

Making it Fair Teacher Key

“Historical Unfairness in Elections”	“Making it Fair Today”
There didn’t seem to be any rules to verify who a voter was so they could vote many times or in may different areas/ridings.	The Dominion Elections Act was a bill passed by the House of Commons of Canada in 1920. The Act established Elections Canada, which oversees elections today. It maintains the National Register of Electors and International Register of Electors. The first national list of people eligible to vote was created in 1917. In 1930, government workers started going door to door to take names of electors, a process called enumeration. The last one, in 1997, was used to create the electronic National Register of Electors.
Voters had to state their choice in public and could be intimidated to change their vote.	In 1855, New Brunswick was the first province to switch to voting in private. This was passed federally in 1874. (source)
People in positions of power tried to force others to vote how they wanted them to vote business owners tried to intimidate their workers to vote a certain way.	Before the secret ballot, there was ample opportunity to influence or intimidate voters as they went to publicly declare their choice to an official. Economic intimidation was another, equally blunt instrument. What man could risk voting openly against the wishes of an employer or landlord? The vague property qualifications that were required of anyone who wished to vote or run for office also left the system open to disputes and abuses. The secret ballot would ensure true democratic elections. (source)
Election organizers divided up areas so they could increase the amount of people voting for who they wanted them to vote for.	Canada is divided into geographic areas called ridings, each of which elects one Member of Parliament. The number of ridings is reviewed every 10 years.
There did not seem to be a lot of rules like a candidate could just run for election in whatever area (riding) they wanted to.	Today, political parties each choose a person to be their candidate in some or all of the country’s ridings. A person could also run as an independent, without a party connection. A candidate can only run for election in one riding.
People running for election were bribing voters with free things and prizes.	At first, candidates could spend as much as they wanted on whatever they wanted while trying to get elected. In 1874, new rules meant they had to say how much they spent and on what but didn’t limit that spending. For years, there also weren’t any limits on how much companies and individual people could donate to a candidate or party for an election. Starting in 1920, candidates had to say who gave them money and how much. The 1974 Election Expenses Act set out a lot more rules about spending and donations.