

# Intro to Law



# What is Law?

- Law regulates our activities from birth to death
- Law is whatever the political party in power decides it is
- Law is a social necessity
- Law is a civilized people's attempt to regulate life in society by the principles of reason and fairness as opposed to brute force
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# Laws By Context

- Laws tend to change with time and vary by location
- Laws have changed since confederation
- Laws reflect the values of location and vary widely



# The Need for Law

- Laws create predictability and a structure for creating a safe and peaceful society
- Disputes and disagreements are settled in court rather than on the street



# The Rule of Law

In Canada we expect the law to protect the rights of individual citizens

We follow the Rule of Law which is our three part principle of justice

- 1) The individual must recognize and accept that law is necessary to regulate society
- 2) The law applies equally to everyone (youth and premiers)
- 3) No one in society can take away our rights except in accordance to the law

# Roncarelli vs Duplessis 1959

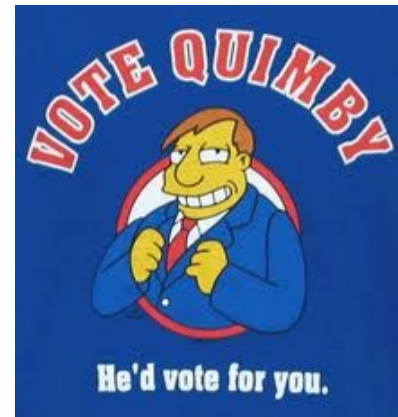


# Law and Morality

- Some laws serve a practical purpose and others reflect the moral values of a society
- This can lead to controversy in some cases

Eg. Euthanasia, capital punishment, abortion,  
Society's values push politicians to make laws that reflect societies values

If laws do not reflect your individual values, you have the right to voice your objections



# Law and Justice

- The ultimate goal of law is to insure Justice for all
- What exactly is justice?





# What is Justice?

- Greek society didn't consider inequality and injustice
- Law must apply equally to all , but applying laws without exception can lead to injustice
- Should the law take circumstances into consideration?



# Justice cont'd

- Underlying the concept of justice is the idea that we should “treat like cases alike and different cases differently”

# Justice cont'd

- We consider a law unjust if it discriminates on the basis of irrelevant characteristics

# Justice cont'd

- Justice should be impartial: that is, laws should be applied regardless of a person's position or financial status.

# Justice cont'd

- We expect the law itself to be just in that it conforms to society's values and beliefs
- DNA registry

# Chad Kroeger Drunk Driving

