

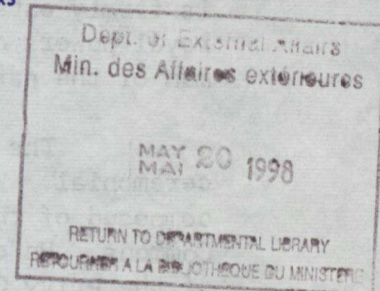
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THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA

The Governor General is the representative of the Crown in Canada and is appointed by Her Majesty The Queen on the recommendation of the Canadian Government. The Queen of Canada is the Head of State of Canada but the Governor General, in the Queen's absence, acts on Her Majesty's behalf. The document by which the Queen appoints the Governor General is a Commission of Appointment signed by the Sovereign and counter-signed by the Prime Minister of Canada.

In Canada, as in most other constitutional monarchies, there is a clear division between the political and ceremonial functions of state. The Prime Minister is the political leader of the country, whereas the office of the Governor General is entirely dissociated from any involvement in political controversy.

The present position of the Governor General reflects the constitutional development of Canada. Before the attainment of Canada's full autonomy, the Governor General acted under directions from the British authorities. Though Canada's constitutional development was a gradual process, its present status as an independent nation resulted from the Imperial Conferences of 1926, 1929 and 1930, the conclusions of which were embodied in the Statute of Westminster (1931). This Statute established that members of the Commonwealth were autonomous communities of equal status and in no way subordinate to one another with respect to domestic or external affairs, though united by a common allegiance to the Crown.

Since 1931, and particularly, since the end of the Second World War, the Commonwealth has undergone a number of changes in its structure. The most notable of these has been the attaining of independence and republican status by a number of Commonwealth countries which, while not retaining the position of Her Majesty as Head of State, have remained within the Commonwealth and recognize the position of the Queen as Head