



A View of

A view taken from Rideau Hall in 1880 reminds us that the Governor General of Canada has important parliamentary responsibilities. Canada's Parliament consists of three parts: the Crown, represented by the Governor General, the Senate (Upper House) and the elected House of Commons (Lower House). The Governor General is therefore an integral part of Parliament.

Parliament

Governor General Jules Léger, with Mrs. Léger, reads the Speech from the Throne on the opening of Parliament (1976)



One of the Governor General's most important responsibilities is to ensure that Canada always has a Prime Minister in place. Canada is a democracy. As in many democracies, the functions of Head of State and Head of Government are separate.

The Sovereign, on the advice of the Prime Minister of Canada, appoints the Governor General to carry out the duties of the Head of State in Canada. Since the Governor General is appointed rather than elected, he/she is not associated with any political party and remains at arm's length from partisan considerations.

The Prime Minister of Canada is the Head of Government. Following an election, the political party which has won the largest number of seats forms the government. The Governor General then asks that party's leader to become Prime Minister. The Prime Minister of Canada is therefore a representative elected by the people.

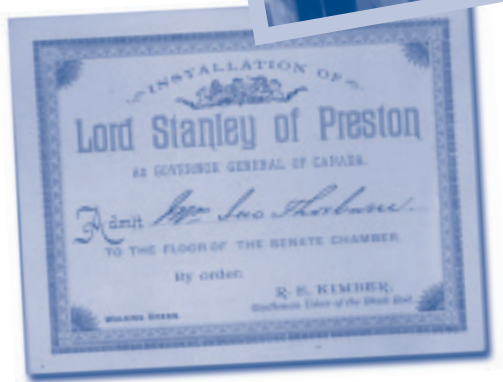
Head of State

For each country below, find out which position is held by the Head of State* and the name of the present Head of State.

COUNTRY	HEAD OF STATE*	NAME
Canada	_____	_____
France	_____	_____
United States	_____	_____
Japan	_____	_____
Netherlands	_____	_____
Sweden	_____	_____

*Head of State: King (Queen), Emperor (Empress), President, etc.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II with Governor General Ramon J. Hnatyshyn and Prime Minister Brian Mulroney (1990)



Invitation to attend the installation of Lord Stanley as Governor General of Canada, June 11, 1888