

Canadian honours system. An exclusively Canadian honours system was introduced in 1967 with the establishment of the Order of Canada. The honours system was enlarged in 1972 with the addition of the Order of Military Merit and three decorations to be awarded in recognition of acts of bravery. A complete description of these awards and a list of the recipients during 1977 are given in Appendix 4.

The Privy Council. The BNA Act of 1867 (Sect. 11) provides for "a council to aid and advise in the Government of Canada," called the Queen's Privy Council for Canada. The council that in fact advises the Queen's representative, the Governor General, is the committee of the Privy Council whose membership comprises the Cabinet.

Membership in the Privy Council is for life and includes Cabinet ministers of the government of the day, former Cabinet ministers, various members of the royal family, past and present Commonwealth prime ministers, premiers of provinces, former speakers of the Senate and the House of Commons of Canada and a few other distinguished persons. As a condition of office, all ministers must first be sworn into the Privy Council. A member is styled "Honourable" and may use the initials PC after his name. A member of the Privy Council of Britain is styled "Right Honourable"; the Governor General, the chief justice of Canada and the prime minister of Canada assume the title "Right Honourable" when they take office.

The Privy Council as a whole has met on only a few ceremonial occasions; its constitutional responsibilities to advise the Crown on government matters are discharged exclusively by the committee of the Privy Council. The legal instruments through which executive authority is exercised are called orders-in-council. The committee makes a submission to the Governor General for his approval which he is obliged to give in almost all circumstances; with this approval, the submission becomes an order-in-council. Meetings of the committee or a subcommittee of it are held without formal ceremony.

The office of president of the Privy Council was formerly occupied, more often than not, by the prime minister but from time to time, especially in recent years, it has been occupied by another minister. On July 5, 1968, the prime minister explained that the incumbent of the office of president of the Privy Council would also be the government's leader in the House of Commons, with the broad responsibility of directing House business, including supervision of the government's replies to questions in the House and of parliamentary returns in general, and a special responsibility of ensuring that Parliament, through its operations and organization of business, can effectively function under the increasing pressure of modern government.

The following, with the dates when they were sworn in, were members of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada in November 1977:

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| Hon. William Earl Rowe, August 30, 1935 | Hon. Edmund Davie Fulton, June 21, 1957 |
| Hon. Joseph Thorarinn Thorson, June 11, 1941 | Hon. Douglas Scott Harkness, June 21, 1957 |
| Hon. Lionel Chevrier, April 18, 1945 | Hon. Ellen Louks Fairclough, June 21, 1957 |
| Hon. Paul Joseph James Martin, April 18, 1945 | Hon. John Angus MacLean, June 21, 1957 |
| Hon. Douglas Charles Abbott, April 18, 1945 | Hon. Michael Starr, June 21, 1957 |
| Hon. Hugues Lapointe, August 25, 1949 | Hon. William McLean Hamilton, June 21, 1957 |
| Hon. Gabriel-Édouard Rinfret, August 25, 1949 | Hon. William Joseph Browne, June 21, 1957 |
| Hon. Walter Edward Harris, January 18, 1950 | Hon. Jay Waldo Monteith, August 22, 1957 |
| Hon. James Sinclair, October 15, 1952 | Hon. Francis Alvin George Hamilton, August 22, 1957 |
| Hon. John Whitney Pickersgill, June 12, 1953 | HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, October 14, 1957 |
| Hon. Jean Lesage, September 17, 1953 | Hon. Henri Courtemanche, May 12, 1958 |
| Hon. George Carlyle Marler, July 1, 1954 | Hon. David James Walker, August 20, 1959 |
| Hon. Paul Theodore Hellyer, April 26, 1957 | Hon. Joseph-Pierre-Albert Sévigny, August 20, 1959 |
| Rt. Hon. John George Diefenbaker, June 21, 1957 | Hon. Hugh John Flemming, October 11, 1960 |
| Hon. Howard Charles Green, June 21, 1957 | Hon. Noël Dorion, October 11, 1960 |
| Hon. Donald Methuen Fleming, June 21, 1957 | Hon. Walter Dinsdale, October 11, 1960 |
| Hon. George Hees, June 21, 1957 | Hon. Jacques Flynn, December 28, 1961 |
| Hon. Léon Balcer, June 21, 1957 | Hon. Paul Martineau, August 9, 1962 |
| Hon. George Randolph Pearkes, June 21, 1957 | |
| Hon. Gordon Churchill, June 21, 1957 | |