

6.—Duration and Sessions of Parliaments, 1953-67

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; for the 18th and 19th Parliaments in the 1957-58 edition, p. 46; and for the 20th and 21st Parliaments in the 1965 edition, p. 65.

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}
22nd Parliament.....	1st	Nov. 12, 1953	June 26, 1954	227	139	Aug. 10, 1953 ³ Oct. 8, 1953 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 Apr. 19, 1962 ⁵ 3 y., 11 m., 20 d.
	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	Apr. 18, 1962	91	65	
25th Parliament.....	1st	Sept. 27, 1962	Feb. 5, 1963 ⁸	132	72	June 18, 1962 ³ July 18, 1962 ⁴ Feb. 6, 1963 ⁵ 6 m., 20 d.
26th Parliament.....	1st	May 16, 1963	Dec. 21, 1963	220 ⁹	117	Apr. 8, 1963 ³ May 8, 1963 ⁴ Sept. 8, 1965 ⁵ 1 y., 5 m., 1 d.
	2nd	Feb. 18, 1964	Apr. 3, 1965	411 ¹⁰	248	
	3rd	Apr. 5, 1965	Sept. 8, 1965 ¹¹	157 ¹²	53	
27th Parliament.....	1st	Jan. 18, 1966	May 8, 1967	476 ¹³	250	Nov. 8, 1965 ³ Dec. 9, 1965 ⁴
	2nd	May 8, 1967	

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 (BNA 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. ⁸ Government defeated in House of Commons on want of confidence motion. ⁹ Includes long adjournment from Aug. 2 to Sept. 30, 1963. ¹⁰ Includes long adjournment from Dec. 18, 1964 to Feb. 16, 1965. ¹¹ House adjourned on June 30 until Sept. 27 but dissolved on Sept. 8, 1965. ¹² Includes long adjournment from June 30 to Sept. 27, superseded by dissolution on Sept. 8, 1965. ¹³ Includes 18-day Christmas adjournment, 11-day Easter adjournment, and two long adjournments totalling 70 days (July 14 to Aug. 29 and Sept. 9 to Oct. 5).

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. XXVII for current legislation.)

Under Sect. 91 of the British North America Acts, 1867 to 1964, the legislative authority of the Parliament of Canada extends to the following: the amendment of the Constitution