

vince shall always be entitled to a number of members in the House of Commons not less than the number of Senators representing such province". This ensures a minimum representation for small provinces, and at present assists both Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick in maintaining a representation of four and ten members respectively.

A further change in representation was assented to on March 13, 1975, when the Northwest Territories Representation Act was approved. Pursuant to Part I of that Act, to be cited as the B.N.A. Act, 1975, Subsection 51(2) was revised to provide for representation of the Yukon Territory by one member and the Northwest Territories by two members.

Pursuant to the rules of Subsections 51(1) and 51(2), membership in the House of Commons is now to be 282. This number will be realized upon the completion of the work of electoral boundaries readjustment and a subsequent federal election. For the moment, there are 264 members of the House of Commons.

The Opposition

The Opposition occupies an essential place in constitutions based on the British Parliamentary system. In the same way as other institutions, such as a responsible Cabinet, the Opposition has seen its role shaped by unwritten customs that have been accepted and become firmly established in Canada.

The Canadian electorate not only determines who shall govern Canada but, by deciding which party receives the second-largest number of seats in the House of Commons, it designates which of the major parties becomes the Official Opposition, the leader of which is described as the Leader of the Opposition.

Although the position of Leader of the Opposition is not recognized in the British North America Act, it received statutory acknowledgment in Canada in 1927. The Senate and House of Commons Act of that year provided for an annual salary to be paid to the Leader of the Opposition in addition to his indemnity as a Member of the House. In 1963, the Senate and the House of Commons Act was further amended to provide for an annual allowance to each Member of the House of Commons (other than the Prime Minister or Leader of the Opposition) who is the leader of a political party that is represented by 12 or more Members in the House.

The function of parliamentary opposition is to offer constructive criticism of the Government of the day, to ensure that Government
