

6.—Duration and Sessions of Parliaments 1936-54

NOTE.—Similar information for the 1st to the 12th Parliaments, covering the period from Confederation to 1917 is given in the 1940 Year Book, p. 46, and that for the 13th to 17th Parliaments in the 1945 edition, p. 53.

Order of Parliament	Session	Date of Opening	Date of Prorogation	Days of Session	Sitting Days of House of Commons	Date of Election, Writs Returnable, Dissolution, and Length of Parliament ^{1,2}
18th Parliament.....	1st	Feb. 6, 1936	June 23, 1936	139	91	Oct. 14, 1935 ³ Nov. 9, 1935 ⁴ Jan. 25, 1940 ⁵ 4 y., 2 m., 16 d.
	2nd	Jan. 14, 1937	Apr. 10, 1937	87	62	
	3rd	Jan. 27, 1938	July 1, 1938	156	102	
	4th	Jan. 12, 1939	June 3, 1939	143	103	
	5th	Sept. 7, 1939	Sept. 13, 1939	7	6	
	6th	Jan. 25, 1940	Jan. 25, 1940	1	1	
19th Parliament ⁶	1st	May 16, 1940	Nov. 5, 1940	174	61	Mar. 26, 1940 ³ Apr. 17, 1940 ⁴ Apr. 16, 1945 ⁵ 5 y.
	2nd	Nov. 7, 1940	Jan. 21, 1942	441	105	
	3rd	Jan. 22, 1942	Jan. 27, 1943	371	124	
	4th	Jan. 28, 1943	Jan. 26, 1944	364	120	
	5th	Jan. 27, 1944	Jan. 31, 1945	371	136	
	6th	Mar. 19, 1945	Apr. 16, 1945	29	19	
20th Parliament.....	1st	Sept. 6, 1945	Dec. 18, 1945	104	76	June 11, 1945 ³ Aug. 9, 1945 ⁴ Apr. 30, 1949 ⁵ 3 y., 8 m., 22 d.
	2nd	Mar. 14, 1946	Aug. 31, 1946	171	118	
	3rd	Jan. 30, 1947	July 17, 1947	169	115	
	4th	Dec. 5, 1947	June 30, 1948	209	119	
	5th	Jan. 26, 1949	Apr. 30, 1949	95	59	
21st Parliament.....	1st	Sept. 15, 1949	Dec. 10, 1949	87	64	June 27, 1949 ³ Aug. 25, 1949 ⁴ June 13, 1953 ⁵ 3 y., 9 m., 20 d.
	2nd	Feb. 16, 1950	June 30, 1950	135	90	
	3rd	Aug. 29, 1950	Jan. 29, 1951	154	17	
	4th	Jan. 30, 1951	Oct. 9, 1951	253	105	
	5th	Oct. 9, 1951	Dec. 29, 1951	82	56	
	6th	Feb. 28, 1952	Nov. 20, 1952	267	87	
	7th	Nov. 20, 1952	May 14, 1953	176	108	
22nd Parliament.....	1st	Nov. 12, 1953	June 26, 1954	226	139	Aug. 10, 1953 ³ Oct. 8, 1953 ⁴
	2nd	Jan. 7, 1955	

¹ The ordinary legal limit of duration for each Parliament is five years. ² Duration of Parliament in years, months and days. The life of a Parliament is counted from the date of return of election writs to the date of dissolution, both days inclusive (B.N.A. Act, Sect. 50). ³ Date of general election. ⁴ Writs returnable. ⁵ Dissolution of Parliament. ⁶ During the war years Parliament was kept in almost continuous session. When prorogation took place it was followed immediately by a new session. During long adjournments provision was made whereby the Speaker could reconvene Parliament before the date previously set for reassembly.

THE PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE AND CABINET SECRETARIAT IN RELATION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF CABINET GOVERNMENT*

The first members of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada were sworn in at Ottawa by the Governor General, Viscount Monck, on Monday, July 1, 1867. They took in addition the oaths of office as heads of the various departments of government to which they had been named. At the same time a Clerk of the Privy Council was appointed and duly sworn.

By these formal steps the Central Executive of the new Dominion of Canada came into being. The second meeting of the Governor General in Council was held on the succeeding day, July 2, when among other things a report of "a Committee of Council" recommending provision for ordinary expenditures and constitution of the Treasury Board was submitted and approved.

The new Executive could call on a staff with considerable experience in this field of government. The new Clerk of the Privy Council, who had been Clerk of the Executive Council of the Province of Canada, had twenty-six years' service and his assistant had been with him for fourteen years. Moreover this staff was already installed in office quarters, in the Eastern Block of the Departmental Buildings at the new provincial capital of Ottawa, which they occupied in February 1865, and the Executive Council had met there

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