



THE CROWN



LEGISLATIVE
PASSES LAW

SENATE

The Senate has 105 appointed members (Senators), who consider and revise legislation and investigate national issues, and are intended to give all regions in Canada an equal voice. No bill can become law without the Senate's consent.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

The House of Commons is an independent elected body and the centre of political power in Canada. Its primary functions are to maintain government, and to foster a government that is acceptable and accountable to the people. Most legislation is introduced here. All new statutes must be created in response to bills passed by the House. The House is made up of elected members of parliament.

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.

SENATORS

Senators are appointed by the Governor General on behalf of the Prime Minister. They are expected to meet certain financial and residential requirements, and come from diverse professional, ethnic, socio-cultural, and geographic backgrounds.

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.

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.

PARTY WHIP

Party whips are Members of Parliament in the House of Commons who are chosen to keep their other party members informed on House affairs, arrange the order in which they speak in the legislature, and track their attendance. The reason for tracking their attendance is largely to ensure that the party has enough representatives to win a vote if one is called.

HOUSE LEADER

The government house leader, a Cabinet member with the honorific title of president of the Privy Council, negotiates among parties about the Commons timetable. Each party also has a house leader, who is responsible for the party whip and manages matters ranging from office space to salary negotiations. House leaders meet weekly to discuss the government's timetable and to choose speakers.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

The Speaker is elected by fellow members of the House of Commons when each new parliament begins. They represent and speak for the House, and they act as manager for all House proceedings. The Speaker is elected by fellow members of the House of Commons when each new parliament begins. They represent and speak for the House, and they act as manager for all House proceedings.