

The New Democratic Party was founded in 1960 after the dissolution of the former Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, a farmer-labour party, which began in 1932. The new party, in addition to the direct backing of former members of the old CCF counted on the indirect support of the Canadian Labour Congress, which, though organically separate, encouraged its local unions to affiliate and pay dues to the new political entity. The NDP thus corresponds closely to the Labour Party in Britain and to the social democratic parties of Europe.

1. The House of Commons,  
Ottawa

2. The Senate, Ottawa

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The Social Credit Party, initially a group of monetary reformers, was elected to office in the Province of Alberta in 1935 and has governed ever since. Social Credit subsequently became the government of British Columbia. In the federal election of 1962, the Social Credit became the third party in the House of Commons, with strong support from the Province of Quebec.

The Government is formed by the party or combination of parties gaining the largest number of seats in the House of Commons. The leader of the majority party becomes Prime Minister and selects the members of his executive or Cabinet from among his supporters, who are normally



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Members of Parliament. Ministers, individually and collectively, are responsible to the electorate through the House of Commons. Each government department is headed by a Cabinet Minister and is staffed by civil servants recruited and promoted by an independent body, the Civil Service Commission.

The Senate, or Upper House, provides, in the words of Sir John A. Macdonald, an opportunity for "sober second thought" in legislation. It consists of 102 members appointed for life by the Government. Representation is on a regional basis; each of the principal territorial divisions—the Western Provinces, Quebec, Ontario, and the three older Atlantic Provinces—send 24 members to the Senate; Newfoundland sends six. The Senate's chief function is the review of legislation passed by the elected House. It may also initiate legislation, except for money bills,

and no measure can become law until passed by the Upper House as well as by the Commons.

Except for Quebec, which has an appointed Legislative Council, the provincial legislatures are made up of single elected chambers which function in the same way as the House of Commons. Municipal government is administered by elected city, town or county councils headed by mayors or reeves.

Justice is administered by federal, provincial and municipal courts. Judges, except those in municipal courts, are federally appointed.

The Criminal Code of Canada is based largely on British law; the Province of Quebec has retained its own civil code, a direct descendant of the *coutume de Paris*. In other provinces the law respecting persons and property is based on the Common Law of England. The Supreme Court of Canada is the final court of appeal.