

The Legislature of each province is unicameral, consisting of the Lieutenant-Governor and a Legislative Assembly, except for the Province of Quebec where there is a Legislative Council as well as a Legislative Assembly.

The Legislative Assembly is elected by the people for a statutory term of five years but may be dissolved within the period by the Lieutenant-Governor on the advice of the Premier of the Province.

The source of legislative authority of the Provincial Legislatures is the British North America Act, 1867 (30-31 Vict., c. 3 and amendments). Under Sect. 92 of the Act, the Legislature of each province may make laws exclusively in relation to the following matters; amendments of the constitution of the province except as regards the Lieutenant-Governor; direct taxation within the province; borrowing of money on the credit of the province; establishment and tenure of provincial offices and appointment and payment of provincial officers; the management and sale of public lands belonging to the province and of the timber and wood thereon; the establishment, maintenance and management of public and reformatory prisons in and for the province; the establishment, maintenance and management of hospitals, asylums, charities and eleemosnary institutions in and for the province, other than marine hospitals; municipal institutions in the province; shop, saloon, tavern, auctioneer and other licenses issued for the raising of provincial or municipal revenue; local works and undertakings other than interprovincial or international lines of ships, railways, canals, telegraphs, etc., or works which, though wholly situated within one province, are declared by the Federal Parliament to be for the general advantage either of Canada or of two or more provinces; the incorporation of companies with provincial objects; the solemnization of marriage in the province; property and civil rights in the province; the administration of justice in the province, including the constitution, maintenance and organization of provincial courts both of civil and criminal jurisdiction, and including procedure in civil matters in these courts; the imposition of punishment by fine, penalty of imprisonment for enforcing any law of the province relating to any of the aforesaid subjects; generally all matters of a merely local or private nature in the province.

Further, in and for each province the Legislature may, under Sect. 93, make laws exclusively in relation to education, subject to certain restrictions relating to the establishment of schools by religious minorities. These powers, with similar restrictions, were conferred on the more recently admitted provinces on their inclusion as units in the federation.

The Provincial Legislatures may also make laws, under Sect. 95, in relation to agriculture and immigration, subject to any laws of the Parliament of Canada in relation to these subjects.

Provincial Franchise

The main qualifications of persons entitled to be registered as voters in provincial elections are given below and apply, with modifications, to voters in all provinces:-