

Unlike the practice of the United States, where the President is elected as such, the Prime Minister in Canada assumes his portfolio indirectly, as the leader of the political party with the majority support in the House of Commons.

Cabinet Ministers, as well as the Prime Minister, are elected by popular ballot and hold seats in the House of Commons as individual constituency members. The Cabinet is therefore responsible as a body to the House of Commons and its members, as individual representatives to the constituencies they represent.

The legislative body of the government is the House of Commons, with a present membership of 245 elected by popular vote. The Province of Quebec has a fixed representation of 65 seats with the other provinces represented according to their population in relation to that of Quebec. The House is elected for a maximum period of five years, but may be dissolved at any time by the Governor-General at the request of the Prime Minister. The Senate has a fixed number of 96 members appointed for life on the recommendation of the Government.

Every bill must be passed by both chambers before it becomes law and the Senate has the theoretical power of veto. In practice, however, the Senate's functions are largely the important ones of criticism and scrupulous study of any legislation passed by the House of Commons.

As laid down in the British North America Act, the powers of government in Canada are divided between the federal government and the provinces. Each province has its own legislative body which is unicameral, with the exception of Quebec. Matters that can be described as of local interest, such as education, health, property and civil rights and municipal institutions are under provincial jurisdiction. Matters affecting the country as a whole, such as trade and commerce, defence, banking, post office, currency, railways and navigation are assigned to the Dominion.

Under the War Measures Act, the federal government assumed wide powers for the prosecution of the war, subject to the control of Parliament. The Act has been extensively used in organizing the military and economic sides of the war effort.

Since the war, the federal government has intervened in some provincial matters, including the control of wages and working conditions and price fixing. The provinces have also handed over to the Dominion the sole right to collect income taxes during the war, with the stipulation that a portion be allotted back to them as compensation for their loss of revenue.

THE ARMED FORCES

More than 35% of Canada's male population between the ages of 18 and 45 have joined the Canadian navy, army or air force since war began. Growth of the services in four years of war has been as follows:

	September 1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Navy	1,800	10,000	24,000	40,000	67,000	90,000
Army	4,500	155,000	230,000	350,000	460,000	475,000
Air Force	4,000	30,000	80,000	115,000	200,000	204,000
Total	10,300	195,000	334,000	505,000	727,000	769,000

Enlistments of women in the armed forces up to September, 1944, have been as follows:

Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service	more than	5,500
Canadian Women's Army Corps	"	18,400
Royal Canadian Air Force (Women's Division)	"	16,800
Nursing Services	"	3,704
Women doctors in the armed forces	"	54
Total		44,458