

parliament cheat sheet

writ	The document which states that an election (or referendum) will be conducted on a specific date. After the election, the name of the winning candidate is written on the writ, signed by the returning officer, and returned to the Chief Electoral Officer.
house adjourns	The end of a sitting (either by motion or pursuant to a Standing Order or special order) within a session. An adjournment covers the period between the end of one sitting and the beginning of the next. The House may adjourn for a few minutes or for several months (e.g. the Houses adjourns over the summer months).
fiscal year	The 12-month period, from April 1 to March 31, used by the government for budgetary and accounting purposes.
Member of Parliament (MP)	A person elected to the House of Commons. There are 338 Members of Parliament representing all of the areas of Canada in the House of Commons.
constituent	A person living in an area represented by a Member of Parliament in the House of Commons.
riding	Also known as constituency or electoral district. A geographical area represented by a member of the House of Commons. When you vote, you are voting for the candidates within your particular riding.
Question Period (QP)	A time set aside every day in the House of Commons when Members of Parliament can ask Cabinet Ministers questions about their projects.



Standing Order 31 (SO31) – also referred to as a Member’s statement	A daily 15-minute period preceding Question Period, when Members, who are not Cabinet Ministers, may make statements on matters of national, regional or local importance. Statements are limited in length to one minute and opportunity to speak is given equally to all private Members.
Private Member’s Bill (PMB)	A bill sponsored by a Member who is not part of the Cabinet. It usually refers to public bills.
on the hill / the hill	Refers to Parliament Hill in Ottawa, Ontario. The site of Parliament Buildings, including where the House of Commons and the Senate meets, as well as where the offices of MPs are located.
canvassing	The activity of initiating conversations with individuals in a particular area, often used during political campaigns to get voter support/opinions on political issues (e.g. going door-to-door).
non-partisan	Someone or something that has no allegiance to any political party.

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