

In fulfilling these duties, the Governor General acts on the advice of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. However, in the words of Walter Bagehot, the Governor General has the right to be consulted, to encourage and to warn, and he holds regular discussions with the Prime Minister on Government policies in order that he may be kept informed and, if he wishes, offer comments thereon. Moreover, he retains the ultimate constitutional right to replace his advisers should he judge this indispensable for the national good. The last occasion on which the reserve power was used was in 1926, and it would require most unusual circumstances for it to be invoked again.

Among the most significant of the Governor General's constitutional responsibilities is that of ensuring that the country always has a Prime Minister. Indeed, it is the Governor General who formally summons a new Prime Minister to form a Government. By virtue of his position, the Governor General is also Commander-in-Chief of the Canadian Armed Forces and signs the commissions of all officers. He receives the letters of credence and commission of foreign ambassadors and Commonwealth high commissioners appointed to Canada. He is Chancellor and Principal Companion of the Order of Canada, and conducts the investitures of that Order as well as those of other orders and national bodies.

In addition to his constitutional role, the Governor General has many ceremonial functions that involve travel throughout the nation. These permit him to know the country, to be able to place public issues in perspective and to establish a closer link with the people whom he serves. For example, the present Governor General, up to the end of 1970, had covered 115,700 miles within Canada in the three and a half years since his appointment. His patronage and the support of his office are given to many national organizations, such as the Boy Scouts of Canada, the Canadian Red Cross Society, the Order of St. John, the Royal Canadian Legion and the Victorian Order of Nurses, and his presence at functions throughout the country offers proof of his interest in the activities of a wide variety of organizations and gatherings. His speeches in Ottawa and elsewhere on national and local occasions, and to organizations and groups of all kinds, offer encouragement and stimulate thought on many important subjects in the national life.

The Governor General acts as Canada's host to visiting members of the Royal Family, foreign heads of state and other distinguished visitors. In his residence, and during his travels throughout Canada, he extends hospitality in many forms to great numbers of Canadian citizens and visitors from outside Canada.

As the representative of the Crown in Canada, the Governor General is empowered to exercise all the Sovereign's duties, including travelling abroad on behalf of the Canadian nation. In 1928, Lord Willingdon paid an official visit to Washington as the guest of the President. Four of his successors have done the same, the most recent being Mr. Massey in 1954. In 1947, Lord Alexander paid a state visit to Brazil; and in 1969 the present Governor General made an official tour of Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

The Governor General's absences from the country are governed constitutionally by his Letters Patent, which permit him to be out of the country for 30 consecutive days, with the prior formal permission of the