

### The Cabinet

The Cabinet is a committee of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada and is responsible to Parliament. By convention the members of the Cabinet are members of either the House of Commons or the Senate. Normally, most of the Cabinet members have seats in the House of Commons, at the present time the Government Leader in the Senate is the only member who is not a member of the House of Commons.

The Cabinet initiates nearly all public bills placed before the Parliament and, following established precedent, resigns office when it becomes evident that it no longer holds the confidence of the representative of the people. Its members are chosen by the Prime Minister and each generally assumes charge of one of the various departments of government, although a Minister may hold more than one portfolio at the same time, or may be without portfolio.

### The Privy Council

The Queen's Privy Council for Canada is composed of about seventy members who are sworn of the Council by the Governor General, on the advice of the Prime Minister, and who retain their membership for life. The Council consists, chiefly, of present and former Ministers of the Crown. It does not meet as a functioning body and its constitutional responsibilities as adviser to the Crown in respect to Canada are performed exclusively by the Ministers who constitute the Cabinet of the day.

### The Legislature

The federal legislative authority is vested in the Parliament of Canada, consisting of the Queen, an Upper House styled the Senate and the House of Commons. Bills may originate in either the Senate or the House subject to the provisions of Sect. 53 of the British North America Act, 1867, which provides that Bills for the appropriation of any part of the public revenue or the imposition of any tax or impost shall originate in the House of Commons. Bills must pass both Houses and receive the Royal Assent before becoming law. In practice most Public Bills originate in the House of Commons, although there has been a marked increase recently in the introduction of Public Bills in the Senate. Private Bills usually originate in the Senate.

Under Section 91 of the British North America Acts, 1867-1952, the legislative authority of the Parliament of Canada extends to the following matters: the amendment of the Constitution of Canada subject to certain exceptions; the public debt and property; the regulation of trade and commerce; unemployment insurance; the raising of money by any mode or system of taxation; the borrowing of money on the public credit; postal service; the census and statistics; militia, military and naval service, and defence; the fixing and providing for the salaries and allowances of civil and other officers of the Government of Canada; beacons, buoys, lighthouses, and Sable Island; navigation and shipping; quarantine and the establishment and maintenance of marine hospitals; sea coast and inland fisheries; ferries between a province