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General comprises the ceremonial duties of a head of state and the patronage of worthy endeavours and fields of Canadian activity.

In the event of the death or incapacity or, generally, the absence from Canada of the Governor General, the powers and authorities granted to him are vested in the Chief Justice of Canada as "Administrator". In the event of the latter's death, incapacity, removal or absence, the powers are vested in the Senior Judge for the time being of the Supreme Court of Canada.

#### The Governor in Council and the Privy Council

The B.N.A. Act, 1867, provided that the Queen's Privy Council for Canada should be constituted to aid and advise in the Government of Canada. This Council is composed of members who are appointed and sworn in by the Governor General on the advice of the Prime Minister, and who generally retain their membership for life. The Council consists chiefly of present and former ministers of the Crown. The Privy Council does not meet as a functioning body, and its constitutional responsibilities as adviser to the Crown are performed exclusively by those ministers who constitute the Cabinet of the day. In this fashion, Council and Cabinet are two aspects of the same constitutional organism. In practice most of the executive powers exercised by the Governor General in Council, such as the making of Orders-in-Council, are performed by Cabinet resolving itself into a Committee of Council. The resulting Orders-in-Council are then signed by the Governor General.

#### The Cabinet

The Cabinet consists of those Privy Councillors whom the Prime Minister invites to its meetings. In practice, this means the heads of all Federal Government departments and ministries, and also a few ministers of state without departments or ministries. By custom, all ministers must have a seat in one House or the other (essentially in the "Commons"), or get one within a reasonable time, so as to ensure accountability to Parliament.

The Cabinet forms a link between the Governor General and the Parliament. It is, for virtually all purposes, the real executive. The Cabinet's primary responsibility in the Canadian political system is to determine priorities among the demands expressed by the people (or discerned by the Government) and to define policies to meet those demands. The Cabinet is responsible for the administration of all Government departments, prepares by far the greater part of the legislative program of Parliament, and exercises substantial control over all matters of finance -- subject to Parliamentary approval of

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