

## 2.—Governors General of Canada since Confederation, 1867—concluded

Name	Date of Appointment	Date of Assumption of Office
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 RATON, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., G.B.E.	Aug. 5, 1926	Oct. 2, 1926
THE EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, G.C.M.G.	Feb. 9, 1931	Apr. 4, 1931
LORD TWEEDSMUIR OF ELSFIELD, G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., C.H.	Aug. 10, 1935	Nov. 2, 1935
MAJOR-GENERAL THE EARL OF ATHLONE, K.G., P.C., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., D.S.O.	Apr. 3, 1940	June 21, 1940
FIELD MARSHAL VISCOUNT ALEXANDER OF TUNNS, K.G., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., C.S.I., D.S.O., M.C., A.D.C.	Aug. 1, 1945	Apr. 12, 1946
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE VINCENT MASSEY, C.H.	Jan. 24, 1952	Feb. 28, 1952

**The Cabinet.**—The Cabinet is a committee of Ministers chosen by the Prime Minister generally from Members of Parliament. By convention, all members of the Cabinet must either have seats in Parliament or secure seats within a short time and again by convention all Ministers in charge of departments of government must be members of the House of Commons. It is customary for the Leader of the Government in the Senate to be a member of the Cabinet. Ministers without Portfolio can be members of either House.

The Cabinet, under the leadership of the Prime Minister, directs the business of the Commons, initiates nearly all public Bills placed before Parliament, and has complete responsibility for the initiation of taxes and the recommendation of expenditures. Following established precedent or convention, it is always responsible to the Commons. When the Cabinet (the Government) suffers the defeat of a Government Bill or a vote of censure or of want of confidence in the Commons, which may call the Government to account at any time, the existing Government or Cabinet must either resign or request a dissolution from the Governor General. If it resigns, the Governor General calls on the Leader of the Opposition in the Commons to form a new Government. Alternatively, if the Government which has been defeated in the House is granted a dissolution and is defeated in the ensuing general election then, depending on the number of members returned, (1) the Government may decide to remain in office and seek a vote of confidence in the House when it meets; or (2) the Government may decide to resign immediately with the consequent result that the Governor General will ask the leader of the party with the highest number of members returned to form a new Government.

The primary responsibility of the Governor General in either of the above circumstances is to provide the nation with a Cabinet or Ministry capable of conducting Her Majesty's Government with the support of Parliament.

Although appointed by the Governor General, Cabinet members are selected by the Prime Minister from among his party colleagues in such manner as to ensure, as far as possible, representation of the several geographical and political regions of the country and its principal ethnic, religious and social interests. Each Cabinet Minister generally assumes charge of one of the departments of government, although a Minister may hold more than one portfolio at the same time or he may hold one or more portfolios and one or more acting portfolios or a Minister without Portfolio may hold one or more acting portfolios. In his acting capacity, the Minister exercises the same authority as if he were the Minister of the department.

## 3.—Prime Ministers since Confederation, 1867

Ministry	Prime Minister	Length of Administration
1	Rt. Hon. Sir JOHN ALEXANDER MACDONALD	July 1, 1867 - Nov. 5, 1873
2	Hon. ALEXANDER MACKENZIE	Nov. 7, 1873 - Oct. 16, 1878
3	Rt. Hon. Sir JOHN ALEXANDER MACDONALD	Oct. 17, 1878 - June, 6, 1891
4	Hon. Sir JOHN JOSEPH CALDWELL ABBOTT	June 16, 1891 - Nov. 24, 1892
5	Rt. Hon. Sir JOHN SPARROW DAVID THOMPSON	Dec. 5, 1892 - Dec. 12, 1894
6	Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL	Dec. 21, 1894 - Apr. 27, 1896
7	Hon. Sir CHARLES TUPPER	May 1, 1896 - July 8, 1896
8	Rt. Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER	July 11, 1896 - Oct. 6, 1911
9	Rt. Hon. Sir ROBERT LAIRD BORDEN	Oct. 10, 1911 - Oct. 12, 1917

(Conservative Administration)