

“Be the change you want to
see in the world.”



MOHANDAS GANDHI





So, how can you influence
government?

You could vote in an election.



You could partake in a public opinion poll.



You could write to your MP or MLA or Councillor:



- Letters – Email – Phone - Visit
- Letters to the editor
- Phone Radio broadcasts
- Petitions



Note: Individual concerns on major government policy may take too long to be effective

You could join a political party.



Political Parties



- a group or organization that shares a common set of beliefs that intends to form government
- (exist at federal, provincial, territorial or municipal level)



Joining a political Party



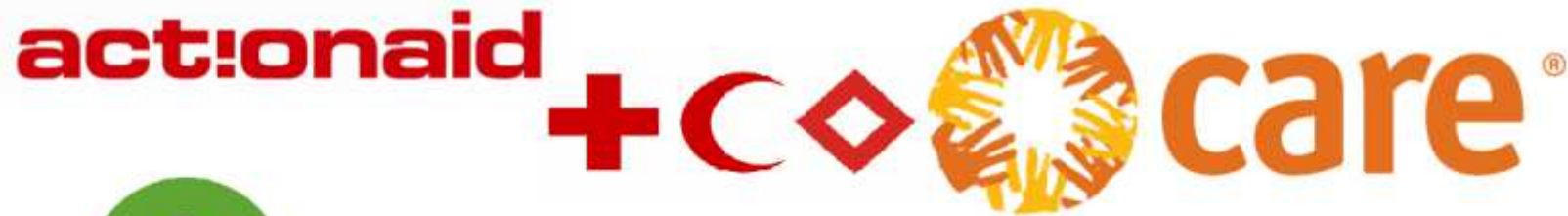
- You have to be at least 14 to 16 years old.
- Only party members can choose the candidate that will run in the riding.



Peaceful Protest



Join an Non Government Organization



OXFAM



Save the Children



**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



**MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES
DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS**



CAFOD
Just one world





- Some people seek social change through NGOs
- not for profit
- provide social services
- Red-Cross
- Habitat for Humanity
- United Way



You could join or support a **Pressure Group/Lobby Group.**



Pressure/Lobby Groups



- These groups seek to directly influence government policies
- How do they do it?
 - provide research and reports to government ministries
 - Hire lobbyists
 - ✦ lobbyists are professionals who are paid to represent pressure groups and have work with the power players in government
 - Use the courts
 - ✦ to challenge the legality of certain issues (Abortions - Pro-Choice groups)
- lobbyists can be a force for good (MADD) or for self interest (Tobacco, Oil)

You could engage in civil disobedience.



Civil Disobedience



- Act of intentionally breaking the laws that you consider unjust



Mohandas Gandhi



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr



3 Foundations of Civil Disobedience



1. Should not involve violence
2. Should be directed against laws that are seriously harmful
3. Requires taking responsibility for one's actions.
 - Willingness to face punishment
 - Shows strength in belief

Rosa Parks and the bus seat, 1955



Clayoquot Sound protests, 1993

