

PART II.—MACHINERY OF GOVERNMENT

Section 1.—The Federal Government

Subsection 1.—The Executive

The Crown.—The British North America Act provides that “the Executive Government and authority of and over Canada is . . . vested in the Queen”. The functions of the Crown, which are substantially the same as those of the Queen in relation to the Government of the United Kingdom, are discharged in Canada by the Governor General in accordance with established principles of responsible government. The practical executive functions of government are exercised by the Cabinet.

The Queen.—The personal participation of the Queen in the functions of the Crown in Canada has been limited to such occasions as the granting of honours and awards, approval of changes in the Table of Precedence, institution of new military awards, or the periodic appointment of a Governor General. On the occasion of a royal visit, the Queen may participate in those ceremonies which otherwise are carried out in her name, such as the opening and dissolution of Parliament, the assent to Bills, and the granting of a general amnesty.

Apart from her constitutional position in relation to the various governments of the Commonwealth countries the Queen is Head of the Commonwealth and symbolizes the association of the member countries. Until 1953 the title of the Queen was the same throughout the Commonwealth. Constitutional developments put the title somewhat out of accord with the facts of the position and in December 1952 it was decided by the Prime Ministers of the Commonwealth countries meeting at London, Eng., that new forms of title for each country should be devised. The title for Canada was approved by Parliament and established by a Royal Proclamation on May 29, 1953. The title of the Queen, so far as Canada is concerned, now is:—

“Elizabeth the Second, by the grace of God of the United Kingdom, Canada and her other realms and territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith”.

The Governor General.—The Governor General, appointed by the Queen as her personal representative on the advice of the Prime Minister of Canada, traditionally serves for a term of five years. He exercises the executive authority of the Queen in relation to the Government of Canada under new Letters Patent issued under the Great Seal of Canada (effective Oct. 1, 1947) and the provisions of the British North America Acts 1867 to 1952. Acting under the recommendations of his responsible Ministers, in the Queen’s name, he summons, prorogues, and dissolves Parliament and assents to Bills and exercises other executive functions.

The Governor General’s annual salary and allowances provided by the Parliament of Canada are respectively \$48,666 and \$100,000. In addition there are other expenses of office, including the salary of the Governor General’s secretary.

The present Governor General is styled His Excellency the Right Honourable Vincent Massey, C.H.

2.—Governors General of Canada since Confederation, 1867

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
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