

Thus Canada, under the Crown, has equality of status with the United Kingdom and the other Commonwealth nations in both domestic and foreign affairs; its government advises the Crown in the person of the Governor General on all matters relating to Canada. Canada has membership in the United Nations; makes its own treaties; appoints its own ambassadors and other representatives abroad; levies its own taxes; makes its own laws which are executed by a government dependent on the will of a majority of the people; and maintains its own military, naval and air forces. In short, Canada has achieved the full status of democratic nationhood within the Commonwealth of Nations.

II The Government of Canada

1. The Federal Government

The Executive

The Crown

The British North America Act provides that "the Executive Government and authority of and over Canada is vested in the Queen". The functions of the Crown, which are substantially the same as those of the Queen in relation to the government of the United Kingdom, are discharged by the Governor General in accordance with established principles of responsible government. The practical executive functions of government are exercised by the Cabinet.

Apart from her constitutional position in relation to the various governments of the Commonwealth countries, the Queen is head of the Commonwealth and symbolizes the association of the member countries. Until 1953, the title of the Queen was the same throughout the Commonwealth. Constitutional developments put the title somewhat out of accord with the facts of the position and in December 1952 it was decided by the Prime Ministers of the Commonwealth countries meeting in London to establish new forms of title for each country. The title for Canada was approved by Parliament and established by a Royal Proclamation on May 29, 1953. The title of the Queen, so far as Canada is concerned, now is:

"Elizabeth the Second, by the grace of God of the United Kingdom, Canada and her other realms and territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith".

The Governor General

The Governor General, appointed by the Queen on the advice of the Prime Minister of Canada, traditionally serves for a term of five years. He exercises the executive authority of the Queen in the relation to the Government of Canada, under the Letters Patent constituting the Office of the Governor General and the provinces of the British North America Acts, 1867 to 1952. Acting under the recommendations of his responsible advisers, he summons, prorogues and dissolves Parliament and assents to bills and exercises other executive functions.