

own office, as well as the Privy Council office and the federal-provincial relations office; and for the allocation of responsibilities between ministers.

Another source of the prime minister's authority derives from the appointments which he recommends, including privy councillors, cabinet ministers, lieutenant-governors of the provinces, provincial administrators, speakers of the Senate, chief justices of all courts, senators and certain senior executives of the public service. The prime minister also recommends the appointment of a new Governor General to the Sovereign, although this normally follows consultation with the cabinet.

Following are the prime ministers since Confederation, with dates of administrations:

- Rt. Hon. Sir John Alexander Macdonald, July 1, 1867 — November 5, 1873
- Hon. Alexander Mackenzie, November 7, 1873 — October 9, 1878
- Rt. Hon. Sir John Alexander Macdonald, October 17, 1878 — June 6, 1891
- Hon. Sir John Joseph Caldwell Abbott, June 16, 1891 — November 24, 1892
- Rt. Hon. Sir John Sparrow David Thompson, December 5, 1892 — December 12, 1894
- Hon. Sir Mackenzie Bowell, December 21, 1894 — April 27, 1896
- Rt. Hon. Sir Charles Tupper, May 1, 1896 — July 8, 1896
- Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, July 11, 1896 — October 6, 1911
- Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Laird Borden, October 10, 1911 — October 12, 1917 (Conservative Administration)
- Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Laird Borden, October 12, 1917 — July 10, 1920 (Unionist Administration)
- Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen, July 10, 1920 — December 29, 1921 (Unionist — National Liberal and Conservative Party)
- Rt. Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie King, December 29, 1921 — June 28, 1926
- Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen, June 29, 1926 — September 25, 1926
- Rt. Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie King, September 25, 1926 — August 6, 1930
- Rt. Hon. Richard Bedford Bennett, August 7, 1930 — October 23, 1935
- Rt. Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie King, October 23, 1935 — November 15, 1948
- Rt. Hon. Louis Stephen St-Laurent, November 15, 1948 — June 21, 1957
- Rt. Hon. John George Diefenbaker, June 21, 1957 — April 22, 1963
- Rt. Hon. Lester Bowles Pearson, April 22, 1963 — April 20, 1968
- Rt. Hon. Pierre Elliott Trudeau, April 20, 1968 — June 4, 1979
- Rt. Hon. Joe Clark, June 4, 1979 — March 3, 1980
- Rt. Hon. Pierre Elliott Trudeau, March 3, 1980 —

The cabinet

3.2.4

The cabinet's primary responsibility is to determine priorities among the demands expressed by the people and to define policies to meet those demands. The cabinet consists of all the ministers who are chosen by the prime minister, generally from among members of the House of Commons, although some cabinet ministers are usually chosen from the Senate including the leader of the government in the Senate. Ministers who are members of Parliament usually head government departments because the constitution provides that measures for appropriating public funds or imposing taxes must originate in the Commons. If a senator heads a department, another minister in the Commons has to speak on his behalf on its affairs.

Lists of members of the 20th, 21st and 22nd ministries are published in Appendix 8, Political update.

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 any other reason that the prime minister sees fit. Because of Canada's cultural and geographical diversity, the prime minister gives close attention to geographic representation in the 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