

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Interest Groups

In Canada today, there are literally hundreds of special interest groups and parties comprised of normal Canadians like you who are passionate about changing our society. Your task is to determine the impact of special interest groups or special interest political parties on our political process. This will be accomplished by a thorough investigation of a group or party in order to highlight its contributions and illustrate the huge role that citizens play in the decision making process. Working in small groups, you are to complete the following tasks:

Task #1: Research

10 Marks

You are to research your chosen interest group or party. In a 1-2 page report, you are to communicate the following:

- A brief history
- Membership
- Means of support
- Issues of importance
- Techniques
- Effectiveness

Task #2: Presentation

10 Marks

Your group will prepare a 8-10 minute presentation highlighting the contributions of your interest group. Your job is to "sell" your group to the class and convince them that they should be a part of this all-important group.

Task #3: Argumentative Report

20 Marks

You are to prepare a typed and double spaced report arguing one of the topics below:

- Interest groups are a detriment to the democratic political process
- Interest groups are a necessary part of the political process

In completing your report, you must use a minimum of three sources other than your textbook and all information must be properly cited.

A Sample List of Interest Groups in Canada

Aboriginal Issues

- Aboriginal Youth Network
- Assembly of First Nations
- Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN)
- Innu Nation WWW Homepage
- Metis Nation of Canada

African Heritage

- The Council of Canadians of African and Caribbean Heritage

Business Issues

- Canadian Defence Preparedness Association
- Mining Association of Canada (MAC)
- Retail Council of Canada

Environment and Natural Resources

- Ecology Action Centre
- Environmental Youth Alliance
- Greenpeace Canada

Labour

- Canadian Labour Congress

Peace

- Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons
- Mines Action Canada
- Project Ioughshares: Canada's ecumenical peace coalition

Public Policy Groups

- Atlantic Institute for Market Studies
- Canada West Foundation
- The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives
- C.D. Howe Institute
- Fraser Institute
- National Citizens' Coalition

Seniors

- Canadian Association of Retired People

Sexual Orientation

- EGALE Canada
- Gay Canada

Society

- Canadian Council on Social Development
- The Council for Canadian Unity
- The Council of Canadians

Student-run Groups

- Canadian Federation of Students
- National Educational Association of Disabled Students (NEADS)
- Ontario Public Interest Research Group - Toronto branch
- Simon Fraser University Public Interest Research Group

Women

- Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW)
- Canadian Women's Business Network
- National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC)
- Real Women of Canada
- White Ribbon Campaign

