

An Example of Responsible Government Proroguing the Ontario Legislature 15 October 2012

See back of this sheet for an explanation of what "proroguing" means.

The Executive Council ("Cabinet") consists of the Ministers of the Crown who advise the lieutenant governor



Order in Council
Décret

The term order-in-council is a formal recommendation by Cabinet that is approved and signed by the lieutenant governor (or governor general in the federal government). Orders-in-council do not have to be discussed by Parliament before they have been implemented.



The lieutenant governor is the representative of the Queen of Canada in the province

On the recommendation of the undersigned, the Lieutenant Governor, by and with the advice and concurrence of the Executive Council, orders that:

Sur la recommandation de la personne soussignée, le lieutenant-gouverneur, sur l'avis et avec le consentement du Conseil exécutif, décrète ce qui suit :

A Proclamation be issued proroguing the First Session of the 40th Parliament of the Province of Ontario at 6:30 pm on Monday, the 15th day of October, 2012.

Qu'une proclamation soit émise proroguer la première session de la 40^{ème} législature de la province de l'Ontario, à 18:30 h., le lundi 15 octobre 2012.

The key words are "advice" and "concurrence." Under the principle of Responsible Government the Crown can only act under the advice and consent of its ministers (i.e. the Executive Council).

1.

Formal "Advice" to lieutenant governor by president of the Executive Council, or the "prime" (meaning "first") minister of the Crown (to avoid confusion with their federal counterpart, provincial heads of government are called "premiers")

Recommended
Recommandé

[Signature]
Premier and President
of the Council
premier ministre et
président du Conseil

Concurred
Consentement du
Conseil exécutif

[Signature]
Chair of Cabinet
présidente

2.

Signature showing that the rest of the Cabinet agrees with the premier's advice to the lieutenant governor

Approved
and Ordered

OCT 15 2012
Date

[Signature]
Lieutenant Governor
lieutenant-gouverneur

Approuvé et
décrété le

15 OCT. 2012
date

3.

Formal acceptance by approval and ordering into action of the premier's advice by the lieutenant governor, acting as the representative of the Queen of Canada

O.C./Décret 1534/2012

What does it mean to “Prorogue” the Legislature (or Parliament)

Through prorogation, the premier instructs the lieutenant governor (in the federal context the prime minister would advise the monarch or governor general) to terminate a legislative session altogether. The end of a session means that all parliamentary business temporarily stops, for the duration of the prorogation: Members of Provincial Parliament don't sit in the chamber, all bills on the Order Paper die, and the committees do not meet. Members of Provincial Parliament typically return to their constituencies.

Prorogation differs from an adjournment. The House advises the Speaker when to adjourn itself and go into recess, such as at the end of each business day. An adjournment preserves all bills as they were, and leaves the possibility that committees could meet.

