Canada’s Government

**Things all Canadians should know, but don’t – According to Rick Mercer**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Who is Canada’s head of state?  **Queen of England**  Who is the Queen’s representative in Canada?  **The Governor General**  Who does the Governor General take her orders from?  **Government** | Why is Stephen Harper the Prime Minister?  **He leads the party that won - Conservatives**  **He wasn’t elected himself**  What if the House of Commons doesn’t support the PM?  **Lose confidence of the house (majority vote) 🡪election, or appoint PM from party who does have the confidence** |

This is called a **Constitutional Monarchy**

King or Queen acts as head of state, but Parliament makes decisions

**Canada’s 3 Branches of Government**

Different parts of the government run different things. The three branches below are responsible the Executive Branch, the Legislative Branch, and the Judicial Branch.

House of Commons

(Elected)

Senate

(Appointed)

Monarch

(Governor General)

Prime Minister

And Cabinet

Canada’s Parliament

**Executive Branch**

**Legislative**

**Branch**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Branch | Who’s involved | What they do |
| Executive | Monarch, Governor General, Prime Minister, Cabinet | Decision making – final approval of laws |
| Legislative | Senate, House of Commons | Law-making  -propose bills, vote on bills, pass bills into law |
| Judicial | Courts of Canada | Interpret and enforce laws  -hear trials |

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