

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, representing the Queen in relation to the Government of Canada and exercising authority under the letters patent constituting the Office of the Governor General, and the provisions of the British North America Acts, 1867 to 1952. Acting under the recommendations of the responsible advisers, the Governor General summons, prorogues and dissolves Parliament and assents to bills and exercises other executive functions.

#### 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. Ordinarily, most of the Cabinet members have seats in the House of Commons. At the present time one member of the Cabinet, who is a Minister without Portfolio, is a member of the Senate.

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 representatives 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 113 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 a Lower House known as the House of Commons. Bills may originate in either the Senate or the House subject to the provisions of Section 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