

### Compilation of Results

As soon as the polls close, counting of ballots begins. The deputy returning officer and his assistant are responsible for counting the votes in each polling division. These counts are transmitted to the constituency returning officer and made public as they are completed. Within a few hours of the close of polling, results in most constituencies are known. The result of the election is usually known by midnight.

### Consequences of an Election

If the party forming the Government before the election wins a majority or has the largest number of seats in the new House of Commons, the members of the Cabinet must be sworn in again. Even when a general Election returns the same party to power, there are usually changes in the make-up of the Cabinet.

If another party wins a majority or has the largest number of seats in the new House of Commons, the Prime Minister, within a few weeks, submits his resignation and that of his Cabinet to the Governor General with a recommendation that the leader of the winning party be called on to form a Government. That leader then proceeds to select a Cabinet and, when he is ready to take office, is sworn in as Prime Minister. Canada has a new Government.

The Parliamentary system, combined with the Canadian electoral system, appears to have served Canada well. During more than 100 years of Canadian federation, it seems to have produced Governments responsive to the will of the people and sufficiently secure in their tenure of office to permit of the development and application of long-range policies.

RP/A

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