

# GRADE 12 CANADIAN LAW: MANITOBA CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

## Introduction

Law encompasses all of the rules that are created and enforced by governments to regulate the behaviour of all members of society, as well as the relationships between them.

Studying law gives students the opportunity to acquire knowledge and competencies that will help them throughout their lives as responsible citizens. Basic practical knowledge of the Canadian legal system allows students to play a positive, active role in society. In addition to understanding the relevance of law in everyday life, the outcomes of this course are aimed at helping students develop critical thinking skills and form personal opinions on contemporary legal issues through case studies, simulations, field trips, guest speakers, and debates.

The Grade 12 Canadian Law curriculum presents students with the major components of Canadian law, beginning with the foundations of law, followed by the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, criminal law, civil law, and family law. The course also gives students the opportunity to explore a topic of their choice through inquiry of one of the following: international law, human rights law, youth and the law, labour law, or environmental law.

This document outlines *enduring understandings* and *learning experiences* to guide the teaching of the Grade 12 Canadian Law course. Implementation of a draft of this curriculum framework began in the 2016/2017 school year. This one-credit, optional course consists of 110 hours of instruction, including formative and summative assessments, field trips, guest speakers, and related activities.

## Course Overview

This curriculum contains the general themes and topics for the course. Modules 1 to 5 represent the broad content areas. Module 6 is an inquiry guide for students to further explore a topic of their choice.

- Module 1: Foundations of Law
- Module 2: *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*
- Module 3: Criminal Law
- Module 4: Civil Law
- Module 5: Family Law
- Module 6: Student Inquiry
  - International Law
  - Human Rights Law
  - Youth and the Law
  - Labour Law
  - Environmental Law

Each module features an **enduring understanding** statement that summarizes the main theme, followed by a series of **learning experiences**.

## Enduring Understandings

*Enduring understandings* represent the knowledge and understanding that remain with students after completion of the course. Wiggins and McTighe (1998) note that

*[e]nduring understandings will anchor the unit and establish a rationale for it. The term enduring refers to the big ideas, or the important understandings, that we want students to 'get inside of' and retain after they've forgotten many of the details. Put differently, the enduring understandings provide a larger purpose for learning the targeted content: They implicitly answer the question, why is this topic worth studying?*

This, ultimately, is the purpose of social studies education: to deal with and understand issues, concepts, and topics that are truly worth remembering. Enduring understandings, and the general values and dispositions they imply, can inform citizenship and provide the basis for teaching for understanding.

## Learning Experiences

This document includes learning experiences to focus inquiry, knowledge, and understanding. Learning experiences are concise statements of the learning that will lead students to acquire the enduring understandings of the course. Many of the learning experiences include examples of suggested topics to guide student learning; teachers should use their professional discretion when exploring additional topics that are pertinent to the context in which they teach.