



# Canada



## KEY FACTS

**Joined Commonwealth:** 1931 (Statute of Westminster)

**Population:** 35,182,000 (2013)

**GDP p.c. growth:** 1.3% p.a. 1990–2013

**UN HDI 2014:** World ranking 8

**Official languages:** English, French

**Time:** GMT minus 3–8 hrs

**Currency:** Canadian dollar (C\$)

## Geography

**Area:** 9,976,000 sq km

**Coastline:** 202,100 km

**Capital:** Ottawa

The second largest country in the world, Canada comprises the northern half of the North American continent, bordering with the USA to the south and north-west (Alaska). It is bounded by three oceans: the Pacific to the west; the Arctic to the north; and the Atlantic to the east. Indented shores and numerous islands (some very large) give it the longest coastline of any country at 202,100 km. Cape Columbia on Ellesmere Island is 768 km from the North Pole.

Canada is a federation of ten provinces and three territories. The provinces (and provincial capitals) are: Alberta (Edmonton), British Columbia (Victoria), Manitoba (Winnipeg), New Brunswick (Fredericton), Newfoundland and Labrador (St John's), Nova Scotia (Halifax), Ontario (Toronto), Prince Edward Island (Charlottetown), Québec (Québec), Saskatchewan (Regina); and the territories (and capitals): Northwest Territories (Yellowknife), Nunavut (Iqaluit) and Yukon (Whitehorse). Nunavut was formed in April 1999 – from the eastern and central parts of the Northwest Territories – as a semi-autonomous region for the Inuit people.

**Time:** Canada spans six time zones, ranging from Pacific Standard Time (GMT minus 8 hrs) to Newfoundland Standard Time (GMT minus 4 hrs). In most areas of the country, one hour is added for Daylight Saving Time from the first Sunday in April to the last Sunday in October.

**Topography:** There are six physical regions. The largest is the Precambrian (or Canadian) Shield, the dominant geological feature of the country. It consists of ancient, very hard rocks to the north of the St Lawrence River, occupying nearly half of Canada's total area

and including plateau-like highlands with thousands of lakes and rivers. Almost a quarter of the world's fresh water is concentrated here.

The second region is the Appalachian Mountains to the east, which cover Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and part of Québec. The mountains have been eroded by glaciers, wind and water over 300 million years; their highest elevation, in Gaspé's Shickshock Mountains, is under 1,300 metres.

The third region is the Great Lakes-St Lawrence Lowlands in the south-east, stretching from Québec City to Lake Huron. It is the country's most productive agricultural area.

The fertile Interior Plains or prairies, the fourth region, are a vast expanse of land and sky, rising gently from Manitoba to Alberta and spreading northward through the Mackenzie River valley to the Arctic Ocean.

The Western Cordillera, the fifth region, is a rocky spine of mountains along the Pacific coastline. The Cordillera stretches from South America to Alaska, and the Canadian portion includes many peaks over 3,000 metres, the highest being in the Rocky Mountains.

The Arctic region, finally, consists of hundreds of islands, covering an area of 2,800 km by 1,800 km and reaching to Canada's northern tip.

**Climate:** In the High Arctic, temperatures rise above freezing for only a few weeks in July/August. The boreal forest area is snow-bound for more than half the year and precipitation is light, except along the Labrador coast.

The eastern Atlantic region has changeable winter temperatures and heavy snowfall. Fog is common, especially in Newfoundland and Labrador. July/August temperatures are 16–18°C. Winter also brings heavy snowfalls to the Great Lakes-St Lawrence region; but summer temperatures average almost 20°C, with heat waves.

The prairies have cold winters and hot summers, with rapid air flow bringing dramatic weather changes. Annual average precipitation in southern Saskatchewan is less than 350 mm, compared with 1,110 mm in Vancouver, to the west.

The coast of British Columbia has the most temperate climate in Canada.

**Environment:** The most significant environmental issues are damage to forests and lakes by acid rain, and contamination of oceans by waste and run-off from agriculture, industry and mining.

**Vegetation:** The Appalachian region is heavily wooded, with mixed sugar maple and spruce. Similar forests flourish in the Great Lakes–St Lawrence Lowlands, and white pine, spruce and fir thrive in the south of the Precambrian Shield. The far north of the Shield and the Arctic are too cold for trees, but mosses, lichens, short grasses and dwarf shrubs burst into life and quickly fade in a six-week summer.

A desert-like sweep of short grasses in the southernmost parts of Alberta and Saskatchewan is succeeded further north by fertile grasslands, where millions of ponds provide breeding grounds for half of North America's ducks, geese, swans and pelicans, and for mosquitoes. British Columbia is heavily forested, containing some huge trees including some 1,000-year-old Douglas firs.

Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), thought to have arrived from Europe in the 1890s, is causing havoc to wildlife in marshes, ponds and stream banks. Arable land comprises five per cent of the total land area and forest 34 per cent, there having been no significant loss of forest cover during 1990–2012.

**Wildlife:** Canada has 34 national parks, including the Rocky Mountains NP. In the tundra of the far north are found seals, polar bears, the gigantic musk-oxen and caribou. In the extensive stretches of forest are moose, brown, black and grizzly bears, and beavers, one of Canada's national symbols. The grasslands were once home to enormous herds of bison but extensive hunting means these are now only to be found in wildlife reserves. Some 11 mammal species and 13 bird species are thought to be endangered (2014).

**Main towns:** Ottawa (capital, Ontario, pop. 883,391 in 2011), Toronto (Ontario, 5.13m), Montréal (Québec, 3.4m), Vancouver (British Columbia, 2.13m), Calgary (Alberta, 1.09m), Edmonton (Alberta, 960,015), Québec (696,946), Winnipeg (Manitoba, 671,551), Hamilton (Ontario, 670,580), Halifax (Nova Scotia, 297,943), Saskatoon (Saskatchewan, 222,035), Regina (Saskatchewan, 192,796), St John's (Newfoundland and Labrador, 165,346), Fredericton (New Brunswick, 61,522) and Charlottetown (Prince Edward Island, 42,602).

**Transport:** The country has 1,042,300 km of roads, including an extensive network of expressways. The 7,821 km Trans-Canada Highway is the longest national highway in the world.

East–west routes predominate on both the privately owned freight railway systems. The total system extends over 58,345 km. Toronto and Montréal have underground urban railway systems, called the Subway and Metro respectively. Vancouver's SkyTrain is an above-ground rapid transit system which runs on elevated tracks over the city.

The St Lawrence Seaway, opened in 1959, provides a water transport system from the Atlantic Ocean to the head of the Great Lakes. It has a system of locks to lift vessels 170 metres between Montréal and Lake Superior. Of the many international ports, the busiest is Vancouver. Remote areas are accessible only by air. There are well over 1,000 airports, more than 800 with paved runways.

## Society

### KEY FACTS 2013

**Population per sq km:** 4

**Life expectancy:** 81 years

**Population:** 35,182,000 (2013); 81 per cent of people live in urban areas and 44 per cent in urban agglomerations of more than one million people; growth 1.0 per cent p.a. 1990–2013; birth rate 11 per 1,000 people (17 in 1970); life expectancy 81 years (73 in 1970). Population density is among the lowest in the world, but large areas are climatically hostile, and 85 per cent of Canadians live within 350 km of the US border.

The 2011 census found that about 19 per cent of people were of English origin, 15 per cent of French origin, 14 per cent Scottish, 14 per cent Irish and ten per cent German. Other ethnic origins which surpassed the one million mark were Native American, Italian, Chinese, Ukrainian, East Indian, Dutch and Polish. More than 200,000 immigrants arrive each year from more than 150 countries.

**Language:** Official languages are English and French; English is the mother-tongue of 57 per cent and French 22 per cent (2006 census). In the prairies, the most common non-official mother tongue is German; in central Canada, Italian; in British Columbia, Chinese; in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, Inuktitut; in the Yukon, the Athapaskan languages of the Dene family; and in the Atlantic region, Micmac. Canada's aboriginal people speak some 50 languages belonging to 11 distinct linguistic families.

**Religion:** Some 84 per cent of people adhere to a religion: Christians 74 per cent (Roman Catholics 43 per cent, Protestants 23 per cent, Eastern Orthodox 1.6 per cent); Muslims two per cent; Jews 1.1 per cent; Hindus one per cent; Buddhists one per cent; and Sikhs 0.9 per cent.

**Health:** Public spending on health was eight per cent of GDP in 2012. Health insurance, provided by the provinces with federal government financial support, covers all the population. The leading causes of death are circulatory system diseases, cancer, respiratory diseases and accidents. Smoking has declined dramatically, from over half of men to a minority. There are 16 faculties of medicine in Canada (2014). Infant mortality was five per 1,000 live births in 2013 (28 in 1960).

**Education:** Public spending on education was 5.4 per cent of GDP in 2011. Education policy varies with province but the period of compulsory education generally starts at the age of six. Most primary and secondary schooling is publicly funded. The school year starts in September.

Post-secondary education expanded rapidly during the 1980s and 1990s; women have shown the faster increase, and now outnumber men. The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada represents 98 Canadian public and private not-for-profit universities and university-degree-level colleges (2013). There is virtually no illiteracy among people aged 15–24. There are more than 1,000 public libraries, containing more than 70 million volumes.

Canada hosted the Third Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers in Ottawa, Ontario, in 1964 and the 14th Conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in 2000. Commonwealth Education Ministers meet every three years to discuss issues of mutual concern and interest.

**Media:** Leading daily newspapers include *The Globe and Mail* (Toronto, but distributed nationally), *The Gazette* (Montréal, in English), *Le Journal de Montréal*, *National Post*, *La Presse* (Montréal, in French), *The Toronto Star* and *The Vancouver Sun*. *Maclean's* is a weekly news magazine.

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) provides national, public radio and TV services in English and French, and in the indigenous languages of the northern provinces; also an external service, Radio Canada International. Société Radio-Canada is the national, public radio and TV provider in French. CPAC is a private, not-for-profit digital parliamentary and political channel. Numerous private radio and TV stations are licensed to broadcast.

Some 99 per cent of households have TV sets (2010). There are 944 personal computers per 1,000 people (2006).

**Communications:** Country code 1; internet domain '.ca'. Mobile phone coverage is good. Most areas have good internet

connections, and there are internet cafes in most towns; post offices in all towns.

For every 1,000 people there are 497 landlines, 784 mobile phone subscriptions and 858 internet users (2013).

**Public holidays:** New Year's Day, Victoria Day (Monday on or preceding 24 May), Canada Day (1 July), Labour Day (first Monday in September), Thanksgiving (second Monday in October), Remembrance Day (11 November), Christmas Day and Boxing Day. Most provinces have additional public holidays.

Religious and other festivals whose dates vary from year to year include Good Friday.

## Economy

### KEY FACTS 2013

**GNI:** US\$1,799.8bn

**GNI p.c.:** US\$52,200

**GDP growth:** 1.4% p.a. 2009–13

**Inflation:** 1.5% p.a. 2009–13

Canada's economy is among the largest in the world, ranking fifteenth in terms of GDP (PPP) in 2014 (IMF, April 2015). Until the early 20th century Canada had a predominantly agricultural economy. Even after World War II, a quarter of the workforce was still engaged in agriculture. Today, it is highly industrialised with one of the world's highest per capita income rates. Ontario is the centre of economic activity and the province with the

largest manufacturing base and agricultural sector. Toronto in Ontario is the leading financial and services centre. The country is exceptionally well endowed with natural resources: minerals, petroleum and natural gas, forests, extensive coastal waters for fishing, and rivers and falls for hydroelectric power.

Canada is among the world's leading exporters of potash, uranium, nickel, zinc and asbestos and a major producer of aluminium, cadmium, cobalt, copper, gold and, in the 2000s, diamonds. There are large reserves of nickel, copper and cobalt, as well as oil and gas – reserves of oil were estimated in January 2014 to be 174 billion barrels, and of gas, 2.0 trillion cubic metres.

Economic links with its giant neighbour were cemented by the Free Trade Agreement of 1989. This was subsequently enlarged to include Mexico under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Both federal and provincial governments have undertaken privatisation in order to reduce their fiscal deficits. Air Canada was privatised in the late 1980s and rail networks Canadian Pacific and Canadian National Railway followed by the mid-1990s. There are limits to the level of foreign ownership permitted in areas such as broadcasting, telecommunications, transportation and uranium mining.

The country has one of the world's most open economies. It enjoyed strong growth from the mid-1990s, mainly in exports and the services sector, and growth in manufacturing output averaged around three per cent p.a. during the decade.

Good economic growth continued into the 2000s, until 2008 when investment and exports collapsed in the world economic downturn and the economy went sharply into recession. Despite the government's taking strong measures to stimulate the economy, recession persisted into 2009, with an overall decline of 2.7 per cent in that year, but recovering well in 2010 (3.4 per cent), and steady from 2011. Growth then continued at rates that were mainly above two per cent in 2011–15. The unemployment rate, which had fallen below six per cent in

2007 – its lowest level for over three decades, averaged 8.3 per cent in 2009 and only fell below seven per cent in September 2014.

## History

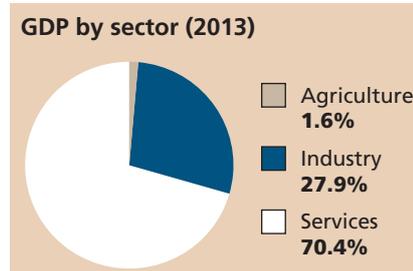
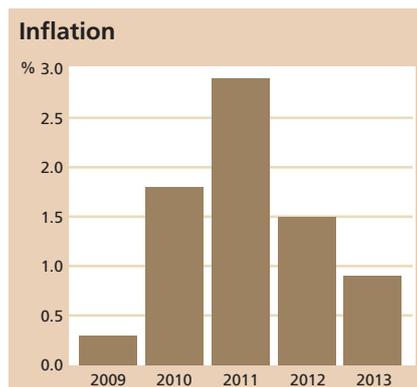
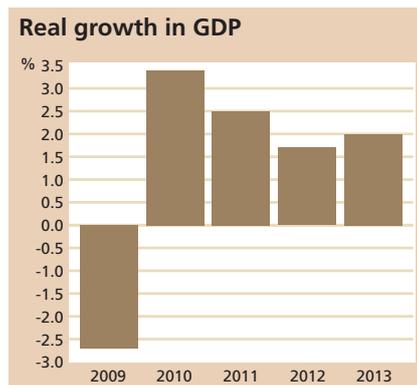
North America has been inhabited for more than 25,000 years by Amerindian and Inuit peoples who migrated from Asia, crossing the Bering Strait. By 1600 the indigenous population of present-day Canada may have been around 250,000. These native inhabitants, living in bands and larger tribes where climatic conditions were not too hostile, developed sophisticated cultures. Populations thrived in the east and on the prairies, with the Algonquian- and Iroquoian-speaking peoples constituting the largest linguistic groups. A rich culture also developed in the west and along the Pacific coast.

The first Europeans to arrive, in about 1000 CE, were Vikings under Leif Ericson, who founded short-lived settlements in Newfoundland and Labrador. The next wave of Europeans arrived in search of an imagined north-west passage to Asia, which they found blocked by the Canadian landmass. The abundance of fish off Newfoundland attracted French, Spanish, Portuguese and English fishermen from the 16th century onwards. Settlements developed as bases for the fish and fur trades. English settlements developed in Newfoundland and the Atlantic seaboard. The English Hudson's Bay Company, founded in 1670, claimed trading rights over Rupert's Land, the area whose rivers drained into Hudson Bay. Samuel de Champlain founded the colony of New France or Québec in 1608.

In 1663 Québec became a French royal province, with a Governor entrusted with the general policy of the colony, the direction of its military affairs and its relations with the Indian tribes. The Roman Catholic Church, as a result of its Jesuit missions, became a powerful force. The population of the British settlements was largely Protestant, laying the basis for the religious and cultural diversity of Canada today.

Fish and fur trade rivalry between France and England was reinforced by wars in Europe. In 1713, France surrendered all claims to Rupert's Land, Nova Scotia and French settlements in Newfoundland. In 1763, France lost the rest of Canada apart from two small islands, St Pierre and Miquelon.

From 1763 until the 1775 American War of Independence, the whole of North America to the east of the Mississippi was held by Britain, the various colonies having a population of nearly two million. In 1774 the



Québec Act, passed by the British Parliament, secured for the French colonists the right to retain their language, religion and civil law. As a result of the American Revolution, about 35,000 Loyalists moved north to remain under British rule.

In 1791 the country was divided between the English-speaking and French-speaking regions: Upper Canada (now Ontario); and Lower Canada (now Québec). The USA relinquished claims to Vancouver Island in 1846. British North American colonies were swelled by immigration from Europe from the 1830s to the 1850s.

The British North America Act of 1867 brought together four British colonies: Upper and Lower Canada, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia in one federal Dominion under the name of Canada. Rupert's Land and the Northwestern Territory joined the federation as the province of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories in 1870. The colony of British Columbia joined in 1871 and Prince Edward Island in 1873. The Treaty of Washington in 1871 ended American hopes of Canada becoming part of the USA.

In the 20th century the confederation continued to grow: Alberta and Saskatchewan were created as new provinces in 1905, Norway abandoned claims to the Sverdrup islands in 1931 and Newfoundland joined in 1949. In the late 19th century the population of the country was still small: 3.7 million (1871 census), three-quarters of whom were rural. An important factor in unifying the country was the building of the transcontinental railway, completed, after various setbacks, in the 1880s.

After World War I, Canada sought an end to colonial status. The Balfour formula of 1926, endorsed by the Statute of Westminster in 1931, recognised Canada as a sovereign country having complete independence within the Commonwealth.

From 1968 to 1984, Canadian politics was dominated by Pierre Trudeau, leader of the Liberal Party and four times Prime Minister. During his administrations, social welfare was increased, immigration liberalised and multiculturalism promoted. After his retirement in 1984, his party was eventually ousted by the Progressive Conservative Party (PCP) under Brian Mulroney, who promoted more stringent social policies, some privatisation and free trade.

Brian Mulroney was succeeded in 1993 by Kim Campbell, Canada's first woman Prime Minister. Campbell and the Conservatives were crushingly defeated in the October 1993 elections, winning only two seats. The Liberal Party, led by Jean Chrétien, won 177 seats. Recently established parties, the

Reform Party (52 seats) and Bloc Québécois (54), did well in the election.

In an early general election in June 1997, Chrétien and the Liberal Party retained power with a reduced majority, winning 155 seats. The Reform Party took 60 seats, Bloc Québécois 44. The PCP recovered to 20 seats and the New Democratic Party also won 20, up from nine in 1993. The elections exposed the increasing regionalisation of Canadian politics, with 101 of the Liberal seats being won in Ontario and the remainder in a few large cities. The Reform Party's seats were almost exclusively in the west of the country.

The Canadian Alliance became the official opposition in the federal House of Commons in March 2000 when the Reform Party joined it.

### Québec

The Parti Québécois (PQ) was founded in 1968, with a separatist programme. It came to power in Québec in 1976 and a referendum on Québec sovereignty was held in 1980 in which 60 per cent of Québec voters rejected secession. However, Québec did not approve the new Federal Constitution of 1982, and the issue remained unresolved.

A way forward was apparently found by the Meech Lake accord in 1987. Its main points were the recognition of Québec as a 'distinct society' and new provincial powers. However, Manitoba and Newfoundland failed to ratify the accord before the 1990 deadline and New Brunswick then halted its own ratification process. Many Québécois were antagonised by what they interpreted as a rejection of their interests, culture and language. Extensive public consultations on

constitutional reform followed, culminating in the Charlottetown accord of 28 August 1992. Among other things, this accord recognised Québec as a distinct society and also recognised aboriginal rights to self-government within Canada. However, the Charlottetown Accord proposals were rejected in a national referendum in October 1992.

Despite the clear practical difficulties of secession, the PQ, winning the provincial elections of 1994, held a referendum on the separatist option on 30 October 1995. The result was a narrow defeat for the secessionists: a majority of less than one per cent voted to remain within the federation of Canada.

In August 1998 the Supreme Court unanimously ruled that under both federal and international law Québec only had the right to secede with the agreement of both federal and seven of the ten provincial legislatures. However, it did stipulate that should a clear majority of the people of Québec vote to secede, then the federal and provincial governments should enter into negotiations with it in good faith.

In Québec's provincial elections in November 1998, the vote was evenly divided between the PQ and the Liberals, although the PQ was returned with 75 of the 125 seats – but only 43 per cent of the votes cast. With voters divided, it seemed unlikely that the PQ would risk another referendum in the near future.

During 2000, the federal Parliament passed legislation giving it the right to approve questions to be posed in future referendums on secession by individual provinces.

## Canada on the international stage

Internationally-acclaimed authors Margaret Atwood (Man Booker Prize, 2000), Yann Martel (Man Booker Prize, 2002) and Alice Munro (Nobel Prize in Literature, 2013) are all Canadian, as is James Cameron, a heavy-hitting director in Hollywood who produced such films as *Titanic* and *Avatar*. Malcolm Gladwell is a writer for *The New Yorker*, an international bestselling author and was named in *Time* magazine's most influential people list in 2005.

Due to the slightly higher value of the American dollar, films set in the USA are often shot in Canada to cut production costs. Some recognisable titles include *Good Will Hunting* filmed in Toronto, *Brokeback Mountain* filmed in Alberta and Jackie Chan's Hollywood debut *Rumble in the Bronx*, actually filmed in Vancouver.

In sports, Canada leads in the Winter Olympics in ice hockey in both the men's and women's categories – with 13 gold medals in total. Curling is the second most popular winter sport, with Canada holding five Olympic gold medals.

The Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management has its HQ in Ottawa, the Commonwealth of Learning in Vancouver and the Commonwealth Journalists Association in Toronto.

Canada was a founder member of the Commonwealth in 1931 when its independence was recognised under the Statute of Westminster, and Arnold Smith of Canada was the first Commonwealth Secretary-General (1965–75).

## Constitution

**Status:** Monarchy under Queen Elizabeth II

**Legislature:** Parliament of Canada

Canada is a constitutional monarchy, with Queen Elizabeth II (Queen of Canada) as head of state, represented by a Governor-General appointed on the recommendation of the Prime Minister. The British North America Act of 1867 set up a machinery of government that has remained basically unchanged; however, the constitution is contained in the Constitution Act of 1982, which includes the Charter of Rights and Freedoms as well as procedures for amending the constitution.

The federal Parliament is bicameral. The House of Commons has 338 members (308 until the 2015 general election) directly elected in general elections which, if not called earlier, must be held on the third Monday in October in the fourth calendar year following the last election. The Senate has 105 members appointed on a regional basis by the Prime Minister, in consultation with the cabinet. The leader of the party with the most seats in the House of Commons becomes Prime Minister and appoints a cabinet which has executive power at the federal level.

The constitution provides for devolution of powers from federal to provincial governments. General amendments to the

constitution require the consent of the federal Parliament and of seven provinces representing at least 50 per cent of the population.

## Politics

**Last elections:** 19 October 2015

**Next elections:** 2019

**Head of state:** Queen Elizabeth II, represented by Governor-General, David Johnston (2010–)

**Head of government:** Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

**Ruling party:** Liberal Party

**Women MPs:** 26%

In a surprise early general election in November 2000, the Liberal Party gained a decisive 173 seats, including 100 of 103 seats in the largest province of Ontario and 37 of 73 in Québec, increasing its majority by 18. Jean Chrétien continued as Prime Minister. The opposition Canadian Alliance increased its share of the popular vote – largely at the expense of the Progressive Conservative Party (PCP) – but failed to challenge the Liberal Party in the east of the country.

In December 2003, Chrétien retired and was succeeded by former Finance Minister Paul Martin, and an early general election followed in June 2004, in which the ruling Liberal Party, taking 135 seats, was ahead of

the Conservatives (99 seats, the Conservative Party was formed by a merger of PCP and Canadian Alliance), but did not achieve an overall majority in the House of Commons and depended on the support of the smaller parties.

Only 17 months into its new term, in December 2005, opposition parties challenged the government on the payment by the previous Liberal government in the late 1990s of large sums of public money to advertising agencies, and, for the first time ever, carried a vote of no confidence in the government. Martin then had to call a new general election for January 2006. In this election, on a platform of tax cuts and measures to combat corruption, the Conservative Party won 124 seats, the Liberal Party 103, Bloc Québécois 51 and the New Democratic Party (NDP) 29. Conservative Party leader Stephen Harper became Prime Minister but, short of an outright majority, he was only able to introduce new legislation with support from members of other parties.

In a bid to strengthen his minority government, Harper called an election in October 2008. In the contest when turnout was 59 per cent, his Conservatives won 143 seats with 37.6 per cent of votes. Their gain was largely at the expense of the Liberals who took 77 seats; while Bloc Québécois was also down at 49 seats, NDP won 37 and independents two. Harper was returned as Prime Minister, once again in a minority government.

At an early general election, held in May 2011 after the government lost a parliamentary vote of no confidence on 25 March 2011, the ruling Conservatives secured a majority in the House of Commons with 167 of the 308 seats (39.6 per cent of votes). The NDP (102 seats and 30.6 per cent) overtook both the Liberal Party (34 seats and 18.9 per cent) and Bloc Québécois (4 seats and 6.0 per cent); the remaining seat was won by the Green Party (3.9 per cent). The new legislature included 76 women, more than ever before.

In the general election of 19 October 2015, the Liberal Party, led by Justin Trudeau, ousted Stephen Harper and the Conservatives, winning 184 of the 338 seats in the House of Commons and 39.5 per cent of the votes cast. The Conservative Party took 99 seats (31.9 per cent), NDP 44 (19.7 per cent), Bloc Québécois ten (4.7 per cent) and the Green Party one (3.4 per cent). Turnout was 68.5 per cent. Trudeau, the son of late Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau (1968–1979 and 1980–84), was sworn in as Prime Minister on 4 November 2015.

## Further information

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|---------------------------------------|--|
| Government of Canada:                 | <a href="http://canada.gc.ca">canada.gc.ca</a>   |
| Elections Canada:                     | <a href="http://www.elections.ca">www.elections.ca</a>   |
| Parliament of Canada:                 | <a href="http://www.parl.gc.ca">www.parl.gc.ca</a>   |
| Statistics Canada:                    | <a href="http://www.statcan.gc.ca">www.statcan.gc.ca</a>   |
| Bank of Canada:                       | <a href="http://www.bankofcanada.ca">www.bankofcanada.ca</a>   |
| Canadian Tourism Commission:          | <a href="http://www.corporate.canada.travel/en/ca">www.corporate.canada.travel/en/ca</a>                       |
| CAPAM:                                | <a href="http://www.capam.org">www.capam.org</a>   |
| Commonwealth Journalists Association: | <a href="http://commonwealthjournalists.org">commonwealthjournalists.org</a>                                   |
| Commonwealth of Learning:             | <a href="http://www.col.org">www.col.org</a>   |
| Commonwealth Secretariat:             | <a href="http://www.thecommonwealth.org">www.thecommonwealth.org</a>   |
| Commonwealth of Nations:              | <a href="http://www.commonwealthofnations.org/country/Canada">www.commonwealthofnations.org/country/Canada</a> |

### Media

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|---------------------------------|--|
| <i>National Post</i> :          | <a href="http://www.nationalpost.com">www.nationalpost.com</a>           |
| <i>The Gazette</i> :            | <a href="http://www.montrealgazette.com">www.montrealgazette.com</a>     |
| <i>The Globe and Mail</i> :     | <a href="http://www.theglobeandmail.com">www.theglobeandmail.com</a>     |
| <i>The Toronto Star</i> :       | <a href="http://www.thestar.com">www.thestar.com</a>                     |
| <i>Vancouver Sun</i> :          | <a href="http://www.vancouver.sun.com">www.vancouver.sun.com</a>         |
| <i>La Presse</i> :              | <a href="http://www.cyberpresse.ca">www.cyberpresse.ca</a>               |
| <i>Le Journal de Montréal</i> : | <a href="http://www.journaldemontreal.com">www.journaldemontreal.com</a> |
| <i>Macleans</i> :               | <a href="http://www2.macleans.ca">www2.macleans.ca</a>                   |
| Aboriginal People's TV Network: | <a href="http://aptn.ca">aptn.ca</a>                                     |
| CBC:                            | <a href="http://www.cbc.ca">www.cbc.ca</a>                               |
| CPAC:                           | <a href="http://www.cpac.ca">www.cpac.ca</a>                             |
| Société Radio-Canada:           | <a href="http://www.radio-canada.ca">www.radio-canada.ca</a>             |
| Radio Canada International:     | <a href="http://www.radio-canada.ca">www.radio-canada.ca</a>             |
| The Canadian Press:             | <a href="http://www.thecanadianpress.com">www.thecanadianpress.com</a>   |

## International relations

Canada is a member of Asia–Pacific Economic Cooperation, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Organisation internationale de la Francophonie, Organization of American States, United Nations and World Trade Organization.

With the USA and Mexico, Canada is a member of the North America Free Trade Association.

## Traveller information

**Immigration and customs:** Passports must be valid at least until the date of departure. Visas are required by most Commonwealth nationals. Prohibited imports include food. Products made from endangered species may require an export certificate.

**Travel within the country:** Traffic drives on the right, and car hire is available to all those aged 21 and over. Visitors can use a foreign driving licence if staying for less than three

months. The wearing of seat belts is compulsory. Road networks cover vast areas of the country.

Rail, bus and air services operate throughout the country. There are express rail services between main towns.

**Travel health:** There are no recommended precautionary measures for travelling to Canada.

There were 16,588,000 tourist arrivals in 2013.



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