

Subsection 1.—The Governor General of Canada.

The Governor General is appointed by the King as his representative in Canada, usually for a term of five years, with a salary fixed at £10,000 sterling per annum and forming a charge against the consolidated revenue of the country. The Governor General is bound by the terms of his commission and can exercise only such authority as is expressly entrusted to him. He acts under the advice of his Ministry, which is responsible to Parliament, and, as the acting head of the executive, summons, prorogues, and dissolves Parliament and assents to or reserves bills. In the discharge of these and other executive duties, he acts entirely by and with the advice of his Ministry (the Governor General in Council). The royal prerogative of mercy in capital cases, formerly exercised on the Governor General's own judgment and responsibility, is now exercised pursuant to the advice of the Ministry. The practice whereby the Governor General served as the medium of communication between the Canadian and the British Governments has been given up; since July 1, 1927, direct communication between His Majesty's Government in Canada and His Majesty's Government in Great Britain has been instituted.

A list of the Governors General from the time of Confederation, with the dates of their appointment and assumption of office, is given in Table I.

1.—Governors General of Canada, 1867-1931.

Name.	Date of Appointment.	Date of Assumption of Office.
Viscount Monck, G.C.M.G.	June 1, 1867	July 1, 1867
Lord Lisgar, G.C.M.G.	Dec. 29, 1868	Feb. 2, 1869
The Earl of Dufferin, K.P., K.C.B., G.C.M.G.	May 22, 1872	June 25, 1872
The Marquis of Lorne, K.T., G.C.M.G.	Oct. 5, 1878	Nov. 25, 1878
The Marquis of Lansdowne, G.C.M.G.	Aug. 18, 1883	Oct. 23, 1883
Lord Stanley of Preston, G.C.B.	May 1, 1888	June 11, 1888
The Earl of Aberdeen, K.T., G.C.M.G.	May 22, 1893	Sept. 18, 1893
The Earl of Minto, G.C.M.G.	July 30, 1898	Nov. 12, 1898
The Earl Grey, G.C.M.G.	Sept. 26, 1904	Dec. 10, 1904
Field Marshal H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, K.G.	Mar. 21, 1911	Oct. 13, 1911
The Duke of Devonshire, K.G., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O.	Aug. 19, 1916	Nov. 11, 1916
General the Lord Byng of Vimy, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., M.V.O.	Aug. 2, 1921	Aug. 11, 1921
Viscount Willingdon of Rattou, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., G.B.E.	Aug. 5, 1926	Oct. 2, 1926
The Earl of Bessborough	Feb. 9, 1931	April 4, 1931

Subsection 2.—The Ministry.

A system of government based upon the British, by which a Cabinet or Ministry (composed of members of the House of Commons or the Senate), responsible to Parliament, holds office while it enjoys the confidence of the people's representatives, is found in Canada. The Cabinet is actually a committee of the King's Privy Council for Canada. Without enlarging upon the features of the system, it may be sufficient to note that the Cabinet is responsible to the House of Commons, and, following established precedent, resigns office when it becomes evident that it no longer holds the confidence of the people's representatives. Members of the Cabinet are chosen by the Prime Minister; each of them generally assumes charge of one of the various Departments of the Government, although one Minister may hold two portfolios at the same time, while other members may be without portfolio.