

Representative institutions were granted by the British government to Nova Scotia in 1758, to Prince Edward Island in 1773, to New Brunswick in 1785. Upper and Lower Canada were separated in 1791, each province receiving a Legislature. The Imperial Act creating the two provinces contained the germ of responsible government which was brought into active exercise in 1841, when the two provinces were re-united. Responsible government was definitely established in the province of Canada in 1847. It was granted by the Imperial Parliament to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in 1848, to Prince Edward Island in 1851, and to British Columbia in 1871.

The North-west Territories were governed at first under the administration of the Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba; then by a Lieutenant-Governor and Council nominated by the Dominion Government (Act 1880); then by a Lieutenant-Governor and Council, part elected and part nominated; then in 1888 by a Lieutenant-Governor and an Advisory Council of four persons selected from an elected Assembly of 22 members; then by a Lieutenant-Governor, an Executive and a Legislative Assembly, with powers the same as those conferred on the legislatures of the other provinces, excepting as to the borrowing of money on the sole credit of the province. Then, by a Lieutenant-Governor and an Executive Council selected by the Governor from the Assembly and re-elected, on accepting office, by the people, the latter arrangement having come into force on 1st October, 1897.

In 1905, bills establishing two provinces in place of the four territories to the east of British Columbia were introduced into parliament.

In the session of 1887 the districts of Assiniboia, Alberta, Athabasca and Saskatchewan were represented for the first time in the Dominion Parliament, four representatives in the House of Commons and two in the Senate being given to them.

The district of Yukon was constituted and declared to be a separate territory under the name of the Yukon Territory by Chap. 6, Acts of the Parliament of Canada, 1898, and amended by Chap. 11, Acts of 1899. The first commissioner was appointed by Order in Council, dated 4th July, 1898.

The first representative in the Federal Parliament was elected on Dec. 2nd, 1902, pursuant to Chap. 34, Act 2nd Edward VII.

---

The system of government established in Canada under the Union Act of 1867 is a Federal Union (the first of the kind in the British Empire) having (a) a general or central government controlling matters essential to the general development, the permanency and the unity of the whole Dominion, and (b) a number of local or provincial governments having the control and management of certain matters naturally and conveniently falling within their defined jurisdiction, while each government is administered in accordance with the British system of parliamentary institutions.

The chief executive government and authority is vested in the Sovereign, in whom is also vested the chief command of the militia and of all naval and military forces in Canada. His Majesty is represented by a Governor General, appointed by the King in Council but paid by Canada.