**THE CANADIAN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT – LECTURE NOTES**

Government serves several functions:

* A system of rules that maintains order in society through law and police
* Provides services (health care, education, welfare, EI, pensions plans)
* Maintains rights and freedoms (speech, religion, education)

**Definitions:**

**Governor General (Head of State) 🡪** chosen by the PM and appointed by the Queen

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**Head of Government 🡪**

**Parliament 🡪**

**Member of Parliament 🡪** an elected official for a ***riding*** (an area containing approximately 100 000 people). Serves a 5 year term

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**House of Commons 🡪** the group of all ***Members of Parliament***, including the Prime Minister and the Cabinet, is called the House of Commons.

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**Senate 🡪** not an elected body, these 105 men and women are appointed by the Governor General, but only on recommendation of the Prime Minister

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**Executive Branch 🡪** consists of the Governor General, Prime Minister and his/her Cabinet

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**Legislative Branch 🡪** consists of the House of Commons, the Senate and the Governor General

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**Cabinet 🡪** made up of 30 members called ***Cabinet Ministers***

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