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In Canada there is no document that purports to set out the complete laws pertaining to the country's government. The Constitution, as in the case of the United Kingdom, consists in part of written material and in part of conventions or customs. The written material consists partly of Canada's own statutes and partly of United Kingdom statutes. Among the former are included such enactments as the Succession to the Throne Act, the Senate and House of Commons Act, the Speaker of the Senate Act, the Speaker of the House of Commons Act, the House of Commons Act and the Salaries Act. There is also a series of United Kingdom statutes known as the British North America Act. But the written material includes more than statutes. It includes, for example, the letters patent constituting the office of Governor General of Canada and the instructions issued to the Governor General. In addition to the written material, there are certain constitutional usages and conventions. For example, it is a convention that the government will resign or ask for a dissolution of Parliament upon the passing of a non-confidence motion. This is not set out in any law, but the practice is well established.

We must also keep in mind that the provinces, too, have constitutions. There are provincial governments, and the rules and customs relating to the government of a province may properly be described as the constitution of the province. This suggests a further meaning for the phrase "Constitution of Canada". When we speak of the Constitution of Canada, we could be referring to the constitution of the whole country, which would include the constitution of the provinces; or we might, in contrast to "constitution of the province", mean only matters pertaining to the Federal Government.

In its widest sense, the Constitution of Canada includes

(a) Statutes of the United Kingdom

e.g. British North America Acts,
Statute of Westminster, 1931,
Parliament of Canada Act, 1875.

(b) Statutes of Canada

e.g. Senate and House of Commons Act
Canada Elections Act
Representation Act
Northwest Territories Act
Yukon Act
Saskatchewan Act
Alberta Act
Manitoba Act

(c) Statutes of the Provinces

e.g. Acts relating to:
Executive Council.
Legislature
Representation
Election

(d) Other Documents

Instructions to Governors
Letters Patent