

proposals are carefully reviewed before they pass into law, to ensure the accountability of the Cabinet for executive policies and activities, and to suggest alternative policies for the governing of Canadians.

The final objective of the Opposition is a majority of seats in the House of Commons; and while this can rarely be obtained by the direct alienation of Government supporters, it could occur as the result of a following general election.

#### The Federal Government franchise

The present franchise laws are contained in the Canada Elections Act (RSC 1970, c.C-14 (1st Supp), as amended by S.C. 1973-74, c.51). the franchise is conferred upon every man and woman who has attained the age of 18 years, is a Canadian citizen, and is ordinarily resident in an electoral district on the enumeration date for the election. Formerly every British subject, other than a Canadian citizen, who was qualified as an elector on June 25, 1968, and had not, since that date, ceased to be ordinarily resident in Canada, also had a right to vote in federal elections. This special right terminated on June 26, 1975.

Persons who are not qualified to vote at a federal election are:

- (a) the Chief Electoral Officer;
- (b) the Assistant Chief Electoral Officer;
- (c) the returning officer for each electoral district during his term of office, except when there is an equality of votes on a recount;
- (d) every judge appointed by the Governor in Council;
- (e) every person undergoing punishment as an inmate in any penal institution for the commission of any offence;
- (f) every person who is restrained of his liberty of movement or deprived of the management of his property by reason of mental disease; and
- (g) every person who is disqualified from voting under any law relating to the disqualification of electors for corrupt or illegal practices.

## 2. The provincial and territorial governments

A cabinet system of government responsible to the legislature exists in the provinces in the same manner as at the federal level.