

Minister of Communications, Hon. Jeanne Sauvé  
 Leader of the Government in the Senate, Hon. Raymond Joseph Perrault  
 Minister of National Defence, Hon. Barnett Jerome Danson  
 Minister of Public Works, Hon. J. Judd Buchanan  
 Minister of Fisheries and the Environment, Hon. Roméo LeBlanc  
 Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, Hon. Marcel Lessard  
 Minister of Manpower and Immigration, Hon. Jack Sydney George Cullen  
 Minister of State (Small Business), Hon. Leonard Stephen Marchand  
 Secretary of State of Canada, Hon. John Roberts  
 Minister of National Revenue, Hon. Monique Bégin  
 Postmaster General, Hon. Jean-Jacques Blais  
 Solicitor General of Canada, Hon. Francis Fox  
 Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Hon. Anthony Chisholm Abbott  
 Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport), Hon. Iona Campagnolo  
 Minister without Portfolio, Hon. Joseph-Philippe Guay.

Each Cabinet Minister usually assumes responsibility for 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. A Minister without portfolio may be invited to join the Cabinet because the Prime Minister wishes to have him or her in the Cabinet without the heavy duties of running a department, or to provide a suitable balance of regional representation, or for such other reason as the Prime Minister sees fit. Because of the cultural and geographical diversity in Canada, it is necessary for the Prime Minister to give close attention to the representational aspect of his Cabinet.

With the enactment of the Ministries and Ministers of State Act (Government Organization Act, 1970), five categories of Ministers of the Crown may be identified: departmental ministers, ministers with special parliamentary responsibilities, ministers without portfolio, and two types of ministers of state. Ministers of state "for designated purposes" may head a "Ministry of State" created by proclamation. They are charged with responsibilities for developing new and comprehensive policies in areas where there is particular urgency and importance and have a mandate effectively determined by the Governor in Council. They may have powers, duties and functions and exercise supervision and control of elements of the public service, and may seek parliamentary appropriations independently of any minister to cover the cost of their staff and operations. Other ministers of state, usually "undesignated", may be appointed to assist a departmental minister in the discharge of his responsibilities. They may have statutory powers, duties and functions and are limited in number by the appropriations that Parliament is willing to pass. They receive the same salary as a minister without portfolio, as provided for in the estimates of the minister with whom they are associated. All ministers are appointed on the advice of the Prime Minister by Commissions of Office issued by the Governor General under the Great Seal of Canada, to serve at pleasure, and to be accountable to Parliament as members of the government and for any responsibility that might be assigned to them by law or otherwise.

In Canada, almost all executive acts of the government are carried out in the name of the Governor in Council. The Committee of the Privy Council makes submissions to the Governor General for his approval, and he is bound by the constitution in nearly all circumstances to accept them. About 3,326 such Orders in Council were enacted in 1976 compared with 3,417 in 1975. Although some were fairly routine and did not require much discussion in Cabinet, others were of major significance and required extensive deliberation, sometimes covering months of meetings of officials, Cabinet committees, and the full Cabinet.

Hundreds of other policy issues must also be resolved as Cabinet must consider and approve the policy underlying each piece of proposed legislation. After it is drafted proposed legislation must be examined in detail. Recently, between 40 and 60 bills have been considered by Cabinet during the course of a parliamentary session. Proposals for sweeping reform of large areas of