

## BIG IDEAS

Understanding legal rights and responsibilities allows citizens to participate more fully in society.

Laws can maintain the status quo and can also be a force for change.

A society's laws and legal framework affects many aspects of people's daily lives.

Laws are interpreted and these interpretations many evolve over time as a society's values and worldviews change.

## Learning Standards

### Curricular Competencies

### Content

Students are expected to be able to do the following:

- Use Social Studies inquiry processes and skills to ask questions; gather, interpret, and analyze legal concepts, issues, and procedures; and communicate findings and decisions
- Assess and compare the significance and impact of legal systems and codes (significance)
- Assess the justification for differing legal perspectives after investigating



## Content – Elaborations

key areas of law such as criminal law, civil law, and family law:

Sample topics:

- Criminal Code
- burden of proof (reasonable doubt versus balance of probability)
- the importance of checks and balances to prevent wrongful convictions

foundations of Canadian law:

Sample topics:

- discriminatory laws and reform processes
- importance of independence of the judiciary and lawyers

- role of deterrence and denunciation in the correctional system

structures and powers of the federal and provincial courts and administrative tribunals:

Sample topics:

- victims' rights and the Canadian Victims Bill of Rights
- rights of the accused
- appeals process
- small claims

the Constitution of Canada and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

