



THE CROWN



EXECUTIVE
IMPLEMENTS LAW

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

The Prime Minister's Office is a central agency that conducts administrative tasks such as government appointments, policy advice, communications, and strategizing.

PRIME MINISTER

The Prime Minister is the head of the federal government, and is usually the leader of the largest party in the House of Commons.

PRIVY COUNCIL

The Privy Council Office is a non-partisan, central governmental agency which offers advice and support to the government. It is led by the clerk of the Privy Council who is also the head of the civil service, secretary to the Cabinet, and deputy minister to the Prime Minister.

CABINET

Cabinet is a body of ministers, chaired by the Prime Minister, that sets federal policies and priorities and oversees major departments. It acts in the name of the King's Privy Council for Canada, and the Governor General almost always acts on its advice. Members are appointed by the Governor General on the advice of the Prime Minister, often from the House of Commons, and are meant to represent a wide breadth of Canadian demographics.

MINISTERIAL DEPARTMENTS

The federal government is divided into ministerial departments that are responsible for the administration of their designated elements of Canadian affairs. These ministries are headed by ministers, who are also cabinet members. Ministers set policy and are accountable to Parliament. The civil service is responsible for the non-partisan administration and implementation of that policy.

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT (MP)

An MP is a Canadian citizen who is elected to represent a single federal electoral district (or "riding") in the House of Commons, where there are 338 sitting MPs. Their main duties include legislating in Parliament, representing their riding and political party, and serving their constituents.

HEAD OF STATE

The Head of State in Canada is the monarch. In 1953, Queen Elizabeth II became the first sovereign to be proclaimed separately as Queen of Canada, a move that was intended to reaffirm the monarch's role in Canada as independent from the UK and the rest of the Commonwealth.

GOVERNOR GENERAL

The Governor General of Canada is appointed by the sovereign on the advice of the Prime Minister, and primarily carries out duties on behalf of the Head of State. The GG is the commander-in-chief of Canada and is expected to represent the whole country.

MINISTERS

Ministers are typically elected politicians drawn from the party that has the most seats in the House of Commons. Most are appointed to head government departments (e.g., Foreign Affairs, Public Safety, Indigenous Services), and are all included in the federal Cabinet and are members of the Privy Council.