

Every former prime minister who held office for four years will receive from the consolidated revenue fund two-thirds the annual salary provided for prime ministers under the Salaries Act beginning when he ceases to hold any office in Parliament, or reaches age 65, whichever is the later. The allowance continues during his lifetime. The widow of a prime minister will receive annually one-half the allowance that was being paid or that would have been paid in the event that he died before receiving it. This allowance would commence immediately after her husband's death and continue during her natural life or until her remarriage.

None of these allowances is payable while the recipient remains a member of Parliament.

The federal franchise. The present federal franchise laws are contained in the Canada Elections Act (RSC 1970, c.14, 1st Supp.) as amended by the Election Expenses Act (SC 1973-74, c.51). Generally, the franchise is conferred upon all Canadian citizens who have reached age 18 and ordinarily live in the electoral district on the date fixed for the beginning of the enumeration at the election. Persons denied the right to vote are: the chief electoral officer and the assistant chief electoral officer; judges appointed by the Governor-in-Council; the returning officer for each electoral district; inmates of any penal institution; persons whose liberty of movement is restricted or who are deprived of the management of their property because of mental disease; and persons disqualified by law for corrupt or illegal practices.

The special voting rules set out in Schedule II to the Canada Elections Act prescribe voting procedures for members of the Canadian forces, for members of the federal public service posted abroad, and also for veterans receiving treatment or domiciliary care in certain institutions.

Electoral districts, voters on list, votes polled and names and addresses of members of the House of Commons elected at the 30th general election, July 8, 1974 are given in Table 3.4. Table 3.5 indicates voters on the lists and votes polled at federal general elections in 1965, 1968, 1972 and 1974.

3.1.3 The Judiciary

Parliament is empowered by Section 101 of the British North America Act to provide for the constitution, maintenance and organization of a general court of appeal for Canada and for the establishment of any additional courts for the better administration of Canada's laws. Under this provision Parliament has established the Supreme Court of Canada, the Federal Court of Canada and certain miscellaneous courts. A detailed discussion of the judiciary and legal system of Canada is presented in Chapter 2.

3.2 Federal government administration

3.2.1 Financial administration and control

The financial affairs of the Government of Canada are administered under the basic principle set out in the British North America Act, that no tax shall be imposed and no money spent without the authority of Parliament and that expenditures shall be made only for the purposes authorized by Parliament. The government introduces all money bills and exercises financial control through a budgetary system based on the principle that all the financial needs of the government for each fiscal year should be considered at one time so that both the current and prospective conditions of the public treasury may be clearly evident.

Estimates and appropriations. The Treasury Board, whose secretariat is a separate department of government under the president of the Treasury Board, co-ordinates the estimates process. Under the Financial Administration Act, the board may act for the Privy Council in all matters of financial management (including estimates, expenditures, financial commitments, establishments, revenues and accounts), personnel management and general administrative policy in the public service.

Departments submit forecasts of their requirements about 12 months before a new fiscal year. These are divided into "A Budgets" for the next three years, to maintain the