



# The Order of Canada

GOVERNMENT HOUSE  
OTTAWA

[www.OrderofCanada50.ca](http://www.OrderofCanada50.ca)  
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## THE ORDER OF CANADA

**Establishment** The Right Honourable L.B. Pearson announced in a statement to the House of Commons on April 17th, 1967, the creation of the Order of Canada. The Centennial of Confederation provided a particularly appropriate time to institute the Order of Canada and it was decided that the first awards should be made in 1967.

**Purpose** The Order was conceived to fill the need for a distinctly Canadian system of honours and awards to be used as a means of recognizing outstanding merit or gallantry or distinguished public service in all walks of life. In this way the Order, like a national flag and a national anthem, will become an important means of fostering national unity and pride of country by encouraging public service, furthering national ideals and by establishing the highest standards of merit and achievement. In conformity with its distinctly Canadian character the Order includes no titles and confers no special privileges, hereditary or otherwise. Awards are made solely on the basis of merit.

**Organization** The Governor General is, by virtue of that Office, Chancellor and Principal Companion of the Order and is charged with the administration of the Order. He is aided by the Advisory Council of the Order which comprises:

**Advisory  
Council**

- a) The Chief Justice of Canada (Chairman)
- 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

**Secretary  
General**

The Secretary to the Governor General is, by his office, Secretary General of the Order and Secretary of the Advisory Council.

**Nominations**

Any person or organization may make nominations for appointment to the Order by writing to the Secretary General of the Order of Canada at Government House, Ottawa. Nominations will be placed before the Advisory Council for consideration so that lists of those nominees who, in the opinion of the Council, are of greatest merit can be submitted to the Governor General.

**Appointments**

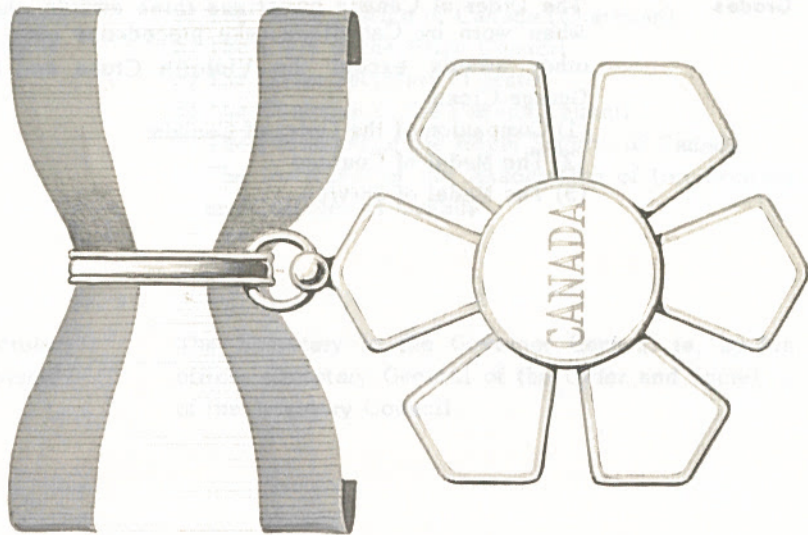
Appointments to membership in the Order are made by the Governor General, with the approval of the Sovereign, under an Instrument sealed with the Seal of the Order.

**Grades**

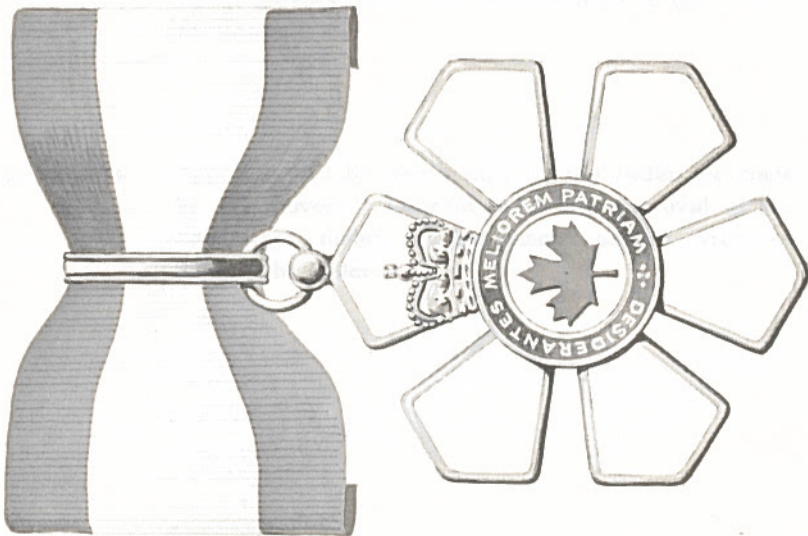
The Order of Canada comprises three awards which when worn by Canadians take precedence over all other awards except the Victoria Cross and the George Cross:

- (1) Companion of the Order of Canada
- (2) The Medal of Courage
- (3) The Medal of Service

Insignia of Companions of the Order of Canada



REVERSE



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COMPANIONS OF THE ORDER OF CANADA

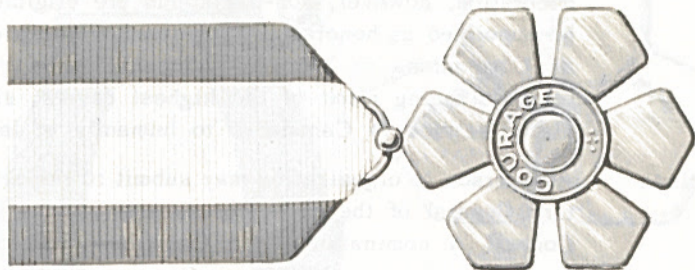
**Criteria** Only Canadian citizens are eligible to be appointed as Companions of the Order, Canada's highest decoration; however, non-Canadians are eligible to be appointed as honorary Companions. Appointments as Companions or honorary Companions are made for outstanding merit of the highest degree, especially service to Canada or to humanity at large.

**Nominations** 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. Appointments as honorary Companions are made by and with the advice of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada.

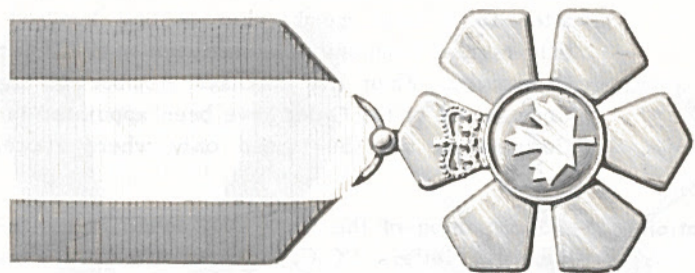
**Number** The Governor General may appoint to be regular Companions of the Order a maximum of fifty persons in 1967 and twenty-five persons in any year thereafter to a total membership of one hundred and fifty regular Companions in addition to the Principal Companion. When the maximum number of regular Companions of the Order have been appointed further Companions may be named only where vacancies occur.

**Designation** A Companion of the Order of Canada is entitled to have the letters "C.C." placed after his name on all occasions when the use of such letters is customary and to wear as a decoration the insignia of the Order.

**The Medal of Courage**



REVERSE



OBVERSE

**THE MEDAL OF COURAGE**

**Criteria**

The "Medal of Courage" may be awarded to any person who, as a civilian or a member of an armed or police force, performs an act of conspicuous courage in circumstances of great danger. It may be awarded posthumously.

**Nominations**

Any person or organization may submit to the Secretary General of the Order for consideration by the Government of Canada Decorations Committee and the Advisory Council of the Order, a nomination of a person for an award of the Medal of Courage. The recommendation should be accompanied by any descriptions, evidence and attestations in respect of the act of courage that are available.

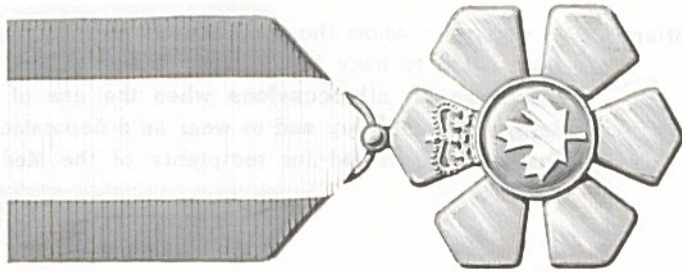
**Number**

The number of Medals of Courage that may be awarded is limited only by the high standards which the Order demands.

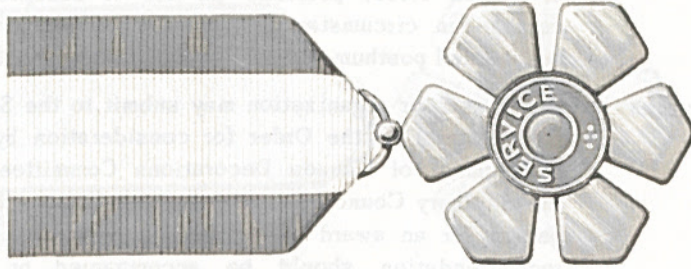
**Designation**

A person to whom the Medal of Courage is awarded is entitled to have the letters "C.M." placed after his name on all occasions when the use of such letters is customary and to wear as a decoration the insignia prescribed for recipients of the Medal of Courage.

**The Medal of Service**



**OBVERSE**



**REVERSE**

**THE MEDAL OF SERVICE**

- Criteria** The "Medal of Service" may be awarded to any person for merit of a high degree in many different areas of service to Canada or to humanity at large. The medal is intended to recognize excellence in all fields of endeavour in Canadian life. As is the case with the Companionship of the Order, the Medal of Service may be awarded on an honorary basis to any distinguished citizen of a country other than Canada whom Canada desires to honour.
- Nomination** 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 an award of the Medal of Service. Awards of Medals of Service to non-Canadians are made by and with the advice of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada.
- Number** The Governor General may award the Medal of Service to a maximum of one hundred persons in 1967 and fifty persons in any year thereafter.
- Designation** A person to whom a Medal of Service is awarded is entitled to have the letters "S.M." placed after his name on all occasions when the use of such letters is customary and to wear as a decoration the insignia prescribed for recipients of the Medal of Service.