

CABINET

Description and Legal Status of Cabinet

I—POSITION

1. The Cabinet is the creation of constitutional evolution; it is not established by law. It is composed of persons selected by the Prime Minister to join with him in advising the Sovereign on policies for governing the country and to take collective responsibility for so doing. Convention requires that members of the Cabinet be in Parliament. Convention in recent years also requires that they (apart from the Leader of the Government in the Senate) be in the House of Commons to answer for matters of policy there, rather than in the Senate.
2. If the persons selected are not already Privy Councillors they must become members of the Privy Council since, in principle, it is as members of the Privy Council that they advise the Sovereign. Normally they are designated by the Prime Minister to be ministers in charge of departments, as provided by law. They may, however, not be in charge of a department and simply be ministers without portfolio.
3. The Prime Minister's freedom of choice for his Cabinet is usually circumscribed by considerations of a political nature relating to geographic and other representation in the Cabinet. These considerations are, however, for the Prime Minister alone to judge and weigh in the light of his assessment of the personal and political factors involved.
4. The tenure of office of a Cabinet minister depends on the Prime Minister. Should the Prime Minister cease to be in office for whatever cause the Cabinet as such is dissolved. The Prime Minister may ask for the resignation of any minister or ministers or recommend their replacement at any time, and their resignation is subject to his approval.
5. Members of the Cabinet take seniority after the Prime Minister according to the date on which they were first sworn to the Privy Council, regardless of portfolio.
6. The Cabinet operates under the related principles of secrecy and solidarity to maintain the atmosphere necessary for free discussion and governmental stability.
7. Cabinet is a policy-making body not an executive agency. Decisions are translated into action either by legislation or order in council, or by the action of some minister, department or agency already empowered to act.

CABINET

Description and Legal Status of Cabinet

II—BACKGROUND

1. The Cabinet evolved in Canada from the Executive Council on the basis of the United Kingdom pattern of the Nineteenth Century. This resulted in the Privy Council being distinguished from the Cabinet and the gradual recognition that the presence of the Governor at Cabinet was inappropriate. This was acknowledged in 1878 when new letters of instruction were issued to the Governor General taking into account objections which had been raised to the former wording which had failed to recognize the constitutional freedom of Canada and the principle of ministerial responsibility. The new instructions placed the Governor General in a position analogous to that of the Sovereign in relation to Cabinet. This was carried to its conclusion in 1926 by the Imperial Conference.
2. All members of the Cabinet are first summoned and sworn to the Privy Council if they are not already members.
3. There is no written requirement that Cabinet ministers be members of Parliament but those who are not in the House of Commons or Senate stand for election at an early opportunity. If they cannot get elected custom requires that they do not remain in the Cabinet.
4. Cabinet ministers have sat in the Senate, as department heads as well as ministers without portfolio and have been acting ministers, even Acting Prime Minister. Now it is exceptional for a minister who is head of a department to be in the Senate. In the two most recent instances (Rhodes, 1935 and McCutcheon, 1963) Parliament was not in session at the time. Senator G. D. Robertson (Minister of Labour, 1930-1932) was the last such minister to sit in the Senate during sessions of Parliament.
5. All heads of departments are now in the Cabinet although there is no legal requirement for this. In the past other appointments also have carried Cabinet membership from time to time, and until 1930 ministers without portfolio were not regular members of the Cabinet. In the present practice all ministers are members of the Cabinet even if named to posts without departmental responsibilities or ministers without portfolio.
6. A minister is appointed on the recommendation of the Prime Minister on whom his continuation in office depends. The death or resignation of a Prime Minister dissolves his ministry but ministers remain in office until a new Government is formed. A Prime Minister may ask for a minister's resignation or terminate his office by recommending his dismissal or the appointment of a successor. The Governor General will not accept a minister's resignation without the Prime Minister's recommendation.

7. The relative precedence of ministers other than the Prime Minister is not based on the portfolio they hold but is determined by seniority according to the date and order in which they were first sworn to the Privy Council. The order in which they are sworn is decided by the Prime Minister. Changes of portfolio do not affect this seniority. Ministers without portfolio rank with other ministers according to seniority as Privy Councillors.
8. The correct interpretation of the conventions of Cabinet government has always been open to argument. The two principles which have been regarded as established are collective responsibility, and secrecy and confidence. A Cabinet decision is binding on all members. A minister must defend a decision if called upon and cannot excuse himself on the grounds that he was outvoted or disagreed with the decision. If he is not prepared to assume his share in the collective responsibility of the Cabinet, his alternative is to resign. It follows that it is quite improper for one minister to claim or disclaim personal responsibility for any part of a decision.
9. The Privy Council oath of secrecy is applicable to Cabinet proceedings. Disraeli reported fully to the Queen on Cabinet discussions identifying the varying opinions of ministers. Gladstone however took the view that if Disraeli mentioned to Queen Victoria any colleagues who opposed him in Cabinet "he was guilty of great baseness and perfidy".¹ A limited exception to the rule of secrecy is made to permit ministers to explain their reasons for resigning. This is granted by the Governor General on the recommendation of the Prime Minister, and covers only the specific occasion for which the permission was granted.

¹John Morley, *Life of William Ewart Gladstone*, Vol. II (London, 1903), p. 575.

CABINET

Meetings of Cabinet

I—POSITION

1. Meetings of Cabinet are held on the instructions of the Prime Minister. All ministers in Ottawa are expected to attend. The Prime Minister or in his absence the Acting Prime Minister presides over Cabinet meetings. Meetings are held where the Prime Minister indicates and have from time to time been held outside Ottawa*.
2. An agenda for each meeting is prepared by the Secretary to the Cabinet in consultation with the Prime Minister. It is circulated in advance to ministers together with the supporting documents for the items listed. Items not on the agenda cannot under the procedural rules of the Cabinet be brought up except in cases of extreme urgency and with the Prime Minister's agreement.
3. Ministers send the Secretary a memorandum on the question they wish to have considered by Cabinet. It will usually be referred to the appropriate Cabinet committee for study and report. The recommending minister is responsible for having his proposals cleared with Treasury Board and the Department of Finance, as required, if there are financial implications.
4. Parliamentary Secretaries do not attend Cabinet meetings. Officials may be summoned to Cabinet meetings to give information on particular matters although this is most unusual.
5. The Secretary attends assisted by an Assistant Secretary. Minutes are kept and records of Cabinet decisions are prepared.
6. Cabinet transforms itself into the Committee of the Privy Council in order to pass formal advice to the Governor General which, on his approval, becomes an order in council.
7. Meetings of Cabinet are secret and informal. There is usually no public announcement of meetings. Any announcements after meetings are made by the Prime Minister at a press conference or by press release, or can be made by the responsible minister.
8. Commonwealth Prime Ministers and some Heads of State have been invited to special Cabinet meetings*. They have been accompanied by ministers, diplomatic representatives and senior officials.

CABINET

Meetings of Cabinet

II—BACKGROUND

1. There are no fixed rules regarding Cabinet meetings. They are held when and where the Prime Minister wishes and as often as he considers necessary. Each Administration usually develops its own pattern for meetings in Ottawa, holding them on regular days. When Parliament is in session meetings are usually held in the Centre Block, otherwise in the Privy Council Chamber.
2. All ministers are expected to attend unless they are absent from Ottawa. The office of the Secretary to the Cabinet informs each minister's office by telephone of the time and place of each meeting.
3. Meetings can be held outside Ottawa* when the Prime Minister wishes. This was more frequent in the Nineteenth Century than now, but is still not unknown. In 1950 a Cabinet meeting was held on a train taking the Prime Minister to Toronto. Eighteen ministers attended. In 1959 eighteen ministers attended a meeting in Halifax and twenty were present at Cabinet in the Citadel in Quebec in 1961.
4. The agenda for Cabinet is drafted by the Secretary on the basis of items submitted by the Prime Minister, ministers or by the Secretary. When the agenda is approved by the Prime Minister it is distributed to all ministers before the meeting, together with all supporting material for the items included.
5. Items not on the agenda cannot be discussed unless the Prime Minister has agreed that they are of extreme urgency. There have been exceptions to this rule.
6. An item is normally left off the agenda if the minister who submitted it is to be absent from the meeting.
7. Most items submitted by ministers for Cabinet consideration are first referred to the appropriate Cabinet committee by the Secretary. Exceptions are made in the case of routine or clearly political items and in cases of urgency. The committee's report is then attached to the minister's memorandum for distribution when the item is on the Cabinet agenda.
8. The following are amongst the usual conclusions of Cabinet. The recommendation may be approved, modified or rejected. If approved, an order in council may, if legally necessary, be passed to implement the decision. Note may simply be taken of discussion of the proposal or it may be decided to refer it back to the original Cabinet committee or to a different one for re-examination. The item may be referred to Treasury Board or to a committee if it came direct to Cabinet. The item may be deferred or presented by the acting minister if the responsible minister is absent.

9. When Cabinet decides to take executive action by order in council, it is considered to be a meeting of the Committee of Council when it passes the order which is subsequently approved by the Governor General. There is no formality involved in this transition, ministers present are simply recorded to have been acting in their capacity as Privy Councillors.
10. The Secretary and one Assistant Secretary usually attend Cabinet meetings. The Assistant drafts the minutes and the records of decision for the Secretary's approval.
11. Distinguished visitors to Ottawa such as Commonwealth Prime Ministers, the President of the United States and the President of France, have frequently been invited to attend meetings with members of the Cabinet*. This is the usual but not invariable practice. High Commissioners and Ambassadors have attended with their principals. This practice may have lost its initial uniformity and become more flexible with the increased number of visitors to Ottawa and with the general elaboration of our international political contacts.
12. The United Kingdom Foreign Minister and the United States Secretary of State have on one occasion each been invited to attend a Cabinet meeting*. Both instances were during periods of grave international concern. With these exceptions, ministers are not otherwise invited unless accompanying their Prime Minister or President.

CABINET

Meetings of Cabinet

III—PROCEDURE

1. The Secretary determines when and where the Prime Minister wishes to hold a Cabinet meeting. He arranges for all ministers' offices to be informed and finds out who will not attend.
2. The Secretary confers with the Assistant Secretaries and the Registrar of the Cabinet on items to be included in the agenda. These are taken from a list of items not included in previous agenda and new items since submitted by ministers. Also included are items initiated by the Prime Minister or by the Secretary. The draft agenda is then presented to the Prime Minister for amendment or approval. The Secretary arranges for it to be circulated to all ministers with the supporting material on each item. The agenda and all supporting documents which have financial implications are also circulated to Treasury Board and the Department of Finance in order to insure that proposals have been cleared by them as required.
3. The Secretary attends the meeting and assists the Prime Minister in the conduct of business. He keeps notes of the general direction of discussion and of decisions. One Assistant Secretary is always present to keep complete notes, prepare draft minutes, and be in a position to follow up with ministers or departments on decisions that require additional information or co-ordination of action.
4. The Secretary approves the minutes and records of decision and arranges for their distribution to ministers.

CABINET

Meetings of Cabinet

APPENDICES

Meetings of Council or Cabinet held outside Ottawa

Persons other than ministers or officials who have attended meetings of Cabinet

CABINET

Committees of Cabinet and Interdepartmental Committees

I—POSITION

1. Cabinet committees, either standing or special and ad hoc, are established to save the time of the full Cabinet and to assure complete study of proposals, including discussion with the responsible officials, who can be asked by their ministers to attend.
2. Cabinet committees are an extension of Cabinet itself and the same rules of secrecy and solidarity apply to their operation, including information regarding their membership and usually even their existence.
3. Cabinet committees are established by directive of the Prime Minister, usually in consultation with Cabinet. Membership is made up exclusively of ministers and the chairman is designated. The terms of reference are established.
4. Parliamentary Secretaries have on occasion attended. The policy as to attendance is a matter for the Prime Minister and the Cabinet, and attendance in specific cases is on the decision of the minister. Parliamentary Secretaries are not members of the committees and should not normally attend in place of their minister.
5. Officials attend Cabinet committees on the invitation of their minister but are not members of the committees. The committee secretary is usually an Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet.
6. As a rule, all memoranda to Cabinet are referred by the Secretary to the Cabinet to the appropriate Cabinet committee for study and report. Items may also be referred to a committee by the Cabinet. Only routine, urgent or clearly political items go direct to Cabinet.
7. The initiating department is responsible for assuring that all proposals having financial implications are examined by the Department of Finance and Treasury Board before submission. Nevertheless, the Secretary to the Cabinet will refer all submissions with financial implications to the Department of Finance and Treasury Board upon receipt in the Privy Council Office.
8. The report of a Cabinet committee on a proposal submitted to it for study is made in the form of a memorandum to Cabinet to which is attached the memorandum prepared by the sponsoring department. Action can only be taken on the basis of the Cabinet record of decision.
9. Interdepartmental committees exist to study proposals of interest to more than one department or agency. They are not an extension of Cabinet or Cabinet committees. There are no definite rules governing their establishment or operation. They may be created by Cabinet and directed to report

to Cabinet or to ministers, or they may be created by ministerial or official directive. The establishing authority determines the terms of reference and the membership. Interdepartmental committees are composed of officials; ministers do not attend.

10. Because of its responsibility for keeping the Prime Minister informed and for insuring that departmental action is co-ordinated, the Privy Council Office has a special interest in interdepartmental committees. The Secretary to the Cabinet frequently acts as chairman.

CABINET

Committees of Cabinet and Interdepartmental Committees

II—BACKGROUND

1. Cabinet committees are now established without a formal document although in the past some were established by order in council.
2. A complete list of Cabinet committees has never been made public and their composition as to ministers and attending officials, has never been disclosed. This position has been frequently and consistently maintained here as in the United Kingdom.
3. Minutes of Cabinet committee meetings are sent only to ministers, except with special ministerial authorization, and are not kept on departmental files.
4. The arrangement for the occasional attendance of Parliamentary Secretaries at Cabinet committee meetings was made in 1966 on a trial basis without establishing a right of attendance. Attendance by Parliamentary Secretaries has not been frequent.
5. Cabinet committees cover virtually the total area of governmental responsibility. It is only in cases of genuine urgency or when a matter is of little real interest to more than one department or is not within the terms of reference of a committee, that an item will be placed directly on the agenda of Cabinet. Routine or clearly political items also go direct to Cabinet.
6. In 1963 arrangements were made to enable Cabinet committees to take decisions rather than simply arrive at agreed recommendations to Cabinet. Such decisions were to be subject to Cabinet confirmation on which action would then be taken. In practice, however, the decisions of Cabinet committees have continued to be in the form of recommendations to Cabinet and the 1963 arrangements are not in fact operational.

CABINET

Cabinet Records

I—POSITION

1. Cabinet discussion is recorded in minutes of Cabinet which state the conclusions reached. Supporting documents are not included. Minutes are available only to ministers to whom they are circulated after each meeting. They are required to be returned to the Cabinet office within 60 days.
2. Cabinet conclusions which require departmental action or information are issued as records of decision which are distributed to interested departments only. These records may be retained on departmental files.
3. Minutes of meetings of Cabinet committees are normally circulated only to ministers and must be returned to the Cabinet office within 60 days.
4. All items on the Cabinet agenda require an explanatory memorandum giving a clear statement of all the relevant facts and considerations and of the decision which is recommended. This memorandum is signed by the minister or ministers making the recommendation. It may include supporting documents prepared by departments and the report of any Cabinet committee which has considered the proposal. These Cabinet documents are circulated in advance of meetings.
5. Standard security clearance does not constitute authority to see Cabinet documents. They are essentially for the use of ministers and should be made available to others only as necessary and on the authority of a minister.
6. The Secretary to the Cabinet and such members of his staff as are authorized by him for the proper discharge of their duties have access to Cabinet minutes and documents.
7. There is no clear policy as yet in Canada governing access to government papers by scholars and others although access to certain departmental papers has infrequently been granted. Such access has never been given for Cabinet records.
8. In Canada ministers are given access to Cabinet minutes only of the period of their membership in the Government. They cannot have access to minutes for any time during which they were not in the Government. It is recognized that former ministers may, on request, have access to Cabinet minutes and Cabinet documents covering their period of office as ministers.
9. Disclosure of Cabinet records is regulated by the Privy Councillor's oath* and by the concept that Cabinet decisions are advice to the Sovereign which may only be revealed with his consent. Permission is sought through the Prime Minister who may recommend to the Governor General that it be granted, limited or refused. Permission is regarded as applying only to the occasion for which it was sought. It is normal to grant permission to resigning ministers to explain the reason for their resignation.

CABINET

Cabinet Records

II—BACKGROUND

1. There have been frequent changes in the administrative arrangements for handling Cabinet records in order to safeguard the limitations on access to them. The controlling principles have been ministerial responsibility and Cabinet, rather than departmental, custody.
2. Access has not occasioned problems of any great significance in Canada where the strict limitations are quite generally accepted.
3. Disclosure is a more controversial matter, usually arising in political circumstances. Political factors have thus influenced the weight given various considerations when defending or criticizing alleged disclosures. This has obscured the identification of generally acceptable criteria for judging the circumstances which justify disclosure. Although political conditions have on occasion similarly obscured the constitutional position in the United Kingdom, there are nevertheless indications that greater recognition is given there to the rule that Cabinet records should not be published or information about their contents made public without the prior approval of the Sovereign given on the advice of the Government of the day.

CABINET

Cabinet Records

III—PROCEDURE

1. Memoranda to the Cabinet are prepared in the department and signed by the minister or ministers responsible. Fifty copies are sent to the Secretary to the Cabinet. They are numbered and become Cabinet documents for distribution to ministers when the item is on the agenda.
2. Action to refer recommendations to Cabinet committees will be taken as necessary by the Secretary to the Cabinet not by the originating minister or department.
3. A resigning minister wishing to obtain authorization to disclose the contents of Cabinet documents or the substance of discussions in Cabinet, addresses a request in writing* to the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister's recommendation to the Governor General should be made by instrument of advice*.

CABINET

Cabinet Records

APPENDICES

Oath of a Privy Councillor

Draft letter from former minister to Prime Minister requesting authorization to disclose Cabinet information

Draft instrument of advice from Prime Minister to Governor General recommending authorization for disclosure of Cabinet information

CABINET

Cabinet Secretariat

I—POSITION

1. The title "Cabinet Secretariat" is not generally in current use. The staff which performs the secretarial and administrative duties for the Cabinet, Cabinet committees and the Council is usually referred to as the Privy Council Office.
2. In 1940 the duties of Secretary to the Cabinet were enunciated in an order in council which made the first concurrent appointment of a Clerk of the Privy Council and Secretary to the Cabinet. The duties of both offices have since been performed by the same person. Similarly those appointed to fill the Public Service position of Assistant Secretary have also been appointed by order in council to be Assistant Clerks of the Privy Council.
3. The Cabinet Secretariat consists of the Secretary and Assistant Secretaries who are assisted by additional officers. With the exception of the Secretary, the members of the Secretariat are either on the strength of the Privy Council Office or are on rotation from another department.
4. The Cabinet Secretariat is responsible for the secretarial work of the Cabinet and Cabinet committees. It also services interdepartmental committees providing chairmen as well as secretaries.
5. The Secretariat assists in co-ordinating proposals of concern to several departments. This involves interdepartmental consultation, either in committee or direct, and briefing of the Prime Minister and ministers before Cabinet discussion.
6. With the exception of a unit which handles the formalities regarding orders in council and other formal Council matters, the staff of the Privy Council Office is not divided into separate Cabinet and Council sections.



CABINET

Meetings of Cabinet	PAGE
Meetings of Council or Cabinet held outside Ottawa	23
Persons other than ministers or officials who have attended meetings of Cabinet	25



Known Meetings of Council or Cabinet held Outside Ottawa

1. A meeting of Cabinet was held at the Citadel, Quebec City, on December 28, 1961. The Prime Minister and 20 ministers were present. Minutes were taken. The Secretary to the Cabinet and one Assistant Secretary were present.
2. A meeting of Council was held in Hamilton, Ontario, during the Diefenbaker administration while an election campaign was on. Four ministers were present. "Routine" orders were passed.
3. A meeting of the Cabinet was held at Government House, Halifax, on 1st August, 1959. Minutes were taken. The Prime Minister and 18 ministers were present. The Secretary to the Cabinet and one Assistant Secretary were also present.
4. A meeting of the Cabinet was held on board a train to Toronto on 27th July, 1950. The Prime Minister and 18 ministers were present. Minutes were taken. Government business was discussed. The Secretary to the Cabinet was in attendance.
5. Three meetings of the War Committee of the Cabinet were held in Quebec City on Dec. 29, 1941, August 11, 1943, and August 31, 1943. The United Kingdom Prime Minister, Sir Winston Churchill, was present for all three meetings.
6. Numerous meetings of Council, as shown below, were held outside Ottawa in Québec, Montreal, Halifax, Toronto and other places before the turn of the century. These meetings were on the occasion of formal Council business such as the installation of the Governor General or the Administrator or the administration of oaths. However, in some cases, Council also transacted normal Cabinet business.

The following are Council meetings which were held in the period 1867-1892:

November 12, 1868	Administration of Oaths	Spencer Wood.
November 14, 1868	Installation of Administrator	Executive Council, Québec.
February 2, 1869	Installation of Governor General	Court House, Montreal.
June 21, 1870	Administration of Oaths	Hector Langevin residence, Québec.
July 28, 1870	Administration of Oaths	Clifton, Niagara Falls.
June 22, 1872	Installation of Administrator	St. Louis Hotel, Québec.
June 25, 1872	Installation of Governor General	Executive Council, Québec.
July 2, 1872	Administration of Oaths	Prescott.
January 30, 1873	Administration of Oaths	St. Lawrence Hall, Montreal.
June 14, 1873	Administration of Oaths	Citadel, Québec.
July 8, 1874	Administration of Oaths	Tadoussac.
October 12, 1874	Installation of Administrator	Government House, Halifax.
January 21, 1878	Installation of Administrator	City of Halifax.
October 17, 1878	Appointment of Ministry & Oaths	Windsor Hotel, Montreal.
October 19, 1878	Installation of Administrator and Administration of Oaths	Leg. Council, Québec.

October 26, 1878	Administration of Oaths	Citadel, Québec.
November 25, 1878	Installation of Governor General	Leg. Assembly, Halifax.
July 16, 1879	Administration of Oaths	Citadel, Québec.
July 26, 1879	Administration of Oaths to Lt. Governor of Qué.	Citadel, Québec.
May 20, 1881	Administration of Oaths	Citadel, Québec.
May 21, 1881	Administration of Oaths	Citadel, Québec.
May 24, 1881	Administration of Oaths	Citadel, Québec.
July 29, 1882	Administration of Oaths	Citadel, Québec.
October 22, 1883	Administration of Oaths	Québec.
August 5, 1885	Administration of Oaths	Toronto.

**Known Instances when Persons other than Canadian Ministers or Officials
have attended Meetings of Cabinet**

- Dec. 29, 1941 War Committee of Cabinet attended by U.K. Prime Minister (Churchill).
- Aug. 11, 1943 Joint meeting of War Cabinet of U.K. and War Committee of Canadian Cabinet. Prime Minister of Canada and eight Ministers and the U.K. Prime Minister and Minister of Defence (Churchill) accompanied by the Lord President of the Council (Anderson).
- Aug. 31, 1943 The U.K. Prime Minister (Churchill) accompanied by the First Sea Lord (Pound), the Permanent Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Cadogan), and the Chief Staff Officer to the Minister of Defence (Ismay).
- Oct. 3, 1949 The U.K. Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Bevin).
- Aug. 9, 1950 The Prime Minister of Australia (Menzies).
- Dec. 9, 1950 The U.K. Prime Minister (Attlee) accompanied by the Chief of the Imperial General Staff (Slim) and the High Commissioner in Ottawa (Clutterbuck).
- Jan. 14, 1952 The U.K. Prime Minister (Churchill) accompanied by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Eden), the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations (Ismay), the Postmaster General (Cherwell), the High Commissioner in Ottawa (Clutterbuck) and the Secretary to the Cabinet (Brooke).
- Nov. 22, 1952 The U.S. Secretary of State (Acheson) accompanied by the American Ambassador in Ottawa (Woodward).
- Nov. 14, 1953 The U.S. President (Eisenhower) accompanied by the American Representative to the U.N. (Cabot Lodge), the American Ambassador to Canada (Stuart). The Canadian Ambassador to the U.S. (Heeney) was also present.
- Jun. 30, 1954 The U.K. Prime Minister (Churchill) accompanied by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Eden), the High Commissioner in Ottawa (Nye) and the Adviser to the U.K. Government on Atomic Matters (Cherwell).
- Feb. 6, 1956 The U.K. Prime Minister (Eden) accompanied by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Selwyn Lloyd) and the High Commissioner in Ottawa (Nye). The United States Ambassador to Canada (Merchant) was also present.
- Dec. 22, 1956 The Prime Minister of India (Nehru).
- Jul. 9, 1958 The U.S. President (Eisenhower) accompanied by the Secretary of State (Dulles).

- Apr. 19, 1960 The President of the French Republic (de Gaulle) accompanied by the Minister of Foreign Affairs (de Murville) and the French Ambassador to Canada (Lacoste). The Canadian Ambassador to France (Dupuy) was also present.
- Apr. 11, 1961 The U.K. Prime Minister (Macmillan) accompanied by the Secretary to the Cabinet (Brooke) and the High Commissioner in Ottawa (Garner).
- Feb. 10, 1964 The U.K. Prime Minister (Douglas-Home) accompanied by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Butler), the Secretary to the Cabinet (Trend), and the High Commissioner in Ottawa (Lintott). The Canadian High Commissioner-designate to the U.K. (Chevrier) was also present.
- Dec. 9, 1964 The U.K. Prime Minister (Wilson) accompanied by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Gordon Walker), the Secretary to the Cabinet (Trend) and the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations (Bottomly). The Canadian High Commissioner to the U.K. (Chevrier) was also present.
- Apr. 22, 1964 The Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago (Williams).
- Jun. 5, 1967 The Prime Minister of Australia (Holt) accompanied by the Secretary to the Australian Cabinet (Bunting).

CABINET

Cabinet Records	PAGE
Oath of a Privy Councillor	29
Draft letter from former minister to Prime Minister requesting authorization to disclose Cabinet information	30
Draft instrument of advice from Prime Minister to Governor General recommending authorization for disclosure of Cabinet information	31



Privy Councillor's Oath

You,, do solemnly promise and swear that you will serve Her Majesty truly and faithfully in the Place of Her Council in this Her Majesty's Dominion of Canada, you will keep close and secret all such matters as shall be treated, debated and resolved on in Privy Council, without publishing or disclosing the same or any part thereof, by Word, Writing, or any otherwise to any Person out of the same Council, but to such only as be of the Council, and yet if any matter so propounded, treated and debated in any such Privy Council shall touch any particular Person, sworn of the same Council upon any such matter as shall in any wise concern his Loyalty and Fidelity to the Queen's Majesty, you will in no wise open the same to him, but keep it secret, as you would from any Person, until the Queen's Majesty's pleasure be known in that behalf. You will in all things to be moved, treated and debated in any such Privy Council, faithfully, honestly and truly declare your mind and opinion to the honour and benefit of the Queen's Majesty, and the good of Her Subjects without partiality or exception of persons, in no wise forbearing so to do from any manner of respect, favour, love, meed, displeasure, or dread of any Person or Persons whatsoever. In General you will be vigilant, diligent and circumspect in all your doings touching the Queen's Majesty's affairs; All which Matters and Things you will faithfully observe and keep, as a good Councillor ought to do to the utmost of your power, will and discretion.

SO HELP YOU GOD.

**Draft Letter from Former Minister to Prime Minister requesting
Authorization to disclose Cabinet Information**

Ottawa,
.....

My Dear Prime Minister,

Since my resignation as Minister of on November last, a public controversy, of which you are no doubt aware, has arisen. As I am bound by my oath as a Privy Councillor I do not feel I can properly justify the course of action I have chosen to follow unless His Excellency the Governor General releases me from this oath so that I may publicly disclose the reasons for my resignation as I gave them to Cabinet.

I therefore ask you to request His Excellency the Governor General to release me from my oath as a Privy Councillor in order that I may explain my resignation.

Yours sincerely,
.....

The Right Honourable
Prime Minister of Canada,
Ottawa, Canada.

**Draft Instrument of Advice from Prime Minister to Governor General
recommending Authorization for Disclosure of Cabinet
Information**

His Excellency,
The Right Honourable,
Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada,
Ottawa.

Your Excellency:

I have for submission to Your Excellency the request of the Honourable, former Minister of, asking that he be relieved of his oath as a Privy Councillor for the purpose of publicly disclosing the reasons he gave in Cabinet in explanation of his resignation.

I recommend that this request be granted by Your Excellency.

Respectfully submitted,

.....

Prime Minister

Ottawa,, 19.....