

General Elections in Canada

(Revised April 1978)

Canada is a constitutional monarchy. The Queen is the head of state and is represented in Canada by the Governor General. The Governor General is appointed by the Queen on the advice of the Prime Minister. The Governor General's duties are to give royal assent to laws passed by the House of Commons and to appoint and dismiss the Prime Minister and other Ministers of the Crown.

The House of Commons is the lower house of the Canadian Parliament. It is composed of members elected by the people in 44 constituencies. The House of Commons has the power to pass laws, to approve or disapprove the government, and to hold the government accountable. The House of Commons meets in the Centre Block of the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa.

At the next federal general election, 243 constituencies will be contested. The House of Commons will be reduced to 306 members. The House of Commons is elected for a maximum term of five years. The House of Commons is the only body in Canada that is directly elected by the people. The House of Commons is the only body in Canada that has the power to pass laws. The House of Commons is the only body in Canada that can hold the government accountable.

Under Canadian law, resolutions in the House of Commons must be reviewed in ten-year intervals. After each interval, the House of Commons must decide whether to continue the resolution. The House of Commons has the power to pass laws, to approve or disapprove the government, and to hold the government accountable. The House of Commons is the only body in Canada that is directly elected by the people. The House of Commons is the only body in Canada that has the power to pass laws. The House of Commons is the only body in Canada that can hold the government accountable.

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