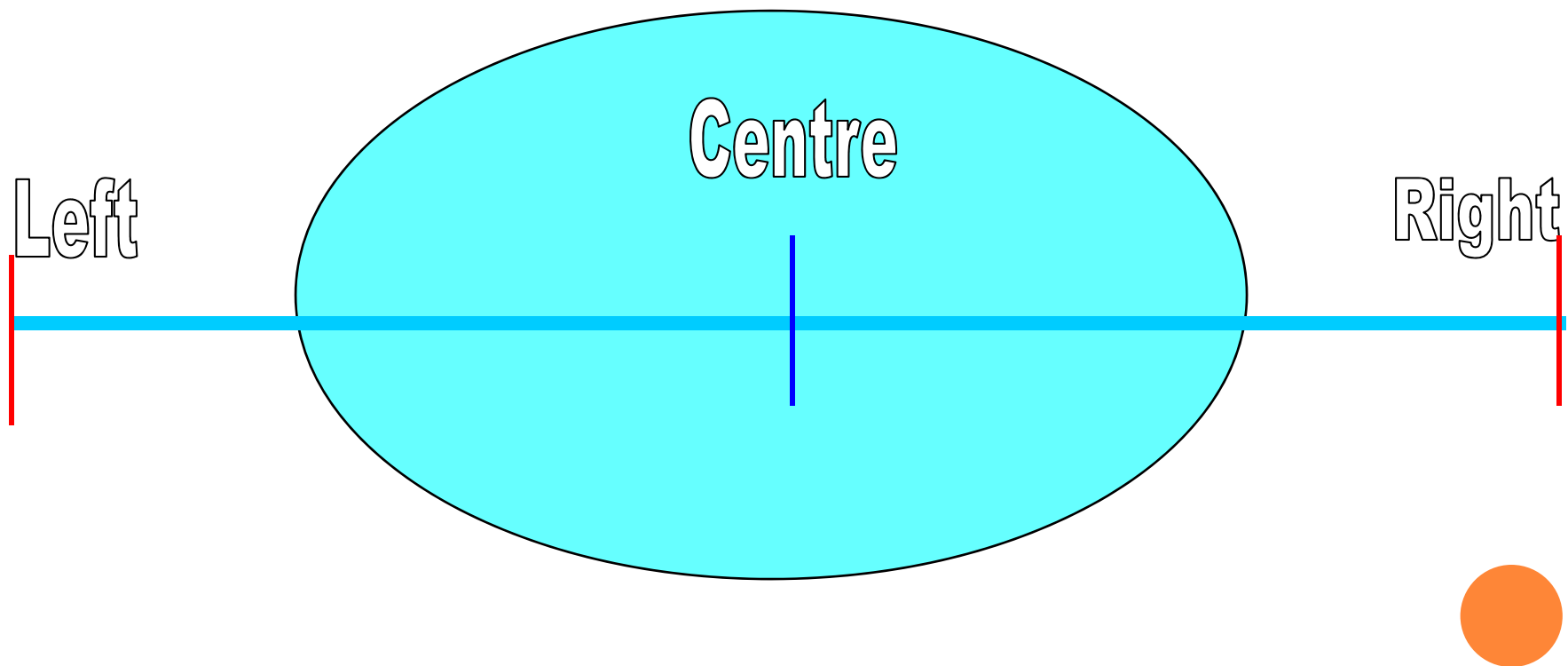
Each of the Canadian provinces has its own government

3. Municipal

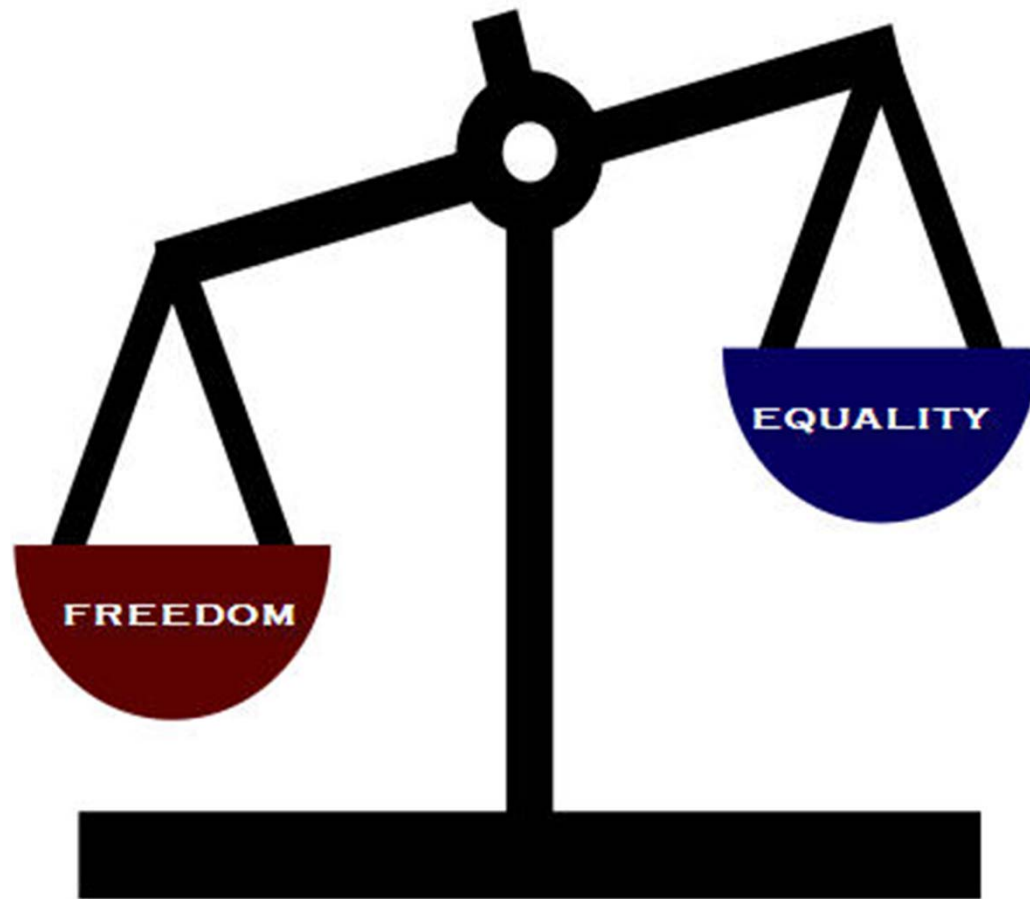
Local government at the urban or district level



THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM I



THE BALANCE OF FREEDOM AND EQUALITY



FREEDOM AND EQUALITY

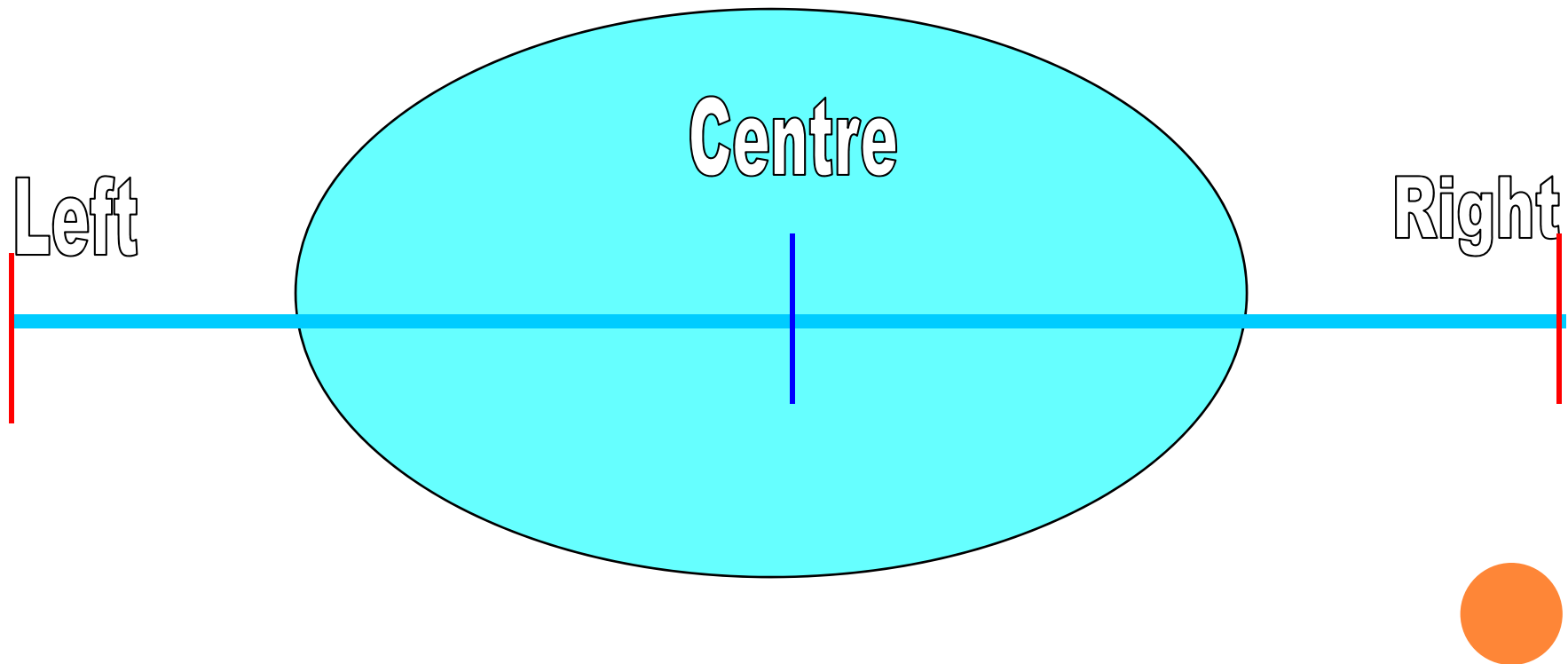
- **The balance of freedom and equality helps to determine the nature of political ideology.**
- **Freedom**
The belief that the rights of each individual in society are of primary importance.
- **Equality**
The belief that all individuals in a society should be treated in the same way.

Governments attempt to balance freedom and equality.

Political ideologies have different beliefs regarding the importance of freedom and equality.



THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM I



THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM I

- **The extreme ends of the line represent extreme political beliefs**
 - both the right and the left are totalitarian in form.
- **The centre is associated with more moderate beliefs**
 - associated with the democratic form of government

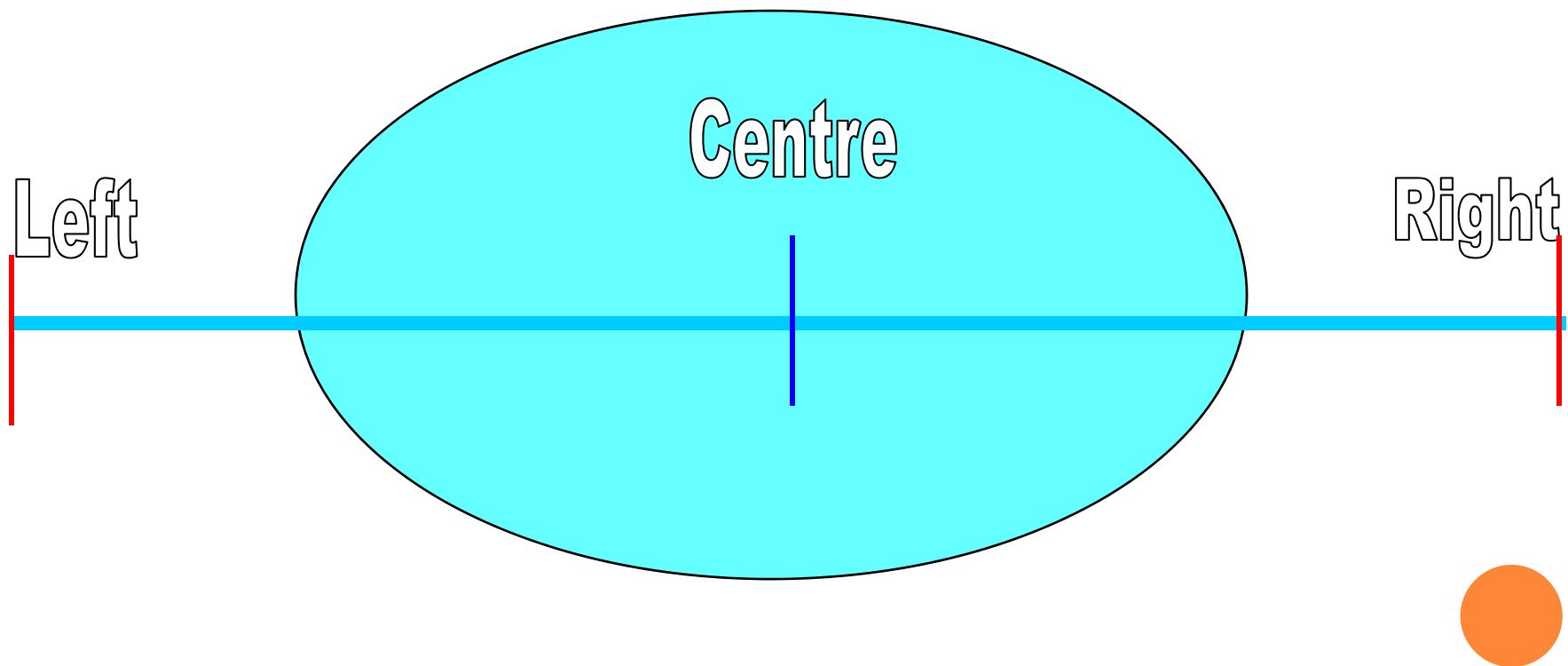


DEMOCRACY

- In a democracy the state exists to serve the citizen.
- Direct democracy,
 - all citizens participate in government
 - originated with the ancient Greeks
- In Canada
 - Representative Democracy
 - indirect democracy through elected representatives.



THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM I



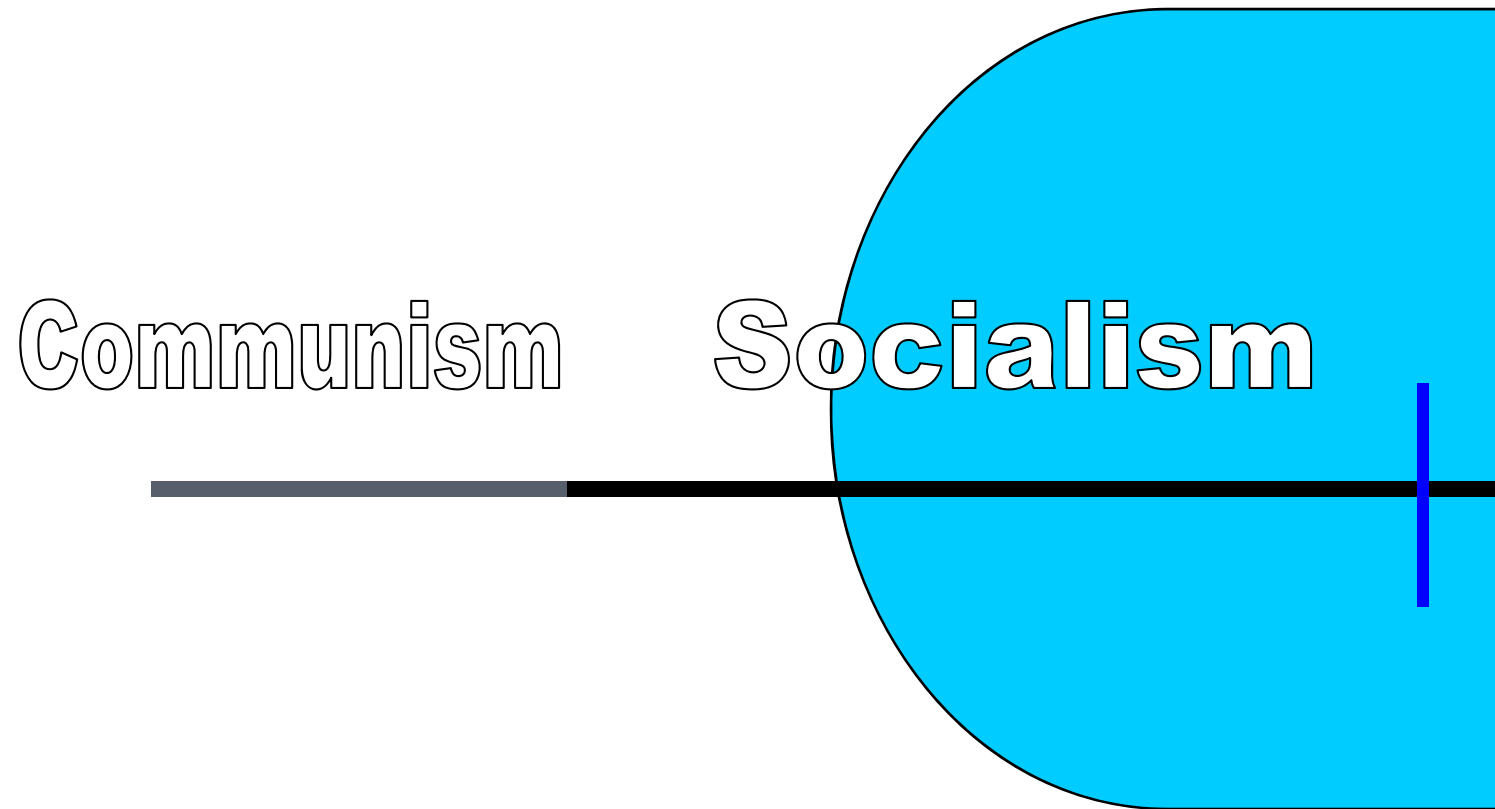
In other words...

The right believes in greater personal responsibility with the belief that this freedom will lead to individual success that will open up opportunities for those who are less fortunate. This means that a citizen is responsible for his own life. He must work to earn money. With this money, he can buy food, healthcare, education and consumer items, etc. The government will take a comparatively smaller proportion of this money and with this tax, will use it to pay for key services- law and order, defence, infrastructure etc. The government will interfere as little as possible in the economy, as only the economy can run the economy, and business knows better than politicians.

The left believes in greater state responsibility for the benefit of all citizens, with the goal of a more "equal" society. This means that a citizen will work to earn money, and the government will take a comparatively larger proportion of this. With this tax, the government will pay for more services- law and order, defence, health, education etc. The government takes on a greater responsibility in controlling the economy and in governing people's lives, as the politicians do not allow businesses free reign, and the government sets certain basic standards for all of society.



THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM V - THE LEFT WING



THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM IV

- The political beliefs of the left side of centre
 - Greater gov't responsibility
 - Social programs
 - Economy
 - Environment
 - support economic equality
 - redistribution of wealth
 - change or progress in society
 - multiculturalism
- Socialism and the Social Democratic parties are located on the left inside the circle



SOCIALISM

○ Socialists

- believe in economic & social equality
- Only if achieved through democratic means

○ Democratic socialist political parties

- most modern democratic states including Canada.

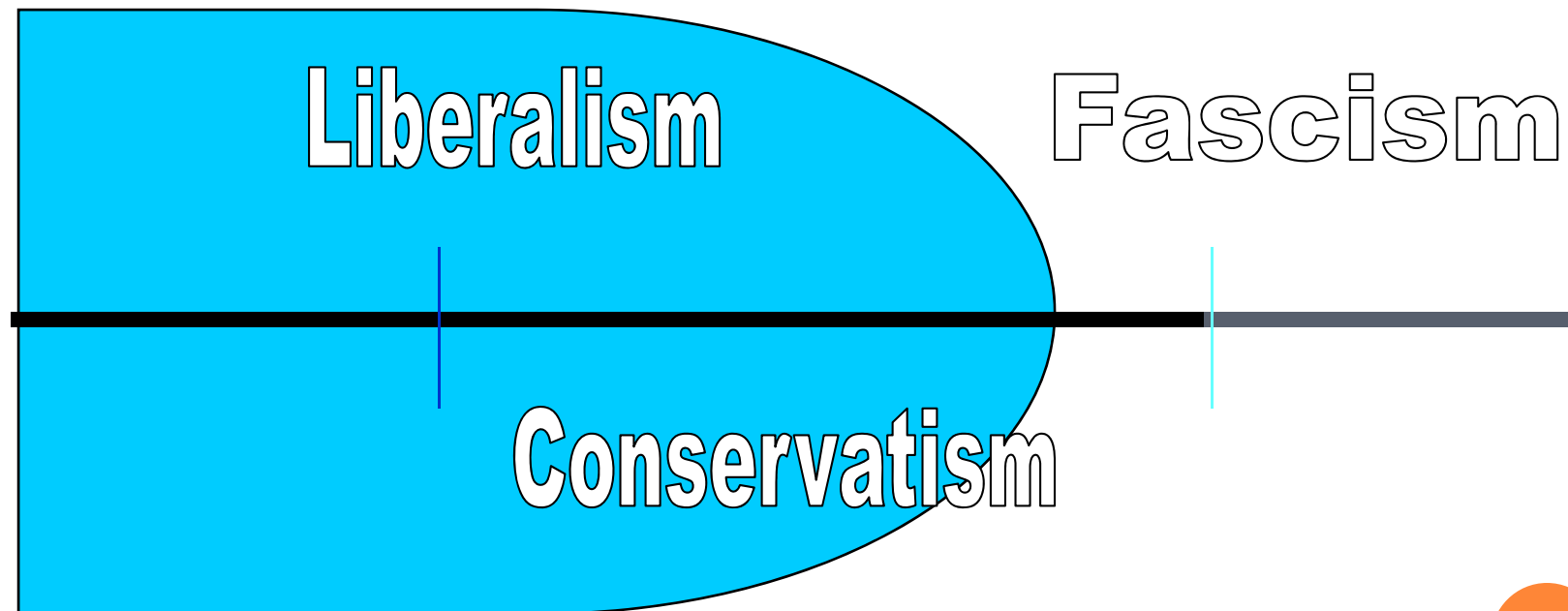


THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM VI

- Political beliefs on the right side of centre
 - Greater personal responsibility
 - Less gov't regulation/involvement
 - Social programs
 - Economy
 - support tradition
 - oppose change in society.
- Because the beliefs of conservatism and liberalism are democratic they are located inside the circle.



THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM VII - CENTRE TO RIGHT WING



LIBERALISM AND CONSERVATISM

○ Liberalism in Canada:

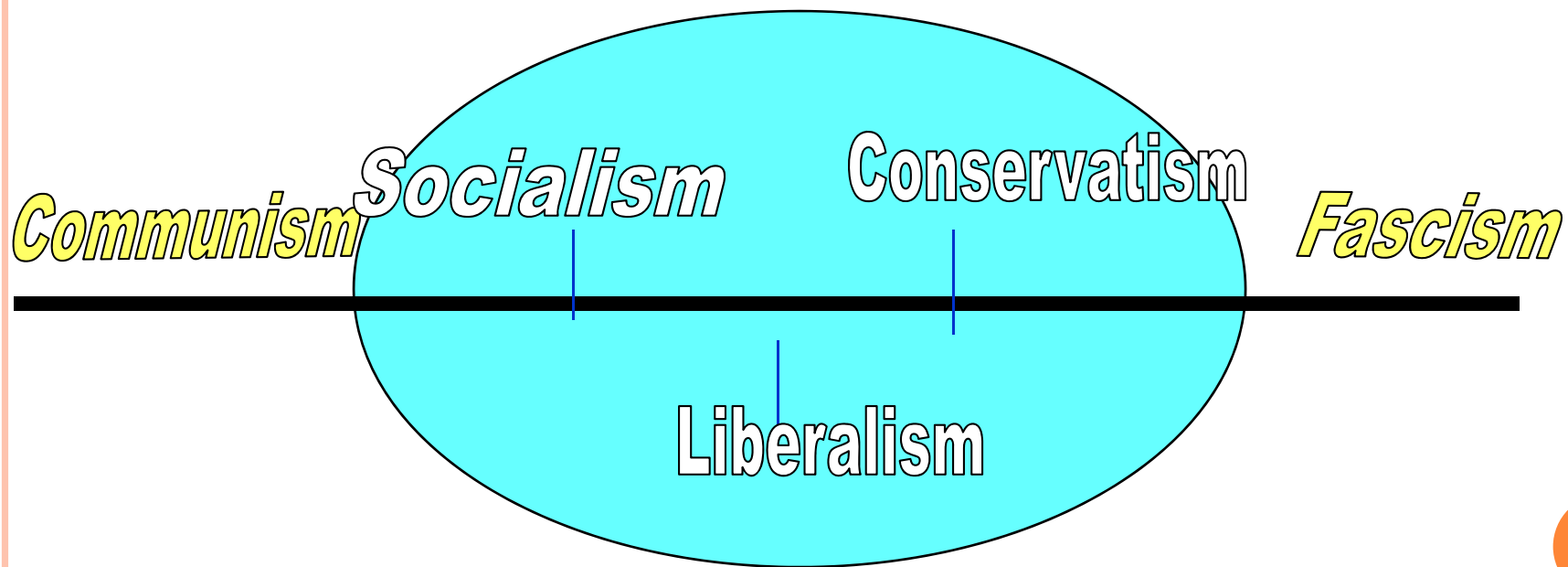
- Democracy governed by constitution
- regulated capitalist economy
- Government should provide services for citizens to improve minimum standard of living
- Balance between social freedoms and protecting civil liberties
 - Social reform/change through law

○ Conservatism in Canada

- ▶ Democracy governed by constitution
- ▶ less regulation in economy
- ▶ smaller government - business should provide services for citizens
 - ▶ low taxes
- ▶ socially conservative – preserve tradition



THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM VIII



POLITICAL PARTIES

- **Political parties derive their beliefs from the basic political ideologies.**
- **Political parties ideologies are not fixed in one location**
- **may move left or right depending**
 - **Core party beliefs**
 - **current public opinion.**



POLITICAL PARTIES IN CANADA

- **Canada has political parties at both the federal and provincial levels of government.**
- **Federal and provincial parties may share a name but not policies.**
- **In large urban areas political parties may also control local government.**

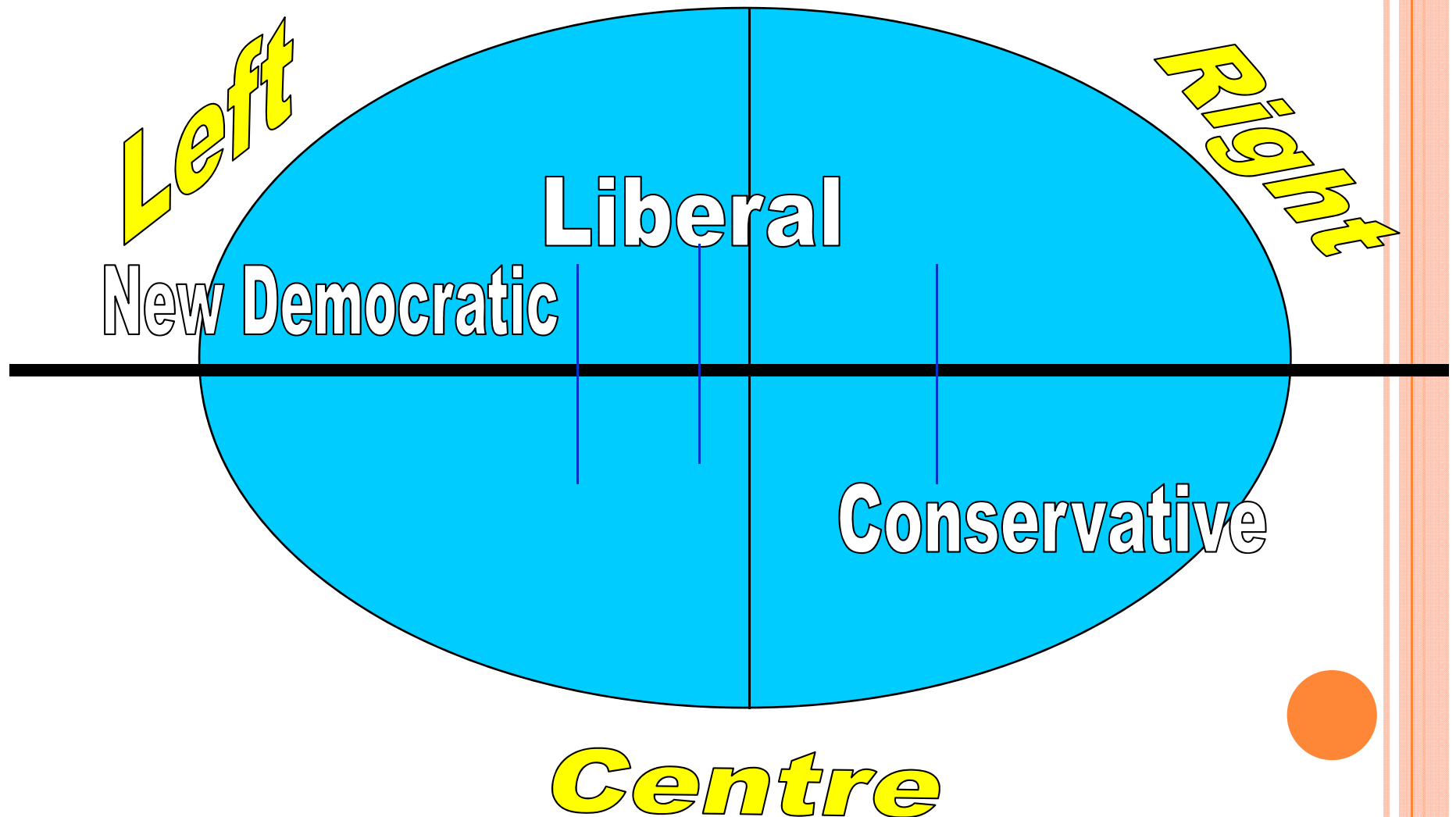


FEDERAL POLITICAL PARTIES

- The following major political parties have elected members at the federal level
- Liberal
 - Traditional centre left
 - Interim Rob Rae
- Conservative
 - Traditional right
 - Stephen Harper
- New Democratic Party
 - Traditional left
 - Thomas Mulcair
- Bloc Quebecois
 - No affiliation
 - Daniel Paille
- Green
 - Traditional Left
 - Elizabeth May



NATIONAL POLITICAL PARTIES AND THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM



PROVINCIAL POLITICAL PARTIES

- The following political parties have elected members in the British Columbia legislature.

- New Democratic Party, 
 - Traditional left

- BC Liberal Party, 
 - Traditional right



NATIONAL POLITICAL PARTIES



- The Liberal Party of Canada is reform liberal in outlook.
- It moved left at the end of World War II, as voters seemed to be heading in that direction.
- Pierre Elliott Trudeau took it even further to the Left in the 1960's and 1970's.



NATIONAL POLITICAL PARTIES

- The party of the Right in Canada was traditionally the Conservative Party of Canada.



NATIONAL POLITICAL PARTIES



Preston Manning, 1st
leader of the Reform Party

- The near collapse of the Conservatives opened up an opportunity for a new right of center party.
- The Reform Party of Canada (later renamed Canadian Alliance) filled this void -- though it had difficulty convincing people outside the West that it was more than just a party of Western alienation.



NATIONAL POLITICAL PARTIES

- The Reform Party was tremendously successful west of Ontario, but could not break through in the East.
- The tendency of more right-wing members to make dramatic but thoughtless public comments hurt their credibility with mainstream voters.
- An premature attempt to lure the remnants of the Conservative Party resulted in a name change to The Canadian Alliance Party. But it was unsuccessful in changing anything but its name and its leader until very recently.



2nd leader, Stockwell Day
-- staying afloat was easier
in the Okanagan than in
politics.

NATIONAL POLITICAL PARTIES

- At the national level, the parties of the center-right long split the vote between them.
- The result is a series of easy wins by the national Liberal Party.
- The parties of the right have talked about unity; it took until December, 2003 before the Alliance and the Conservatives merged into the new Conservative Party of Canada. It was not until 2006 that they won a federal election, though only with a minority.



PROVINCIAL POLITICAL PARTIES AND THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM

Left

Right

New Democratic

Green Party

Liberal

Centre



BC PROVINCIAL POLITICS



- In BC, there has been a very strong Left-Right split since the 1930's.
- At first the Liberals and Conservatives fought to keep out the CCF.



BC PROVINCIAL POLITICS

- In the 1950's to 1980's. The Center-Right was dominated by the Social Credit Party, which kept out the CCF, then NDP, for all but one term in three decades.
- It eventually collapsed in scandal.



Long-time Social Credit leader
W.A.C. Bennett



BC PROVINCIAL PARTIES



- With the Center-Right divided, the NDP won election twice in the 1990's.
- The Center-Right united again under Liberal leadership (though these Liberals were more right wing than their Federal cousins.
- The NDP suffered from scandals that caused huge damage and a humiliating defeat in 2001, as some leftist voters turned to the Green Party, while others turned their back on the Left altogether.



BC PROVINCIAL PARTIES

- Liberal leader Gordon Campbell won the biggest majority in BC legislative history.
- However, even before his first term ended, he and his party was embroiled in scandal.
 - Over policy issues.
 - Over conflict of interest issues with a Minister.
 - Over the leader's drinking problems.
 - Over the investigation of political appointments by the police and government auditors.
- In his second term Olympic over-spending and trouble with the Ministry of Children and Health care as a result of first term spending cuts led to severe criticism



POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES AND PARTIES - A SUMMARY -

- **The balance of freedom and equality helps to determine the nature of political ideology.**
- **It is from basic political ideologies that political parties shape their policies.**
- **The political spectrum allows us to understand the roots of ideology and party beliefs.**



SUMMARY – IDEOLOGIES AND PARTIES

- In Canada most political parties are centrist – though they are labeled as Left or Right Wing.
- Federally the Liberals have dominated because of a split in the Right. The federal Liberals are Center-Left
- Provincially the Liberals dominate because of vote splitting and internal trouble on the Left. The Provincial Liberals are seen as more right wing – though in reality they are more tending to Classical Liberal than any other parties.

