

be One Parliament for Canada, consisting of the Queen, an Upper House styled the Senate, and the House of Commons." As the representative of the Crown, the Governor General is thus part of both the executive and legislative branches of the Government and has important roles to play in both, for major executive and legislative acts are not legal without his participation.

Thus, though always acting on the advice of the Prime Minister, the Governor General summons, prorogues and dissolves Parliament and reads the opening and closing speeches of each session; gives assent to all legislation, and signs many other state documents, including Orders-in-Council (i.e. orders made by the Cabinet under law or the prerogative powers that have been transferred over the centuries from the monarch to his advisers), commissions, pardons, and so on. Members of the Privy Council (i.e., those called to be Her Majesty's confidential advisers, the active group among whom consists of the Prime Minister and Cabinet) are sworn before him, and he receives diplomats from abroad. He is Canada's most important official host, both in Ottawa and when travelling. He is the head and Principal Companion of the Order of Canada, and conducts investitures into that order, among others; and he is Commander in Chief of the armed forces, and as such signs officers' commissions.

Ceremonial functions

These formal duties (and the list above is incomplete) are sometimes difficult to distinguish from the Governor General's ceremonial functions. The investiture of a new member into the Order of Canada, for example, may take him anywhere in the country, and the Governor General's journey to the site will be a widely-publicized event. He is expected to travel in any case, to carry the image of the national Government to every part of the country, to acquaint himself with Canada's widely-varied regions so that a national perspective on public issues is gained, and often to participate in activities connected with the various organizations the head of state is expected to approve or patronize. The interests of individual Governors General have naturally differed, but all take an interest in such reputable enterprises as the Boy Scouts of Canada, the Dominion Drama Festival, the Canadian Red Cross Society and the Royal Canadian Legion. The Governor General regularly attends major events like the Grey Cup football final between East and West (the cup itself was donated by a Governor General), and opens such periodic events as the Canada Games, and on other occasions makes speeches of a non-partisan nature, which receive broad coverage.

As a head of state, the Governor General represents the Crown, not only in Canada but may also travel abroad, as a representative of the Crown of Canada. The Letters Patent of 1947, which broadly define his duties and responsibilities, permit him to be outside