Municipalities in Ontario: Video Transcript

Watch the video here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=21V8tZjFYnU

Ontario is divided into 444 different communities called municipalities. Each municipality has its own local government which is responsible for the planning, safety and growth of their community. Municipal governments actually receive their powers from the provincial government. They are responsible for local and _____, such as water, fire protection, policing, parks, community and _____, libraries, garbage and recycling, land use and planning, roads and sidewalks, transportation systems, and much more. A municipality can be called a city, town, village, township, county or region – and they are part of either a _____ or two-tier system.

A single-tier system has one government with one _____. A two-tier system has two governments with two councils. Single-tier _____manage all of their responsibilities on their own. Examples include larger cities like Toronto, Windsor and Ottawa, or smaller townships like Red Rock and Nipissing. In a two-tier system, several lower-tier _____ are grouped together under the umbrella of an upper-tier municipality. An upper-tier municipality is responsible for some larger _____ services, such as policing and waste management. For example, Brampton, Mississauga and Caledon are lower-tier municipalities and the Region of Peel is the upper-tier municipality.

Every municipality is different, but they all have several things in common: a defined geographic area, the power to tax and an elected council. The elected council of lower-tier and single-tier municipalities is called a local municipal council. The head of the local council is called a mayor or a reeve. They are elected _____ – which means by all _____ voters within a municipality. Local council members are called councillors or aldermen, and they can be elected at-large, or by using a _____ system that breaks a municipality down into smaller areas. Some municipalities use a mix of both at-large and ward systems.

The role of council members is to listen to the concerns of people living in their community and to attend meetings to discuss, debate, and create _____and decisions for the municipality. Your municipal government impacts you every day. In an election, you decide who will lead and direct your municipality. Vote _____.

at-large	**eligible**	**municipalities**	**single-tier**
by-laws	**everyday matters**	**recreation centre**	**ward**
council	**municipalities**	**regional**	**wisely**

LIVEWORKSHEETS