

Directions: After reading the background information and examining the source, answer the questions below.

Background Information: The Conscription Debate

Canada's participation in World War I was marked by significant contributions to the Allied cause. As part of the British Empire, Canada sent over 600,000 troops to the Western Front. The ongoing and increasing demand for troops, coupled with a declining number of volunteers, led the Canadian government led by Robert Borden and the Union Party to implement conscription, or forced military service (sometimes called Compulsory Equal Service) through the passing of the Military Service Act in 1918.

Featured Sources:

SOURCE A

THE LINE-UP BY PROVINCES FOR AND AGAINST COMPULSORY EQUAL SERVICE.

OTTAWA, July 6.—The following was the line up in the house of commons this morning by provinces for or against Compulsory Equal Service on the final vote:

	For	Against
Prince Edward Island	2	1
Nova Scotia	6	2
New Brunswick	7	3
Manitoba	7	1
Saskatchewan	8	0
Alberta	4	1
British Columbia	7	0
Yukon	1	0
Quebec	8	45
Ontario	68	2
Total	118	55

Thus outside of Quebec only ten members opposed Compulsory Equal Service. West of the Ottawa river only four members opposed it and only one of these represented what might be termed an English-speaking seat, namely Hon. Frank Oliver, of Edmonton. The others were Hon. Charles Murphy, of Russell; Edmond Proulx, of Prescott, and Dr. Molloy, of Provencher. These are largely French seats.

East of the province of Quebec six liberals opposed Compulsory Equal Service, two more than all the way from the Ottawa river to the Pacific coast. Outside of Quebec only six English-speaking members voted against the government measure.

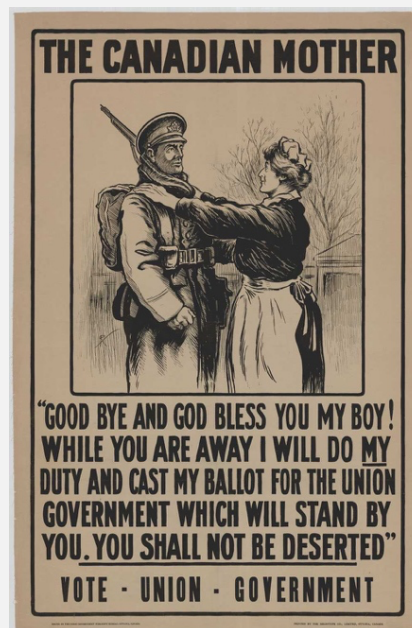
The final vote for Compulsory Equal Service showed over two thirds of the members present favoring the bill. It showed also eight more than half of the total normal membership of the house, including the 22 vacant seats supporting the measure.

The Halifax Herald, 7 July 1917

Source: The Halifax Herald [Newspaper]

Date: July 7, 1917

SOURCE B



Title: *The Canadian Mother*

Source: Union Government
Publicity Bureau

Date: 1916

Continued on Back



Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Statement: Which source would be more useful in assessing how Canadians felt about conscription during World War I? **Source A / Source B (Circle One)** Explain your reasoning below:

Source ____ is more useful because...

Source ____ is less useful because...