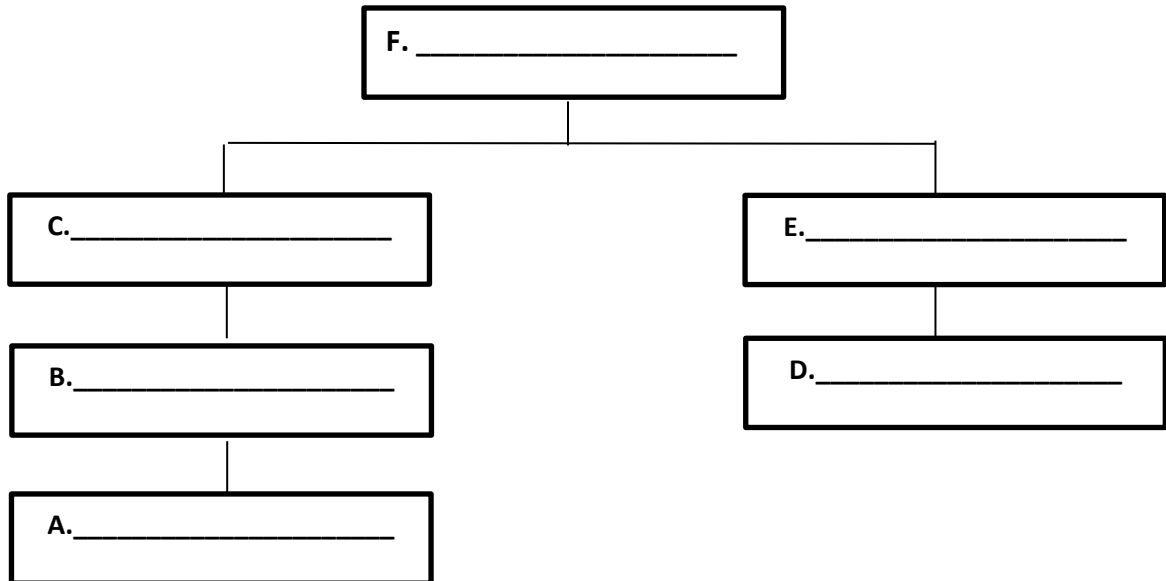


HANDOUT 2: Canada's and BC's Court System



- A. In this court, the judges sit alone as there are no jury trials. It has four divisions: Criminal, Family, Small Claims (disputes amounting to \$25,000 or less) and Traffic and By-Law. This court hears the majority of cases.
- B. This is the highest trial court in the province. The judges in this court may sit alone or with juries. It deals with civil cases involving money over \$25,000, serious criminal cases such as murder, and divorce and custody cases.
- C. This court hears civil cases appealed from the Supreme Court of British Columbia and criminal cases appealed from the provincial levels of criminal trial courts. In this court, at least three judges and sometimes five hear appeals together.
- D. This court deals with civil matters involving disputes by individuals or groups with the federal government; disputes by provincial governments with the federal government; and cases in specialized areas of federal law, including income tax, patents, customs, and maritime law.
- E. This court reviews decisions made by the Federal Courts. Decisions that are made here can only be appealed to the Supreme Court of Canada.
- F. This court can appeal any type of dispute, criminal or civil. Cases in this court are heard by three, seven, or all nine judges. Judgements that are made here are final, and cannot be appealed to any other court.