Political Culture and Political Socialization
Whereas culture refers to the customs, behaviour, historical linkages and general attitudes of a particular group of people, political culture is the attitudes, beliefs and norms that people have specifically developed towards government and politics.
It is important to recognize that political communities differ from each other in terms of their respective political cultures.

It is also important to remember that citizens within communities also differ from each other in terms of their respective political cultures.
Aspects of Political Culture

- Political culture involves the citizens' orientations at three different levels:
  - System
  - Process
  - Policy
Gabriel Almond and Sidney Verba outlined three basic categories of political culture in their groundbreaking study, *The Civic Culture* (1963)

- Parochial culture
- Subject culture
- Participatory culture
What are the characteristics of Canadian political culture?
Theories of Political Culture

- Fragment Theory (Louis Hartz): colonized societies such as Canada originated as “fragments” of European societies and have remained marked throughout their history by the conditions of their origin.

- Formative Events Theory (Seymour Martin Lipset): countries have political cultures that reflect the major events at the time of their founding.
Theories of Political Culture

- Post Materialism (Ronald Inglehart): a person’s values are determined by the socio-economic conditions in which they spend their formative years.

- Materialists (people who are more concerned about physical and economic security) grew up during times of socio-economic insecurity. Post-materialists (people who are more concerned about self-fulfillment and self-expression) grew up during times of socio-economic security and stability.
Post Materialism

What evidence is there that Canadian political culture has been influenced by post-materialist change?
Political Socialization

- Political socialization refers to the means by which the values and attitudes contained within a political culture are transmitted from generation to generation.

- The agents of political socialization are the institutions, organizations and individuals which assist in the process of political socialization.
What are some agents of political socialization in Canada?