

## CRIMINAL LAW vs. CIVIL LAW

Explain the difference between criminal and civil law for the students. Have them participate in teams to answer the quiz.

### CRIMINAL CASES

- When someone breaks the law written in the *Criminal Code*
- The trial has two sides – the Prosecution and the Defence
- The *Crown counsel* or *Crown prosecutor* is the lawyer who acts for the government to bring the case to trial
- The *defence counsel* is the lawyer who argues the defence for the accused
- The *accused* or *defendant* is the person who is charged with breaking the law
- The *accused* is "*presumed innocent until proven guilty*"
- The Crown Counsel must prove that the person is guilty "*beyond a reasonable doubt*"
- If the Crown Counsel does not prove this, the accused is *acquitted* and set free.
- If the accused is found guilty, then a *sentence* is given by the judge.
- A sentence could be a fine, prison time, or community service.

### CIVIL CASES

- When someone sues someone else and brings them to court to try and fix a problem or end a disagreement.
- All cases that are not criminal cases are civil cases.
- A civil trial has two sides – a *plaintiff* who is suing and a *defendant* who is being sued.
- A judge listens to both sides' arguments.
- The plaintiff must show "*on a balance of probabilities*" that it has the most believable case.
- If the plaintiff has a good argument the judge will decide how to fix the problem.
- Judges in civil cases sometimes make the defendant pay money to the plaintiff or stop doing something, or make a public apology.

## QUIZ - CRIMINAL or CIVIL LAW

- A woman's car is hit by another car while she is stopped at a red light?
- A man breaks into a house and steals a stereo?
- Two parents separate and each wants to have the children live with them?
- A woman's landlord won't fix the leaky roof in her apartment and her piano gets wet?
- A man threatens to kill his neighbour?
- Two girls smoke a joint in the schoolyard?
- A man buys some chips and breaks a tooth on a piece of plastic hidden in the chip bag?
- A woman pushes another woman and she slips on some ice in front of a store?
- A man drives through a red light?
- Two women jump a fence and break the windows of a deserted house?