

Welcome to:

Democratic Champions: The Card Game

Goal: Propose and discuss solutions to the challenges facing Canadian democracy you think are most important.

Best played with groups of 4

Materials:

- Instructions
- 146 Pre-Written *Solution Cards*
- 70 Blank *Solution Wildcards*
- 36 Blank *Issue Cards*
- 3 Prompt Sheets

Setting up the game:

1. Give each player 4 blank *Issue Cards* and ask them to identify a current problem to Canadian democracy they think is important.
2. Give each player a set of *Solution Wildcards* containing a blank card for each category: Actor/Institution, Democratic Value, Democratic Behavior, and Funny.
3. Players must then fill in their own answers for solutions they might use to solve their own or issues written in step. Use the prompt sheets or other cards as inspiration.

Playing the Game:

1. To start the game, all players put their 4 *Issue Cards* in the middle and keep all the remaining *Solution Cards* in their hands.
2. The person who last posted on social media goes first. They shuffle all the filled-out *Issue Cards*, and **then selects one** and turns it over so everyone can see.
3. They invite the person who **wrote that *Issue Card*** to talk about it.
 - a. What is this problem?
 - b. Why is it a problem for Canadian democracy?
 - ↳ Any group member can ask any additional questions about the problem until the entire group **understands** the card at hand.
4. Each person then selects a *Solution Card* from their own hand to play as a **potential solution**. Players can use **ANY *Solution Card*, including wildcards and funny cards**, to help solve the issue. All players place their *Solution Card* face up in the middle of the table at the same time.
5. Each person in the group takes a turn **explaining why** they selected their *Solution Card* and how it will solve or improve the issue.
 - a. Feel free to ask questions of any of the players or make suggestions to one another.
 - b. The goal is to have a great discussion, so anything goes!
6. As a group, decide on which card is the **best solution** to the problem. The goal isn't to be perfect; the winner can be selected for any reason or process agreed upon by the group.
7. The winner of the round keeps the played *Issue Card* and *Solution Cards* face up in a stack in front of them. These cards are now out of play.
8. That ends the round and the person to the left selects the next *Issue Card* and a new round begins.
9. Play as many rounds as you want, working through the *Issue Cards* you have. You can also take turns being the host.
10. The player with the most issue/solution stacks at the end of play is named the **Democratic Champion!**

After playing the game, please fill out the following questions:

Optional End of Game Discussion Questions:

1. What cards were the hardest to play? Why?
2. Did the group write down similar problems and solutions? What does this tell you about our democracy?
3. How did you decide who won each round? Did the process change as you played? What does that tell you about the effort democracy takes?
4. What did you learn about each other by playing the game?

Prompt Sheet: Actor/Institution

The following prompts were created to help spark conversation and are not a full list of all *Solution Cards*.

Actor/Institution	Definition
Activists	People who campaign to bring about political or social change.
Advocacy Groups	Use various forms of advocacy in order to influence public opinion and ultimately policy.
Corporate Entities	A corporation is an organization—usually a company—authorized by the state to act as a single entity and recognized as such in law for certain purposes.
Criminal Justice System	Criminal justice is the delivery of justice to those who have committed crimes. The criminal justice system is a series of government agencies and institutions.
Immigrants	A person who comes to live permanently in a foreign country.
Indigenous Leaders	Leaders of Indigenous culture, community, and nationhood.
News Media	Forms of mass media that focus on delivering news to the general public or a target public. These include print media, broadcast news, and more recently the Internet.
Non-Profits and Charities	A charity is an organization with philanthropic goals that aims to improve the quality of life for the community and beyond. A non-profit is based on the simple premise that none of the corporation's net profit from donations, membership fees, or business activities will benefit any individual.
Prime Minister	The person elected to lead the Canadian government.
Provincial Government	In Canada, provincial governments have constitutional responsibility for "municipal institutions." This includes public schooling, health and social services, some highways, the administration of justice, and local government.
RCMP	The Royal Canadian Mounted Police is the federal and national police service of Canada. The RCMP provides law enforcement at the federal level.
Supreme Court of Canada	The highest court of Canada, the final court of appeals in the Canadian justice system.
The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission	A public organization in Canada with mandate as a regulatory agency for broadcasting and telecommunications. This includes news broadcasting, music, film, television, and telecommunications policy.
The Crown	It refers to the monarch as Head of the Commonwealth and can also refer to the rule of law.
Unions	An organization of workers formed for the purpose of advancing its members' interests in respect to wages, benefits, and working conditions.

Prompt Sheet: Democratic Value

The following prompts were created to help spark conversation and are not a full list of all *Solution Cards*.

Democratic Value	Definition
Checks and Balances	No branch of government should dominate another.
Civilian Control of the Military	Civilian authority should control the military to preserve constitutional government.
Common Good	Promote the well-being of the community for the benefit of all.
Compromise	Settlement reached by making concessions on both sides.
Consensus	A decision-making process where group members develop and agree on a decision in the best interest of the whole group.
Dialogue	A focused and intentional conversation, a space of civility and equality in which those who differ may listen and speak.
Diversity	Variety in culture, ethnicity, race, lifestyle, and belief is permissible, beneficial, and desirable in society.
Equality	Political, legal, social, and economic equality under the law.
Evidence-Based Truth	Supporting arguments with peer-reviewed reliable evidence.
Freedom of Religion	The right to practice any religion or no religion without government interference.
Inclusivity	The practice of including people who might otherwise not be.
Individual Rights	The government must protect individual rights.
Justice	All people are fair and equal recipients of the benefits and burdens of society.
Liberty	Personal, political, and economic freedom free from oppressive restrictions imposed by authority.
Life	The individual's right to live should be considered sacred.
Mutual Understanding	Shared sympathy between parties for the position and concerns of each other.
People Power	Political pressure shown through a public demonstration of popular opinion.
Popular Sovereignty	Ultimate authority belongs to the people served by the state.
Representative Government	Citizens elect others to represent their interests.
Respect	Regard for the feelings, wishes, rights, and traditions of others.
Rule of Law	The government and governed are equally subjected to the law.
Sensitivity	A delicate appreciation of others' feelings.
Separation of Powers	Legislative, executive, and judicial powers are held separately.
The Pursuit of Happiness	Find happiness in your own way without violating others' rights.
Truth	Citizens demand truth from government as trust is essential.
Unbiased Discussion	Showing no prejudice for or against something in discussion.

Prompt Sheet: Democratic Behaviour

The following prompts were created to help spark conversation and are not a full list of all *Solution Cards*.

Democratic Behaviour	Definition
Boycotting	Withdrawing from commercial or social relations (with a country, organization, or person) as a punishment or protest.
Conducting Dialogue	A focused and intentional conversation, in which those who differ may listen and speak together.
Conducting Qualitative / Quantitative Research	Systemic investigation and gathering of data either in an empirical quantifiable sense or a descriptive sense.
Contacting the Media	Approaching media outlets to encourage them to cover issues important to you.
Equitable Representation	Fair, reasonable, equal treatment in the representation of all.
Explore the Views of Others	Seeking out the perspectives of those around you with the intention of understanding their positions.
Fact Checking	Investigating (an issue) to verify facts based on established sources and peer-reviewed research.
Forming Committees	Bringing together a group of people appointed for a specific function, typically consisting of members of a larger group.
Hosting a Town Hall	An event at which a politician/public official answers questions from the public.
Organizing	Making arrangements or preparations for protests, rallies, petitions, or other expressions of popular opinion.
Petitioning	To make or present a formal request (to an authority) with respect to a cause with the support of others.
Producing Media Content	Creating films, visual art, graphics, writing, music, or other art that draws attention to your issues and can be shared widely.
Raise Funds	The process of seeking and gathering voluntary financial contributions by engaging individuals, businesses, charitable foundations, or governmental agencies.
Run for Office	To seek a political position by campaigning and gaining the support of others whose needs you hope to represent.
Start an Advocacy Group	Advocacy groups, or special interest groups, use various forms of advocacy to influence public opinion and policy.
Starting a Blog	Starting an independent blog to publicly publish your political ideas and interests.
Stay Informed	Investing time and resources into staying educated and informed on current issues.
Strike	Refusal to work organized by a body of employees as a form of protest.
Talking to Local Representatives	Contacting your MP, MLA, Mayor, City Councilor or other representatives by phone, email, or on social media.
Writing an Op-Ed	A written prose piece submitted to a newspaper or magazine which expresses your opinion. An opinionated community contribution not affiliated with the publication's editorial board.