

Under their parliamentary system of representation, based on a "constitution similar in principle to that of the United Kingdom", the people of Canada elect representatives having various political party affiliation as shown in Table 10. In a general election, the Canadian electorate not only determines what political party leader shall be called on to form the Government of the day, but it also decides which of the parties is to become the Official Opposition. Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition occupies an essential place in constitutions based on the British parliamentary system, in that its function is to oppose or criticize in debate the Government in power—an essential to good government at all times. The Official Opposition is founded, like such institutions as the Cabinet and the Prime Ministership, on unwritten custom that has become firmly established. Although the position of Leader of the Opposition is not recognized in the British North America Act, it received statutory acknowledgment in the Canadian Parliament in 1905 when the Senate and House of Commons Act (4-5 Edw. VII, c. 43, sect. 2) provided an additional sessional allowance to "the member occupying the recognized position of Leader of the Opposition in the House of Commons".

10.—Electoral Districts, Voters on List and Votes Polled, Names and Addresses of Members of the House of Commons as Elected at the Twenty-Third General Election, June 10, 1957 and Revised to Oct. 15, 1957.

Speaker	The Hon. ROLAND MICHENER
Prime Minister	The Rt. Hon. JOHN GEORGE DIFENBAKER
Leader of the Opposition	The Rt. Hon. LOUIS S. ST. LAURENT
Clerk of the House of Commons	LÉON J. RAYMOND

NOTE.—The vote is summarized by provinces in Table 12, p. 57. The leaders of the political parties are indicated by asterisks (*). For Parliamentary Assistants, see p. 44. This information, except the population of constituencies, has been supplied by the Chief Electoral Officer, Ottawa. Party affiliations are unofficial. P.C.=Progressive Conservative; Lib.=Liberal; C.C.F.=Co-operative Commonwealth Federation; S.C.=Social Credit; Ind. Lib.=Independent Liberal; Ind.=Independent; Ind. P.C.=Independent Progressive Conservative; L.-Lab.=Liberal Labour.

Province and Electoral District	Population, Census 1956	Voters on List	Total Votes Polled	Votes Polled by Member	Name of Member	P.O. Address	Party Affiliation
	No.	No.	No.	No.			
Newfoundland—							
(7 members)							
Bonavista-Twillingate..	48,354	23,972	10,577	9,158	Hon. J. W. PICKERSGILL	Ottawa, Ont.....	Lib.
Burin-Burgeo.....	46,362	18,584	Acclamation		C. W. CARTER.....	St. John's.....	Lib.
Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador.....	71,416	33,656	15,539	11,681	T. G. W. ASHBOURNE...	Twillingate.....	Lib.
Humber-St. George's..	64,683	28,318	15,499	10,272	H. M. BATTEN.....	Corner Brook.....	Lib.
St. John's East.....	66,132	32,912	19,647	10,312	J. A. McGRATH.....	St. John's.....	P.C.
St. John's West.....	62,921	32,139	19,490	10,539	Hon. W. J. BROWNE...	St. John's.....	P.C.
Trinity-Conception....	55,206	27,658	12,106	8,360	L. T. STICK.....	Bay Roberts.....	Lib.
Prince Edward Island—							
(4 members)							
Kings.....	17,853	10,177	8,902	4,598	J. A. MACDONALD.....	Cardigan.....	P.C.
Prince.....	38,007	19,213	16,463	8,119	O. H. PHILLIPS.....	Alberton.....	P.C.
Queens.....	43,425	24,834	41,853	{11,597 10,651	Hon. J. A. MACLEAN...	Beaton's Mills....	P.C.
					H. MACQUARRIE.....	Victoria.....	P.C.
Nova Scotia—							
(12 members)							
Antigonish-Guysborough.....	26,878	14,654	11,966	6,053	A. R. MACDONALD.....	Antigonish.....	P.C.
Cape Breton North and Victoria.....	46,874	23,985	19,724	9,097	R. MUIR.....	Sydney Mines....	P.C.
Cape Breton South.....	83,152	43,360	37,056	14,894	D. MACINNIS.....	Glace Bay.....	P.C.
Colchester-Hants.....	59,529	33,640	28,440	15,231	C. F. KENNEDY.....	Truro.....	P.C.
Cumberland.....	39,598	22,815	18,577	10,065	R. C. COATES.....	Amherst.....	P.C.
Digby-Annapolis-Kings	71,076	38,642	32,153	18,534	Hon. G. C. NOWLAN...	Wolfville.....	P.C.
Halifax.....	197,943	108,433	163,067	{41,141 41,099	R. McCLEAVE.....	Birch Cove.....	P.C.
					E. MORRIS.....	Halifax.....	P.C.
Inverness-Richmond...	32,833	18,925	15,305	8,035	A. J. MACEachen.....	Inverness.....	Lib.
Pictou.....	44,566	25,470	22,521	12,208	R. MACEWAN.....	New Glasgow.....	P.C.
Queens-Lunenburg.....	46,981	29,372	24,620	12,372	L. R. CROUSE.....	Lunenburg.....	P.C.
Shelburne-Yarmouth-Clare.....	45,287	25,652	20,701	10,734	T. A. M. KIRK.....	Yarmouth.....	Lib.