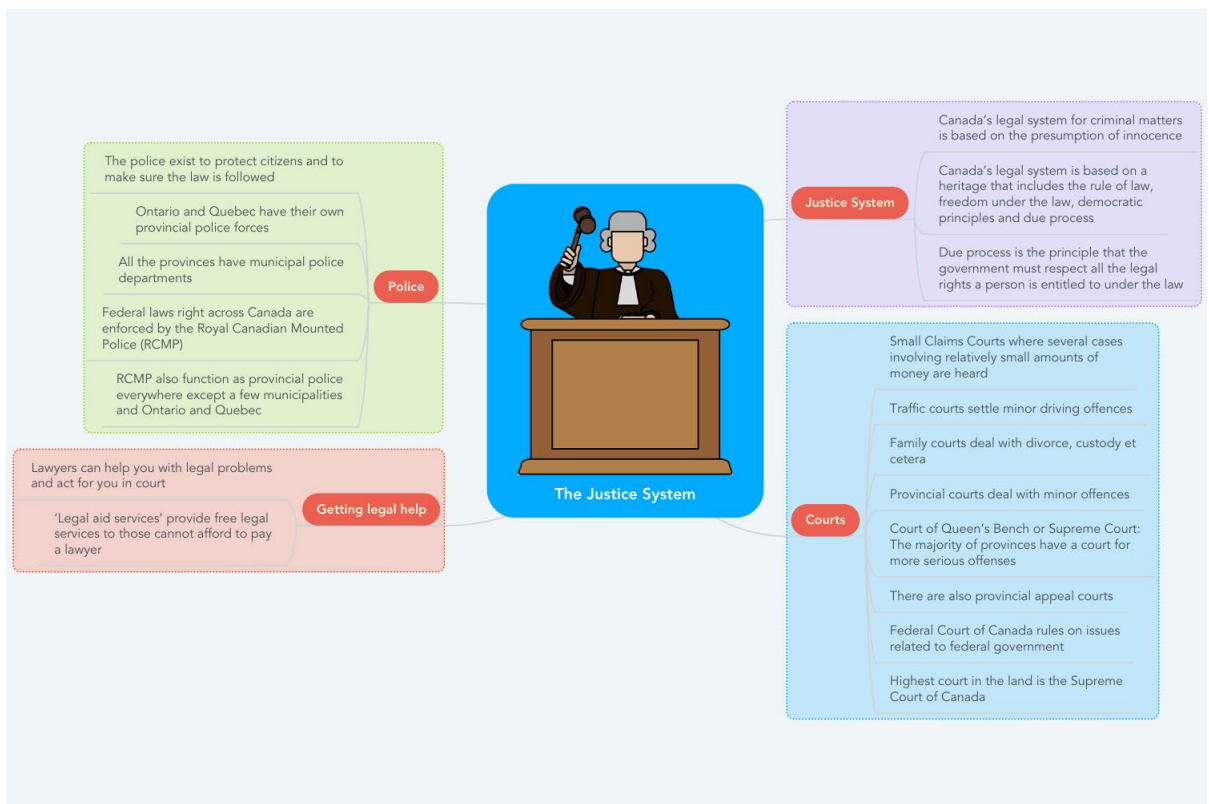




Chapter 7: The Justice System



1 Justice System

- 1.1 Canada's legal system for criminal matters is based on the presumption of innocence
- 1.2 Canada's legal system is based on a heritage that includes the rule of law, freedom under the law, democratic principles, and due process
- 1.3 Due process is the principle that the government must respect all the legal rights a person is entitled to under the law

2 Courts

- 2.1 Small Claims Courts where several cases involving relatively small amounts of money are heard
- 2.2 Traffic courts settle minor driving offences
- 2.3 Family courts deal with divorce, custody et cetera
- 2.4 Provincial courts deal with minor offences
- 2.5 Court of Queen’s Bench or Supreme Court: The majority of provinces have a court for more serious offenses
- 2.6 There are also provincial appeal courts
- 2.7 Federal Court of Canada rules on issues related to the federal government
- 2.8 The highest court in the land is the Supreme Court of Canada

3 Getting legal help

- 3.1 Lawyers can help you with legal problems and act for you in court
- 3.2 'Legal aid services' provide free legal services to those who cannot afford to pay a lawyer

4 Police

- 4.1 The police exist to protect citizens and to make sure the law is followed
- 4.2 Ontario and Quebec have their own provincial police forces
- 4.3 All the provinces have municipal police departments
- 4.4 Federal laws right across Canada are enforced by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)
- 4.5 RCMP also function as provincial police everywhere except a few municipalities and Ontario and Quebec