Australia and Canada

A Comparative Primer

Updated November 2018

Foreword

The following document was prepared by the High Commission of Canada in Canberra, with the assistance of the Australian High Commission in Ottawa and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet in Canberra, in order to provide some simple comparative background information on the political systems, economies and societies of Australia and Canada. This primer is intended to assist official visitors between the two countries to have a better sense of how Canada and Australia compare and contrast on a number of basic indicators. This is a working document and is intended to be kept evergreen. As such, it is not intended for public distribution.

This issue was updated as of 9 November 2018. All of the statistics quoted in this document come from open sources, published either by the Australian or Canadian governments, or by credible third party institutions. We will be happy to provide details on the sources used for any figure on request. Any feedback on the clarity and usefulness of this primer and how it could be improved in the future would be very welcome. Please forward specific questions or comments to Ashley Alderton at the High Commission at ashley.alderton@international.gc.ca.

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Constitutional Structure

AUSTRALIA	CANADA
The Constitution	
The Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act (1900) was passed as part of a British Act of Parliament in 1900, and took effect on 1 January 1901. The *Australia Act 1986* severed remaining legislative ties between the two nations.	*The British North America Act*, 1867 (BNA Act, 1867, later renamed the *Constitution Act*, 1867) was passed by the British Parliament in 1867 granting Canadian confederation. In 1982, the power to amend Canada's Constitution was repatriated to Canada.
Amending formula	
Any proposed law to alter the Constitution must be passed by an absolute majority in both Houses of the Commonwealth Parliament. If passed by both Houses, it is submitted to a referendum. At the referendum the proposed alteration must be approved by a 'double majority'. That is: • a majority of all electors nationally; and • a majority of electors in a majority of the states (i.e. at least four out of six states). If the referendum is carried, the proposed law is given Royal Assent by the Governor-General.	There are five legal formulas for amending Canada's Constitution. The nature of the alteration dictates the amendment formula used. An alteration to the role of the Head of State or the Governor General, the composition of the Supreme Court, or the amending formulas must be passed by both the Senate and the House of Commons and by the legislature of every province. Alterations to the powers and right of provincial governments, provincial representation in the House of Commons, the method of selecting Senators, or the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* must be passed by the Senate, the House of Commons and by the legislatures of two-thirds of the provinces with at least half the total population of all the provinces (known as the "7+50 formula"). Minor, more routine, alterations are covered by one of another three formulas which require the consent of the federal Parliament, the provincial legislature(s) affected, or a combination of the two.

Recent attempts to amend the Constitution

Since Federation, only eight out of 44 proposals to amend the Constitution have been approved.

Some of the more recent referendum subjects:
- Aboriginals – 1967 – Carried
  - To enable the Commonwealth to enact laws for Aborigines; to remove the prohibition against counting Aboriginal people in population counts in the Commonwealth or a State.

- Territories – 1977 – Carried
  - To allow electors in Territories, as well as in the States, to vote in constitutional referendums

- Rights and Freedoms – 1988 – Not Carried
  - To extend the right to trial by jury, to extend freedom of religion, and to ensure fair terms for persons whose property is acquired by any government

- Republic – 1999 – Not Carried
  - To establish the Commonwealth of Australia as a republic with the Queen and Governor-General being replaced by a President appointed by a two-thirds majority of the members of the Commonwealth Parliament

- Preamble –1999 – Not Carried
  - To alter the Constitution to insert a preamble.

There have been several modest changes to the Constitution since its repatriation in 1982. These include changes with respect to education or the use of the two official languages in individual provinces. The most significant change was the creation of the territory of Nunavut in 1999.

There have also been two unsuccessful attempts to introduce significant changes to the Constitution.

The **Meech Lake Accord (1987)** included five major modifications to the Constitution:
- Recognition of Quebec as a "distinct society";
- A provincial veto over constitutional change;
- Increased provincial powers in immigration;
- Extension of the right for financial compensation to any province that chooses to opt out of future federal programs; and
- Provincial input in appointing Senators and Justices of the Supreme Court.

As it also proposed changing the amending formula, the Accord needed the support of all ten legislatures. It failed after Manitoba and Newfoundland failed to ratify it.

The **Charlottetown Accord (1992)** again included a clause recognising Quebec as a 'distinct society'. It also included reforms to the Supreme Court and to the Senate (allowing Senators to be elected by general election or by provincial legislatures).

Alberta, British Columbia and Quebec passed legislation requiring constitutional amendments to be submitted to a public referendum in their province. This led to a decision by then Prime Minister Mulroney to hold a national referendum. The terms of the referendum required that the Accord had to be supported not only by a majority of Canadians, but by a majority of the population in each of the provinces. The Accord was defeated after 54 per cent of Canadians voted against it.

Protections for Human Rights in the Constitution	
Australia has no Bill of Rights to protect human rights in a single document. Instead, rights may be found throughout the Constitution, common law and legislation. The framers of Australia's Constitution debated the adoption of a Bill of Rights but the proposal was defeated. There are five explicit individual rights in the Constitution. These are the right to vote (Section 41), protection against acquisition of property on unjust terms (Section 51), the right to a trial by jury (Section 80), freedom of religion (Section 116) and prohibition of discrimination on the basis of State of residency (Section 117). All of these, other than the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of State of residency, are restrictions on Commonwealth legislative power, rather than positive rights. In recent years the High Court has found that additional rights for individuals may be necessarily implied by the language and structure of the Constitution. In 1992 the Court decided that Australia's form of parliamentary democracy (dictated by the Constitution) necessarily requires a degree of freedom for individuals to discuss and debate political issues.	The Canadian *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* was entrenched into the Canadian Constitution in 1982. The *Charter* protects fundamental freedoms (religion, thought, association, etc.) in Canada. It also outlines the democratic, legal, and mobility rights of Canadians. It recognises English and French as official languages, giving both equal status in all institutions of Parliament and the federal government. The *Charter* also enshrines equality rights in Canada, prohibiting discrimination on the grounds of race, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, age, or mental or physical disability. It does, however, contain a provision for "affirmative action programs". Section 33 of the *Charter* contains a 'notwithstanding clause' which allows the federal or provincial governments to override sections of the Charter which deal with fundamental rights and freedoms. However this has been infrequently used by provincial governments and never used federally. It was most famously invoked by Quebec in 1989 with respect to language laws which the Supreme Court of Canada found to be unconstitutional.
Official Language(s)	
No official language. English is the national language.	English & French
Indigenous/Aboriginal Recognition	
The *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Recognition Act*, passed in Parliament in March 2013, reflected an intention to pursue meaningful change to the Constitution that echoes the hopes and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. In December 2015, the Government announced the establishment of a bipartisan-appointed Referendum Council to advise on steps toward constitutional change. In June 2017, the Council convened the First Nations National Constitutional Convention, bringing together over 250 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders, with a majority of delegates backing an approach outlined in the "the Uluru Statement". In October 2017, the Turnbull Government rejected the Referendum Council's call to amend the Constitution to provide for a national Indigenous representative assembly to constitute a "Voice to Parliament". In	Section 25 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, provides that no elements of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms (Part I of the *Constitution Act, 1982*) will affect treaty or other rights that pertain to Canada's Aboriginal peoples. Aboriginal rights are further protected under Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* ("Rights of the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada").

March 2018, a Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition Relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People was established to inquire into matters relating to constitutional change, and to consider the Uluru Statement and recommendations of other inquires. The Joint Committee is due to report before the end of 2018.	
International Protection of Indigenous/Aboriginal Rights	
The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the Declaration) was adopted in 2007. Australia originally voted against, but moved to support in 2009. Australia has not moved to fully implement the Declaration; however is giving effect to the principles of the Declaration through programmes and policies.	The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the Declaration) was adopted in 2007. Canada originally voted against, but moved to support it in 2010. At the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) in May 2016, Canada announced that it would be moving to full implementation. Bill C-262, the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act,* requires that the Government of Canada to take all measures necessary to ensure that the laws of Canada are in harmony with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. It has five key elements: • Setting out the key principles that must guide implementation of the Declaration. • Providing clear public affirmation that the standards set out in the Declaration have "application in Canadian law." • Requiring a process for the review of federal legislation to ensure consistency with the minimum standards set out in the Declaration. • Requiring the federal government to work with Indigenous Peoples to develop a national action plan to implement the Declaration. • Providing transparency and accountability by requiring annual reporting to Parliament on progress made toward implementation of the Declaration.

Role of the Governor General	
The office of the Governor-General was established by the Constitution in 1901. Under the Constitution, the Governor-General is the Queen's representative in the Commonwealth and the person in whom the executive power of the Commonwealth is vested. Tenure is "at pleasure"; however in practice the term is around five years, which is occasionally extended. The powers of the Governor-General include summoning, proroguing and dissolving the Commonwealth Parliament; recommending appropriations; assenting to Bills; issuing writs for general elections; appointing Ministers; making Proclamations and Regulations; creating government departments and making statutory appointments (including departmental secretaries). The Governor-General follows the conventions of the Westminster system of parliament and generally acts only on the advice of the Prime Minister. There have been only four exceptions when the Governor-General has exercised the reserve powers of the office, including the dismissal of Prime Minister Gough Whitlam by Governor-General Sir John Kerr in 1975.	Under the Constitution, the Queen is Canada's formal Head of State. She is represented by the Governor General at the federal level and by Lieutenant-Governors in the provinces. The Governor General is appointed by the Queen on the advice of the Prime Minister. Tenure is "at pleasure" and usually lasts five years, but this term may be extended. The Governor General presides over the swearing-in of the Prime Minister, the Chief Justice and Cabinet ministers. She summons, prorogues and dissolves Parliament, delivers the Speech from the Throne, gives Royal Assent to Acts of Parliament and approves Orders in Council. She is the Commander-in-Chief and administers the Canadian Honours System. The Governor General has reserve powers, but these have rarely been used. No Canadian Prime Minister has been dismissed by a Governor General. In 1926, Governor General Lord Byng refused a request for the dissolution of Parliament by Prime Minister Mackenzie King on the basis that there had just been an election eight months prior and then offered the government to the opposition.

Current Governor-General	
His Excellency the Honourable Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) Sworn in March 28, 2014	Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette Sworn in October 2, 2017

The Lower House

Basic Powers

The House of Representatives' central function is the consideration and passing of new laws and amendments or changes to existing laws. To become law, bills must be passed by both the House of Representatives and the Senate. Money bills must originate in the House. The Government is determined in the Lower House. The political party (or coalition of parties) which has the most Members in the House of Representatives becomes the governing party. Its leader becomes Prime Minister and other Ministers are appointed from among the party's Members and Senators. To remain in office a	The House of Commons has the same basic powers and functions as the House of Representatives in Australia*.

Government must keep the support of a majority of Members of the House of Representatives.

The functions of the House of Representatives include debate of legislation and ministerial policy statements; discussion of matters of public importance; committee investigations; and asking questions of Ministers. The Government cannot collect taxes or spend money unless permitted by law through the passage of taxation and appropriation bills.

Distribution of Seats in the Lower House

New South Wales	47		Ontario	121
Victoria	37		Quebec	78
Queensland	30		British Columbia	42
Western Australia	16		Alberta	34
South Australia	11		Manitoba	14
Tasmania	5*		Saskatchewan	14
Australian Capital Territory	2		Nova Scotia	11
Northern Territory	2		New Brunswick	10
Total	150		Newfoundland and Labrador	7
			Prince Edward Island	4
			Yukon	1
			Northwest Territories	1
			Nunavut	1
			Total	338

* The Constitution (s.24) grants Tasmania a minimum of five members in the House of Representatives.

Redistribution of Seats	
For the House of Representatives, each State and Territory is divided into electoral divisions. There are currently 150 electorates and the boundaries of these electorates are adjusted from time to time so that they all contain approximately equal numbers of electors. The last entitlement determination was held on 31 August 2017. As a result, at the next election, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory will both gain an additional seat, while South Australia's allocation will be reduced by one. The total number of members in the House of Representatives will increase from 150 to 151.	Section 51 of the Constitution Act, 1867 gives the federal Parliament the authority to increase the number of seats in the House of Commons to reflect population growth. A representation order determining Canada's future electoral districts was last completed in October 2013.
Normal term length of a mandate	
Under Australia's Constitution, every House of Representatives shall continue for three years from the first meeting of the House, and no longer, following an election but may be dissolved sooner by the Governor-General.	The *Constitution Act* provides that, subject to dissolution, five years is the maximum lifespan of the House of Commons between general elections. In addition, revisions to the *Canada Elections Act* adopted in 2007, require that a general election be held on a fixed date every four years. Under these provisions, the next scheduled general election is October 21, 2019, unless Parliament is dissolved sooner.
Number of weeks in session	
17 weeks in 2018 17 weeks in 2017 14 weeks in 2016 19 weeks in 2015 20 weeks in 2014 13 weeks in 2013	26 weeks in 2018 26 weeks in 2017 26 weeks in 2016 26 weeks in 2015 26 weeks in 2014 27 weeks in 2013
The Upper House	
Basic powers	
Senators serve a fixed elected term. The Senate's law-making powers are equal to those of the House of Representatives except that it cannot introduce or amend proposed laws that authorise expenditure for the ordinary annual services of the government or that impose taxation. Traditionally, some members of the Ministry are senators. In recent years, approximately one quarter of Ministers have been senators. An important way in which the Senate examines the operations of	Senators are appointed by the Governor General on advice of the Prime Minister and can serve until the age of 75. The Senate exercises all the powers of the House of Commons with the exception of the right to initiate financial legislation. Rejection of legislation or modification of bills originating from the House of Commons where most bills are introduced happens rarely. Most bills introduced by the Senate are limited to private member bills. Senators today are rarely

government departments and agencies, which develop and implement government policy, is through consideration of the estimates by the Senate's legislative and general purpose standing committees. These committees examine in detail the estimates of annual expenditure of government departments and agencies to determine whether revenue is spent appropriately and efficiently. The estimates are contained in appropriation bills introduced into Parliament as part of the budget, and in additional appropriation bills introduced later in the financial year.

The proportional representation system of voting used to elect senators makes it easier for independents and the candidates of smaller parties to be elected. In recent decades this has meant that the governing party usually does not have a majority in the Senate and the non–government senators are able to use their combined voting power to reject or amend government legislation. The 2016 election saw a continued increase in 'microparties' and independent representatives being elected to the Senate and holding the balance of power, despite reforms to the Senate voting system.

appointed to ministerial positions given that they are unelected, except as Leader of the Government in the Senate.

Distribution by State/Province/Territory

New South Wales	12		Ontario	24
Victoria	12		Quebec	24
Queensland	12		New Brunswick	10
Western Australia	12		Nova Scotia	10
South Australia	12		Alberta	6
Tasmania	12		British Columbia	6
Australian Capital Territory	2		Manitoba	6
Northern Territory	2		Newfoundland and Labrador	6
Total	**76**		Saskatchewan	6
			Prince Edward Island	4
			Northwest Territories	1
			Nunavut	1
			Yukon	1
			Total	**105**

Normal term length	
The normal term length is 6 years for State Senators. Territory Senators sit for the life of the House (normally three years). Note: Due to the 2016 double dissolution election, half of the State Senators will sit a three year term, rather than the usual six year term, to allow a return to the schedule of half-Senate elections.	Since 1965, Senators have been eligible to hold office until the age of 75.

Number of weeks in session	
15 weeks in 2018 15 weeks in 2017 13 weeks in 2016 15 weeks in 2015 17 weeks in 2014 10 weeks in 2013	28 weeks in 2018 28 weeks in 2017 28 weeks in 2016 27 weeks in 2015 28 weeks in 2014 29 weeks in 2013

The High Court

The High Court is the highest court in the Australian judicial system. The court is comprised of seven judges; one Chief Justice and six Justices. The Constitution confers both an appellate and an original jurisdiction upon the High Court. The functions of the High Court are to interpret and apply the law of Australia; to decide cases of special federal significance including challenges to the constitutional validity of laws; and to hear appeals, by special leave, from Federal, State and Territory courts. The High Court is also the final arbiter upon constitutional questions. In 2017, it fell to the High Court, sitting as the Court of Disputed Returns, to determine whether a number of sitting parliamentarians were eligible under section 44 of the Constitution, whereby, amongst other disqualifications, an official cannot be elected if he or she holds dual citizenship, without taking all reasonable steps to renounce their foreign citizenship. Justices of the High Court are appointed by the Governor-General in Council; they cannot be removed except by the Governor-General in Council on an address from both Houses of Parliament in the same session, on the grounds of proved misbehaviour or	The Supreme Court of Canada was established in 1875. It is comprised of nine judges: the Chief Justice and eight Puisne judges. The Supreme Court is the final arbiter upon constitutional questions. Since 1949, it has been Canada's final court of appeal for all litigants, whether individuals or governments. Its jurisdiction embraces both the civil law of the province of Quebec and the common law of the other provinces and territories. Justices are appointed by the Governor General in Council from among superior court judges or from among barristers of at least ten years' standing at the Bar of a province or territory. In practice, appointments are made on the advice of the Prime Minister. To support the Prime Minister in this duty, the Minister of Justice compiles a shortlist of candidates with input from the provincial law societies. A Justice holds office during good behaviour, until he or she retires or attains the age of 75 years, but is removable for incapacity or misconduct in office by the Governor General. The Supreme Court Act requires that three of the nine Justices be appointed from Quebec. Traditionally, the federal government appoints three from Ontario, two from the western provinces and one from Atlantic Canada.

incapacity. Justices receive such remuneration as the Parliament may fix; but the remuneration shall not be diminished during their continuance in office. Justices must retire on attaining the age of 70.	

The Federal System

AUSTRALIA	CANADA
Constitutional Powers of Provinces/States/Territories	

The Australian Constitution defines the powers of the federal legislature, which include foreign relations and trade, defence and immigration. Legislatures of States and Territories are responsible for all matters not assigned to the Commonwealth by the Constitution. However, High Court decisions over a number of years have seen the power and reach of the federal legislature expand considerably.

States also have their own constitutions, as well as their own legislatures, executives and judiciaries. State and territory parliaments are subject to the national Constitution as well as their constitutions. A valid Federal law overrides any State law where the two are in conflict.

State responsibilities include justice, consumer affairs, health, education, forestry, public transport and main roads. Each state retains the power to make their own laws over matters not legislated for by the Commonwealth.

In practice, the two levels of government co-operate in many areas where States and Territories are formally responsible, such as education, transport, health and law enforcement.

Most taxes are levied federally, and debate between the levels of government about access to revenue and duplication of expenditure functions is a perennial feature of Australian politics.

Since federation, fiscal inequality between the States led to federal funding in support of fiscal equalisation. Over time, horizontal fiscal equalisation was formalised with an independent body recommending the distribution of Australian government grants based on fiscal need.

In 1942, the Australian government assumed control of income tax, in exchange for government grants to the

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The division of powers between the federal parliament and the provincial legislatures is set out in the *Constitution Act 1867*. The federal government was given responsibility for all matters deemed to be of national importance at the time, including banking, the regulation of trade, defence and Aboriginal affairs. Parliament was also given residual power to make laws for any emerging matter that did not come within the powers provided to the legislatures in the *Constitution Act 1867*. The federal government's power "to make laws for the peace, order and good government of Canada" also permits it to spend money (usually in the form of transfers to the provinces) in areas where it does not have jurisdiction.

The provincial legislatures were provided with responsibility for matters that were deemed to be of a local nature in 1867, including hospitals, education, natural resources and electrical energy. Provinces generally retain primary jurisdiction in these areas, with certain, specific exceptions (e.g., the federal government funds the delivery of some services for Status Indians on reserve).

The Constitution gave provinces the power of direct taxation in order to raise revenue for provincial purposes.

Section 95 of the Constitution outlines the original areas of concurrent powers of the federal and provincial governments (agriculture and immigration). The constitution states the provincial legislatures may make laws in these matters within the province as long as they are not "repugnant" to any federal Act.

Beyond the management of hospitals, the issue of health care was not a matter assigned exclusively to one order of government in the 1867 Constitution. Following from their responsibility for hospitals, jurisdiction for the delivery of health care services to individuals now lies primarily with the provinces. The

States. As a result the States' tax base was reduced until 1971 when the Australian government ceded control of payroll taxes to the States to supplement their tax base with a 'growth' tax. With the introduction of the GST in 2000, the States gained access to a further 'growth' tax, as a replacement for Australian Government Financial Assistance Grants and a range of inefficient indirect state taxes. Horizontal fiscal equalisation is applied through the distribution of the GST revenue to the States.

The role of the High Court and its interpretation of the Australian Constitution has been a significant contributor to determining the current distribution of taxing powers across levels of government. In a series of cases the High Court has considered the ability of the States to impose various kinds of indirect taxes, in the context of the Australian government's exclusive power to impose duties of excise. The 'wide view' of excise duties adopted by the High Court in the late 1990s has meant that the power of the States to impose such taxes is severely limited.

federal government, however, may legislate with respect to public health matters that are of national concern or that constitute a national emergency. The federal government has also set out standards under the Canada Health Act that provinces must meet to be eligible to receive financial transfers for health care.

Jurisdiction for the environment is shared between the two levels of government based on the scope and nature of the issue.

Canada introduced an equalisation program in 1957 to addressing fiscal disparities among the provinces. The equalisation scheme was entrenched in the 1982 Constitution Act (Section 36). The program employs a complex formula to determine provinces' fiscal capacity (its ability to raise revenues). Each province's program entitlement is based on the amount by which its fiscal capacity falls below the average for all provinces. Unlike federal health care transfers, the equalisation payments are unconditional. As such, receiving provinces are free to spend the funds according to their own priorities.

The Federal Government also provides the Canada Social Transfer to provinces and territories to support services such as post-secondary and early childhood education and social services. Support to the territories is provided though Territorial Formula Financing, an annual unconditional transfer from the Federal Government to the three territorial governments.

Federal/State/Provincial Coordination

The **Council of Australian Governments** (COAG) is the peak intergovernmental forum in Australia. COAG comprises the Prime Minister, State Premiers, Territory Chief Ministers and the President of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA).

The Prime Minister chairs COAG. The COAG Secretariat is located within the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

COAG's role is to initiate, develop and monitor the implementation of policy reforms that are of national significance and which require cooperative action by Australian governments.

Issues may arise from, among other things: Ministerial Council deliberations; international treaties which

The Prime Minister, with the support of the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, is responsible for the overall management and coherence of relations with provincial and territorial governments. The Privy Council Office, under the leadership of the Deputy Minister (Intergovernmental Affairs), provides advice and support to these two Ministers on policies, communications and parliamentary affairs relating to federal-provincial-territorial relations, including fiscal federalism, the evolution of the federation and Canadian unity.

Coordination between the federal government and the provincial and territorial governments is facilitated through regular, multi-lateral meetings of federal and provincial ministers responsible for a given issue or portfolio. Ministerial meetings are often supported by

affect the States and Territories; or major initiatives of one government (particularly the Australian Government) which impact on other governments or require the cooperation of other governments.

COAG meets on an as needed basis but no fewer than three times per year. COAG may also settle particular issues out-of-session by correspondence.

The most recent COAG meeting was held on 9 February 2018. The next meeting will take place on 12 December 2018.

The outcomes of COAG meetings are contained in communiqués released at the end of each meeting. Where formal agreements are reached, these may be embodied in Intergovernmental Agreements.

The **Council for the Australian Federation** (CAF) was formed in October 2006 to provide an intergovernmental forum for State and Territory leaders. Each State and Territory Premier or Chief Minister is a member of CAF.

The Council's objectives are to:
- work toward common understanding of the States' and Territories' positions in relation to policy issues involving the Commonwealth Government; and
- take a leadership role on key national policy issues, including the Federation, that are not addressed by the Commonwealth Government.

Deputy Ministers' meetings on the same subject. Both types of meetings provide opportunities to identify and discuss shared solutions to common issues and challenges.

From time to time, Canadian Prime Ministers have held **First Ministers' Meetings** to discuss issues of shared concern for both levels of government. The First Ministers Meetings are called at the discretion of the Prime Minister and generally focus on a limited number of priority issues. There have been a total of 80 First Ministers Meetings since 1906, the most recent hosted by Prime Minister Trudeau in October 2017. The next meeting is expected to be held in the Canadian fall of 2018.

The **Council of the Federation** has been the primary body for the provinces to coordinate their policies since its establishment in 2003. The Council serves as a forum for the provincial leaders to share information and viewpoints, and to develop coordinated approaches to dealing with the federal government. The federal government does not attend meetings of the Council. Provincial premiers also hold regional meetings to discuss issues of more localized interest.

The Political System

AUSTRALIA	CANADA
Electoral System	

AUSTRALIA	CANADA
Voting is compulsory for citizens from the age of 18. The Federal Government is based on a popularly elected Parliament with two elected chambers, the House of Representatives and the Senate. The House of Representatives and the Senate have different electoral systems. Both systems of voting are preferential; however, there are differences between the two preferential systems used. For the House of Representatives voters must rank all candidates listed on the ballot paper in order of preference. Failure to rank all candidates renders the vote invalid. To be successful a candidate must be supported by the majority of voters (50% +1). If no candidate receives more than 50 per cent of first preference votes, the next preferences of the voters for the least successful candidates are distributed until one candidate emerges with a majority of votes. Proportional representation voting is used for the Senate to secure the election of several candidates in each state. It is a somewhat complicated electoral system, which ensures that political parties gain representation in proportion to their share of the vote. Elected Senators take their seats on July 1, in the year following the election. As a result, the Senate turns over on a different cycle than the Lower House, except in the case of a double dissolution election, as occurred in July 2016. Senators for each state are elected for a six year term, while Senators from a territory are elected for a term equivalent to the duration of the House of Representatives, usually a three-year period. This means that when a House of Representatives and a half Senate election are held at the same time, 40 Senate vacancies are contested.	Voting is voluntary and open to all Canadian citizens 18 years of age or older who are registered to vote. Voter participation averaged 61.9% between 2000 and 2011. It rose to 68.5% in the 2015 election, the highest turnout recorded since 1993. Members of the House of Commons are elected under a simple plurality voting model. Senators are appointed by the Governor General on the advice of the Prime Minister. Members of the House of Commons are elected "single-member plurality" or "first-past-the-post" electoral system. In every electoral district, the candidate with the most votes wins a seat in the House of Commons and represents that electoral district as its Member of Parliament. An absolute majority (more than 50 percent of the votes in the electoral district) is not required for a candidate to be elected.

Party System

Liberal-National Coalition

Leader: Scott Morrison

Percentage of First Preference 2016: **42.04%**

The Liberal and National parties have a history of working closely together, having coalitions dating back to 1949. The Liberal Party is a party of the centre right and was founded in its current form in 1944 by Robert Menzies (Australia's longest-serving prime minister). The National Party represents rural interests.

From 1996 through to 2007 the nation was governed by a Liberal-National Coalition government led by Liberal leader John Howard. Following the September 2013 election, the Coalition formed Government under the leadership of then PM Tony Abbott. In September 2015, Malcolm Turnbull was installed as leader of the Liberal Party and Prime Minister and was re-elected in July 2016. In August 2018, Scott Morrison became leader of the party and Prime Minister.

Australian Labor Party (ALP)

Leader: Bill Shorten

Percentage of First Preference 2016: **34.73%**

Formed in 1890, Labor is the oldest political party in Australia. It is the only party to have been continuously represented in the lower house since federation. Its strong formal links to the Australian trade union movement are reflected in much of its social policy agenda. The ALP draws most of its support from urban population centres and is a social democratic party founded by the Australian labour movement. The Labor Party formed Government from November 2007 to September 2013 under Prime Ministers Kevin Rudd and Julia Gillard and now makes up the official opposition.

Australian Greens (Greens)

Leader: Richard Di Natale

Percentage of First Preference 2016: **10.23%**

The Greens is a left-wing and environmentalist party which first appeared on the political landscape in the 1980s, and gained its first federal senate seat in 1996. The party won its first federal lower house seat at the 2010 election. The Greens have become the third

Liberal Party

Leader: Justin Trudeau

Percentage of Popular Vote 2015: **39.47%**

The Liberals Party is the centrist political party which had been in power for roughly 65 of the past 100 years. Since losing power in 2006, it steadily dropped in popular support, finishing in third place for the first time ever in 2011. The Liberal Party traces its origins to the 'Reformers' such as Louis-Joseph Papineau and William Lyon Mackenzie, who were instrumental in the fight for 'Responsible Government' during the lead up to Confederation.

Conservative Party

Leader: Andrew Scheer

Percentage of Popular Vote 2015: **31.89%**

The history of the Conservatives goes back to Canada's confederation. It formed Canada's first government in 1867. The party commands the right wing of the political spectrum in Canada. The party fractured under the last Conservative Prime Minister, Brian Mulroney, following the creation of the Western-Canada based Reform Party in the 1980s. After a number of electoral defeats and restructurings, the party reunited in 2003 under Stephen Harper and won a minority government in 2006, gained strength but remained a minority government in 2008, before winning a majority in 2011. The party draws its strength from the western prairie provinces and rural/suburban Ontario. Andrew Scheer was elected leader of the Conservative Party in May 2017.

New Democratic Party (NDP)

Leader: Jagmeet Singh

Percentage of Popular Vote 2015: **19.71%**

The NDP is Canada's social democratic party, occupying the left of the political spectrum. Originally formed as the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation in 1932, the NDP has been Canada's third major party for much of its history. It has strong ties to the union movement. While it has formed government at the provincial level, it had its best showing at the federal level in 2011 when it formed the official opposition for the first time. It has traditionally drawn its strength from western Canada and urban centres in eastern Canada, but received strong

force in Australian politics supplanting the Australian Democrats which after years of internal fighting lost all its Senate seats at the 2007 election.

Centre Alliance (formerly Nick Xenophon Team)

Leader: N/A – Management Committee (formerly Nick Xenophon)

Percentage of First Preference 2016: 1.8%

Centre Alliance is a centrist Australian political party originally founded by former Senator Nick Xenophon on 1 July 2013. The party made its national debut at the 2016 federal election, focusing its efforts in the state of South Australia. NXT described itself as the "common sense alternative" which aimed to address "the electorate's lack of trust in politics and voter disillusionment". NXT member Rebekha Sharkie took the lower house seat of Mayo from the Liberal Party in the 2016 election, while four members (including Xenophon) were elected to the Senate.

Nick Xenophon resigned from the federal Senate in 2017, to unsuccessfully campaign for the South Australian parliament in the 2018 state election. The federal party was then renamed Centre Alliance in April 2018.

support in Quebec in the last election. Jagmeet Singh became leader of the NDP in October 2017.

Bloc Quebecois

Leader: Mario Beaulieu (interim)

Percentage of Popular Vote 2015: **4.66%**

The Bloc Quebecois formed in 1990 following Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's unsuccessful attempt to amend the Constitution to (among other things) recognise the province of Quebec as a "distinct society". After the amendments failed to be ratified by two provinces, Conservative cabinet Minister Lucien Bouchard left the federal Conservatives to form the separatist Bloc. The party is dedicated to the protection of Quebec interests in the House of Commons and the promotion of Quebec sovereignty. The Bloc won the majority of seats in Quebec between 1993 and 2008, forming the official opposition from 1993-96, but was reduced to only four seats in 2011, when the NDP emerged as the main federal political force in the province.

Green Party

Leader: Elizabeth May

Percentage of Popular Vote 2015: **3.45%**

In 2011, its leader became the first-ever Green Party representative elected to the House of Commons. Founded in 1983, it supports green economics, progressive social planning and responsible and accountable governance.

Geographic Distribution of Seats

House of Representatives:

New South Wales	47
Victoria	37
Queensland	30
Western Australia	16
South Australia	11
Tasmania	5
ACT	2
NT	2
Total	**150**

House of Commons:

Alberta	34
British Columbia	42
Manitoba	14
New Brunswick	10
Newfoundland and Labrador	7
Northwest Territories	1
Nova Scotia	11
Nunavut	1
Ontario	121
Prince Edward Island	4
Quebec	78
Saskatchewan	14
Yukon	1
Total	**338**

Selection of Party Leaders

The party that forms government selects the Prime Minister by a ballot of its members and senators. Party leaders can be challenged to a leadership vote by MPs.

Traditionally, Australian political parties pick their leaders by vote of the Parliamentary members and any member can challenge the leader by asking for a confidence vote at any time. This has led to high leadership turnover. The Liberal Party in opposition had 3 different leaders between 2007 and 2009, and two leaders (and PMs) from 2013-2016 due to a party leadership spill in September 2015. The Labor Party has had 7 different leaders (with Kevin Rudd named the leader on two separate occasions) in the last 10 years.

Following the return of Kevin Rudd as Prime Minister in June 2013, the Labor Party caucus agreed to select future leaders by a ballot of the Parliamentary Party and the membership as a whole (on a 50-50 basis). This method was used for the first time in October 2013 to elect the new Labor leader, Bill Shorten.

In addition to the new leader selection process, the only way to remove the Labor leader would be for 60 percent of Caucus members to sign a petition requesting a new election.

Party leaders have been traditionally chosen by secret ballot during party leadership conventions most often by delegates representing members from each electoral riding.

In April 2013, Justin Trudeau was selected as the Party Leader of the Liberal Party. Members of the federal Liberal party, as well as Canadians who signed up as party supporters voted for the leader online or by phone. This was the first time the Liberal Party of Canada had not selected its leader through a delegated convention.

In May 2017, the Conservative Party elected Andrew Scheer as Party Leader via a preferential ballot in which party members were eligible to vote.

Current Parliament

House of Representatives:	**House of Commons:**

House of Representatives:

Coalition	75
Liberal Party (Lib)	59
The Nationals	16
Australian Labor Party (ALP)	69
Independents	3
Australian Greens	1
Katter's Australian Party	1
Centre Alliance	1

Government:
The Coalition of the Liberal and National Parties

Official Opposition:
The Australian Labor Party

House of Commons:

Liberal Party	183
Conservative Party	97
New Democratic Party	42
Bloc Quebecois	5
Québec Debout	5
Green Party	1
Co-operative Commonwealth Federation	1
Independent	2
Vacant	2

Government:
The Liberal Party

Official Opposition:
The Conservative Party

As at 15 August 2018

Senate (76 seats):

Liberal/National Coalition	31
Australian Labor Party (ALP)	26
Australian Greens	9
Pauline Hanson's One Nation	2
Centre Alliance	2
Liberal Democratic Party	1
Derryn Hinch's Justice Party	1
Australian Conservatives	1
Katter's Australia Party	1
United Australia Party	1
Independents	1

Note: This list is current as at 22 August 2018 and is not a reflection of the 2016 election results. There have been a number of changes in the Senate composition since the last election, due to eligibility challenges under Section 44 of the constitution (dual citizenship); resignations; the creation of new microparties; and party defections. These changes remain ongoing as recounts take place and parties nominate replacements.

Senate (105 seats):

Conservative Party	32
Liberal Party	11
Independent Senate Group	45
Non-Affiliated	8
Vacant	9

As at 15 August 2018

Results by Party for Last Two Elections

House of Representatives:

Party	2016	2013
Liberal-National Coalition	76	90
Australian Labor Party	69	55
The Greens	1	1
Palmer United Party	0	1
Katter's Australian Party	1	1
Independent	2	2
Nick Xenophon Team	1	0
	150	150

House of Commons:

Party	2015	2011
Liberal	184	34
Conservative	99	166
New Democratic Party	44	103
Bloc Quebecois	10	4
Green	1	1
	338	308

The Next Election

Every House of Representatives shall continue for three years from the first meeting of the House, and no longer, but may be sooner dissolved by the Governor-General. The earliest possible date for a House of Representatives only election is any Saturday, 33 days after dissolution of the House. The last possible date for a House-only election is within 68 days of the expiry of the House. The House is due to expire on 29 August 2019 so the last possible date for a House only election is 2 November 2019.

Federal elections usually comprise a full House of Representative election and a half-Senate election, unless there is a double dissolution (i.e. full House and full Senate elections). When there is a simultaneous House and half-Senate election, the timing of that election is determined by earliest and latest dates that a half-Senate election can be held (i.e. to enable newly elected Senators to take their seats by 1 July). The first possible date for a simultaneous House and half-Senate election was 4 August 2018 and the last possible date is 18 May 2019.

Under the Constitution, federal general elections must be held within five years of the previous election. In 2006, the Government passed legislation setting fixed election dates for general elections which are to be held on the third Monday in October every four years following the previous election. The next election is scheduled to occur on 21 October 2019.

Cabinet and Cabinet Structures

AUSTRALIA	CANADA
Size of Current Ministry	
There are 42 in the current Ministry, which includes: • 23 Cabinet Ministers; and • 7 Ministers; and • 12 Assistant Ministers (Parliamentary Secretaries).	There are 35 in the current Ministry, which includes: • 35 Cabinet Ministers; • There are an additional 35 Parliamentary Secretaries counted as part of the Ministry
Cabinet Committees	
Expenditure Review Committee (ERC) • Considers matters of detail regarding expenditure for the Budget, the Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook, and as required by the Chair or Deputy Chair. Chaired by the Prime Minister. Decisions of the ERC must be endorsed by the Cabinet. **Governance Committee (GC)** • The Governance Committee (GC) provides advice and oversight of governance and integrity issues, which include, but are not limited to, the Statement of Ministerial Standards and issues arising from the Lobbyist Code. Chaired by the Prime Minister. Decisions of the GC must be endorsed by the Cabinet. **National Security Committee (NSC)** • Focuses on major international security issues of strategic importance to Australia, border protection policy, national responses to developing situations (either domestic or international) and classified matters relating to aspects of operation and activities of the Australian Intelligence Community. Chaired by the Prime Minister. Decisions of the NSC do not require the endorsement of the Cabinet. **Parliamentary Business Committee (PBC)** • Considers priorities for the Australian Government's legislation program and requests to the Prime Minister for the presentation of	**Cabinet Committee on Agenda, Results and Communications (ARC)** • Tracks progress on the Government's agenda and priorities, considers strategic communications issues related to advancing the government's agenda, and all aspects of Parliamentary business. While the committee meets weekly, the Prime Minister will preside as chair as required. **Treasury Board (TB)** • Acts as the government's management board. Provides oversight of the government's financial management and spending, as well as oversight on human resources issues. Provides oversight on complex horizontal issues such as defence procurement and modernizing the pay system. Responsible for reporting to Parliament. • Is the employer for the public service, and establishes policies and common standards for administrative, personnel, financial and organizational practices across government. • Fulfills the role of the Committee of Council in approving regulatory policies and regulations, and most orders-in-council. Chaired by the Treasury Board President. **Cabinet Committee on Growing the Middle Class and Inclusion (GMCI)** • Responsible for initiatives that will strengthen and grow the middle class through innovation, inclusive economic growth, employment and social security, as well as issues concerning the

ministerial statements. Currently chaired by the Leader of the House. Decisions of the PBC do not require the endorsement of the Cabinet. **Revenue Review Committee (RRC)** • Determines revenue streams for the Budget, and between Budgets as required. Chaired by the Prime Minister. Decisions of the RRC must be endorsed by the Cabinet.	social fabric of Canada and the promotion of Canadian pluralism. **Cabinet Committee on Canada-U.S. Relations, Trade Diversification and Internal Trade (USTDIT)** • Considers issues concerning the fostering of strong relations between Canada and the United States and the advancement of mutual interests as well as trade diversification and questions of internal trade. **Cabinet Committee on Reconciliation (CCR)** • The Government of Canada is committed to a renewed nation-to-nation, Inuit-Crown and government-to-government relationship with First Nations, Inuit and the Métis Nation based on recognition of rights, respect, co-operation, and partnership. Building on the work of the Working Group of Ministers on the Review of Laws and Policies Related to Indigenous Peoples, this committee examines initiatives designed to strengthen the relationship with Indigenous Canadians. **Committee on Environment and Clean Growth (ECG)** • Considers issues concerning sustainable development, the stewardship of Canada's natural resources, environment, energy, water and Canada's contribution to addressing climate change. **Cabinet Committee on Canada in the World and Public Security (CWPS)** • Considers issues concerning Canada's engagement with and participation in the international community. Responsible for issues related to domestic and global security and the consideration of intelligence reports

Role of the Prime Minister in Current Structure	
In addition to chairing Cabinet, the Prime Minister chairs all of the Cabinet Committees except the Parliamentary Business Committee. The Prime Minister is responsible for the membership of the Cabinet, determines and regulates all Cabinet arrangements for the Government and is the final arbiter of Cabinet procedures.	In addition to chairing weekly meetings of Cabinet, the Prime Minister chairs the Cabinet Committee on Agenda, Results and Communications once a month. As in Australia, the Prime Minister is responsible for the membership of the Cabinet, determines and regulates all Cabinet arrangements for the Government and is the final arbiter of Cabinet procedures.

Cabinet Support

The Cabinet Secretary is not a member of the Cabinet but supports the Prime Minister through managing the day to day procedural and operational matters of the Cabinet and Cabinet Committees.

The operation of the Cabinet and Cabinet committees is supported by Cabinet Division within the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C). It provides support to the Prime Minister and the Cabinet Secretary on all aspects of the Cabinet process.

PM&C works with other Departments of State and relevant Commonwealth agencies to support the operation of strong Cabinet government.

The Clerk of the Privy Council, a public servant, is the Secretary to the Cabinet. The Privy Council Office (PCO) serves as the secretariat for all Cabinet committees except the Treasury Board, which is supported by the Treasury Board Secretariat.

PCO's Cabinet secretariat function is dispersed throughout the department. PCO Secretariats have the dual function of providing policy advice to the Prime Minister and Cabinet and performing a secretariat role for Cabinet Committees.

Examples include:
- Priorities and Planning provides support to the Cabinet;
- Social Development Policy provides support to the Cabinet Committees on Growing the Middle Class and Inclusion, and Reconciliation;
- Economic and Regional Development Policy provides support to the Cabinet Committees on Canada-US Relations, Environment and Clean Growth, and Growing the Middle Class and Inclusion;
- The Foreign and Defence Policy, and Security and Intelligence Secretariats provide support to the Cabinet Committee on Canada and the World and Public Security, and Canada-US Relations;
- The Results and Delivery Unit and Legislation and House Planning provide support to the Cabinet Committee on Agenda, Results and Communications.

The Public Service

AUSTRALIA	CANADA
Head of the Prime Minister's Department	
The Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet provides policy advice to the Prime Minister, other portfolio Ministers and Cabinet on matters that are at the forefront of public service and government. The Secretary, as head of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, assumes a stronger role in driving policy development and innovation and ensuring delivery of high-priority initiatives across the Australian Public Service, in pursuit of the government's objectives. Under *the Public Service Act 1999*, the Secretary of the Prime Minister's Department chairs the Secretaries Board, which provides stewardship for the public service and identifies strategic priorities.	The **Clerk of the Privy Council** is the most senior non-political official in the Government of Canada. He or she has three roles: • As Deputy Minister to the Prime Minister, provides policy advice to the Prime Minster across the policy spectrum; • As Secretary to the Cabinet, supports the Prime Minister in his role as Chair of Cabinet, supports the Cabinet in its deliberations, ensures the smooth and effective functioning of Cabinet on a day-to-day basis; and ensures that the Public Service understands Cabinet direction and implements it in an effective, co-ordinated fashion; and • As Head of the Public Service (a formal title given under the *Public Service Employment Act*), provides overall leadership on the management and functioning of the public service.
Public Service Management	
The **Australian Public Service Commission**, located within the Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio, has a statutory mandate under the *Public Service Act 1999* and supports two statutory office holders, the Australian Public Service Commissioner and the Merit Protection Commissioner. The Commission's statutory responsibilities include: • evaluating the extent to which agencies incorporate and uphold the Australian Public Service (APS) Values; • evaluating the adequacy of systems and procedures in agencies for ensuring compliance with the APS Code of Conduct; • promoting the APS Values and Code of Conduct; • developing, promoting, reviewing and evaluating APS employment policies and practices; • facilitating continuous improvement in people	The **Privy Council Office,** under the leadership of the Clerk of the Privy Council, is responsible for: • management of the appointments process for senior positions in federal departments, Crown corporations and agencies; • setting policy on human resources issues and public service renewal; • ensuring the Public Service has the capacity to meet emerging challenges and the changing responsibilities of government; and • drafting and submitting an annual report to the Prime Minister on the state of the Public Service for tabling in Parliament. The **Public Service Commission** is independent from ministerial direction and has the mandate to safeguard the integrity of staffing and the non-partisan nature of the public service. It is mandated to:

management throughout the APS;
- coordinating and supporting APS-wide training and career development;
- contributing to and fostering APS leadership;
- providing advice and assistance on public service matters to agencies on request; and
- providing independent external review of actions by the Merit Protection Commissioner.

As one of his statutory responsibilities, the Public Service Commissioner submits an annual *State of the Service* report to the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Public Service for tabling in Parliament, which includes an evaluation of the extent to which agencies have incorporated the APS Values and the adequacy of their systems and procedures for ensuring compliance with the Code of Conduct. Other statutory responsibilities include:

- endorsing the process relating to the selection for employment of Senior Executive Service staff;
- inquiring into reports by APS employees alleging breaches of the Code of Conduct, generally where such reports have first been considered and/or inquired into by the relevant agency; and
- reporting to the Public Service Minister on any matter relating to the APS, including agreement making under the Australian Public Service Bargaining Framework.

- appoint, or provide for the appointment of, persons to or from within the public service, provide staffing and assessment functions and services to support staffing in the public service; and
- oversee the integrity of the staffing system and ensure non-partisanship.

The Treasury Board Secretariat, under the leadership of the **Office of the Chief Human Resources Officer**, provides support to the Treasury Board (as the employer of the Core Public Administration) in relation to collective bargaining, labour relations and compensation. In addition, the Office provides advice to departments on a range of human resource management issues, including classification, learning and development and values and ethics.

Structure of the Public Service

There are 152,095 employees in the Australian Public Service (as at June 2017), reflecting a 9% reduction since 2012. These figures do not include military personnel, Australian Federal Police and around 75 Commonwealth Authorities which employ staff under their own legislation rather than the *Public Service Act 1999.*

In 2017, 90 per cent of APS employees were employed on an ongoing basis.

There are approximately 262,696 employees in the Canadian Public Service (as at March 2017), including both Core Public Administration and separate agencies. These figures do not include military personnel, regular and civilian Royal Canadian Mounted Police members, employees locally engaged outside of Canada, Canadian Security Intelligence Service employees and employees of several other smaller organisations.

Public Service Organisation and Classification

There is one common classification standard across the public service. In addition there are a small number of occupational-specific classifications (for example, Medical Officers) and a limited number of approved agency-specific classifications relating to work that is only performed in one specific agency (for example, APS Meat Inspector).

There are 28 occupational groups and approximately 70 classification standards. This system is currently undergoing a review led by the Office of the Chief Human Resources Officer which is intended to ensure classification standards support departments in delivering their services.

Executive-level Classifications

	Levels	Typical Title
Executive	Senior Executive Service (SES) 1-3	Deputy Secretary (SES-3) First Assistant Secretary (SES-2) Assistant Secretary (SES-1)
Agency Head	N/A	Secretary (for Departments) CEO (for Agencies)

	Levels	Typical Title
Executive	Executive (EX) 1-5	Assistant Deputy Minister (EX-4-5) Director General (EX-2-3) Director (EX-1-2)
Agency Head	Deputy Minister (DM) 1-3	Deputy Minister (DM-2-3) Associate Deputy Minister (DM-1)

Public Service Bargaining

Australian public servants are employed by individual departments, which are responsible for bargaining enterprise agreements with employees' representatives. As such, wages and benefits for a single classification may vary across the public service. Each department is ultimately responsible for bargaining with employees, although department heads rely on advice and guidance from several sources to ensure consistency throughout the public service, including:

- the Australian Public Service Commission maintains a Bargaining Framework, which sets out overall Australian government policy as it applies to workplace relations arrangements in APS agencies in respect of their APS employees;

Canadian public servants in the Core Public Administration are employed by the Treasury Board, a Committee of Cabinet with statutory powers and responsibility for responsible for accountability and ethics, financial, personnel and administrative management, comptrollership, approving regulations and most Orders-in-Council.

The Office of the Chief Human Resources Officer, located in the Treasury Board Secretariat (the Federal department which supports the Treasury Board) manages labour-management relations and compensation operations. Among its responsibilities, it conducts collective bargaining for the Core Public Administration, oversees pay administration and provides advice and support to departments and

- The Department of Finance, which advises on "affordability" considerations;
- The Department of Jobs and Small Business, which provides legal advice in relation to the interpretation of the *Fair Work Act;* and
- Fair Work Australia, which approves enterprise agreements.

agencies on labour relations issues.

Separate Agencies conduct their own negotiations for unionized employees and determine compensation levels for non-unionized employees. The Treasury Board, however, maintains its expenditure management role in relation to separate agencies. As such, all unionized separate agencies (with the exception of the Canada Revenue Agency, which according to the Canada Revenue Agency Act, must report to Parliament) are required to obtain a mandate for collective bargaining from the President of the Treasury Board.

Public Service Statistical Snapshot

Number of employees (2017)	152,095	Number of employees (2018)	208,312
Female employees (%)(2017)	60%	Female employees (%) (2017)	54.5%
Age (years) (2017)	40-44 (median age bracket)	Age – non-executive (years) (2018)	44.6 (average)
Indigenous / Aboriginal employees (%)(2017)	3.0%	Indigenous / Aboriginal employees (%)(2016)*	4.7%
Proportion of executives (SES) (2017)	1.8%	Proportion of executives (EX) (2018)	2.5%
Age of executives (years) (2011)	50 (median)	Age of executives (years) (2018)	50.2 (average)
Female Executives (%) (2015)	41%	Female Executives (%) (2017)	47 %
Indigenous / Aboriginal Executives (%) (2013)	0.7%	Indigenous / Aboriginal Executives (%) (2016)*	3.7%

Complete statistical profiles are available at:
http://www.apsc.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/101200/SoSR_web.pdf
https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/pco-bcp/images/ann-rpt/25/rpt-25-eng.pdf
*Data not yet published for 2017-18

Head of Department

Under the *Public Service Act 1999*, Secretaries are responsible for managing the Department which they lead and advising the Minister in matters relating to the Department. The Secretary also must assist the Minister to fulfil his or her accountability to Parliament to provide factual information, as required by the Parliament, in relation to the operation and administration of the Department. This includes providing information three times each year to the Senate's Estimates process, which examines departments' and agencies' expenditures.

Under the *Public Service Act 1999*, the Agency Head (Secretaries or heads of Executive or Statutory Agencies) has "all the rights, duties and powers of an employer in respect of APS employees in the Agency".

Secretaries are appointed by the Governor-General for a period of up to 5 years on the recommendation of the Prime Minister, who is advised by the Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet in consultation with the Public Service Commissioner.

Deputy Ministers' relationship to Ministers and to Parliament is largely the same as other Westminster governments (support the Minister's individual and collective responsibility, accountable to the Minister and answerable to Parliament).

Deputy Ministers (and other public servants) appear before parliamentary committees on behalf of their Ministers to answer questions or to provide information on departmental performance that Ministers could not be expected to provide personally due to the level of detail or complexity.

Deputy Ministers who do not lead "Separate Agencies" do not have responsibility for collective bargaining or labour relations, although they have statutory responsibilities for financial and human resources management under the *Financial Administration Act*, the *Public Service Modernization Act* and other legislation.

Deputy Ministers are appointed by the Governor-in-Council, pursuant to departmental legislation. Unless the legislation sets out a fixed term of employment, Deputy Heads generally serve an unspecified term "for pleasure".

The Federal Budget

AUSTRALIA	CANADA
Key Departmental Responsibilities	

The Canadian Department of Finance is the closest equivalent to the Australian Treasury department. Both departments prepare and provide advice to the Government on the federal budget, conduct economic analysis and lead on tax policy issues, among other common characteristics. The Treasury Board Secretariat (TBS) (Canada) and the Department of Finance (Australia) share many of the same responsibilities such as expenditure and financial management. However, there are important differences. These include TBS's role as the secretariat to a Committee of Cabinet and its status as the employer of the Core Public Administration which are not in Finance's mandate; and the Department of Finance's responsibility for management of the Australian Government's non-defence domestic property portfolio and key asset sales which, in Canada, is the responsibility of another department.

Financial Year	
July 1 - June 30	April 1 - March 31

Current Cash Balance (Surplus/Deficit) Estimates 2018-19	
Federal deficit is estimated to be: **$14.5b AUD**	Federal deficit is estimated to be: **$18.1b CAD**

Yearly Cash Balance (Surplus/Deficit) for past 10 Years

Year	Budgetary surplus or deficit (-)		Year	Budgetary surplus or deficit (-)	
	(millions of dollars AUD)	(per cent of GDP)		(millions of dollars CAD)	(per cent of GDP)
2017-18	-33,200	-1.9	2017-18	-18,961	-0.9
2016-17	-37,600	-2.1	2016-17	-18,957	-0.9
2015-16	-39,600	-2.4	2015-16	-2,861	-0.0
2014-15	-37,900	-2.4	2014-15	-550	0.1
2013-14	-48,500	-3.1	2013-14	-8,050	-0.9
2012-13	-18,800	-1.2	2012-13	-21,293	-1.0
2011-12	-43,360	-2.9	2011-12	-28,033	-1.5
2010–11	-47,746	-3.4	2010–11	-34,953	-2.1
2009–10	-54,750	-4.3	2009–10	-56,368	-3.6
2008–09	-27,079	-2.2	2008–09	-9,116	-0.4
2007–08	19,704	1.7	2007–08	9,597	0.6
2006–07	17,182	1.6	2006–07	13,752	0.9

Major New Spending in Recent Budgets

The **2017-18 Budget** contained a number of modified and centrist Coalition policies to ensure bipartisan and crossbencher support. The most significant measures announced in the last Budget included:

- An additional levy of 0.06% to be imposed on Australia's largest five banks, generating $6.2 billion over four years.
- The resumption of the annual Medicare Levy increase of 0.5% from 2019, raising $8.2 billion over four years to fund the National Disability and Insurance Scheme.
- A continuation of the Government's "crackdown" on multinational tax avoidance.
- The introduction of a new fee for foreign investors who leave properties vacant for more than six months, as well as changes to capital gains tax exemptions and requirements preventing developers selling more than 50% of a new development to foreign investors.
- An additional levy imposed on businesses that employ foreign workers, which will be used to establish the Skilling Australians Fund at a cost of $1.5 billion.

The **2018-19 Budget** outlined the Coalition Government's five key priorities - building a stronger economy by providing tax relief to encourage and reward working Australians; backing businesses to invest and create more jobs; guaranteeing the essentials services on which Australians rely; keeping Australians safe; and ensuring that the Government lives within its means.

The Government announced a seven-year plan to cut personal income taxes as its signature policy in 2018. Infrastructure and health care also received a boost in funding, as well as a number of smaller spending commitments across the economy.

The Government's **2017 Budget** was centred on the theme of "Building a Strong Middle Class".

Major initiatives in the 2017 Budget included:

- The introduction of a new Innovation and Skills Plan, including a $2.7 billion increase in federal support through the Labour Market Transfer Agreements over six years, and significant investments in key growth industries such as the clean technology sector.
- The continuation of investments in public infrastructure, including $21.9 billion in clean economy and green infrastructure initiatives, and $11.2 billion through the National Housing Strategy to ensure access to affordable housing.
- A commitment to crackdown on tax evasion and improve compliance, with the aim of recovering around $2.5 billion in unpaid tax.
- An agreement to provide 12 provinces and territories $11 billion over 10 years in health funding to provide greater levels of home care and mental health support for Canadian families.

The **2018 Budget** announced measures to continue improving access to the Canada Child Benefit and introduced the Canada Workers Benefit, a stronger and more accessible benefit that will replace the Working Income Tax Benefit.

The Budget announced new spending over six years across a range of areas, including additional funding for foreign aid under the Feminist International Assistance Policy; new funding for First Nations Child and Family Services; and funding for measures to conserve land, waterways and wildlife and protect species at risk, and address carbon pollution.
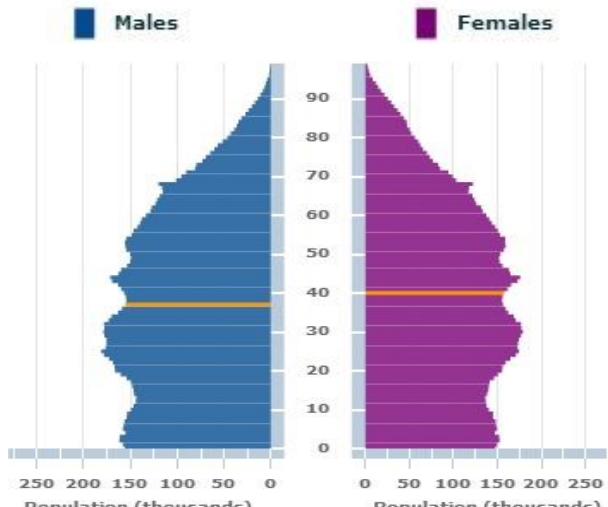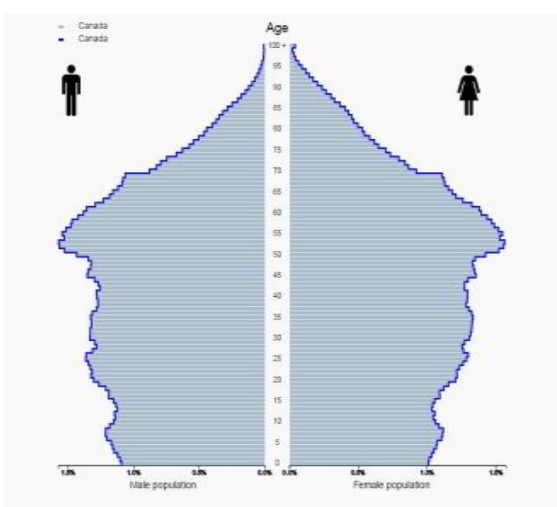
Federal Debt*

Year	Net Worth (Gov't assets minus liabilities)		Year	Accumulated Deficit (Gov't total liabilities minus total assets)	
	(millions of dollars)	(per cent of GDP)		(millions of dollars)	(per cent of GDP)
2017-18	-325,200	-18.6	2017-18	671,254	31.3
2016-17	-291,695	-18.5	2016-17	651,540	32.0
2015-16	-418,600	-25.4	2015-16	634,440	31.8
2014-15	-302,350	-18.8	2014-15	628,910	31.6
2013-14	-256,045	-16.1	2013-14	626,000	33.0
2012-13	-202,700	-13.4	2012-13	620,610	34.0
2011-12	-247,208	-16.8	2011-12	591,917	33.4
2010–11	-95,386	-6.9	2010–11	556,914	33.5
2009–10	-45,938	-3.6	2009–10	524,103	33.4
2008–09	19,427	1.5	2008–09	467,946	28.3
2007–08	70,859	6.0	2007–08	457,637	29.9

*N.B. Australia and Canada use different reporting styles for national debt. Canada uses 'Accumulated Deficit' which as stated above is government liabilities minus total assets as a measure of national debt while Australia uses 'net debt' which is government liabilities minus financial assets. For comparability's sake we have included Australian figures on Net Worth which is government assets minus liabilities as the closest comparable data set available to the Canadian data, but note that it is not directly comparable. The reader should be aware that instead of manipulating the data, it is left as reported by each individual country to maintain its accuracy.

Society

Note: Unless otherwise stated, all data in this section comes from the latest Census held in both countries in 2016. Where Census data is not yet available, the most recent available data has been provided.

AUSTRALIA	CANADA
Society and Demographics	
Population	
25,016,200 (Est. August 2018)	37,067,000 (Est. April 2018)
Average Annual Population Growth (Estimates)	

2016-17	1.6%	2016-17	1.2%
2015-16	1.4%	2015-16	1.2%
2014-15	1.4%	2014-15	0.9%
2013-14	1.6%	2013-14	1.1%
2012-13	1.8%	2012-13	1.1%
2011-12	1.6%	2011-12	1.1%
2010-11	1.4%	2010-11	1.0%
2009-10	1.6%	2009-10	1.2%

Median Age (Estimates)	
38 years (2016)	41 years (2016)
Current Population Pyramid	

2015

2016

Sources of Population Growth (2016)	
Natural increase: 44.8% Net overseas migration: 55.2% Total Growth: 100%	Natural increase: 32.6% Net immigration: 67.4% Total Growth: 100%

Income Inequality	
Distribution of family income - Gini Coefficient 0.337 Ranked #22 out of 37 OECD Coutries ranked from low to high inequality by the OECD Factbook 2014	Distribution of family income - Gini Coefficient 0.313 Ranked #23 out of 37 OECD Coutries ranked from low to high inequality by the OECD Factbook 2014

Regional Distribution (2016 Census)

States/Territories:

Geographic name	Population, 2016	% change from 2011
New South Wales	7,480,228	8.1
Victoria	5,926,624	10.6
Queensland	4,703,193	8.5
Western Australia	2,474,410	10.5
South Australia	1,676653	5.0
Tasmania	509,965	2.9
ACT	397,397	11.2
Northern Territory	228,833	7.9
Australia	23,401,892	8.8

Provinces/Territories:

Geographic name	Population, 2016	% change from 2011
Ontario	13,448,494	4.6
Quebec	8,164,361	3.3
British Columbia	4,648,055	5.6
Alberta	4,067,175	11.6
Manitoba	1,278,365	5.8
Saskatchewan	1,098,352	6.3
Nova Scotia	923,598	0.2
New Brunswick	747,101	-0.5
Newfoundland & Labrador	519,716	1.0
Prince Edward Island	142,907	1.9
Northwest Territories	41,786	0.8
Nunavut	35,944	12.7
Yukon	35,874	5.8
Canada	35,151,728	5.0

Urbanization

In 2016, approximately 83% of Australia's population resided in a Greater Capital City Statistical Division. Greater capital cities accounted for 77% of total population growth between 2006 and 2016.

In 2016, approximately 40% of Australia's population lives in 2 cities - Sydney & Melbourne.

In 2016, almost 25 million people, or 71% of Canadians, were living in one of Canada's 35 census metropolitan areas. Metropolitan areas and census agglomerations combined account for 83% of the population.

In 2016, approximately 40% of Canada's population lives in 4 cities – Toronto, Montréal, Vancouver & Calgary.

Top 5 Largest Cities by Population (2016)

City	Population (2016)	% Change from 2011	City	Population (2016)	% Change from 2011
Sydney	5,029,768	14.5	Toronto	5,928,040	6.2
Melbourne	4,725, 316	18.1	Montréal	4,098,927	4.2
Brisbane	2,360,241	14.2	Vancouver	2,463,431	6.5
Perth	2,022,044	16.9	Calgary	1,392,609	14.6
Adelaide	1,324,279	8.1	Ottawa-Gatineau	1,323,783	5.5

Languages

Languages Spoken at Home (2016)

Australia's official language is English. In 2016, one in five Australians (21%) spoke a language other than English at home.

The 4 most common languages spoken at home (other than English) are listed in the table below.

Languages spoken at home	%
Mandarin	2.5
Arabic	1.4
Cantonese	1.2
Vietnamese	1.2

Canada has two official languages, English and French. In 2016, 79% of the population reported English (58%) or French (21%) as their mother tongue.

In 2016, 2.4% of Canadians reported more than one mother tongue, compared with 1.9% of Canadians in 2011 and 19.4% reported speaking more than one language at home, up from 2011 (17.5%).

The top 5 languages listed as mother tongues are listed in the table below.

Mother tongues	%
Mandarin	1.7
Cantonese	1.7
Punjabi	1.6
Tagalog (Filipino)	1.5
Spanish	1.4

Education

OECD's World Education Rankings

The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a triennial international survey which aims to evaluate education systems worldwide by testing the skills and knowledge of 15-year-old students.

Discipline	Rank (Out of 72 Economies Evaluated)			
	Australia		Canada	
	2015	2012	**2015**	2012
Mathematics	**20**	19	**7**	13
Reading	**12**	13	**2**	7
Science	**10**	16	**6**	4

Discipline	Scores		
	Australia	Canada	OECD Average
Mathematics	494	516	490
Reading	503	527	493
Science	510	528	493

OECD Comparative Education Attainment Levels

As a percentage of total population in that age group (2016)

Country	Population with tertiary education	
	25-64	**25-34**
Australia	44	49
Canada	57	61
OECD average	36	25

Source: Education at a Glance 2017: OECD Indicators

University Rankings

The *Times Higher Education World University Rankings* lists the top 1,000 universities using 13 performance indicators grouped into five areas: teaching (30%), research (30%), citations (30%), industry income (2.5%), and international outlook (7.5%).

Australia has 6 universities ranked in the top 100 and 35 in the top 1000 in 2018. The top 5 ranking Australian universities are: • University of Melbourne (32) • The Australian National University (48) • University of Sydney (61) • University of Queensland (65) • Monash University (=80)	Canada has 4 universities ranked in the top 100 and 26 in the top 1000 in 2018. The top 5 ranking Canadian universities are: • University of Toronto (=22) • University of British Columbia (=34) • McGill University (42) • McMaster University (78) • Université de Montréal (108) •

The *Academic Ranking of World Universities* (ARWU) – publishes rankings for the top 500 universities. It uses the following indicators: the number of alumni & staff winning Nobel Prizes and Field Medals (30%), research citations (20%), journal articles published/indexed (40%), and per capita academic performance (10%).

Australia has 6 universities ranked in the top 100, 10 in the top 200 and 23 in the top 500 in 2017. The top 5 ranking Australian universities are: • University of Melbourne (39) • University of Queensland (55) • Monash University (78) • University of Sydney (83) • The University of Western Australia (91)	Canada has 4 universities in the top 100, 8 in the top 200 and 19 in the top 500 in 2017. The top 5 ranking Canadian universities are: • University of Toronto (23) • University of British Columbia (31) • McMaster University (66) • McGill University (67) • University of Alberta (101-150)

The *QS World University Rankings* rank the top 400. Indicators include: Academic Reputation (40%), Employer Reputation (10%); Faculty to student ratio (20%); Citations per faculty (20%); Proportion of International students (5%), and Proportion of International Faculty (5%).

Australia has 6 universities ranked in the top 100, 9 in the top 200, and 21 in the top 400 in 2017. The top 5 ranking Australian universities are: • The Australian National University (22) • University of Melbourne (42) • University of Sydney (=46) • University of New South Wales (=49) • University of Queensland (=51)	Canada has 4 universities ranked in the top 100, 9 in the top 200 and 15 in the top 400 in 2017. The top 5 ranking Canadian universities are: • McGill University (30) • University of Toronto (32) • University of British Columbia (45) • University of Alberta (94) • Université de Montréal (126)

Indigenous / Aboriginal Populations

According to the 2016 Census, 649,173 people identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, an increase of 18.4% on 2011. Taking into consideration that the Indigenous population tend to have a lower response rate to the Census, the Australian Bureau of Statistics has since estimated that the actual number of Australians who identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander in 2016 is 786,689. This represents approximately 3.3% of the total population.

In 2016, Aboriginal people, First Nations, Métis and Inuit, accounted for almost 4.9% of the total population of Canada. The number of people who identified themselves as an Aboriginal person, that is, North American Indian (First Nations people), Métis and Inuit, was 1,673,785.

In the decade between 2006 and 2016, the Aboriginal population of Canada increased by 42.5%.

Geographical Distribution of Aboriginal Identity Population (2016)

State/Territory	Number of Aboriginal peoples living in state/territory	% of the state/ territory's total population that identify as Indigenous	Province/Territory	Number of Aboriginal peoples living in province/ territory	% of the province/ territory's total population that identify as Aboriginal
New South Wales	216,176	2.9	Ontario	374,395	2.8
Queensland	186,482	4.0	British Columbia	270,585	5.9
Western Australia	75,978	3.1	Alberta	258,640	6.5
Northern Territory	58,248	25.5	Manitoba	223,310	18.0
Victoria	47,788	0.8	Saskatchewan	175,015	16.3
South Australia	34,184	2.0	Quebec	182,890	2.3
Tasmania	23,572	4.6	Nunavut	30,550	85.9
Australian Capital Territory	6,508	1.6	Nova Scotia	51,495	5.7
			Newfoundland & Labrador	45,725	8.9
			Northwest Territories	20,860	50.7
			New Brunswick	29,380	4.0
			Yukon	8,195	23.3
			Prince Edward Island	2,740	2.0

Life Expectancy	
In 2010-2012, life expectancy at birth for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men was 69.1 years and 73.7 years for women. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men, on average, are expected to live 10.6 years less than non-Indigenous men, while Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, on average, live 9.5 years less than non-Indigenous women. This gap was reduced in the five years to 2012 by 0.8 years for men and 0.1 years for women.	Among the Aboriginal population, the Inuit had the lowest projected life expectancy in 2017, of 64 years for men and 73 years for women. The Métis and First Nations populations have similar life expectancies, at 73-74 years for men and 78-80 years for women. Life expectancy projections show an average increase of one to two years from the life expectancy that was recorded for the Aboriginal population in 2001.
Aboriginal Education Levels	
According to the 2016 Census, 41.8% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years and over had attained Year 12 or equivalent and/or Certificate II or higher qualifications, compared to 62.3% of non-Indigenous people. In 2016, 5.8% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders over 15 had a Bachelor's Degree as their highest qualification, up from 3.5% in 2011.	In 2016, 10.9% of Aboriginal people aged 25 to 64 had a bachelor's degree or higher, up from 7.7% in 2006. The proportion of Aboriginal people with a college diploma rose from 18.7% in 2006 to 23.0% in 2016.

In comparison, more than half (54.0%) of Canadians aged 25 to 64 had either college or university qualifications in 2016, up from 48.3% in 2006. |
Income	
In the 2016 Census, the median weekly income for Aboriginal people 15 years and over was $441, compared to $622 for the general population 15 years and over. The median household income for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households was $1,203 per week, compared to a weekly median of $1,438 for Australian households overall.	In the 2011 Census, the median annual income for Aboriginal people 15 years and over was $20,701 compared to $29,878 for the general population. The median household income for the Aboriginal population was $52,995, while the median household income for all households was $61,072.
Criminal Justice	
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners comprised just over a quarter (27%) of the total prisoner population in 2017.

The age standardised imprisonment rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners was 2,434 per 100,000 adult Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. This was more than 15 times higher than non-Indigenous prisoners for whom the imprisonment rate is 160 per 100,000 people. | In 2016, Aboriginal people accounted for 25% of those who are incarcerated in federal institutions. Aboriginal women represent 31% of all federal admissions to sentenced custody in Canada.

The Aboriginal incarceration rate is estimated to be 10 times higher than the national average. |

The Economy & Trade

AUSTRALIA		CANADA	
General Statistics			
Exchange Rate $A : $US	0.72 (9 Nov 2018)	**Exchange Rate $Can : $US**	0.76 (9 Nov 2018)
Cash Rate (Nov 2018)	1.5 %	**Cash Rate (Oct 2018)**	1.75 %
GDP (2017-18)			
Nominal GDP ($US bn)	1,380	**Nominal GDP ($US bn)**	1,652
Per capita GDP ($US at PPP)	50,334	**Per capita GDP ($US at PPP)**	48,265
Annual GDP Growth (to June 2018)	3.4%	**Annual GDP Growth (to June 2018)**	1.9%
Global Ranking by GDP (IMF)	13th	**Global Ranking by GDP (IMF)**	10th
Employment (% of labour force seasonally adjusted)			
Unemployment Rate (Sept 2018)	5.0%	**Unemployment Rate (Sept 2018)**	5.9%
Labour Force Participation Rate (Sept 2018)	65.4%	**Labour Force Participation Rate (Sept 2018)**	65.4%
Trade as % of GDP (2016)			
Exports of Goods & Services (% of GDP)	21.3%	**Exports of Goods & Services (% of GDP)**	31.5%
Imports of Goods & Services (% of GDP)	21.2%	**Imports of Goods & Services (% of GDP)**	33.4%
Trade and Investment Relationship between Canada and Australia (2016-17)			
Australian Direct Investments in Canada (FDI)*	($A bn) 7.6	**Canadian Direct Investments in Australia**	($A bn) 29.1
	($Can bn) 7.5		($Can bn) 28.8
Merchandise Exports to Canada ($AUD bn)	1.7	**Merchandise Exports to Australia ($Can bn)**	2.0

Note: there is a discrepancy of FDI figures between Canadian sources and Australian sources due to a difference in methodology. The figures above represent the latest data compiled by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade or Global Affairs Canada. Investment figures are based on DFAT estimates for the 2016 calendar year at AUD/CAD exchange rate value as at 14 February 2017.

AUSTRALIA		CANADA	
Trade Statistics			
Top Export Markets - 2017 (% share of total exports)			
1. China	30.0	1. United States	76.0
2. Japan	12.2	2. China	4.3
3. Republic of Korea	6.0	3. United Kingdom	3.2
4. United States of America	5.4	4. Japan	2.2
5. India	5.2	5. Mexico	1.4
6. Hong Kong	3.9	6. South Korea (ROK)	1.0
7. New Zealand	3.6	7. India	0.8
8. Singapore	3.1	8. Germany	0.8
9. United Kingdom	3.0	9. Belgium	0.6
10. Taiwan	2.7	10. France	0.6
Top Import Sources - 2017 (% share of total imports)			
1. China	17.9	1. United States	51.3
2. United States of America	12.6	2. China	12.6
3. Republic of Korea	8.5	3. Mexico	6.3
4. Japan	6.5	4. Germany	3.2
5. Thailand	4.6	5. Japan	3.1
6. Germany	4.4	6. United Kingdom	1.6
7. United Kingdom	4.0	7. South Korea (ROK)	1.6
8. Singapore	3.6	8. Italy	1.5
9. New Zealand	3.6	9. France	1.1
10. Malaysia	3.2	10. Taiwan	1.0

AUSTRALIA		CANADA	
Major Exports, 2017 ($A bn)		**Major Exports, 2017 ($C bn)**	
Iron ore and concentrates	63.1	Energy	109.8
Coal	57.1	Automotive Products	81.0
Education-related travel services	30.3	Mechanical machinery & equipment	42.0
Natural gas	25.6	Precious stones & materials	24.4
Personal travel services	21.3	Woods & Articles	18.3
Major Imports, 2017 ($A bn)		**Major Imports, 2017 ($C bn)**	
Personal travel services	40.0	Automotive Products	96.2
Passenger motor vehicles	22.8	Mechanical machinery & equipment	82.3
Refined petroleum	19.2	Electrical machinery & equipment	55.5
Ships, boats & floating structures	18.9	Energy	38.6
Telecom equipment & parts	12.8	Plastics & Articles	20.8

Trade statistics sources:

Australia: https://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Documents/cot-cy-2017.pdf

Canada: http://www.international.gc.ca/economist-economiste/assets/pdfs/performance/state_2018_point/SoT_PsC_2018-Eng.pdf?_ga=2.257631811.952754257.1539840360-172472703.1533772453

Immigration

Background

Australia and Canada have a long history of cooperation in the area of immigration and are close partners in a number of international fora covering citizenship, migration, border management, security and defence. Australia is one of Canada's closest comparator countries in the immigration domain. Both share long histories of managed migration – a framework of legal pathways to study, live and work in each country - and newcomer settlement programming in recognition of the contribution immigration makes to social cohesion and economic prosperity. Both countries have shared policy and program experience across the entire migration continuum (immigration, settlement, integration, citizenship), each using the other as policy and program incubators. For example, Australia adopted a point system after Canada introducing the first-ever system in 1967; Canada launched its Express Entry application management system for key economic immigration programs in 2015, based on New Zealand's Expression of Interest system and Australia's SkillSelect. Canada's Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA), is patterned on Australia's ETA initiative.

Through immigration, both countries target economic potential, work to address labour market needs, help to reunite families and support integration of newcomers. Since the mid-90s, Australia's permanent migration intake has, like Canada's, increasingly focused on attracting economic migrants, including skilled workers, with successive governments seeking to tie migration more closely to the needs of the labour market. In both Canada and Australia, economic immigrants make up the largest proportion of newcomers at approximately 60 per cent. Family re-unification and humanitarian programs form the other pillars of the managed migration framework in Canada and Australia. Both Canada and Australia are among the top countries for selecting refugees for resettlement and both countries resettled special intakes in response to conflicts in Syria and Iraq. Our bilateral youth mobility programs continue to be successful with Australia consistently a top destination for Canadian youth and the second largest source of foreign participants under International Experience Canada.

Australia and Canada also share similar challenges, including increasing visitor volumes coupled with the need to provide more seamless processing for travellers, complex legal, policy and operational contexts, regional distribution of newcomers, and skills recognition. Both countries seek to balance facilitation and control through a suite of programs and policies that govern entry and stay, and promote an inclusive and cohesive society. Public attitudes about migration continue to be generally positive and in both cases there is pride in the multicultural society that exists. However, there are also some notable differences. For example, Australia has a universal visa regime whereas there are visa exemptions for those wishing to come to Canada from certain countries.

In December 2017, the Australian Government established the Department of Home Affairs which encompasses immigration and border management, remits previously delivered by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection. Home Affairs ministerial portfolios include: Minister for Home Affairs; Minister for Immigration and Border Protection; Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs; Minister for Law Enforcement and Cybersecurity; and, an Assistant Minister for Home Affairs.

Canada, in contrast, operationalizes border enforcement under the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) which falls under the Public Safety portfolio and Minister, with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) standing as a separate department. In 2013, Canada's passport program became part of IRCC and Service Canada assumed responsibility for passport operations including the network of passport offices.

For Australia and Canada, the main pathways for becoming a citizen are: birth on territory (with some exceptions in Canada and under certain conditions in Australia), citizenship by descent (deriving citizenship from a parent), and naturalization or conferral (citizenship acquired by applying and upon meeting the requirements).

Migration Statistics

	AUSTRALIA	CANADA
% of Foreign Born	26	22
Annual Migration (per capita)	Approx. 0.9%	Approx. 0.8%
Top 5 Source Countries of Permanent Residents	India, China, UK, Philippines, Pakistan* (2016-17)	India, Philippines, China, Syria, USA (2017)
Planned permanent resident admissions	208,750 (2018-19)	330,800 (2019)
Immigration Jurisdiction	Federal Government	Shared
Urbanisation	Approx. 40% of population lives in 2 cities - Sydney & Melbourne (2016) Approx. 60% of newcomers settle in 2 cities – Sydney & Melbourne (2011)	Approx. 40% of population lives in 4 cities – Toronto, Montréal, Vancouver & Calgary (2016) Approx. 56% of newcomers settle in 3 cities – Toronto, Montreal & Vancouver (2017)

Top 10 Source Countries for new Permanent Residents

Country (2016-17)	Number	%	Country (2017)	Number	%
1. India	38,854	21.2	1. India	51,651	18
2. China	28,293	15.4	2. Philippines	40,857	14
3. United Kingdom	17,038	9.3	3. China	30,279	11
4. Philippines	12,209	6.7	4. Syria	12,044	4
5. Pakistan	6,556	3.6	5. USA	9,100	3
6. Vietnam	5,493	3.0	6. Pakistan	7,656	3
7. South Africa	4,589	2.5	7. France	6,600	2
8. Nepal	4,290	2.3	8. Nigeria	5,459	2
9. Malaysia	4,049	2.2	9. United Kingdom	5,293	2
10. Ireland	3,855	2.1	10. Iraq	4,740	2
Total Top 10	125,226	68.3	Total Top 10	173,679	61
Other Source Countries	58,382	31.7	Other Source Countries	112,800	39
Total	**183,608**	**100**	**Total**	**286,479**	**100**

*New Zealand nationals are not counted by the Australian Government in the official Migration Programme, and within most Australian Government legislation, New Zealand citizens who live in Australia are defined as Australian residents. Australia receives, on average, around 30,000 permanent settlers from New Zealand per year.

Defence

AUSTRALIA	CANADA
Structure, Command and Accountability	

Structure	*Structure*
The Australian Defence Organisation consists of component organisations that together are responsible for the defence of Australia and its national interests. The most significant bodies are:	Unlike in Australia, under the National Defence Act the Canadian Armed Forces are an entity separate and distinct from the Department of National Defence. The Department of National Defence is responsible for administration and formation of defence policy and also exists as the civilian support system for the Forces.
• the Department of Defence: a department of state headed by the Secretary of the Department of Defence; and • the Australian Defence Force (ADF): commanded by the Chief of the Defence Force and consisting of the three Services, which are commanded by Service Chiefs.	*Command and Accountability*
In practice, these bodies work together closely under a recognised diarchy system of governance and are broadly regarded as one organisation known simply as Defence. The Department of Defence is staffed by both civilian and military personnel.	The Canadian Armed Forces are managed by the Armed Forces Council, chaired by the Chief of the Defence Staff (CDS). The Commander-in-Chief is the reigning Canadian monarch, who is represented by the Governor General of Canada. Formally speaking, though not in practice, there is a direct "line of command" from the Head of State (the King or Queen) to the Governor General, through the CDS to all the officers who hold the Queen's Commission, and thus through them, to all members of the CAF.
Command and Accountability	
The Defence Act states that the Minister of Defence "shall have the general control and administration of the Defence Force" and that the Chief of the Defence Force, Secretary of the Department of Defence and the chiefs of the three services must act "in accordance with any directions of the Minister". The Minister acts on most matters alone, though the National Security Committee of Cabinet considers important matters. The Minister then advises the Governor-General who acts as advised in the normal form of executive government. The Commonwealth Government has never been required by the Constitution or legislation to seek parliamentary approval for decisions to deploy military forces overseas or go to war.	As defined in the National Defence Act, the CDS has direct responsibility for the command, control and administration of the Canadian Forces, and is appointed by the Governor-in-Council, on the advice of the Prime Minister.
	In keeping with the responsibility to command, control and administer the CAF, the CDS also advises the Minister of National Defence on these subjects as required and is accountable to the Minister of National Defence for the conduct of all CAF activities, as well as for the readiness and the ability to fulfil military commitments and obligations undertaken by the government. The CDS implements government decisions that involve the CAF, by issuing orders and instructions.
The Chief of the Defence Force commands the ADF, and is the equal of the Secretary of the Department of	

Defence. The day-to-day management of the ADF is distinct from the command of military operations. The services are administered through Defence, with each Service Chief being responsible for raising, training and sustaining combat forces. Control of ADF operations is exercised through the Chief of Joint Operations (CJOPS), who reports directly to the CDF.

Budget 2018-19

Measure	
Total spend*	A $36.4 billion
Percent of GDP	1.9%

Measure	
Total spend*	C $25.5 billion
Percent of GDP	1.2%

Military Cooperation

Canada's defence relationship with Australia is its largest in the Asia-Pacific region. The majority of defence related interactions are governed through the Five Eyes structure with only a small number of bilateral agreements. Australia and Canada share no alliances, and have no defence and security agreements which compel Canada to respond in support of either Australia or New Zealand.

Canada enjoys very strong military to military links with Australia including through the ABCANZ Armies Program aimed at optimising interoperability and standardisation of training and equipment between armies, and the United States Marine Corps and the Royal Marines. Equivalent organisations for the nations' Navies, Air Forces, military scientific communities and intelligence communities also exist.

Australia and Canada have cooperated on peacekeeping operations, and continue to work closely to counter potential global terrorist threats, technical cooperation, information-sharing, exchanges of personnel and joint training.