

**FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**  
**OF CANADA**

# National flag



# Coat of arms



# Anthem of Canada

- O Canada! Our home and native land!  
True patriot love in all thy sons command.  
With glowing hearts we see thee rise,  
The True North strong and free!  
From far and wide, O Canada,  
We stand on guard for thee.  
God keep our land glorious and free!  
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.  
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.



The Canadian federal government consist of



government departments



organizations



agencies

Led by the Prime Minister, the Cabinet directs the federal government by determining priorities and policies, and ensuring their implementation.

# Prime Minister

- The 1<sup>st</sup> P.M. was Sir John Alexander. He is father of Confederation. He was leader of Liberal-Conservative party from 1867 to 1891.
- The current Prime Minister is Harper, The Right Hon Stephen.  
He was the leader of Perform Conservative Alliance, and now he is leading Conservative party.

# Deputy Prime Minister

- Deputy P.M. is strictly an honorary title conferred at the discretion of the P.M. on a member of the Cabinet.
- The title originates with P.M.Trudeau who 1<sup>st</sup> coined it when he designated the Hon.
- From the Hon Erik Nielsen's designation as Deputy P.M., current practice holds that this title be assigned by “instrument of advice”.

## **An instrument of advice**

Is essentially a private letter addressed to the Crown or its duly appointed representative, the Governor General, by the P.M. directly

Instruments of advice are usually used when the P.M. wishes to inform or solicit the Crown in matters related to the Royal Prerogative.



# **In Canada, there are in general 5 instances where this applies:**

1. Dissolution of Parliament – recommendation and request of consent.
2. Nomination to Cabinet and Senate.
3. Appointment of a Governor General.
4. Grants under the Queen's own personal fund.
5. Changes to the Crown's prerogative.

# Political and Electoral system

- It organizes in the basis of political groups, each of which presents its policies and candidates to the electorate.
- The party system emerged in Canada during 19<sup>th</sup> century. Political parties register with Elections Canada and play a role in the parliamentary process if they have more than a minimum number of members in the House of Commons or Senate.

# Legislation

A bill must go through 3 readings in each of the House of Commons and the Senate, and must be passed in the same form, before it receives Royal Assent and becomes law.

From its initial presentation through to Royal Assent, a bill will be debated, studied and amendments may be adopted.

# Constitution

Is composed of written and unwritten statutes, customs, judicial decisions and tradition.

The written part consist of:

- ↓  
the Constitution Act 1867, which created a federation and the division of legislative powers between the federal and provincial governments,
- ↓ and the Constitution Act 1982, which transferred formal control over amendments to the Constitution from Britain to Canada,
- ↓ and added a Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedom.

# Supreme Court of Canada

- It was established in 1875, and since 1949 has served as the final court of appeal and the highest legal authority in the Canadian justice system.
- The Court adjudicates on all areas of the law and on all cases from both the provincial/territorial courts and from the federal court system.
- It consist of the Chief Justice and 8 associate

- For the sake of geographic representation, convention normally dictates that the Court includes at least 1 judge from Atlantic Canada and minimum of 2 judges from Western Canada, and 3 judges from Ontario.
- At least 3 Supreme Court judges must come from Quebec, to ensure that the Court has sufficient expertise in province's civil law code.