

AMBASSADORS, HIGH COMMISSIONERS AND CONSULS

Appointment of Ambassadors, High Commissioners and Consuls

I—POSITION

1. Canadian Ambassadors are selected by the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In cases where the post is of particular importance or if the nominee is outside the Foreign Service the Secretary of State for External Affairs consults with the Prime Minister. Appointments of Ambassadors are brought to Cabinet for approval before formal action is taken. The Prime Minister informs the Governor General in advance of any announcement of the appointment.
2. The same procedure up to this point is followed for the appointment of High Commissioners.
3. When the decision is taken, the Department of External Affairs requests the Secretary to the Governor General to obtain the informal approval of the Sovereign to the appointment of the Ambassador.
4. This is not done in the case of High Commissioners.
5. On being informed of the Sovereign's approval the Department of External Affairs takes the necessary steps to obtain the agrément of the receiving State.
6. In the case of High Commissioners the receiving Commonwealth Government is told the name of the nominee and given the opportunity to indicate that his appointment would be welcome.
7. When agrément has been granted, the Secretary of State for External Affairs sends a formal request* for the appointment to the Sovereign through Government House.
8. A letter of credence*, and where appropriate a letter of recall* for the predecessor, are prepared by the Department of External Affairs and transmitted to the Sovereign for signature.
9. High Commissioners appointed to monarchies within the Commonwealth carry letters of introduction* from Prime Minister to Prime Minister. Those appointed to republics carry letters of commission* signed by the Queen addressed to the President. The Queen's approval either informal or formal is not sought for High Commissioners, even those appointed to republics.
10. Announcements of the appointment of Canadian Heads of Mission are made by the Department of External Affairs except in special circumstances when the announcement* may be made by the Prime Minister.
11. On the recommendation of the Secretary of State for External Affairs an order in council* is passed for the appointment of an Ambassador or High Commissioner. A commission* under the Great Seal of Canada evidencing

the appointment as Ambassador or High Commissioner is issued by the Registrar General.

12. Appointments are without fixed term and usually run for three to five years.
13. Special Ambassadors are appointed for ceremonial occasions such as Presidential inaugurations. The Secretary of State for External Affairs will develop the plan for Canadian attendance which will be discussed in Cabinet if thought desirable.
14. The technique of appointing a special Ambassador differs in that the appointment is not normally submitted to Cabinet, no agrément is sought, no order in council nor commission is issued, and there is no notice in *The Canada Gazette*. In other respects the procedures are the same including the issue of a letter of credence in cases where credentials are required by the receiving State.
15. The Department of External Affairs is responsible for the agrément for foreign Ambassadors appointed to Canada. The Secretary of State for External Affairs consults the Prime Minister in cases where he considers this desirable, then asks Government House to obtain the Queen's informal agreement to the appointment. Subsequently a formal submission* signed by the Secretary of State for External Affairs is sent to the Queen for approval.
16. In instances where a Commonwealth country informs us of the name of the person they intend to appoint as High Commissioner to Canada, the Secretary of State for External Affairs is responsible for giving the Canadian Government's assent after discussion with the Prime Minister in cases where he judges this to be desirable. This usually takes the form of a message intimating that the Canadian Government would welcome the appointment of the person mentioned.
17. Consuls General, Consuls and Vice-Consuls are appointed by order in council* on the recommendation of the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In the case of a Consul General the appointment is submitted to Cabinet. In all three cases a commission evidencing the appointment is issued under the Seal of the Registrar General.

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II—BACKGROUND

1. The extent to which the Prime Minister and Cabinet are involved in the selection and appointment of Canadian Ambassadors and High Commissioners has varied. With the development of the Foreign Service the appointment of career officers to these posts is now usually treated as a departmental posting. However Cabinet approval continues to be sought.
2. The Letters Patent of the Governor General empower him to act for the Sovereign in the appointment of Ambassadors but it was specifically agreed at the time they were approved that this function would not be taken over by the Governor General without prior consultation with the Sovereign. The Sovereign is therefore always consulted informally as to the acceptability of the ambassadorial nominee and subsequently approves a formal submission* for the appointment from the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Letters of credence* and of recall* are also always signed by the Sovereign. They are normally dated from London but in 1964 one was signed by the Queen and dated in Ottawa. Letters of credence may be in either official language depending on the mother-tongue of the appointee or the official language of the receiving State.
3. There is no legal justification for the order in council* purporting to appoint an Ambassador since the appointment has already been made through the formal submission* approved by the Sovereign who in addition signs the appointee's letters of credence*.
4. There is no consistent practice throughout the Commonwealth regarding the need to inform the receiving Government in advance of the selection of a nominee for the post of High Commissioner. Some members (e.g., United Kingdom) only inform the receiving Government that the appointment is made, and this sometimes after a public announcement.
5. It has been the Canadian practice however to inform the receiving Government in confidence of the intention to make the appointment to give an opportunity to indicate that the appointment of the nominee would be welcomed.
6. The Sovereign has not been consulted or informed on the intended appointment of High Commissioners as they are regarded as intergovernmental representatives. However now that the republics within the Commonwealth require Head of State letters of commission it is for study whether the Queen should not be consulted in such cases as in the case of Ambassadors since the theory that a High Commissioner represents the Government rather than the Head of State no longer has practical significance.

7. The draft international convention on diplomatic practice, adopted in 1961 in Vienna, recognizes that High Commissioners have the same status as Ambassadors.
8. The announcement* of the appointment of an Ambassador or High Commissioner is usually made by the Prime Minister if the appointee is a former member of the Government, otherwise it is made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs.
9. The appointment of special Ambassadors for ceremonial occasions is not normally examined in Cabinet but in instances of special importance this may be considered desirable, particularly if the receiving State requests representation at the ministerial level.
10. The Prime Minister is consulted in important cases before the Queen's agrément is sought to the appointment of a foreign Ambassador. In other cases he is kept informed.
11. The same applies for High Commissioners. However, as all Commonwealth countries have not adopted the practice of giving the receiving Government the opportunity to react to their selection, it could not be said that the traditional right to decline to accept a specific nominee, which is carefully preserved in the case of Ambassadors, has become the practice in the case of High Commissioners. Now that the position of a High Commissioner is equated to that of an Ambassador, and that many carry the Sovereign's letter of commission*, there is less ground for contending that the intimate nature of the Commonwealth association and the special character of their duties make the diplomatic formality of agreement undesirable and unnecessary. There is little reality to the contention that the close association of the Commonwealth renders it unnecessary to obtain the prior agreement of the receiving Government to the person selected. On the one hand our relations with some Commonwealth countries are not as close, in fact, as they are with some countries with whom we exchange Ambassadors, and on the other hand it is illogical to assume that it would damage our relationship to allow Commonwealth countries to express themselves on the intended appointee, a privilege accorded to all "foreign" countries. If there is any substance to the idea that High Commissioners enjoy the closest relations with the receiving Government there is valid ground for assuring that the appointee will be welcome.
12. Consular appointments are generally made from within the Department of External Affairs. Consulates General however have considerable significance, and rank in importance with independent diplomatic missions. Appointment to these posts therefore merits the attention of the Prime Minister or the Government, particularly when the appointee is from outside the Department of External Affairs or the Public Service.

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III—PROCEDURE

1. The Department of External Affairs is responsible for preparing the formal recommendation* for the appointment of an Ambassador, his letter of credence* and his predecessor's letter of recall*, all of which are signed by the Sovereign. That Department is also responsible for preparing the letter of commission* or of introduction* for a High Commissioner, to be signed by the Sovereign or the Prime Minister. The recommendation for an order in council* appointing a Consul General, Consul or Vice-Consul is also prepared by the Department.
2. The Department of External Affairs prepares the letter of reply* which the Prime Minister may wish to send after receiving a High Commissioner's letter of introduction.

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IV—CEREMONIAL

1. The Governor General usually receives Canadian Ambassadors and High Commissioners before their departure to take up their appointment. They are also received by the Prime Minister.

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**Formal Submission to Sovereign for Appointment
of Ambassador**

**The Secretary of State for External Affairs
Canada**

(Sgd.) Appd. ER

The Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada presents his humble duty to Her Majesty The Queen.

The Government of Canada has under consideration the Appointment of Malcolm Norman Bow, Esquire, as Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Canada to Hungary and, to that end, desires to ascertain whether Her Majesty would approve such an Appointment.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, accordingly, humbly petitions Her Majesty to approve the Appointment of Malcolm Norman Bow, Esquire, as aforesaid.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs remains Her Majesty's most faithful and obedient servant.

(Sgd.) PAUL MARTIN

Ottawa, March 11, 1965.

Order in Council for Appointment of Ambassador

**CANADA
PRIVY COUNCIL**

P.C. 1965-711

AT THE GOVERNMENT HOUSE AT OTTAWA

THURSDAY, the 22nd day of APRIL, 1965.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL IN COUNCIL.

His Excellency the Governor General in Council, on the recommendation of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, is pleased hereby to appoint Malcolm Norman Bow, Esquire, at present Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Canada to Czechoslovakia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Canada to Hungary.

Certified to be a true copy

(Sgd.) R.G. ROBERTSON

Clerk of the Privy Council

Commission evidencing Appointment as Ambassador

(Sgd.) Robert Taschereau
DEPUTY GOVERNOR GENERAL

Canada

*Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God of
the United Kingdom, Canada and Her other Realms
and Territories QUEEN, Head of the Common-
wealth, Defender of the Faith.*

TO

MALCOLM NORMAN BOW,
Esquire,

GREETING :

KNOW YOU that reposing special trust and confidence in your loyalty, integrity and ability We, by and with the advice of Our Privy Council for Canada, did, on the twenty-second day of April, in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and sixty-five, and in the fourteenth year of Our Reign, constitute and appoint you the said Malcolm Norman Bow to be

AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY
OF CANADA TO HUNGARY.

TO HAVE, hold, exercise and enjoy the said office of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Canada to Hungary unto you the said Malcolm Norman Bow with all and every the powers, rights, authority, privileges, profits, emoluments and advantages unto the said office of right and by law appertaining during Our Pleasure.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent and the Great Seal of Canada to be hereunto affixed.

WITNESS :

The Honourable Robert Taschereau, Chief Justice of Canada and Deputy of Our Right Trusty and Well-beloved Counsellor, General Georges P. Vanier, a member of Our Most Honourable Privy Council, Companion of Our Distinguished Service Order upon whom We have conferred Our Military Cross and Our Canadian Forces' Decoration, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada.

AT OTTAWA, this twenty-third day of June in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and sixty-five and in the fourteenth year of Our Reign.

BY COMMAND,

(Sgd.) George J. McIlraith
ACTING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

(Sgd.) Maurice Lamontagne
SECRETARY OF STATE OF CANADA

Ambassador's Letter of Credence

Elizabeth the Second

**by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom, Canada and Her other
Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth,
Defender of the Faith**

*To the President of the Presidential Council
of the Hungarian People's Republic*

Sendeth Greeting!

Our Good Friend!

Being desirous to foster relations of friendship and good understanding which happily exist between Canada and the Hungarian People's Republic, We have decided to accredit to You Our Trusty and Well-beloved Malcolm Norman Bow, Esquire, in the character of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Canada.

The experience which We have had of Mr. Bow's talents and zeal for Our Service assures Us that the selection We have made will be perfectly agreeable to You, and that he will discharge the important duties of his Embassy in such a manner as to merit Your approbation and esteem and to prove himself worthy of this new mark of Our confidence.

We therefore request that You will give entire credence to all that Mr. Bow shall communicate to You in Our name, more especially when he shall convey to You the assurances of the lively interest which We take in everything that affects the welfare and prosperity of the Hungarian People's Republic.

Given at Our Court of Saint James's the eleventh day of March, One thousand Nine hundred and Sixty-five, in the Fourteenth Year of Our Reign.

*Your Good Friend,
(Sgd.) ELIZABETH R*

Formal Submission to Sovereign for Recall of Ambassador

The Secretary of State for External Affairs

Canada

(Sgd.) Appd. ER

The Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada presents his humble duty to Her Majesty The Queen.

The Government of Canada has under consideration the Recall of Ross Campbell, Esquire, D.S.C., as Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Canada to Algeria and, to that end, desires to ascertain whether Her Majesty would approve such Recall.

The Government of Canada is satisfied with the zeal, ability and fidelity with which Ross Campbell, Esquire, D.S.C., has performed his mission in Algeria.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, accordingly, humbly petitions Her Majesty to approve the Recall of Ross Campbell, Esquire, D.S.C., as aforesaid.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs remains Her Majesty's most faithful and obedient servant.

(Sgd.) PAUL MARTIN

Ottawa, October 21, 1966.

Elizabeth Deux

par la grâce de Dieu, Reine du Royaume-Uni, du Canada et de
ses autres royaumes et territoires, Chef du Commonwealth,
Défenseur de la Foi

*A Son Excellence M. Houari Boumedienne
Président du Conseil de la Révolution
Président du Conseil des Ministres de
la République Algérienne Démocratique et Populaire*

Très Cher et Grand Ami,

*Les services de Monsieur Ross Campbell, à qui Nous
avons décerné Notre Croix du Service distingué, étant requis ailleurs, la
mission que Nous lui avons confiée en qualité d'Ambassadeur Extraordi-
naire et Plénipotentiaire du Canada en la République Algérienne est arrivée
à son terme.*

*Monsieur Campbell a rempli sa mission auprès de Vous à
Notre entière satisfaction, et Nous aimons à croire que, dans l'exercice de
ses fonctions, il aura également su mériter Votre approbation.*

*Nous saisissons cette occasion pour Vous renouveler
l'assurance de Notre constante amitié et Vous réitérer les vœux que Nous
formons pour le bonheur et la prospérité de la République Algérienne.*

*Sur ce, Nous prions Dieu qu'il Vous ait en Sa sainte
garde.*

*Donné en Notre Cour de Saint James, le vingt-deuxième
jour d'octobre mil neuf cent soixante-six, la quinzième de Notre règne.*

*Votre Grande Amie,
(Signé) ELIZABETH R*

Formal Submission for Appointment of Special Ambassador

The Secretary of State for External Affairs
Canada

(Sgd.) Appd. ER

The Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada presents his humble duty to Her Majesty The Queen.

The Government of Canada has under consideration the Appointment of Arthur John Hicks, Esquire, as Her Majesty's Special Ambassador of Canada to the Republic of Nicaragua on the occasion of the inauguration of General Anastasio Somoza DeBayle as President of the Republic of Nicaragua and, to that end, desires to ascertain whether Her Majesty would approve such an Appointment.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, accordingly, humbly petitions Her Majesty to approve the Appointment of Arthur John Hicks, Esquire, as aforesaid.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs remains Her Majesty's most faithful and obedient servant.

(Sgd.) PAUL MARTIN

Ottawa, April 11, 1967.

Elizabeth the Second

by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom, Canada and Her other
Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth,
Defender of the Faith

To the President
of the Republic of Singapore

Sendeth Greeting!

Our Good Friend!

Being desirous of affording to You a special testimony of Our earnest wish to cultivate and improve the relations of friendship and good understanding so happily existing between Canada and Singapore as free and equal members of the Commonwealth, We have resolved to accredit to You in the character of High Commissioner for Canada, Our Trusty and Well-beloved John Gaylard Hadwen, Esquire.

The experience which We have had of Mr. Hadwen's talents and zeal for Our service assures Us that the selection We have made will be perfectly agreeable to You; and that he will discharge the important duties of his High Office in such a manner as to merit Your approbation and esteem and to prove himself worthy of this new mark of Our confidence.

We therefore request that You will give entire credence to all that Mr. Hadwen shall communicate to You in Our name, more especially when he shall renew to You the assurances of the lively interest which We take in everything that affects the welfare and prosperity of Singapore.

Given at Our Court of Saint-James's the thirtieth day of June, One thousand Nine hundred and Sixty-seven in the sixteenth year of Our Reign.

Your Good Friend,
(Sgd.) ELIZABETH R

High Commissioner's Head of Government Letter of Introduction

PRIME MINISTER - PREMIER MINISTRE

Ottawa, Sept. 25th, 1967.

My dear Prime Minister,

This letter will be presented to you by John Alpine Dougan, Esquire, who has been appointed by the Government of Canada as its High Commissioner in Guyana.

Mr. Dougan joined the Department of External Affairs in 1949. He served in Lima, Colombo and Canberra and, from mid-1964 until recently, has held the appointment of Chargé d'Affaires ad interim in Montevideo.

I am fully confident that Mr. Dougan, both by his personal qualities and by his long diplomatic experience, is eminently fitted for the mission entrusted to him, and that his appointment will promote the relations of close friendship which so happily exist between our countries.

In this confidence, I commend Mr. Dougan to you and, on behalf of the Government of Canada, ask you to afford him all possible help in the fulfilment of his important mission.

I am, my dear Prime Minister,

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) L.B. PEARSON

The Honourable L.F.S. Burnham,
Prime Minister of Guyana,
Georgetown, Guyana.

**Press Release from Prime Minister's Office regarding Appointment
of High Commissioner**

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

CABINET DU PREMIER MINISTRE

PRESS RELEASE

COMMUNIQUÉ

Date: January 14, 1964

For Release: Immediate

Pour Publication:

The Prime Minister announces the appointment of the Honourable Lionel Chevrier as Canadian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom.

Mr. Chevrier, who succeeds the Honourable George Drew, is expected to assume his new duties at the beginning of February. Mr. Drew will continue to act as High Commissioner until Mr. Chevrier's arrival in London.

The Prime Minister paid tribute to Mr. Drew, whose resignation was announced on September 17, 1963, for his "distinguished and devoted" service as Canadian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, a post he has occupied since August, 1957.

Of Mr. Chevrier, the Prime Minister said:

"For many years now he has been my political colleague and my personal friend. I owe him in both capacities more than I can ever acknowledge. His countrymen share that debt because of his long and distinguished service to Canada. It is a source of great satisfaction to me that in his new post he will be able to continue that service."

Biographical data on Mr. Chevrier follows: [Not included]

Order in Council for Appointment of Consul

**CANADA
PRIVY COUNCIL**

P.C. 1965 – 213

AT THE GOVERNMENT HOUSE AT OTTAWA

TUESDAY, the 9th day of FEBRUARY, 1965.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL IN COUNCIL.

His Excellency the Governor General in Council,
on the recommendation of the Secretary of State for External
Affairs, is pleased hereby to make the following appointment:

William George Marcel Olivier, Esquire,
to be Consul of Canada at San
José with jurisdiction in
Costa Rica.

Certified to be a true copy

(Sgd.) R.G. ROBERTSON

Clerk of the Privy Council

**Formal Submission to Sovereign regarding Agrément for Ambassador
appointed to Canada**

**The Secretary of State for External Affairs
Canada**

(Sgd.) Appd. ER

The Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada presents his humble duty to Her Majesty The Queen.

The Government of Canada has been informed that the Government of Ethiopia has under consideration the appointment of Ato Dawit Abdou, Esquire, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ethiopia to Canada, and it is desired to ascertain whether this appointment would be agreeable to Her Majesty.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, accordingly, humbly petitions Her Majesty to intimate that the appointment of Ato Dawit Abdou, Esquire, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ethiopia to Canada would be agreeable to Her.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs remains Her Majesty's most faithful and obedient servant.

(Sgd.) PAUL MARTIN

Ottawa, July 29, 1967.

Prime Minister's Reply to High Commissioner's Letter of Introduction

Ottawa, September 28, 1965.

My dear Prime Minister,

It was with great pleasure that I received, on September 23, Mr. Leslie Perera as the new High Commissioner for Ceylon in Canada.

At that time he gave me your letter of September 7, and I assured him, as I do you, that he would be able to count on full cooperation from us during his stay here.

Please accept, my dear Prime Minister, my warm wishes for your health and prosperity.

(Sgd.) L.B. PEARSON

The Honourable Dudley Senanayake,
Prime Minister of Ceylon.