

2 Why does provincial government matter?

Responsibilities? Me?

What do you think of when you hear the word responsibility? Chores? Schoolwork? Do you ever associate responsibility with what it means to be a citizen?

Over time, some of the responsibilities of citizens have changed. Although basic responsibilities are often linked to values that may have remained the same, the actions associated with those values have changed.

By the 1920s, more children were starting to attend school. By 1925, about 30% of girls and 25% of boys between the ages of 15 and 19 attended school. It was important to educate students about citizenship, although a citizenship that was based on British values and history.

How have children's responsibilities changed over time?



Pause and Reflect

What do you think your responsibilities as a citizen are?

How would your life be different if you were born in the mid-1800s?



Did You Know

Over time, children in Canada have been expected to help out with family responsibilities. In the past, even very young children were given responsibility at an early age. Teenagers were expected to take on a wide range of responsibilities – including those such as finding a job to contribute to the family income, working on the farm, looking after the house and younger children, cooking, cleaning and sharing in all aspects of running a household.

Before the middle of the 1800s, there was really no such thing as childhood. It wasn't until the early 1900s that views started to change and people recognized that being a child was different from being an adult. Legislation, or laws, that regulated the minimum working age was passed to ensure that children went to school instead of to work.

What responsibilities of citizenship are expected of children? Today, many think that children should learn the basic responsibilities they will be expected to fulfill as adults. In the past, even though children were viewed as smaller versions of adults, they did not have the rights that children have today.



How do you think your responsibilities will change? Use the Storyboard graphic organizer to sketch some of the changing responsibilities you think that you will have as you get older.
