

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 general election 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). 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, votes polled and names of members of the House of Commons elected at the 33rd general election, September 4, 1984 are given in Table 19.4. Table 19.5 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 the Queen's Privy Council) 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.

The Board is responsible for ensuring that fair and effective management, in the planning, acquisition, utilization and disposal of key administrative resources, prevails throughout the public service. It guides departmental managers in the efficient and effective management of key resources in support of departmental programs, promotes the efficient operations of departments and the effectiveness of federal programs, and ensures fair information practices in government.

Under provisions of the Financial Administration Act and the Public Service Staff Relations Act, 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 organization development, human resources planning, the determination and evaluation of training needs and education programs, affirmative action program, equal pay for work of equal value initiatives, 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.

Responsibility for classification has, with a few exceptions, been delegated to departments, subject to a monitoring process. Delegation of responsibility for the administration of pay has been delegated to departments. Benefit programs and allowance policies approved by the Board are designed to give departments maximum responsibility for administration.

Under the system of collective bargaining established by the Public Service Staff Relations Act, Treasury Board is the employer for employees in the public service, except for separate employers such as the National Research