

Under the terms of a Bill, assented to on Feb. 18, 1949, and entitled "An Act to approve the Terms of Union of Newfoundland with Canada", provision was made for the Province of Newfoundland to be represented by seven members in the House of Commons. This brought the number of Members of Parliament up to 262.

The Opposition.—The Opposition occupies an essential place in constitutions based on the British Parliamentary System. Like many other institutions such as that of the premiership, for instance, it takes its place with the many unwritten arrangements, tested by time, that have been accepted and become firmly established.

The choice of the Canadian electorate not only determines who shall govern Canada but, by deciding which party receives the second largest number of seats in the House of Commons, it settles which of the major parties becomes the Official Opposition. The function of the Leader of the Opposition is to offer intelligent and constructive criticism of the government of the day.

When criticism by the Opposition becomes sufficiently effective it can overthrow the existing government and the Leader of the Opposition might then, as a result of the ensuing election, find himself the Prime Minister.

Although the position of Leader of the Opposition is not recognized in the British North America Act, it received statutory acknowledgment in Canada in 1927. The Senate and House of Commons Act of that year provided for an annual salary to be paid to the Leader of the Opposition in addition to his indemnity as a Member of the House. (See p. 72.)

9.—Electoral Districts, Voters on List and Votes Polled, Names and Addresses of Members of the House of Commons, as Elected at the Twenty-First General Election, June 27, 1949.

Speaker	The Hon. W. ROSS MACDONALD
Clerk of the House	LEON J. RAYMOND
Leader of the Opposition.....	GEORGE A. DREW

NOTE.—This information, except the population of constituencies, has been supplied by the Chief Electoral Officer, Ottawa. Party affiliations are unofficial. The vote is summarized by provinces in Table 11, p. 73. The leaders of the political parties are indicated by asterisks(*) and Parliamentary Assistants by footnotes.

Province and Electoral District	Population, Census 1941	Voters on List	Total Votes Polled	Votes Polled by Member ¹	Name of Member ¹	P.O. Address	Party Affiliation
	No.	No.	No.	No.			
Newfoundland—z (7 members)							
Bonavista- Twillingate.....	43,912	24,411*	11,209*	9,744*	Hon. F. G. BRADLEY	Ottawa.....	Lib.
Burin-Burgeo.....	41,395	21,870*	13,691*	12,590	C. W. CARTER.....	St. John's.....	Lib.
Grand Falls - White Bay.....	44,627	27,592*	14,247*	12,301	T. G. W. ASHBOURNE	Twillingate.....	Lib.
Humber - St. George's.....	41,143	23,683*	13,461*	11,930	W. R. KENT.....	Corner Brook...	Lib.
St. John's East.....	48,811	27,894*	18,170*	9,912	G. F. HIGGINS.....	St. John's.....	P.C.
St. John's West.....	49,788	29,531*	20,291*	10,344	W. J. BROWNE.....	St. John's.....	P.C.
Trinity-Conception..	52,143	27,458*	14,121*	10,929	L. T. STICK.....	Bay Roberts...	Lib.
P. E. Island— (4 members)							
Kings.....	19,415	11,078*	9,626*	5,079	T. J. KICKHAM.....	Souris.....	Lib.
Prince.....	34,490	19,189*	17,140*	8,007	J. W. MACNAUGHT ³	Summerside.....	Lib.
Queens ⁴	41,142	25,505*	41,627*	10,657	W. C. S. MCLURE...	Charlottetown..	P.C.
				10,652	J. L. DOUGLAS.....	Charlottetown..	Lib.

¹ Successful candidate. ² Population figures based on the 1945 Census of Newfoundland.
³ Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Fisheries. ⁴ Each elector could vote for two candidates.