

executive represented by the Queen), substantially the same as those of the Crown in relation to the British government, are discharged in Canada by the Governor General.

The Sovereign. Since Confederation Canada has had six sovereigns: Victoria, Edward VII, George V, Edward VIII, George VI and Elizabeth II. The present sovereign is not only Queen of Canada but is also head of state of other countries in the Commonwealth as well as being the formal head of the Commonwealth. Her title for Canada was approved by Parliament and established by a royal proclamation on May 28, 1953: Elizabeth the Second, by the grace of God of the United Kingdom, Canada and her other realms and territories, Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith.

From time to time the Queen personally discharges the functions of the Crown in Canada, such as the appointment of the Governor General, which Her Majesty does on the recommendation of the prime minister of Canada. During a royal visit, the Queen may participate in ceremonies normally carried out in her name by the Governor General, such as the opening of Parliament or the granting of a general amnesty.

The Governor General is the representative of the Crown in Canada. The Right Honourable Edward Schreyer, the 22nd Governor General since Confederation, was appointed by Queen Elizabeth on December 7, 1978 and took office on January 21, 1979. Constitutionally, the Queen of Canada is the Canadian head of state but the Governor General fulfils her role on her behalf. The letters patent revised and issued under the Great Seal of Canada on October 1, 1947 authorized and empowered the Governor General, on the advice of his Canadian ministers to exercise all powers and authorities lawfully belonging to the Sovereign in respect of Canada.

Following are the Governors General of Canada since Confederation, with dates of assumption of office:

The Viscount Monck of Ballytramon, July 1, 1867
 The Baron Lisgar of Lisgar and Bailieborough, February 2, 1869
 The Earl of Dufferin, June 25, 1872
 The Marquis of Lorne, November 25, 1878
 The Marquis of Lansdowne, October 23, 1883
 The Baron Stanley of Preston, June 11, 1888
 The Earl of Aberdeen, September 18, 1893
 The Earl of Minto, November 12, 1898
 The Earl Grey, December 10, 1904
 Field Marshal HRH The Duke of Connaught, October 13, 1911
 The Duke of Devonshire, November 11, 1916
 General The Baron Byng of Vimy, August 11, 1921
 The Viscount Willingdon of Ratton, October 2, 1926
 The Earl of Bessborough, April 4, 1931
 The Baron Tweedsmuir of Elsfeld, November 2, 1935
 Major General The Earl of Athlone, June 21, 1940
 Field Marshal The Viscount Alexander of Tunis, April 12, 1946
 The Right Honourable Vincent Massey, February 28, 1952
 General The Right Honourable Georges P. Vanier, September 15, 1959
 The Right Honourable Roland Michener, April 17, 1967
 The Right Honourable Jules Léger, January 14, 1974
 The Right Honourable Edward Schreyer, January 21, 1979.

One of the most important responsibilities of the Governor General is to ensure that the country always has a government. If the office of the prime minister becomes vacant because of death or resignation, the Governor General must see that it is filled and that a new government is formed.

As the Queen's representative, the Governor General summons, prorogues and dissolves Parliament on the advice of the prime minister. He signs orders-in-council, commissions and other state documents, and gives his assent to bills that have been passed in both houses of Parliament and which thereby become acts of Parliament with the force of law. In virtually all cases he is bound by constitutional convention to carry out these duties in accordance with the advice of his responsible ministers. Should he