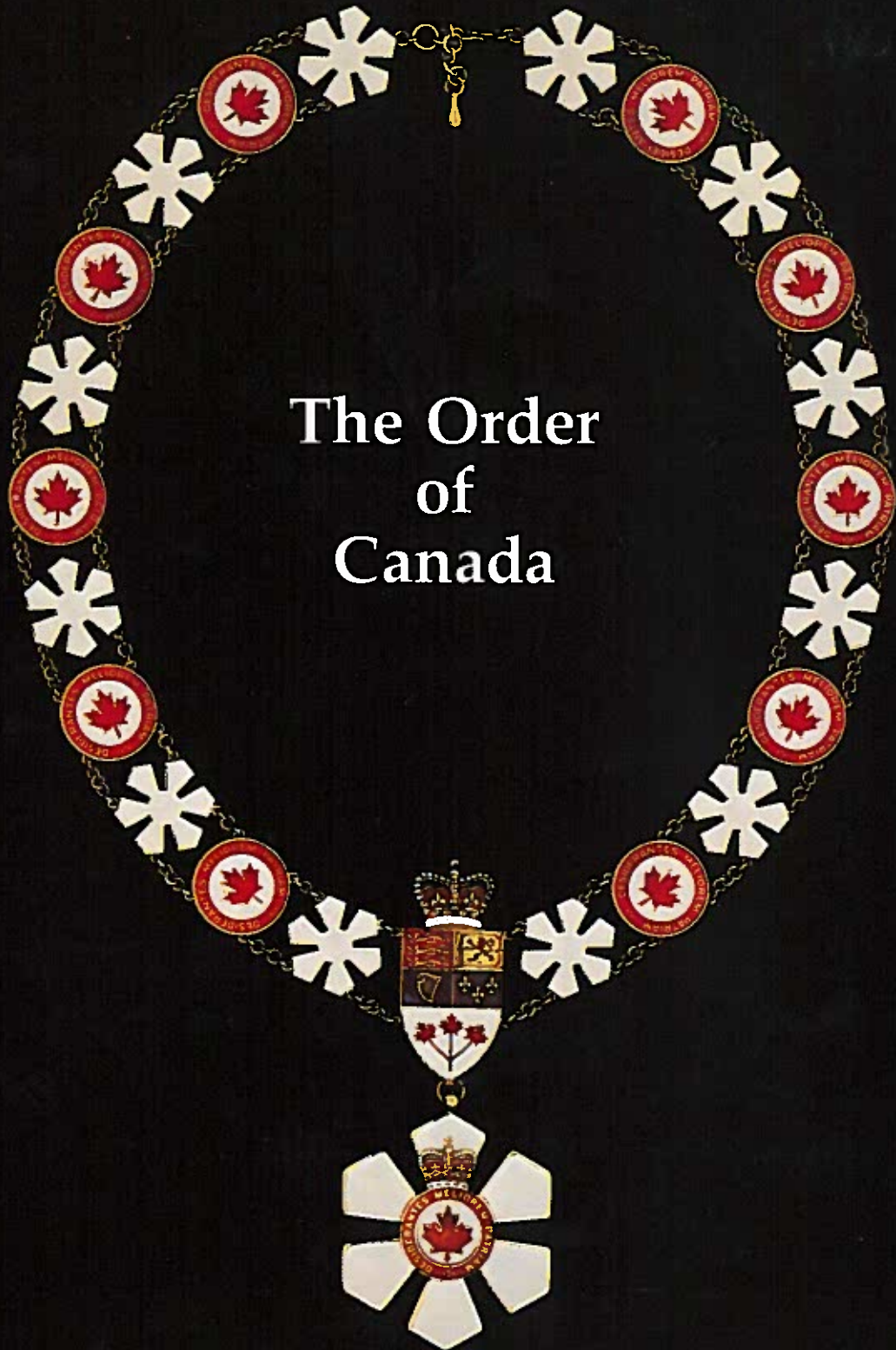


The Order
of
Canada



Cover:

The collar of the Chancellor and the insignia of Companion
of the Order of Canada

Cette brochure est également disponible en français.

desiderantes meliorem patriam



Rideau Hall

August 1990



KARSH

His Excellency the Right Honourable Ramon John Hnatyshyn
P.C., C.C., C.M.M., C.D., Q.C.
Governor General of Canada
and Chancellor of the Order of Canada

THE ORDER OF CANADA

Honours — orders, decorations and medals — are the highest accolades Canada can bestow and are a strong force for national unity. Only the Sovereign, as the “fount of honour”, may create an honour, by Letters Patent issued under her signature and seal; once an honour is created, the Governor General exercises all powers of the Sovereign. Honours also include armorial bearings and other heraldic devices granted under Royal prerogative powers exercised by the Governor General, who appoints individuals to orders, and awards decorations and medals on the advice of duly constituted Councils and Committees. The Chancellery, a branch of the Office of the Governor General, is responsible for the administration of honours.

Granting honours is a gracious and lasting way for a country to pay tribute to those who exemplify the greatest qualities of citizenship and whose contributions enrich the lives of their contemporaries. Appropriately, Canada adopted this practice on the hundredth anniversary of Confederation, at a time when Canadians were especially aware of what this country had achieved. Therefore, on 1 July 1967, the Order of Canada was established as the centrepiece of our system of honours. Its motto, in Latin, proclaims the aspirations of its members who, in their lives and work, have demonstrated that “they desire a better country”.

THE ORDER OF CANADA is a fraternity of merit, not a society of the elite. Other than the right to use post-nominal letters and to wear the insignia of the Order on appropriate occasions, membership in the Order brings no special privileges and no monetary reward. The three levels of membership — **COMPANION**, **OFFICER** and **MEMBER** — are designed to embrace a spectrum of achievement and service. The Companion level recognizes international service or achievement, or national pre-eminence; the Officer level recognizes national service or achievement; and the Member level recognizes outstanding contributions at the local or regional level.

The Queen of Canada is the Sovereign of the Order. The Governor General is its Chancellor and Principal Companion and presides over its affairs, in accordance with the terms of the Order's Constitution. An Advisory Council, chaired by the Chief Justice of Canada, assesses the merits of persons who are nominated and recommends to the Chancellor the names of those considered to be the most worthy of appointment.

Nominations

The continuing success of the Order depends on Canadians everywhere participating in the nomination process. Anyone may propose the name of a deserving Canadian as a candidate for appointment and those wishing to do so should address nominations to:

**The Chancellery
Rideau Hall
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A1**

Each nomination should be accompanied by a biographical sketch setting out in some detail the career and achievements of the nominee. It is especially helpful to the Advisory Council to have the personal testimony of close associates. The sponsor may choose to include all relevant information in a letter, but a convenient nomination form has been prepared for this purpose and copies are supplied by the Chancellery on request. Every name proposed goes before the Advisory Council, which meets twice a year.

Appointments

Appointments to the Order are restricted to Canadian citizens; federal and provincial politicians and judges are not eligible while holding office. There are no posthumous appointments to the Order and the number of persons who can be appointed is limited by the Constitution.

Following their initial appointment, Officers and Members may be elevated within the Order in recognition of further achievement, although such elevations are seldom made within five years of the initial appointment.

Twice each year, around New Year's Day and Canada Day, lists of people newly appointed to the Order of Canada are published in the *Canada Gazette* and in the news media.

Investitures

Investiture ceremonies take place twice a year, usually in April and October, at one of the official residences of the Governor General — Rideau Hall in Ottawa or La Citadelle in Québec City. New members receive the badge of the Order from the Chancellor at the ceremony, which is followed by a reception and a dinner.

Insignia

The badge of the Order, a stylized snowflake bearing the crown, a maple leaf and the Latin motto, is the membership's visible mark of honour, along with the right of members to use the initials of the Order (prescribed in the Constitution) following their surnames.

There are illustrations in this booklet of the full range of insignia. Male recipients wear the badges of Companion and Officer suspended from a ribbon around the neck; the badge of Member is worn on the left side with other decorations and medals in the authorized sequence. All three badges are worn on the left

side by women recipients, except women in uniform, who display orders, decorations and medals in the same manner as men. The insignia of two levels of the Order may not be worn at the same time and, in fact, the Constitution requires the badge of one appointment to be returned upon promotion from one level to another.

There is a corresponding miniature or small replica for each badge, suspended from a narrow ribbon and worn on the left side with evening dress. The insignia also include a series of small lapel buttons and brooches which can be worn at any time with street clothes.

Constitution

When it was first established, the Constitution of the Order provided for only two categories of membership: Companion and recipients of the Medal of Service. Five years later, the structure of the Order was modified to extend the range of membership. The level of Officer replaced the Medal of Service and the level of Member was added. The new Constitution allowed the appointment of 40 Officers and 80 Members each year. In 1983, the Constitution was amended again, increasing the numbers of annual appointments to 15 Companions, 46 Officers and 92 Members. The Constitution, as amended in 1983, is set out later in this brochure.

THE CANADIAN HONOURS SYSTEM

Canada's national system of honours, which dates from 1967, when the Order of Canada was created, has grown and recognizes citizens in a broad range of meritorious activities. It currently comprises two orders, five decorations and six medals recognizing achievement, bravery or exemplary service:

- The Order of Canada
- The Order of Military Merit
- The Cross of Valour
- The Star of Courage
- The Medal of Bravery
- The Meritorious Service Cross
- The Special Service Medal
- The R.C.M.P. Long Service Medal
- The Canadian Forces Decoration
- The Police Exemplary Service Medal
- The Corrections Exemplary Service Medal
- The Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal
- The Queen's Medal for Champion Shots

THE ORDER OF MILITARY MERIT was created in 1972 and provides three levels of membership: **COMMANDER**, **OFFICER** and **MEMBER**. Appointments are made on the advice of the Minister of National Defence from among serving members of the Canadian Forces, both Regular and Reserve, who have distinguished themselves through long-term, outstandingly meritorious service in duties of varying degrees of responsibility.

THE CROSS OF VALOUR, **STAR OF COURAGE** and **MEDAL OF BRAVERY** constitute a three-level system of decorations designed to recognize bravery, the Cross being the highest such decoration that Canada can bestow — it takes precedence over every other honour in the System. Award is not limited to Canadians, but there must be some Canadian connection.

THE MERITORIOUS SERVICE CROSS, created in 1984, is a decoration designed to recognize outstandingly professional military performance of such rare, high standard that it brings great credit to Canada or the Canadian Forces.

THE SPECIAL SERVICE MEDAL was created in 1985 to provide some tangible means of recognizing those who serve under abnormally difficult conditions for an extended period. Although it was designed primarily for the military, civilians are eligible.

THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE LONG SERVICE MEDAL, the oldest component of the national System, was created in 1934.

THE CANADIAN FORCES DECORATION was created in 1949 to recognize 12 years of service and good conduct in the Canadian Forces.

THE POLICE EXEMPLARY SERVICE MEDAL (1983), CORRECTIONS EXEMPLARY SERVICE MEDAL (1984) and FIRE EXEMPLARY SERVICE MEDAL (1985) were all created to recognize 20 years of meritorious service in the high-risk professions providing public protection.

THE QUEEN'S MEDAL FOR CHAMPION SHOTS is one of the older components of the System. Two awards are made each year at the annual competition held at the Connaught Range in Ontario: one to the best shot from the Regular Force and the other to the best shot from the Reserves or the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

HERALDRY

Coats of arms, flags, badges and other heraldic devices are marks of honour and symbols of identity, authority and, in some cases, sovereignty. Each of these symbols is granted by the Crown under an exercise of the Sovereign's prerogative to create heraldic honours.

On 4 June 1988, by Royal Letters Patent, The Queen transferred the exercise of her heraldic prerogative, as Queen of Canada to the Governor General, who now heads the **Canadian Heraldic Authority**. Canadian corporations and individuals wishing to bear lawful arms must now petition Canada's heraldic officers who have been appointed by commission to administer the heraldic responsibilities of the Governor General.

Members of the Order of Canada who possess coats of arms lawfully granted or recognized by the Canadian Crown are eligible to surround their personal arms with the annulus bearing the motto of the Order and to display the badge of their rank in the Order below the shield. Companions of the Order are also eligible to be granted, for life, supporters to their coat of arms.

Further information on any aspect of the Canadian Honours System may be obtained from:

**The Chancellery
Rideau Hall
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A1**



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INSIGNIA OF A COMPANION OF THE ORDER OF CANADA
1. Badge of a Companion. 2. Reverse of the Badge.
3. Miniature. 4. Undress Ribbon. 5. Lapel Badge.

CONSTITUTION OF THE ORDER OF CANADA

THE ORDER OF CANADA

1. (1) The Order of Canada, hereinafter called "the Order," shall consist of the Sovereign, the Governor General of Canada and the members and honorary members of the Order.

(2) Every Canadian citizen appointed to be a Companion of the Order, an Officer of the Order or a Member of the Order is a member of the Order.

(3) Every person appointed to be an honorary Companion of the Order, an honorary Officer of the Order or an Honorary Member of the Order is an honorary member of the Order.

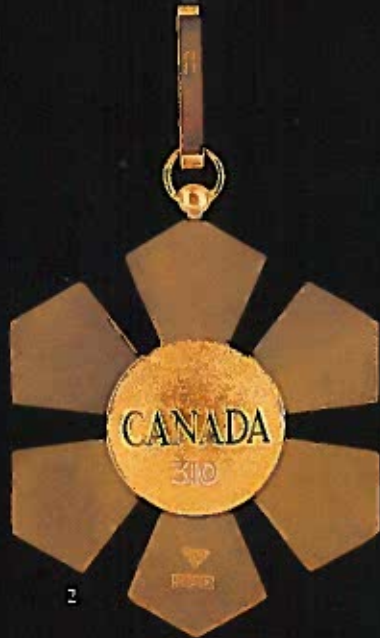
OFFICERS AND COUNCIL OF THE ORDER OF CANADA

2. The Governor General of Canada shall, by virtue of that Office, be the Chancellor of the Order and Principal Companion of the Order.

3. The Chancellor is charged with the administration of the Order.

4. (1) There shall be an Advisory Council for the Order, hereinafter called "the Council," comprised of:

- (a) the Chief Justice of Canada, who shall be the Chairman of the Council;
- (b) the Clerk of the Privy Council;
- (c) the Under Secretary of State;
- (d) the Chairman of the Canada Council;
- (e) the President of the Royal Society of Canada;
- (f) the President of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada; and
- (g) where considered appropriate by the Governor General, not more than two other members to be appointed by the Governor General as provided in subsection (2).



INSIGNIA OF AN OFFICER OF THE ORDER OF CANADA
1. Badge of an Officer. 2. Reverse of the Badge.
3. Miniature. 4. Undress Ribbon. 5. Lapel Badge.

- (2) Each member of the Advisory Council referred to in paragraph (1)(g)
 - (a) shall be
 - (i) chosen from among members of the Order,
 - (ii) nominated by the ex officio members of the Council, and
 - (iii) appointed for a term not exceeding two years; and
 - (b) is eligible for re-appointment to the Council.
- 5. The Council shall
 - (a) consider nominations of Canadian citizens of merit for
 - (i) admission to the Order as Companions,
 - (ii) admission to the Order as Officers, or
 - (iii) admission to the Order as Members;
 - (b) compile and submit to the Governor General lists of those nominees who, in the opinion of the Council, have the greatest merit in each category; and
 - (c) advise the Governor General on such other matters concerning the Order as he may refer to the Council for consideration.
- 6. The Secretary to the Governor General shall be Secretary General of the Order and shall maintain the records of the Order and of the Council, arrange for investitures and perform such other functions in respect of the Order as the Governor General may require him to perform.
- 7. The Governor General may appoint such other officials for the Order as he, in his sole discretion, considers advisable.
- 8. A person is not a member of the Order by reason only of his being a member of the Council or an official for the Order.

APPOINTMENTS AND AWARDS

- 9. Appointments as Companions, Officers and Members of the Order and as honorary Companions, Officers and Members of the Order shall be made, with the approval of the Sovereign, by Instrument signed by the Governor General and sealed with the Seal of the Order and shall have effect from the date of the affixing of the Seal unless another effective date is specified in the Instrument.
- 10. Nothing in this Constitution limits the right of the Governor General to exercise all powers and authorities of the Sovereign in respect of the Order.



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INSIGNIA OF A MEMBER OF THE ORDER OF CANADA
1. Badge of a Member. 2. Reverse of the Badge.
3. Miniature. 4. Undress Ribbon. 5. Lapel Badge.

ELIGIBILITY FOR APPOINTMENT

11. (1) Only Canadian citizens are eligible to be appointed as Companions, Officers or Members of the Order.

(2) Only persons other than Canadian citizens are eligible to be appointed as honorary Companions, Officers or Members of the Order.

COMPANIONS OF THE ORDER OF CANADA

12. (1) Appointments as Companions and Honorary Companions of the Order shall be made for outstanding achievement and merit of the highest degree, especially service to Canada or to humanity at large.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), any distinguished person, who is not a Canadian citizen but whom the Government of Canada desires to honour, may be appointed as an honorary Companion of the Order.

13. (1) Where a Governor General ceases to hold that office, he shall, notwithstanding section 11, continue, by virtue of his having held that Office, be a Companion of the Order.

(2) Notwithstanding section 11, the spouse of a Governor General who serves with the Governor General during any period when he holds that office shall be appointed to be a Companion of the Order and shall not cease to be a Companion by reason only of his death or retirement.

14. Subject to section 15 and 16, the Governor General may appoint to be Companions of the Order, other than honorary Companions, a maximum of fifteen persons in any year.

15. Membership, other than honorary membership, in the Order is limited, in the case of Companions to one hundred and fifty Companions in addition to the Principal Companion, his spouse and any former Governor General and his spouse or surviving spouse.

16. When the maximum number of Companions of the Order have been appointed, a person may be appointed as a Companion of the Order only where a vacancy occurs.



BADGE OF THE ORDER OF CANADA AS WORN BY WOMEN

OFFICERS OF THE ORDER OF CANADA

17. (1) Appointments as Officers and honorary Officers of the Order shall be made for achievement and merit of a high degree, especially service to Canada or to humanity at large.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), any distinguished person, who is not a Canadian citizen but whom the Government of Canada desires to honour, may be appointed as an honorary Officer of the Order.

18. The Governor General may appoint to be Officers of the Order, other than honorary Officers, a maximum of forty-six persons in any year.

MEMBERS OF THE ORDER OF CANADA

19. (1) Appointments as Members and honorary Members of the Order shall be made for distinguished service in or to a particular locality, group or field of activity.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), any distinguished person, who is not a Canadian citizen but whom the Government of Canada desires to honour, may be appointed as an honorary Member of the Order.

20. The Governor General may appoint to be Members of the Order, other than honorary Members, a maximum of ninety-two persons in any year.

NOMINATIONS AND ADVICE

21. (1) Any person or organization may submit to the Secretary General of the Order for consideration by the Council a nomination of a Canadian citizen for appointment to the Order as a Companion, Officer, or Member.

(2) Appointments as honorary Companions, Officers and Members of the Order shall be made on the advice of The Queen's Privy Council for Canada.

SUBSEQUENT APPOINTMENTS

22. With his consent a Member of the Order may be appointed as an Officer or Companion, and an Officer of the Order may be appointed as a Companion, but no member shall

- (a) hold more than one appointment at any time; or
- (b) be entitled to place after his name the letters or retain the insignia pertaining to the previous appointment.

TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE ORDER

23. A person ceases to be a member or honorary member of the Order upon
- (a) his death;
 - (b) his resignation from the Order in writing, which resignation shall have effect from the day on which it is accepted by the Governor General; or
 - (c) the termination of his appointment to the Order by Ordinance.

DESIGNATIONS AND INSIGNIA

24. (1) A Companion of the Order is entitled to
- (a) have the letters "C.C." placed after his name on all occasions when the use of such letters is customary; and
 - (b) wear as a decoration the insignia prescribed in the Ordinances of the Order for Companions.
- (2) An Officer of the Order is entitled to
- (a) have the letters "O.C." placed after his name on all occasions when the use of such letters is customary; and
 - (b) wear as a decoration the insignia prescribed in the Ordinances of the Order for Officers.
- (3) A Member of the Order is entitled to
- (a) have the letters "C.M." placed after his name on all occasions when the use of such letters is customary; and
 - (b) wear as a decoration the insignia prescribed in the Ordinances of the Order for Members.
25. When worn in Canada by a Canadian citizen, the insignia of the Order should be worn in the sequence prescribed in the DIRECTIVE RESPECTING THE PROTOCOL FOR WEARING THE INSIGNIA OF CANADIAN ORDERS AND CANADIAN DECORATIONS made by the Governor General on the advice of The Queen's Privy Council for Canada.
26. (1) Except as may otherwise be provided in the Ordinances, the insignia of the Order shall remain the property of the Order.
- (2) Where a person ceases, other than by death, to be a member of the Order, he shall forthwith return to the Secretary General of the Order the insignia of the Order that was presented to him upon his appointment to the Order.

ORDINANCES OF THE ORDER

27. The Governor General may make Ordinances, not inconsistent with this Constitution, respecting the establishment, government, investitures and insignia of the Order.

MOTTO

28. The motto of the Order shall be **DESIDERANTES MELIOREM PATRIAM.**

SEAL

29. (1) The Seal of the Order shall be confided to the custody of the Governor General.

(2) No appointment, revocation of appointment, award or Ordinance has effect unless it has been sealed with the Seal of the Order.

TRANSITIONAL

30. Every person to whom the Medal of Service of the Order has been awarded is an Officer of the Order and entitled

- (a) to have the letters "O.C.", in lieu of the letters "S.M.", placed after his name on all occasions when the use of such letters is customary; and
- (b) upon returning to the Secretary General of the Order the insignia prescribed for recipients of the Medal of Service, to wear as a decoration the insignia prescribed in the Ordinances of the Order for Officers.



SEAL OF THE ORDER