

committees before their formal introduction in the Senate. This has enabled the Senate to conduct thorough studies and, in some instances, to make recommendations for changes while a bill is still before the Commons.

In its deliberative role, the Senate provides a national forum for the discussion of public issues and the airing of regional concerns and grievances from all parts of Canada. On two days notice, a senator can start a debate, with no time limits, on any matter of regional or public concern.

Third is the Senate's investigative function. Inquiries into major social and economic issues by its standing and special committees have produced reports that have often been followed by remedial legislation or changes in government policy.

Representation in the Senate has grown from 72 at Confederation to its present total of 104 members, through the addition of members to represent new provinces and territories. The growth of membership in the Senate is summarized in Table 19.2.

As at September 1984 representation in the Senate by political parties was as follows: Liberals, 73; Conservatives, 22; Independents, three; Independent Liberal, one; vacancies, five.

A list of senators is published in Appendix 8 of this edition.

19.3.2 The House of Commons

The number of members in the House of Commons is determined by the readjustment of federal electoral districts based on population counts of the decennial censuses of Canada, conducted by Statistics Canada. The number of representatives elected at each of the 33 general elections since Confederation is given in Table 19.3.

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 of members of the House of Commons elected at the 32nd general election, February 18, 1980 are given in Table 19.4 and at the 33rd general election, September 4, 1984, in Table 19.5. Table 19.6 indicates voters on the lists and votes polled at federal general elections in 1972, 1974, 1979, 1980 and 1984.

19.4 The judiciary

Parliament is empowered by Section 101 of the Constitution Act, 1867, 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. An account of the judiciary and legal system of Canada is presented in Chapter 20.

19.5 Federal government administration

For a description of federal financial operations and control, see Chapter 22, Government finance.

19.5.1 Government employment

Treasury Board (a statutory committee of cabinet) has overall responsibility for personnel management in the federal public service. It is responsible for development, application and evaluation of personnel policies, systems and methods to ensure that the people needed to carry out programs effectively are obtained at competitive wages and put to efficient use with consideration for the individual and collective rights of employees.

Under provisions of the amended Financial Administration Act and the Public Service Staff Relations Act, both proclaimed in March 1967, Treasury Board is responsible for the development of policies, regulations, standards and programs in the areas of classification and pay, organization and establishments, conditions of employment, collective bargaining and staff relations, official languages, human resources training, development and utilization, pensions, insurance and other employee benefits and allowances, and other personnel management matters affecting the public service. The temporary assignment program is administered by Treasury Board. The board is also responsible for making recommendations on organization development, human resources planning, the determination and evaluation of training needs and education programs, equal employment opportunities program, and standards governing health and safety. It evaluates the results from personnel policies, systems and programs and advises departments and agencies on the design and implementation of systems to improve personnel management.