
the expenditure of public funds.

Each minister of a department is answerable to the House of Commons for that department, and the whole Cabinet is similarly answerable for Government policy and administration generally. When the Government loses the confidence of the House of Commons, it may either resign, in which case the Governor General may call upon the Leader of the Opposition to form a Government, or the Prime Minister may request the Governor General to dissolve Parliament and call a general election. If, in the subsequent election, the former Opposition is returned with sufficient support to secure the confidence of the new "House", the Governor General will in all probability ask its leader to form the new Government.

The Prime Minister

The Prime Minister is that leader of a political party who has been requested by the Governor General to form the Government, which invitation almost always means that he is the leader of the party with the strongest representation in the House of Commons. The Prime Minister chooses his Cabinet and recommends their appointment by the Governor General. When a Prime Minister vacates his office, this act normally carries with it the resignation of all those in the Cabinet, though when a member of Cabinet alone resigns the remainder of the Cabinet is undisturbed.

One source of the authority of the Prime Minister lies in his prerogative to recommend the dissolution of Parliament. This prerogative, which in most circumstances permits him to precipitate an election, is a source of considerable power both in his dealings with his colleagues and with the other parties in the House of Commons.

Another source of the Prime Minister's authority derives from the appointments he recommends, including Privy Councillors, Cabinet Ministers, Lieutenant-Governors of the provinces, Speakers of the Senate, Chief Justices of all federally-appointed courts, Senators, and certain senior executives of the Public Service. The Prime Minister also recommends the appointment of a new Governor General to the Sovereign, although this normally follows consultation with his Cabinet.

The Legislature

Parliament

The federal legislative authority is vested in the Parliament of
