

Provincial Synod of Canada

Position Description

Position: Metropolitan

Eligibility: All Diocesan Bishops

Nominated by: All Diocesan Bishops automatically nominated

The Metropolitan is the chief pastor of the Province. He or she derives authority from the Provincial Synod, subject to the Constitution and Canons. The Metropolitan:

- bears the title of Archbishop of the diocese of which the Metropolitan is Bishop and Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada; (Canon 2 2(2))
- presides over the House of Bishops, the Provincial Synod and the Provincial Council and arranges for the consecration of bishops elected in the province; (Canon 2.3(1))
- has a pastoral relationship to the whole ecclesiastical province and, in particular, gives pastoral care to the bishops of the province. (Canon 2 3(2))

The Metropolitan is elected by the Provincial Council, by majority vote by orders presided over by the Prolocutor. (Canon 2.1(1-4)) All diocesan bishops are eligible for election as Metropolitan. The Metropolitan is an Officer of the Synod and a signing officer. (Constitution 5(1), 5(18)) With the other Officers of Synod, the Metropolitan takes general responsibility for the life and work of the Synod and Council. The Metropolitan takes possession of the Provincial Seal, and the Metropolitan Cross as a symbol of office.

The duties of the Metropolitan are:

- generally to represent the Province of Canada and to advocate for its interests;
- to preside over the House of Bishops, Provincial Synod and Provincial Council (Canon 2 3(1), Constitution 4(3), 6(7));
- in consultation with the Prolocutor, to determine the times and places of the meetings of the Synod (Constitution 4(2));
- in consultation with the Prolocutor, to appoint a Chancellor (Constitution 5(10));
- in the event of a vacancy, to appoint a Treasurer, in consultation with the Prolocutor (Constitution 5(12));
- to ensure financial provision has been made for the support of a bishop prior to any election of a bishop in a diocese (Canon 3 3);
- to preside over episcopal elections, unless otherwise provided for by diocesan regulations;
- to make provision for the certification of episcopal elections (Canon 3 4(2));
- to act as chief consecrator for bishops in the Province (Canon 3.5(1));
- to appoint members to the Provincial Court (Canon 5 2(9));
- if a member of the Court, to preside over sessions of the Provincial Court (Canon 5 2(12));
- to exercise initial jurisdiction over Diocesan Bishops in disciplinary matters (General Synod Canon XVIII.2(a), Canon 5 4).

In addition to a commitment to the life and work of the Province and Provincial Synod, desirable qualities include knowledge of the Constitution and Canons of the Provincial Synod, and of the General Synod, and pastoral concern for the bishops and other members of the Church in the Province of Canada. The Metropolitan should be prepared to commit several working days per month to the duties, and to be available to travel throughout the Province.