

6.—Duration and Sessions of Parliaments, 1945-62

NOTE.—Similar information for the 1st to the 12th Parliaments, covering the period from Confederation to 1917, is given in the 1940 Year Book, p. 46; that for the 13th to 17th Parliaments in the 1945 edition, p. 53; and for the 18th and 19th Parliaments in the 1957-58 edition, p. 46.

Order of Parliament	Session	Date of Opening	Date of Prorogation	Days of Session	Sitting Days of House of Commons	Date of Election, Writs Returnable, Dissolution, and Length of Parliament; ^{1, 2}
20th Parliament.....	1st	Sept. 6, 1945	Dec. 18, 1945	104	76	June 11, 1945 ³ Aug. 9, 1945 ⁴ Apr. 30, 1949 ⁵ 3 y., 8 m., 22 d.
	2nd	Mar. 14, 1946	Aug. 31, 1946	171	118	
	3rd	Jan. 30, 1947	July 17, 1947	169	115	
	4th	Dec. 5, 1947	June 30, 1948	209	119	
	5th	Jan. 26, 1949	Apr. 30, 1949	95	59	
21st Parliament.....	1st	Sept. 15, 1949	Dec. 10, 1949	87	64	June 27, 1949 ³ Aug. 25, 1949 ⁴ June 13, 1953 ⁵ 3 y., 9 m., 20 d.
	2nd	Feb. 16, 1950	June 30, 1950	135	90	
	3rd	Aug. 29, 1950	Jan. 29, 1951	154	17	
	4th	Jan. 30, 1951	Oct. 9, 1951	253	105	
	5th	Oct. 9, 1951	Dec. 29, 1951	82	56	
	6th	Feb. 28, 1952	Nov. 20, 1952	267	87	
	7th	Nov. 20, 1952	May 14, 1953	176	108	
22nd Parliament.....	1st	Nov. 12, 1953	June 26, 1954	227	139	Aug. 10, 1953 ³ Oct. 8, 1952 ⁴ Apr. 12, 1957 ⁵ 3 y., 6 m., 5 d.
	2nd	Jan. 7, 1955	July 28, 1955	203	140	
	3rd	Jan. 10, 1956	Aug. 14, 1956	218	152	
	4th	Nov. 26, 1956	Jan. 8, 1957	44 ⁶	5	
	5th	Jan. 8, 1957	Apr. 12, 1957	95	71	
23rd Parliament.....	1st	Oct. 14, 1957	Feb. 1, 1958	111	78	June 10, 1957 ³ Aug. 8, 1957 ⁴ Feb. 1, 1958 ⁵ 5 m., 25 d.
24th Parliament.....	1st	May 12, 1958	Sept. 6, 1958	117	93	Mar. 31, 1958 ³ Apr. 30, 1958 ⁴
	2nd	Jan. 15, 1959	July 18, 1959	185	127	
	3rd	Jan. 14, 1960	Aug. 10, 1960	210	146	
	4th	Nov. 17, 1960	Sept. 28, 1961	316 ⁷	174	
	5th	Jan. 18, 1962	

¹ The ordinary legal limit of duration for each Parliament is five years. ² Duration of Parliament in years, months and days. The life of a Parliament is counted from the date of return of election writs to the date of dissolution, both days inclusive (B.N.A. Act, Sect. 50). ³ Date of general election. ⁴ Writs returnable. ⁵ Dissolution of Parliament. ⁶ Includes long adjournment from Nov. 29, 1956 to Jan. 8, 1957. ⁷ Includes long adjournment from July 13 to Sept. 7, 1961.

Subsection 2.—The Legislature

The federal legislative authority is vested in the Parliament of Canada consisting of the Queen, an Upper House styled the Senate, and the House of Commons. Bills may originate in either the Senate or the House subject to the provisions of Sect. 53 of the British North America Act, 1867, which provides that Bills for the appropriation of any part of the public revenue or the imposition of any tax or impost shall originate in the House of Commons. Bills must pass both Houses and receive Royal Assent before becoming law. In practice most public Bills originate in the House of Commons, although there has been a marked increase recently in the introduction of public Bills in the Senate, at the instance of the Government, in order that Bills may be dealt with in the Senate while the Commons is engaged in other matters such as the debate on the Speech from the Throne. Private Bills usually originate in the Senate. The Senate may delay, amend or even refuse to pass Bills sent to it from the Commons, but differences are usually settled without serious conflict. (See Chap. XXVI for current legislation.)

Under Sect. 91 of the British North America Acts, 1867 to 1952, the legislative authority of the Parliament of Canada extends to the following matters: the amendment of the Constitution of Canada (subject to certain exceptions); the public debt and property; the regulation of trade and commerce; unemployment insurance; the raising of money by any mode or system of taxation; the borrowing of money on the public credit; postal service; the Census and statistics; militia, military and naval service, and defence; the fixing of and providing for the salaries and allowances of civil and other officers of the Government of Canada; beacons, buoys, lighthouses and Sable Island; navigation and shipping;