Influencing Government (p258-267)

1. **Vote!**

Use your democratic right to vote for the MP or MLA that you think is best



1. **Contact your local MP or MLA by phone, email, or just walk in to their office**

**Lana Popham MLA Saanich**



**Elizabeth May MP Saanich/Gulf Islands**



**3)** Join a Pressure Group (Institutionalized or Issue-oriented)

* Institutionalized are well established and have formal organizations



* Issue orientated pressure groups are less permanent



* Pressure groups provide polls, reports, petitions, and advice to gov’t
* **Lobbyists** are paid to represent the interests of a particular group (not always good for society)



1. **Use Mass Media** – Television, Radio, Newspapers, Internet, Billboards (advertising).



* If most media is owned by few companies, critics say the media may be biased. Goes against the intent of democracy.



5) Civil Disobedience – The act of intentionally breaking laws one considers unjust

* If voting, contacting MPs or MLAs, joining pressure groups, and informing the media doesn’t work, Civil Disobedience is the last resort to influence government



