

# WHY Local Government Matters!

We are very fortunate to live in a country where our system of government is a democracy. This means that citizens in Canada have the right to elect their representatives. It also means that citizens have a say in how their community, province and country are governed.

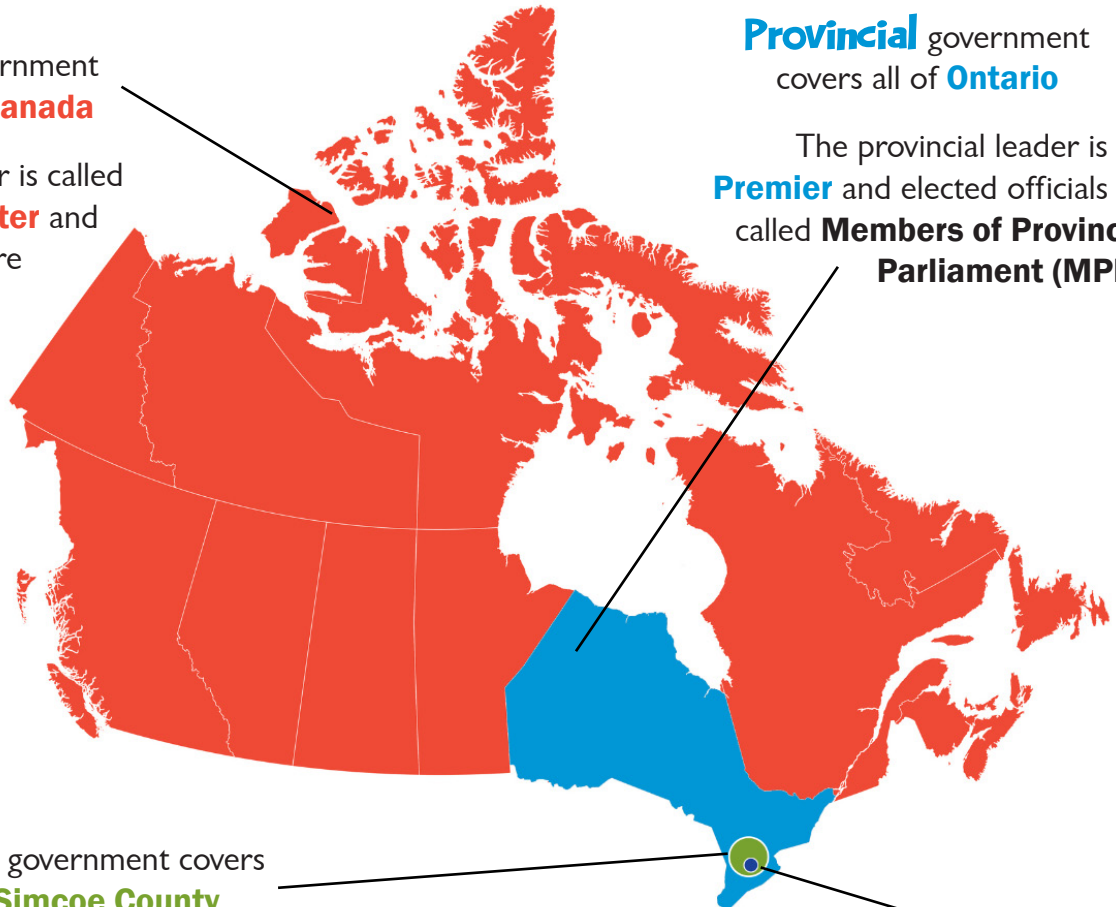
## Who is responsible for what?

**Federal** government covers all of **Canada**

The federal leader is called the **Prime Minister** and elected officials are called **Members of Parliament (MPs)**

**Provincial** government covers all of **Ontario**

The provincial leader is the **Premier** and elected officials are called **Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs)**



**County** government covers all of **Simcoe County**

The county leader is the **Warden** and two representatives from each municipality in the County make up the **Members of County Council**

**Municipal (a.k.a. "Local")** government covers

**The Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury**

The municipal leader is the **Mayor** and elected officials are called **Members of Council**

Federal	Provincial	County	Municipal
responsibilities include:	responsibilities include:	responsibilities include:	responsibilities include:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• armed forces</li> <li>• immigration</li> <li>• banking</li> <li>• postal services</li> <li>• natural resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• schools</li> <li>• healthcare and hospitals</li> <li>• energy</li> <li>• highways (like Highway 400)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• garbage and recycling</li> <li>• social housing</li> <li>• county roads (like Highway 27 and Yonge Street)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• police &amp; fire depts</li> <li>• local roads, sidewalks, and streetlights</li> <li>• water and sewers</li> <li>• parks, pools, arenas and libraries</li> </ul>

# How is the Town of BWG governed?

- The municipal government of the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury is made up of nine people - a Mayor, a Deputy Mayor and seven Councillors. The Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury is divided into seven sections called wards, with one Councillor representing each ward.
- The Members of Council work with a staff of people to ensure that the municipal services mentioned on the previous page are provided.
- Council meets twice a month to consider decisions that need to be made and things that need to be done. Council then directs staff to carry out the necessary work to provide services.
- The public is always welcome to attend these meetings. They are usually held on the second and third Tuesday of the month starting at 7:00 p.m. at the BWG Public Library.

# How is Council elected?

- Municipal elections usually take place every four years. The next municipal election will take place on **October 4, 2022**. (Will you be 18 years old in 2022? If not, how about in 2026? 2030?)
- People who want to become a Member of Council - either the Mayor, Deputy Mayor or a Councillor for one of the seven wards - have to register at the Town of BWG offices. Then they “campaign” to let people know more about them and why they would be a good choice for the job.
- On election day, people who live or own property in BWG can vote for who they want to represent them. They can vote for one person to be the Councillor of their ward, one person to be Mayor and one to be Deputy Mayor.
- The candidate for each job that gets the most votes wins, so it’s important to vote for your choices!

## When can you vote?

To vote in a Town of BWG election, you must:

- be a Canadian citizen
- be at least 18 years old
- live or own property in the Town of BWG

# Where does the money come from?

- All of the services provided by the Town of BWG - from swimming pools to roads - cost money.
- Most of that money comes from taxes on property - this means that every year, anyone who owns property in BWG (a house, business, farm or land) has to pay money to the municipal government.
- The Town of BWG collects all of the property tax, but more than half of it gets sent to the County of Simcoe, school boards and the police department to cover their services.
- Some money also comes from fees (such as for marriage licences or memberships at the Leisure Centre), fines (such as parking tickets), savings and interest from the bank, and grants from the federal and provincial government.

## Connect with the Town of BWG!

There are lots of ways to learn more about the Town and to send us your feedback:



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@townofbwg  
www.townofbwg.com  
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