

The representation of the various provinces is as follows, under Section 2 of the Act:

Sect. 2 Eighty-five members of the House of Commons shall be elected for the Province of Ontario, seventy-five for the Province of Quebec, twelve for the Province of Nova Scotia, ten for the Province of New Brunswick, fourteen for the Province of Manitoba, twenty-two for the Province of British Columbia, four for the Province of Prince Edward Island, seventeen for the Province of Saskatchewan, seventeen for the Province of Alberta; seven for the Province of Newfoundland, one for the Yukon Territory and one for Mackenzie district of the Northwest Territories, thus making a total of two hundred and sixty-five members.

The Opposition

The Opposition occupies an essential place in constitutions based on the British Parliamentary system. Like many other institutions such as that of the premiership for instance, it is founded on the unwritten customs that have been accepted and become firmly established.

The choice of the Canadian electorate not only determines who shall govern Canada but, by deciding which party receives the second largest number of seats in the House of Commons, it designates which of the major parties becomes the Official Opposition. The function of the Leader of Opposition is to offer intelligent and constructive criticism of the government of the day.

When criticism by the Opposition becomes sufficiently effective it can overthrow the existing government and the Leader of the Opposition might then, as a result of the ensuing election, become Prime Minister.

Although the position of Leader of the Opposition is not recognized in the British North America Act, it received statutory acknowledgement in Canada in 1927. The Senate and House of Commons Act of that year provided for an annual salary to be paid to the Leader of the Opposition in addition to his indemnity as a Member of the House.

The Federal Government Franchise

The present franchise laws are contained in the Canada Elections Act, RSC, 1952, c.23. The franchise is conferred upon all Canadian citizens or British subjects, men and women, who have attained the age of 21 years and who have been ordinarily resident in Canada for 12 months prior to polling day at a federal election, and ordinarily resident in the electoral district on the date of the issue of the writ ordering such election. Persons denied the right to vote are:-

- (1) Judges appointed by the Governor General in Council;
- (2) The returning officer for each electoral district;
- (3) Persons undergoing punishment as inmates of any penal institution for the commission of any offence;