

In several very important matters, amendments to the British North America Act still require an act of the British Parliament, which, however, is passed automatically whenever Canada requests it. The federal and provincial governments, despite repeated efforts, have as yet been unable to agree on an amending formula which would place the whole amending process in Canada.

The BNA Act and its amendments provide only a skeleton framework of government, which is filled out by judicial interpretations, by various acts of Parliament and of the legislatures and, most of all, by custom or "convention".

Governors general

The Governor General represents the Queen in Canada as Head of State. While his office is mainly ceremonial, he may, occasionally, have to perform certain vital constitutional functions, such as calling upon a party leader to form a government and swearing in ministers of the Crown. Since 1952, with the appointment of the Right Honourable Vincent Massey, appointees to the post of governor general have been Canadian-born.

Two former Governors General, Earl Grey and Lord Stanley, donated to the amateur sports of the day the Grey Cup (for Canadian football) and the Stanley Cup (for ice hockey). Today the two awards are the top professional annual prizes for professional sports teams in Canada.

His Excellency the Right Honourable Jules Léger is at present the Governor General of Canada.