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BACKGROUND

7 Key Rules for a Fair and Democratic Parliament

1. The party that was the ruling party before the election will, if its leader wants, and if no other party has won a majority of ridings in the election, be given the first opportunity by the Governor General (or, in a province, the Lieutenant Governor) to govern after an election (i.e. to appoint a Cabinet and introduce a Speech from the Throne in Parliament), including in partnership or coalition with another party;
2. Within 30 days after it is determined which party or parties will be given the first opportunity to govern, the governing party/parties will open the legislature with a Speech from the Throne;
3. In a minority government situation, even if the leaders of parties that represent a majority of members of the legislature do not indicate lack of support for the party that is attempting to govern first before that party's Speech from the Throne, if they subsequently indicate lack of support for the Speech, the Governor General will not allow the Prime Minister-designate to prorogue the legislature before the Speech from the Throne is voted on by members of the Parliament;
4. If a majority of members of the Parliament vote against the Speech from the Throne, the Governor General will give the opposition parties, if they want, an opportunity to govern (through either a formal coalition or legislative agreement) before calling an election;
5. After the vote on the Speech from the Throne, the only vote in the Parliament that shall be a vote of non-confidence is a vote on a motion that states: "The legislature does not have confidence in the government."
6. If opposition parties introduce a motion of non-confidence at any time after election day, the Governor General will not allow the Prime Minister to prorogue Parliament before the motion is voted on, and;
7. If a majority of members of the Parliament vote to approve a motion of non-confidence in the governing party before the next fixed-election date, the Governor General will give the opposition parties an opportunity to govern, if they want, (through either a formal coalition or legislative agenda agreement) before agreeing to any request by the Prime Minister that the Governor General call an election.