

Senate of Canada

Annual report 2005-2006



it's been said before...





... debate is crucial to democracy.

If debate is enthusiastic, widespread, comprehensive, and above all, encouraged, then our political system, however imperfect, is still serving us well. In fact, more debate is what the Fathers of Confederation gave us the Senate for: a chamber free to represent the interests of regions and minorities, instead of populations and majorities, and to check what could otherwise be the domination of Parliament by a majority government, with its potential for stifling disagreement.

It's a sign of the strength of our democracy that one of our most passionate national debates concerns one of our houses of Parliament. That we can freely criticize, praise, or suggest changes to our political system is a wonderful thing. But another truism of democracy is that good information is the foundation of good debate. Without debate, our thought becomes stagnant; but without accurate information, the results of our debate can be dangerous.

This annual report aims to add some information
to the debate.

There is always danger, in a representative democracy, that the processes of getting power and keeping it will prevail over making the best use of that power.

A democracy works well only if it has some understanding of its own weaknesses, and tries to provide for them.

Up to now, the Senate of Canada has helped us do that.

National Post – Gerald Owen

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As senators, our first responsibility is to determine how we can best serve Canadians now and in the future, as individuals, and as an institution.

People all over the world long to live in a country like Canada, in peace and freedom, and with the right to participate in expressing our values and shaping the country through our democratic parliamentary system.

Canadian citizens are guaranteed rights and freedoms seldom matched or exceeded elsewhere. From the beginning, our parliamentary system has ensured that every citizen is represented in debating and passing legislation that enshrines deeply-held Canadian values.

As Sir John A. Macdonald stated during the debates leading to Confederation in 1867, the Senate was intended to be “a regulating body, calmly considering the legislation initiated by the popular branch and preventing any hasty or ill-considered legislation which may come from that body....”

As senators, our first responsibility is to determine how we can best serve Canadians now and in the future, as individuals, and as an institution. It was with this uppermost in mind, and with a deep appreciation of the Senate’s history and tradition, that I accepted the role of Speaker of the Senate in February 2006. It is a privilege and an honour to be playing a part in the evolution of the institution at this interesting point in its history.

We hope this annual report gives you, the reader, a better sense of how we work at the Senate and that the information it contains illustrates how committed senators are to making their vision of Canada a reality.

Noël A. Kinsella
Speaker of the Senate



Our administration makes good use of the funds entrusted to it, ensuring that senators are served efficiently as they carry out their responsibilities.

The Standing Senate Committee on Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration, which I am honoured to chair, directs and oversees the internal administrative and financial workings of the Senate. It does so on behalf of all senators, and in turn, all Canadians.

The members of this committee are highly aware of their responsibilities; it is critical for our houses of Parliament to stand as examples of good governance for all corporate organizations. This is particularly true because our “shareholders” include every one of Canada’s 32.5 million people, from the elderly woman who relies on the veterans’ pension plan to the premature baby nursed and nurtured by our socialized medical system. Spending tax dollars wisely is a moral and ethical responsibility.

To this end, I am glad to report that the Senate continued to provide excellent value to Canadians in fiscal year 2005–06. Our administration makes good use of the funds entrusted

to it, ensuring that senators are served efficiently as they carry out their responsibilities. I am also pleased to note that the first Senate Ethics Officer, Jean T. Fournier, assumed the duties of his office on April 1, 2005. This independent officer will add to the transparency of senators’ activities, making the entire institution even more accountable to the people it serves.

I hope that this annual report, as another tool for increasing accountability to the public, is useful to its readers. It certainly reflects the hard work of both senators and the Senate Administration on behalf of Canadians.

*George J. Furey, Q.C.
Chair, Standing Committee
on Internal Economy,
Budgets and Administration*



We are proud of our accomplishments, past and present. We are proud of how we continue to improve within our tradition of supporting senators as they work to make Canada a better society.

For 139 years, under 39 consecutive Parliaments, the Senate Administration has worked diligently to provide senators with the tools they need to effectively serve and represent Canadians. These tools have evolved considerably since the first group of senators took their seats in 1867; it's unlikely they could have imagined the possibilities that webcasting, network drives and commercial air travel have opened up to their counterparts today. But I am sure that the same spirit of hard work and collective pride has motivated Administration employees through the years – the same sense of shouldering a shared task important to all Canadians that is such an important part of the Senate Administration's character today.

This organization, which I head, was comprised of roughly 450 officials, managers and employees in 2005-06. Our people work to support senators inside and outside the Senate chamber with telecommunications and IT expertise, security, human resources support, materiel management, and communications and procedural advice, among many other services. There are as many roles in the Administration as there are ways for senators to do their job. These roles are filled by experts in their fields whose work enhances the effectiveness and efficiency of our organization.

Like any good corporate body, the Administration continues to improve its work methods, discover synergies and explore creative ways to save Canadians money. As you will read in Chapter Five of this annual report, we have made some significant gains over fiscal year 2005-06.


We are proud of our accomplishments, past and present. We are proud of how we continue to improve within our tradition of supporting senators as they work to make Canada a better society. We are proud of our contribution to the Senate's work on behalf of Canadians.

*Paul C. Bélisle
Clerk of the Senate
and Clerk of the Parliaments*

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This annual report details the activities of senators and the Senate Administration for fiscal year 2005–06. The first four chapters highlight the roles senators play as members of a legislature and as members of society. The last chapter gives information about the red chamber's administrative activities, finances and employees.

We hope you find this document useful. Above all, we hope it adds to a wide-ranging, hearty debate about the value of this institution. Debate, after all, is what the Senate was made for.

Let's continue the debate.

Let's see it

the way the Fathers of Confederation did: the dilemma of a single house of Parliament, ruled by a majority, directed by Cabinet, disregarding debate to push through an agenda. The populous central provinces outweighing the opinions of other regions with their representation by population. Minority opinions briefly entertained, then dismissed. Majority power unchecked, with its potential for abuse.



Photo: "The Fathers of Confederation" by Rex Woods, 1969 (oil). Reproduced with the permission of Rogers Communications Inc.

Their solution?

The Senate. A second body to deliver more debate. An institution representing regions, not majorities. Political, yes, but more independent: less easily swayed by party leadership, the short-term vision of re-election, the hope of advancement. Weight in the scale to balance the potential for a "tyranny of the majority."

it's a vision...

... that senators work hard to maintain. This year...



They represented

their regions. Senators often speak with their region's voice. Senator Carney raised the alarm on the disconnection of Pacific coast foghorns in response to the concerns of BC coastal municipalities. Senator Sibbeston gained attention for the Northwest Territory's concerns about the impact of expanding Nahanni National Park on regional economic development. In the Senate chamber and out, senators spoke up for their people.



They improved

our laws. Committees gave 51 bills their attention this year, scrutinizing each bill they passed clause by clause. Senators spent nearly 80 hours debating bills in the chamber and 175 hours considering them in committee. Their amendments made for better laws. The Senate is more than a "chamber of sober second thought." It takes action.

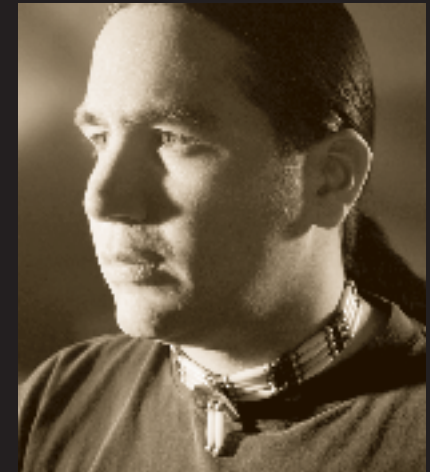
They championed

minorities and the disenfranchised. From Senator Munson's crusade for medicare support for autistic children to Senator Watt's guarding of the Inuit right to traditional hunting practices, senators protected the rights of minorities and the disenfranchised and ensured our democratic responsibility to respect the underrepresented.



They challenged

us to question our assumptions. Senate committee reports have impact. Reports on the security of our borders, the lack of structures to heal the mentally ill and the state of our water supply have injected life into national debate. Despite four months of dissolution for the election of 2006, Senate committees undertook 38 social and economic studies this year. They spent 830 hours listening to Canadians, hearing from over 1,300 witnesses, and reported what they heard.



This is the work Canada's senators did in 2005–2006.

01.

Canada's senators

A force of diversity on Parliament Hill

Canada's Senate is a force of diversity.

Senators come from all regions of the country, from the dense glass-and-concrete core of Toronto to snow-blanketed Inuit communities in the far north. They are farmers, teachers, jazz musicians, lawyers, hunters and trappers, judges, journalists, actors, accountants, police officers, social workers, engineers, professors, ranchers and doctors. They form a mosaic of ethnic backgrounds, political beliefs and religious faiths. Representation by women in the Senate is also high: in 2005–06, women made up 35 per cent of the Senate, one of the largest proportions of any North American legislature.

This diversity is ultimately a result of the way the Senate is constituted. Because Canada appoints its senators, it is free to balance the majority interests represented in the House of Commons. For the Fathers of Confederation, that meant including men with political leanings that were backed by a minority of voters. In more recent years, though, Prime Ministers have used their ability to appoint senators to make sure that Canada's blossoming diversity registers in our Parliament: that women, Aboriginal people, visible minorities and people with varying professional and ethnic backgrounds have a greater voice. From First Nations leaders to immigrants, from retired generals to judges to nurses and former policemen – senators are people from many walks of life who will speak up for diversity.



Senate membership on March 31, 2006



Willie Adams
(Lib – Nunavut)



A. Raynell Andreychuk
(C – Saskatchewan)



W. David Angus
(C – Alma, Quebec)



Norman K. Atkins
(P.C. – Markham, Ontario)



Jack Austin, P.C.
(Lib – Vancouver South,
British Columbia)



Lise Bacon
(Lib – De la Durantaye,
Quebec)



George Baker, P.C.
(Lib – Newfoundland
and Labrador)



Tommy Banks
(Lib – Edmonton, Alberta)



Michel Biron
(Lib – Mille Isles, Quebec)



John G. Bryden
(Lib – New Brunswick)



John M. Buchanan, P.C.
(C – Halifax, Nova Scotia)



Catherine S. Callbeck
(Lib – Prince Edward Island)



Larry W. Campbell
(Lib – British Columbia)



Pat Carney, P.C.
(C – British Columbia)



Sharon Carstairs, P.C.
(Lib – Manitoba)



Andrée Champagne, P.C.
(C – Grandville, Quebec)



Maria Chaput
(Lib – Manitoba)



Ione Christensen
(Lib – Yukon)



Ethel M. Cochrane
(C – Newfoundland
and Labrador)



Gerald J. Comeau
(C – Nova Scotia)





Joan Cook
(Lib – Newfoundland and Labrador)



Anne C. Cools
(C – Toronto-Centre-York, Ontario)



Eymard G. Corbin
(Lib – Grand-Sault, New Brunswick)



Jane Cordy
(Lib – Nova Scotia)



James S. Cowan
(Lib – Halifax, Nova Scotia)



Roméo Dallaire
(Lib – Gulf, Quebec)



Dennis Dawson
(Lib – Lauzon, Quebec)



Joseph A. Day
(Lib – Saint John-Kennebecasis, New Brunswick)



Pierre De Bané, P.C.
(Lib – De la Vallière, Quebec)



Consiglio Di Nino
(C – Ontario)



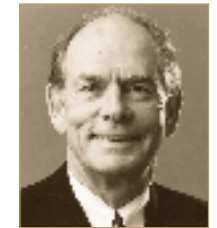
Percy Downe
(Lib – Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island)



Lillian Eva Dyck
(NDP – North Battleford, Saskatchewan)



Art Eggleton, P.C.
(Lib – Toronto, Ontario)



John Trevor Eyton
(C – Ontario)



Joyce Fairbairn, P.C.
(Lib – Lethbridge, Alberta)



Marisa Ferretti Barth
(Lib – Repentigny, Quebec)



D. Ross Fitzpatrick
(Lib – Okanagan-Similkameen, British Columbia)



J. Michael Forrestall
(C – Dartmouth / Eastern Shore, Nova Scotia)



Michael M. Fortier, P.C.
(C – Rougemont, Quebec)



Francis Fox, P.C.
(Lib – Victoria, Quebec)



Joan Fraser
(Lib – De Lorimier, Quebec)



George J. Furey
(Lib – Newfoundland and Labrador)



Aurélien Gill
(Lib – Wellington, Quebec)



Yoine J. Goldstein
(Lib – Rigaud, Quebec)



Jerahmiel S. Grafstein
(Lib – Metro Toronto, Ontario)



Leonard J. Gustafson
(C – Saskatchewan)



Mac Harb
(Lib – Ontario)



Dan Hays
(Lib – Calgary, Alberta)



Céline Hervieux-Payette, P.C.
(Lib – Bedford, Quebec)



Elizabeth Hubley
(Lib – Prince Edward Island)



Mobina S. B. Jaffer
(Lib – British Columbia)



Janis G. Johnson
(C – Winnipeg-Interlake, Manitoba)



Serge Joyal, P.C.
(Lib – Kennebec, Quebec)



Colin Kenny
(Lib – Rideau, Ontario)



Wilbert Joseph Keon
(C – Ottawa, Ontario)



Noël A. Kinsella
(C – Fredericton-York-Sunbury, New Brunswick)



Michael Kirby
(Lib – South Shore, Nova Scotia)



Jean Lapointe
(Lib – Saurel, Quebec)



Raymond Lavigne
(Lib – Montarville, Quebec)



Marjory LeBreton, P.C.
(C – Ontario)



Rose-Marie Losier-Cool
(Lib – Tracadie, New Brunswick)



Sandra M. Lovelace Nicholas
(Lib – New Brunswick)



Frank W. Mahovlich
(Lib – Ontario)



Paul J. Massicotte
(Lib – De Lanaudière, Quebec)



Elaine McCoy
(P.C. – Calgary, Alberta)



Michael A. Meighen
(C – St. Marys, Ontario)



Terry M. Mercer
(Lib – Northend Halifax, Nova Scotia)



Pana Merchant
(Lib – Saskatchewan)



Lorna Milne
(Lib – Peel County, Ontario)



Grant Mitchell
(Lib – Edmonton, Alberta)



Wilfred P. Moore
(Lib – Stanhope St. / Bluenose, Nova Scotia)



Jim Munson
(Lib – Ottawa / Rideau Canal, Ontario)



Lowell Murray, P.C.
(P.C. – Pakenham, Ontario)



Nancy Ruth
(C – Toronto, Ontario)



Pierre Claude Nolin
(C – De Salaberry, Quebec)





Donald H. Oliver
(C – Nova Scotia)



Lucie Pépin
(Lib – Shawinigan, Quebec)



Robert W. Peterson
(Lib – Regina, Saskatchewan)



Gerard A. Phalen
(Lib – Nova Scotia)



P. Michael Pitfield, P.C.
(Ind – Ottawa-Vanier,
Ontario)



Madeleine Plamondon
(Ind – The Laurentides,
Quebec)



**Marie-P. Poulin
(Charette)**
(Lib – Northern Ontario,
Ontario)



Vivienne Poy
(Lib – Toronto, Ontario)



Marcel Prud'homme, P.C.
(Ind – La Salle, Quebec)



Pierrette Ringuette
(Lib – New Brunswick)



Jean-Claude Rivest
(Ind – Stadacona, Quebec)



Fernand Robichaud, P.C.
(Lib – Saint-Louis-de-Kent,
New Brunswick)



William Rompkey, P.C.
(Lib – North West River,
Labrador, Newfoundland
and Labrador)



Hugh D. Segal
(C – Kingston-Frontenac-
Leeds, Ontario)



Nick G. Sibbeston
(Lib – Northwest Territories)



David P. Smith, P.C.
(Lib – Cobourg, Ontario)



Mira Spivak
(Ind – Manitoba)



Gerry St. Germain, P.C.
(C – Langley-Pemberton-
Whistler, British Columbia)



Peter A. Stollery
(Lib – Bloor and Yonge /
Toronto, Ontario)



Terry Stratton
(C – Red River, Manitoba)



Claudette Tardif
(Lib-Edmonton, Alberta)



David Tkachuk
(C-Saskatchewan)



**Marilyn Trenholme
Counsell**
(Lib-New Brunswick)



Charlie Watt
(Lib-Inkerman, Quebec)



Rod A. A. Zimmer
(Lib-Winnipeg, Manitoba)

Changes in Senate membership

April 1, 2005 – March 31, 2006

Appointments

August 2, 2005

Larry W. Campbell (Lib – B.C.)
 Andrée Champagne, P.C. (C – Grandville, Que.)
 Dennis Dawson (Lib – Lauzon, Que.)
 Hugh D. Segal
 (C – Kingston-Frontenac-Leeds, Ont.)
 Rod A.A. Zimmer (Lib – Winnipeg, Man.)

August 29, 2005

Francis Fox (Lib – Victoria, Que.)
 Yoine J. Goldstein (Lib – Rigaud, Que.)

September 21, 2005

Sandra M. Lovelace Nicholas (Lib – N.B.)

February 27, 2006

Michael M. Fortier, P.C. (C – Rougemont, Que.)

Retirements

John Lynch-Staunton (C – Grandville, Que.)

June 19, 2005

Viola Léger (Lib – Acadie, N.B.) *June 29, 2005*

Isobel Finnerty (Lib – Ont.) *July 15, 2005*

James F. Kelleher (C – Ont.) *October 2, 2005*

Landon Pearson (Lib – Ont.) *November 16, 2005*

Deaths

C. William Doody

(P.C. – Harbour Main-Bell Island, N.L.)

December 27, 2005

Shirley Maheu

(Lib – Rougemont, Que.)

February 1, 2006

There were five vacant seats on March 31, 2006:

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| New Brunswick | 1 |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 1 |
| Ontario | 2 |
| Prince Edward Island | 1 |

Political parties

Senators usually have political affiliations, but some choose to sit as Independents. As the Liberal Party governed for most of 2005–06, Liberal senators, a large majority in the chamber, were the government party in the Senate until its defeat in the general election of January 23, 2006. Conservative senators were the government party in the Senate for the remainder of the fiscal year and into the 39th Parliament, even though they were in the minority.

As of March 31, 2006 the party breakdown of the 100 sitting senators was:

| | |
|--------------------------|----|
| Liberal | 66 |
| Conservative | 25 |
| Progressive Conservative | 3 |
| New Democratic | 1 |
| Independent | 5 |

Criteria for appointment to the Senate

Senators are appointed by the Governor General on the recommendation of the Prime Minister. To become a senator, you must:

- > be a Canadian citizen or subject of the Queen;
- > be at least 30 years old;
- > own \$4,000 worth of land in the province or territory you represent;
- > have a personal net worth of at least \$4,000;
- > be resident in the province or territory for which you are appointed; and
- > if you represent Quebec, hold real property in the senatorial division for which you are appointed, or be a resident of that division.

Senators can serve until retirement at age 75.

Key roles in the Senate chamber

(as of March 31, 2006)

Eight senators hold leadership positions and help to organize the work of the Senate:

Representing Canada's regions

The Senate's 105 seats are divided to represent Canada's regions. Twenty-four seats were allotted to each of the three regions that confederated in 1867 to form the Dominion of Canada: Ontario, Quebec, and the Maritimes. The Fathers of Confederation saw this as a way to balance the power of the more-populated Ontario and Quebec, who accordingly had more representation in the House of Commons. As provinces joined Confederation, Senate seats were added to represent them. In 1915, an amendment to the Constitution made the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia a region, and they were allotted a full share of 24 senators. Seats have since been added to represent Newfoundland and Labrador, the Northwest Territories, Yukon and, most recently, Nunavut.

| | |
|--|----|
| Maritimes (New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island) | 24 |
| Ontario | 24 |
| Quebec | 24 |
| Western Canada (Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan) | 24 |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 6 |
| Northwest Territories | 1 |
| Yukon Territory | 1 |
| Nunavut | 1 |

Speaker of the Senate: *Noël A. Kinsella*
(C – Fredericton-York-Sunbury, New Brunswick)

Appointed by the Governor General on the recommendation of the Prime Minister, the Speaker is spokesperson for the institution, presides in the chamber and rules on points of order and questions of privilege. Senator Kinsella was appointed as Speaker in February 2006, replacing former Speaker Dan Hays.

Speaker pro tempore: *Rose-Marie Losier-Cool*
(Lib – Tracadie, New Brunswick)

A Speaker *pro tempore*, or acting Speaker, is appointed for each parliamentary session and serves whenever the Speaker is unable to attend a sitting of the Senate.

Leader of the Government: *Marjory LeBreton, P.C.*
(C – Ontario)

The Leader of the Government in the Senate is appointed by the Prime Minister and usually serves as a cabinet minister. As such, the Government Leader is able to speak with the authority of the government during Senate debates on bills and during question period, while simultaneously representing the Senate in cabinet.

Leader of the Opposition: *Dan Hays*
(Lib – Calgary, Alberta)

The Leader of the Opposition often speaks for the Opposition during debate on government bills and coordinates the efforts of colleagues in the Senate chamber and in committees.

Deputy Leader of the Government:
Gerald J. Comeau (C – Nova Scotia)

Deputy Leader of the Opposition:
Joan Fraser (Lib – De Lorimier, Quebec)

The deputy leaders provide support in preparing and managing day-to-day Senate business. The deputy leaders work together to organize legislative business and the Senate's sitting schedule.

Government Whip:
Terry Stratton
(C – Red River, Manitoba)

Opposition Whip: *Joan Cook*
(Lib – Newfoundland and Labrador)

Party whips keep senators in their respective parties informed about chamber and committee business and scheduling, and ensure attendance at sittings and votes. Although the whips work to maximize participation when a vote is called, party discipline in the Senate does not tend to be as rigorous as in the House of Commons.



Senate chamber, 38th Parliament

02

Senators and legislation

Improving the bills that become our laws

It's often asked why Canada needs a Senate. What can senators, for whom we never voted, truly add to the democratic process?

A fair question, and one with many possible answers. But one answer deals directly with our laws. With the exception of 17 of our 138 years of history as a country, Canadians have voted for majority governments. When it controls the majority of votes in the House of Commons, the executive – the Prime Minister and Cabinet – has broad power to set policy and control legislation.

This is where the Senate lends strength to our system. The Fathers of Confederation saw it as a critical part of our democracy – a way to check the urgent legislative agendas of powerful executives, a pool amidst the roaring waterfall of majority politics.

In part, this is possible because senators are not elected. As appointees, they have fixed terms and limited opportunities to join Cabinet. These factors make them less susceptible to much of the pressure political parties bring

to bear on their members to tow the party line. This independence makes it easier for them to act on behalf of the regions and minorities they were appointed to represent – even if it means defying their party to do it.

And collectively, as a house of Parliament, senators take action when they discover problems with government legislation. They can amend problematic bills or delay controversial legislation. And although it's a rare occurrence, they will defeat bills that are heavily flawed and are not clearly supported by Canadians.

Senators also have the power to introduce their own bills at any time during a session. In senators, Canadians have 105 more representatives to create bills on their behalf.

This year, government legislation and private senators' and members' bills each made up about half the legislation that senators considered. This chapter details the work they did to improve the bills that, in many cases, have become our laws.



Government bills

Considering government bills is the top priority of senators' work. As part of Parliament's maze of checks and balances, the Senate's job is to take the time needed to examine bills from regional and minority viewpoints, often with the broad context that comes from studying bills on a particular subject for many years. It's Parliament's way of making sure that, in the enthusiasm of a majority, we don't inadvertently step on anyone's rights, no matter how small they may be.

The Senate examined 40 government bills this fiscal year.

Government bills the Senate considered April 1, 2005 – March 31, 2006, by subject

* Denotes bills introduced in fiscal year 2005–06

RA Denotes bills that received Royal Assent in fiscal year 2005–06

Aboriginal affairs

- C-54 First Nations Oil and Gas and Moneys Management Act * RA
- C-56 Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement Act * RA
- C-71 First Nations Commercial and Industrial Development Act * RA

Agriculture

- S-38 Spirit Drinks Trade Act * RA
- C-40 An Act to amend the Canada Grain Act and the Canada Transportation Act RA

Communications

- C-37 An Act to amend the Telecommunications Act RA

Defence

- C-26 Canada Border Services Agency Act RA

Environment and natural resources

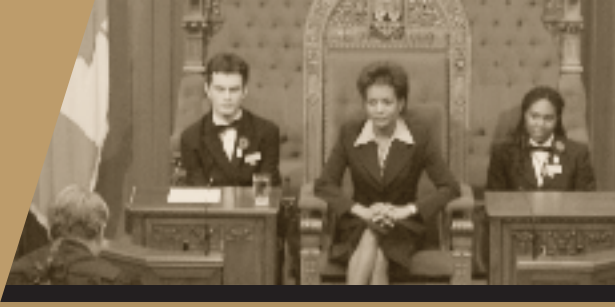
- S-36 An Act to amend the Export and Import of Rough Diamonds Act * RA
- C-15 An Act to amend the Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994 and the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 RA
- C-66 Energy Costs Assistance Measures Act * RA

Finance, trade and commerce

- C-8 An Act to amend the Financial Administration Act, the Canada School of Public Service Act and the Official Languages Act RA
- C-9 Economic Development Agency of Canada for the Regions of Quebec Act RA
- C-11 Public Servants Disclosure Protection Act RA
- C-29 An Act to amend the Patent Act RA
- C-30 An Act to amend the Parliament of Canada Act and the Salaries Act and to make consequential amendments to other Acts RA
- C-33 Budget Implementation Act, 2004, No. 2 RA
- C-43 Budget Implementation Act, 2005 RA
- C-45 Canadian Forces Members and Veterans Re-establishment and Compensation Act * RA

“ Sir John A. Macdonald's famous phrase about “sober second thought” in the Confederation does not do full justice to the Upper House, because, as the Saskatchewan political scientist David E. Smith has written, “much of the best work the Senate provides takes the form of thinking in the first instance” – work that the Cabinet, the PMO and the Commons rushed through, or haven't got to. ”

National Post – Gerald Owen



How bills become laws

Although senators and members of the House of Commons must introduce their own bills in their respective houses of Parliament, the government can introduce legislation in either house. The process is then repeated in the “other place” to ensure thorough consideration. Every bill goes through the following steps:

- > The bill is introduced in the chamber – this is known as “first reading.”
- > Members debate the principle of the bill in the chamber – this is “second reading.”
- > When members agree that the principle of the bill is sound, they refer it to one of their committees with expertise on the subject.
- > The committee calls federal ministers, government officials, experts and stakeholders to give testimony on the bill. It delivers its findings to the chamber in a report.
- > The committee’s report on the bill is debated in the chamber (“report stage”). It is usually adopted, and the committee’s recommended changes to the bill, if any, are made.
- > The bill goes through the last stage, third reading, for final debate, and then members vote to pass or defeat it.
- > If the bill and its changes have passed in both houses of Parliament, it is given Royal Assent and made law.

- C-48 An Act to authorize the Minister of Finance to make certain payments * RA
- C-55 Wage Earner Protection Program Act * RA
- C-57 An Act to amend certain Acts in relation to financial institutions * RA
- C-58 Appropriation Act No. 2, 2005–2006 * RA

Foreign affairs and human rights

- S-37 An Act to amend the Criminal Code and the Cultural Property Export and Import Act * RA
- C-25 Remote Sensing Space Systems Act RA

Legal and constitutional matters

- S-39 An Act to amend the National Defence Act, the Criminal Code, the Sex Offender Information Registration Act and the Criminal Records Act *
- C-2 An Act to amend the Criminal Code (protection of children and other vulnerable persons) and the Canada Evidence Act RA
- C-10 An Act to amend the Criminal Code (mental disorder) and to make consequential amendments to other Acts RA
- C-13 An Act to amend the Criminal Code, the DNA Identification Act and the National Defence Act RA
- C-38 Civil Marriage Act RA

- C-49 An Act to amend the Criminal Code (trafficking in persons) * RA
- C-53 An Act to amend the Criminal Code (proceeds of crime) and the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act and to make consequential amendments to another Act * RA

Social issues

- S-18 An Act to amend the Statistics Act RA
- S-40 An Act to amend the Hazardous Materials Information Review Act *
- C-12 Quarantine Act RA
- C-22 Department of Social Development Act RA
- C-23 Human Resources and Skills Development Act RA
- C-28 An Act to amend the Food and Drugs Act RA

Transport

- S-31 Highway 30 Completion Bridges Act * RA
- S-33 An Act to amend the Aeronautics Act and to make consequential amendments to other Acts *
- C-3 An Act to amend the Canada Shipping Act, 2001, the Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act and the Oceans Act RA

Government bills: Amendments and observations

In reviewing legislation, it's the Senate's job to pry open bills and have a good look at what's inside, seeking out weaknesses in policy, wording or measures. Much of this work falls to Senate committees, which are tasked with studying bills after the first round of debate in the chamber. After carefully considering a bill, committees will usually recommend that the Senate pass or amend it. They sometimes also attach observations about the scope or formulation of the bill to their report.

In 2005–06, the Senate amended four government bills and made observations on ten.

Amendments made by the Senate

C-12 (Quarantine Act)

The bill

- › This bill was the government's response to a World Health Organization request that countries strengthen efforts to address the SARS outbreak.

The amendments

- › The Senate adopted two amendments to give Parliament greater oversight on the regulations made by Cabinet under the bill. The amendments require that proposed regulations be submitted to the relevant Senate and House of Commons committees for scrutiny.

C-29 (Patent Act amendment)

The bill

- › Bill C-29 proposed two amendments to the *Patent Act*. The first aimed to give relief to patent holders who owe the government a balance on certain fees. The second amendment added Senate input in choosing members for the expert advisory committee that recommends what generic pharmaceuticals should be eligible for export despite usual patent restrictions.

The amendments

- › The Senate made two technical amendments to this bill to fix drafting mistakes. It added four schedules to the *Patent Act*, as originally intended by Bill C-9 (37th Parliament, 3rd session), which had previously amended the *Patent Act*. The second amendment ensured that all the relevant new clauses would come into force at the same time to avoid confusion.

// It's at times like these that municipal politicians could use a chamber of sober second thought, just like the Senate provides MPs in Ottawa. //

The Kingston Whig-Standard – Paul Schliesmann



Introducing bills

When they are introduced in the Senate, both government and private senators' bills are numbered from S-2 upward.¹ (By convention, Bill S-1 is always an empty *pro forma* bill introduced at the beginning of each parliamentary session.) The only difference between bills introduced in the Senate and those introduced in the House of Commons is that Senate bills cannot impose taxes or spend public funds.

Government bills that appear in the Senate first will usually be introduced by the Leader of the Government in the Senate or another Cabinet minister. Other government senators with expertise in particular subjects will usually sponsor bills on those issues arriving from the House of Commons. Senators may introduce their own legislation at any time during a parliamentary session. On average, senators will deal with 46 government bills and 26 private senators' bills per session.

¹ An amendment to the Senate's rules toward the end of the 38th Parliament changes this numbering system. As of the opening of the 39th Parliament on April 4, 2006, senators' bills are numbered beginning with S-201, paralleling the numbering system in the House of Commons. Government bills still begin at S-2.

C-37 (Telemarketing do-not-call registry)

The bill

- › This bill amended the Telecommunications Act to empower the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) to establish a telemarketing do-not-call registry.

The amendments

- › The Senate made two amendments to this bill. The first gave Parliament greater scrutiny on the do-not-call registry's operations by requiring that its reports under the bill be tabled in both the Senate and House of Commons.

The second amendment was a direct response to witness testimony before the Senate's Transport and Communications Committee. Witnesses worried that the mandatory penalties for non-compliance were high enough to bankrupt a small business before it was even aware that it had been breaking the law. On its committee's recommendation, the Senate amended the bill to give the CRTC flexibility in the fines it imposes under the bill.

S-38 (Spirits drinks)

The bill

- › This bill created a legal framework to comply with Canada's international commitments on the use of names for spirits drinks of other countries. It set out conditions under which certain spirits drinks names like "Scotch" and "Ouzo" can be used.

The amendments

- › The first two amendments recommended by the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry allowed producers in other countries to use a protected Canadian spirits drinks name if they blend the drink according to Canadian law. A third amendment changes the wording of the bill to tighten the restrictions on the use of spirits drinks names.

Observations made by the Senate

C-2 (Criminal Code amendment – protection of children)

The bill

- › Bill C-2 aimed to increase the protection of children through several measures, including expanding the definition of “sexual exploitation,” increasing maximum penalties for offences and imposing minimum sentencing, broadening the definition of “child pornography” and creating new categories of offence for indecent exposure to children.

The observations

- › The Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs was very concerned that the stripping away of legal defences against charges of pornography was too broad, especially where the defence of “artistic merit” is concerned. It also observed that imposing minimum sentencing takes away the courts’ ability to impose treatment programs on offenders in exchange for lighter sentences. The Committee also noted with concern the lack of research in the area of sexual exploitation.

C-3 (Coast Guard policy changes)

The bill

- › Bill C-3 amended four acts to shift responsibility for certain parts of Coast Guard policy and operations from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to the Department of Transport.

The observations

- › The Senate Committee on Transport and Communications’ observations centred on marine navigation services fees (MNSFs). The Committee felt the Department of Fisheries and Oceans’ power to set these fees should be subject to checks and balances to protect various interests. The Committee also supported a fairer application of the MNSFs, giving consideration to the fact that the costs associated with shipping vary in different parts of the Arctic.

C-10 (Criminal Code amendment – mentally-disordered accused)

The bill

- › Bill C-10 made changes to the process that governs the detention, supervision and release of mentally-disordered persons accused of a crime under the Criminal Code.

The observations

- › The Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee raised witnesses’ concerns about the appropriateness of letting people other than medical practitioners assess the mental condition of an accused. It also raised concerns about administrative protocols for procedures under the bill. It suggested that the effectiveness of these protocols, such as the transfer of physical evidence, be evaluated regularly.



C-15 (Pollution dumping at sea)

The bill

- › Bill C-15 contained measures to prevent the dumping of pollutants at sea to help protect migratory birds. It clarified the prohibitions against dumping to help ensure that offenders in the Canadian jurisdiction will be caught and prosecuted.

The observations

- › The Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources insisted that it was pointless to increase the government's ability to better prosecute polluters without providing more money to enforce the law and catch offenders.

The Committee was also concerned that some aspects of the bill could be unconstitutional, or breach some of Canada's international commitments on marine policy. The Committee indicated that it would call the Minister in the next session to give testimony, allowing it to monitor the effects of the bill when it is implemented and evaluate whether such breaches are in fact taking place.

C-25 (Private satellites)

The bill

- › Bill C-25 brought Canada up to date with its commitments, under a 2000 agreement with the United States, to regulate the ways privately-owned remote-sensing satellites can be used.

The observations

- › The Senate Foreign Affairs Committee's observation simply stated that government officials told the Committee that a particular clause in the bill was not intended to second the use of a private sector satellite without compensation.

C-26 (Canada Border Services Agency)

The bill

- › Following a December 2003 government policy decision, Bill C-26 formally established the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA).

The observations

- › The Committee on National Security and Defence challenged a clause in the bill dealing with annual reporting. The Committee's June 2005 report *Borderline Insecure* had recommended that the CBSA increase the data being reported to Parliament annually. The Committee questioned whether a Treasury-Board-mandated report, as required by the bill, would include enough data on certain important issues.



C-48 (Second budget bill)

The bill

- › Bill C-48, the government's second budget bill, reflected negotiations between the New Democratic Party (NDP) and the Prime Minister, outlining spending in accordance with the NDP's requests.

The observations

- › The Committee on National Finance appended several observations to its report on the bill reflecting its lack of unanimity. Some members strongly opposed C-48 as they felt it did not provide enough transparency and accountability for a budget bill.

C-54 (First Nations oil and gas management)

The bill

- › Bill C-54 allows First Nations who opt into its process to take jurisdiction of oil and gas found on their lands, as well as the revenue from these resources. It also allows them to take control of band monies, including those held in trust by the Crown.

The observations

- › In its report, the Aboriginal Peoples Committee underlined concern about the non-derogation clause, a statement included in bills to emphasize that the government does not intend the bill to infringe the constitutional rights of First Nations. Recent changes in the wording of the clause have worried some Aboriginal groups, who feel that the new wording may, in fact, *open* the way to infringement. The Committee observed that this uncertainty is unacceptable and strongly suggested that the legal implications of the wording changes should be studied as soon as possible.¹

C-55 (Wage Earner Protection Program Act)

The bill

- › In June 2005, the government tabled its Wage Earner Protection Program Act to create the framework for this new program and update bankruptcy law.

The observations

- › The observations attached to the Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce's report expressed its disappointment in being given a single day to study this bill.² It set out its reasons for passing the bill despite this concern: that it supports the principle of the bill, and that the Minister of Labour and Housing guaranteed the bill's coming into force would be delayed while the changes it makes are more carefully studied. The Committee's report identified many provisions that it believed fell short of its expectations and particularly needed further study.

¹ The Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee did in fact undertake to study non-derogation clauses (see Chapter 3), but did not finish their examination before the end of the 38th Parliament.

² The Committee received the bill on November 23, 2005, and reported it the next day. The government was fast-tracking the legislation because of the impending dissolution of Parliament, which occurred on November 29.

Private senators' and members' bills

Senators' bills tend to deal with particular situations that need to be improved, or issues that touch a community or minority whose voice is hard to hear in the clamour of democracy. Many senators' bills are the expression of deep philosophical or political beliefs on how to make things better for our society. In 2005–06, the Senate examined, among others, senators' bills on:

- › creating a national strategy for ending cancer
- › broadening the reach of the Canadian Human Rights Act
- › getting tough on drunk drivers
- › eliminating unwanted mass e-mail marketing, or “spam”
- › banning corporal punishment of children
- › guaranteeing clean drinking water in Canadian communities

The Senate considered 34 senators' bills in fiscal year 2005–06, 12 of which were introduced after April 1, 2005. It also examined two private members' bills from the House of Commons.

Private senators' and members' bills the Senate considered April 1, 2005 – March 31, 2006, by subject

* Denotes bills introduced in fiscal year 2005–06

RA Denotes bills that received Royal Assent in fiscal year 2005–06

Aboriginal affairs

- S-16 An Act providing for the Crown's recognition of self-governing First Nations of Canada
Gerry St. Germain, P.C.
(British Columbia)

Agriculture

- S-42 An Act to amend the Food and Drugs Act (clean drinking water) *
Jerahmiel S. Grafstein (Ontario)

Communications

- S-15 Spam Control Act
Donald H. Oliver (Nova Scotia)

Environment and natural resources

- S-12 Personal Watercraft Act
Mira Spivak (Manitoba)

Finance, trade and commerce

- S-19 An Act to amend the Criminal Code of Canada (criminal interest rate)
Madeleine Plamondon (Quebec)
- S-25 An Act to amend the Act of incorporation of The General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada RA
William Rompkey, P.C.
(Newfoundland and Labrador)

- S-28 An Act to amend the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act (student loan)
Wilfred P. Moore (Nova Scotia)
- S-30 An Act to amend the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act (RRSP and RESP) *
Michel Biron (Quebec)
- C-259 An Act to amend the Excise Tax Act (elimination of excise tax RA on jewellery)
John Duncan (Vancouver Island North, British Columbia)

Foreign affairs and human rights

- S-41 An Act to amend the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Act (human rights reports) *
Noël A. Kinsella (New Brunswick)
- S-45 An Act to amend the Canadian Human Rights Act *
Noël A. Kinsella (New Brunswick)
- C-331 Ukrainian Canadian Restitution Act RA
Inky Mark (Dauphin-Swan River, Manitoba)

Legal and constitutional matters

- S-2 An Act to amend the Citizenship Act ^{RA}
Noël A. Kinsella (New Brunswick)
- S-5 An Act to repeal legislation that has not come into force within 10 years of receiving royal assent
Tommy Banks (Alberta)
- S-8 An Act to amend the Judges Act
Anne C. Cools (Ontario)
- S-11 An Act to amend the Criminal Code (lottery schemes)
Jean Lapointe (Quebec)
- S-13 An Act to amend the Constitution Act, 1867 and the Parliament of Canada Act (Speakership of the Senate)
Donald H. Oliver (Nova Scotia)
- S-20 Federal Nominations Act
Terry Stratton (Manitoba)
- S-21 An Act to amend the Criminal Code (protection of children)
Céline Hervieux-Payette, P.C. (Quebec)
- S-22 An Act to amend the Canada Elections Act (mandatory voting)
Mac Harb (Ontario)
- S-24 An Act to amend the Criminal Code (cruelty to animals)
John G. Bryden (New Brunswick)

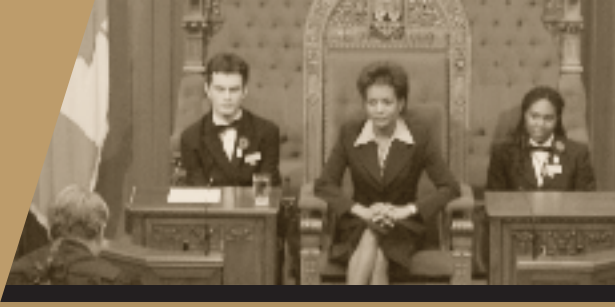
- S-27 Scouts Canada Act
Consiglio Di Nino (Ontario)
- S-32 An Act to amend the Marriage (Prohibited Degrees) Act and the Interpretation Act in order to affirm the meaning of marriage *
Anne C. Cools (Ontario)
- S-34 An Act to amend the Department of Justice Act and the Supreme Court Act to remove certain doubts with respect to the constitutional role of the Attorney General of Canada and to clarify the constitutional relationship between the Attorney General of Canada and Parliament *
Anne C. Cools (Ontario)
- S-35 An Act to amend the State Immunity Act and the Criminal Code (terrorist activity) *
David Tkachuk (Saskatchewan)
- S-43 An Act to amend the Criminal Code (suicide bombings) *
Jerahmiel S. Grafstein (Ontario)
- S-47 An Act to amend the Criminal Code (impaired driving) and other Acts *
Marjory LeBreton, P.C. (Ontario)

Social issues

- S-3 An Act to amend the Official Languages Act (promotion of English and French) ^{RA}
Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ontario)
- S-9 An Act to amend the Copyright Act
Joseph A. Day (New Brunswick)
- S-14 Heritage Lighthouse Protection Act
J. Michael Forrestall (Nova Scotia)
- S-23 An Act to amend the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act (modernization of employment and labour relations)
Pierre Claude Nolin (Quebec)
- S-26 National Cancer Strategy Act
J. Michael Forrestall (Nova Scotia)
- S-29 National Blood Donor Week Act *
Terry M. Mercer (Nova Scotia)
- S-44 An Act to amend the Public Service Employment Act *
Pierrette Ringuette (New Brunswick)
- S-46 National Philanthropy Day Act *
Jerahmiel S. Grafstein (Ontario)

Transport

- S-6 An Act to amend the Canada Transportation Act (running rights for carriage of grain)
Tommy Banks (Alberta)



Types of bills

> Government bills

Bills introduced by the government, either in the Senate or the House of Commons. *E.g. Bill C-12: The Quarantine Act*

> Private senators' public bills

Bills introduced by individual senators, dealing with matters of public policy. *E.g. Senator Terry Mercer's Bill S-29: National Blood Donor Week Act*

> Private senators' private bills

Bills introduced by individual senators, dealing with an individual or group of individuals. *E.g. Senator William Rompkey's Bill S-25: An Act to amend the Act of incorporation of The General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada*

> Private members' public bills

Bills introduced by individual members of the House of Commons, dealing with matters of public policy. *E.g. Inky Mark's Bill C-331: Ukrainian Canadian Restitution Act*

Private senators' and members' bills: Amendments and observations

Senators introduce bills on the matters important to them; the Senate helps improve them by extensive study in committee and through debate in the chamber. It's a slower process than with government bills – a process of thoughtful, periodic consideration, often over several months, without the urgency of a government agenda. In 2005–06, the Senate amended two such bills and made observations on a third.



> Senator Marjory LeBreton is National Chair of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Canada's board of directors. She has been involved with MADD since 1997. In November 2005, she tabled a bill proposing amendments to the Criminal Code to strengthen measures against drunk driving in Canada.

Bill S-11

(Video lottery terminals)

> Jean Lapointe (Quebec)

The bill

> This bill proposed to ban video lottery terminals (VLTs) from public places other than casinos, racetracks and betting theatres in Canada.

The amendments and observations

> The Senate made two amendments to this bill on the recommendation of its committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs. The first strengthened the provision to restrict VLTs to licensed betting theatres. The second created a longer phase-in period for the enforcement of the Act, so that provinces would have time to adjust to the new restrictions.

The Committee also made lengthy observations on this bill. The observations detail the social impact of these machines, the economic impact of restricting them, the opinions given by witnesses and other factors they used to assess the principle and the measures of the bill.

S-19 (Criminal interest rate)

- › Madeleine Plamondon (Quebec)

The bill

- › Senator Plamondon's bill proposed to considerably lower the Criminal Code's legal interest rate. If passed, it would also have folded loan insurance coverage (which the lender charges the borrower on top of the loan) into the calculation of the legal interest rate. This would have the effect of further lowering the criminal interest rate threshold.

The amendments

- › The Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce made one amendment: it excluded transactions where the credit advanced is over \$100,000 from the application of the proposed new criminal interest rate. The Committee felt this would protect the smaller consumers while allowing large, high-risk transactions to continue unhampered.

S-25 (General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada)

- › William Rompkey, P.C.
(Newfoundland and Labrador)

The bill

- › This amendment to the 1921 Act that incorporated the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada updated the rules governing the Synod's ability to invest its funds. Senator Rompkey introduced the bill at the Synod's request.

The observations

- › While it passed this bill without amendment, the Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce cautioned the Synod to be prudent in its investment of collective funds.

Profile: Six senators' bills

The following are profiles of senators' bills considered in fiscal year 2005–06. Many of these bills dealt with issues affecting small, disenfranchised groups; all confronted issues close to their sponsor's heart and mind. They represent the wide diversity of backgrounds, interests and approaches senators have in improving Canadian society through legislation.



S-6 An Act to amend the Canada Transportation Act (running rights for carriage of grain)

- › Tommy Banks (Alberta)

The senator

- › Edmonton's Senator Tommy Banks is a well-known jazz musician, band leader, conductor, composer, broadcaster and actor. He acts as guest conductor for pops orchestras throughout Canada. He was music director for the opening ceremonies of the 1978 Commonwealth Games, for Expo 86 and for the Calgary Winter Olympics in 1988. He is also widely recognized as a performer, particularly on the piano, and as leader of the Tommy Banks Big Band and other ensembles.

Senator Banks is best known in the Senate for his tireless work on the Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources, of which he has been the chair since 2002. His bill S-6 focuses on a different area: benefiting grain farmers and small transport businesses by improving the cost and efficiency of shipping grain in Canada.

The bill

- › The transportation of grain has a big impact on the returns a farmer sees on his or her investment of time, work and money. Rail, one of the main modes of grain transportation, is currently subject to a monopoly, leaving farmers at the mercy of the rail line when it comes to shipping fees for their grain.

Senator Banks introduced Bill S-6 to open Class I rail transportation of grain to competition. The bill would allow the Minister of Transport to give competitors access to the rail infrastructure, allowing them to move grain. According to Senator Banks, the introduction of competition should improve efficiency in the system overall, as it has in other sectors in Canada such as telecommunications. It should also reduce the cost of shipping grain, easing this burden on farmers.



S-9

An Act to Amend the Copyright Act

- › Joseph A. Day (New Brunswick)

The senator

- › New Brunswick Senator Joseph Day was a practicing lawyer before his summons to the Senate in 2001. Since completing law degrees at Queen's University and Osgoode Hall, he has been called to the bar of Quebec, New Brunswick and Ontario.

In his work as a lawyer, Senator Day focused on intellectual property issues. He was certified as a specialist in intellectual property matters by the Law Society of Upper Canada, and is a fellow of the Intellectual Property Institute of Canada. His work in this area led him to believe that photographers, as a class of artists, are unfairly treated by the Copyright Act.

The bill

- › According to an exception in the Copyright Act, professional photographers don't hold copyright on much of their own work; instead, it's owned by the person who commissioned the photographs. This exemption in copyright law dates from the early 20th century, when photography was considered a mere mechanical process. Recognizing photography as an art as well as a science, most countries removed this exception from their copyright law decades ago. Canada lags behind.

According to Senator Day, the exception to copyright law means that photographers lose the financial benefits from their work after the initial contract. It also means that someone else holds the "moral rights" to their work - the ability to control where and how it is used. If passed, Bill S-9 would have amended the Copyright Act to take away this exception, giving photographers the same rights as any other artist.



S-12 Personal Watercraft Act

- › Mira Spivak (Manitoba)

The senator

- › Manitoba senator Mira Spivak sits as an Independent. Before being called to the Senate in 1986, she worked in the field of social policy, which was also the focus of her early work in the chamber. She became convinced of the need for strong measures to protect the environment in the late 1980s and has since been one of the country's most vocal environmental advocates.

Senator Spivak's bill to allow municipalities to limit the use of Jet Skis, or personal watercrafts (PWCs), stemmed from a PWC accident she witnessed, in which a young man was killed. She was also concerned by the heavy pollution caused by two-stroke carbureted engines, which were initially used on the bulk of PWCs.

The bill

- › Although many people love the thrill of driving a Jet Ski, the tiny boats have long been recognized as potentially dangerous and a huge source of pollution. According to the Canadian Lifesaving Society, in 2003 they accounted for twice as many boating fatalities as powerboats. An hour of driving a 100-horsepower two-stroke PWC can contribute as much to air pollution as some cars contribute in a year.

If passed, Senator Spivak's bill would have allowed cottage and municipal associations to restrict or ban the use of personal watercraft in their areas of jurisdiction. S-12 would require that the association carry out consultations in its community to hear the concerns of the people around the affected waterways. The association would then submit its proposal for restrictions to the Minister of Transport for approval.



S-16

An Act providing for the Crown's recognition of self-governing First Nations of Canada

- › Gerry St. Germain, P.C.
(British Columbia)

The senator

- › Senator Gerry St. Germain is a Métis originally from Manitoba, where as a youth he ran the traplines with his father. He has had a long and varied career that includes stints as an RCAF pilot, a police officer, a livestock farmer and a building contractor. In 1983, he began a political career that saw him become the first Métis in federal cabinet. He has been a senator since 1993.

Senator St. Germain is a long-standing member of the Senate Aboriginal Peoples Committee. His background and his interest in the contrast between First Nations' rights to self-determination and the reality of life on Indian reserves led him to table Bill S-16.

The bill

- › Regarded by many Canadian Aboriginal people as paternalistic and oppressive, the Indian Act governs much of life on Indian reserves, regulating everything from marriage to the sale of goods and services on and off reserve. Broad attempts to eliminate or replace the Indian Act with a governance scheme more in line with First Nations' right to self-determination have not been successful to date.

Based on extensive consultation, Bill S-16 sets out a formula for First Nations to exit the Indian Act and become self-determining. Under the bill's formula, a First Nation that opts into the process would make a proposal for self-government, including a constitution that must meet minimum criteria. If the constitution is ratified by a majority vote of band members, the First Nation would automatically be granted status as a self-governing political entity by Canada.



S-30

An Act to amend the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act (RRSP and RESP)

- › Michel Biron (Quebec)

The senator

- › Senator Michel Biron represents the senatorial division of Mille Isles, Quebec. A businessman by profession, he quickly became involved in the field of telecommunications and, in 1967, he became president of the firm Sogetel. He has long been a vocal supporter of the cause of small telecommunications businesses and was named Man of the Year in Telephony in 1981.

Actively involved in stimulating the business community in his home town of Nicolet, Quebec, Senator Biron founded the Caisse d'entraide économique and was director of the Nicolet Chamber of Commerce (Quebec). Since his summons to the Senate in 2001, he has sat consistently on the National Finance and Banking, Trade and Commerce Committees.

The bill

- › Senator Biron became aware of the unequal treatment of people dealing with bankruptcy through a Senate Banking, Trade and Commerce Committee study in 2003. The Committee reported that, while Canadian law protects pension plans from being seized when an individual goes bankrupt, it does not protect registered retirement savings plans (RRSPs). This puts the self-employed, students and people working for small businesses, who are not likely to have access to a group pension plan, at a disadvantage.

Senator Biron's bill amends the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act to exempt RRSPs from seizure. In addition, the bill was to protect students' RESP should their benefactor (the person who set up the RESP) become bankrupt. These measures would contribute to important benefits for Canadian society: seniors' self-sufficiency after retirement and the ability of youth to obtain higher education.¹

¹ In June 2005, the government redressed the lack of protection for RRSPs by introducing Bill C-55, which created the sought-for exemption from seizure.

Bill S-35

An Act to amend the State Immunity Act and the Criminal Code (terrorist activity)

- › David Tkachuk (Saskatchewan)

The senator

- › Senator David Tkachuk began his career as a high school teacher before getting involved in politics. He is a businessman of Ukrainian descent from Saskatoon who has also worked and volunteered as a federal and provincial organizer in over 40 political campaigns. He was called to the Senate in 1993.

Senator Tkachuk's work in the Senate focuses on Canadians whose concerns often go unheard. With Bill S-35, he wanted to address how powerless most families feel when a loved one dies as a result of terrorism. Inspired by meetings with families in Israel and Canada who have lost members to terrorist acts, Senator Tkachuk introduced this bill to empower such families to fight back.

The bill

- › Hundreds of Canadians have been killed in recent years as a result of terrorism, most notably in the bombing of Air India flight 182 in 1985 and in the World Trade Center attack in 2001. Their families, however, have no recourse in law against the perpetrators of these attacks; there is no way to press civil suits against terrorists, and states that sponsor terrorism can invoke the State Immunity Act for protection.

Bill S-35 amends the Criminal Code and the State Immunity Act to allow victims of terrorism, including their affected families, to sue both the terrorists responsible and any state that sponsored the attack. These measures would provide citizens with a legal weapon in their fight against terrorism. Senator Tkachuk also believes that adding another layer of accountability would give states pause before entering into arrangements with terrorist groups.

03.

Senators and their committees

2005–06 was a successful year for Senate committees.

Senate committees – study groups of five to fifteen senators – examine each year on average over 50 bills and undertake 30 or more special studies. And in that time they will hear from over 1,000 witnesses, hold an average of some 400 meetings and produce more than 100 reports. Little wonder that observers liken them to royal commissions that produce more, faster and at better value to the taxpayer. In 2005–06, they:

- › championed the creation of a Canadian Mental Health Commission
- › recommended – and got – increased assistance for Canadian farmers hard hit by BSE
- › identified measures for strengthening and modernizing Canada’s military and enhancing border security

- › examined measures to improve financial protection for consumers of financial services
- › sounded warnings about – and developed recommendations for – enhanced environmental protection of Canada’s water supply

Senate committees are also one of Parliament’s fine filters for legislation, straining out problematic wording and inappropriate measures. This fiscal year, they spent nearly 200 hours considering 51 bills, amending or making observations on roughly 30 per cent of them.

Standing committees are reconstituted at the beginning of each session of Parliament. These are the Senate’s committees and the work they did in fiscal year 2005–06.



Substantive standing committees



- › Aboriginal Peoples Committee chair Senator Nick Sibbeston (right) listens to Northern Native Fishing Corporation chair Harry Nyce after an official hearing in Prince George, British Columbia. (October 2005)

✦ Aboriginal Peoples

Chair: Nick G. Sibbeston (Northwest Territories)

Deputy Chair: Gerry St. Germain, P.C. (British Columbia)

Bills reported

C-54

C-56

Special studies

The involvement of Aboriginal communities and businesses in economic development activities in Canada

- › study ongoing at end of 38th Parliament

Impact

When the Committee on Aboriginal Peoples visited Vancouver, Kelowna, Prince George and the community of Tsuu T'ina, Alberta, in October 2005 as part of an ongoing study tour, Aboriginal leaders and business people from isolated villages in Alberta and the B.C. interior had, for the first time, the opportunity to speak to Canadian senators and give them their views on economic development in Aboriginal communities.

Though the Committee had not yet finished its study, its chair and deputy chair took the initiative of informing the Prime Minister of the advice and opinions native leaders had passed on to the Committee on economic development issues. This was in expectation of the Kelowna meeting in November 2005 with First Nations leaders and the First Ministers, where development was a key agenda item for discussion and action.

examining Aboriginal economic development



Committee membership

Committees are study groups of nine to fifteen senators. They are appointed by the Senate at the beginning of each session of Parliament on the recommendation of a selection committee usually chaired by the Government Whip. Most senators serve on two to four committees at a time.

The chair of a committee is elected by its members and is responsible for calling and presiding over meetings, maintaining order, overseeing the budget and is the spokesperson for the committee. The deputy chair helps in these functions and presides over meetings when the chair is absent.

✿ Agriculture and Forestry

Chair: Joyce Fairbairn, P.C. (Alberta)

Deputy Chair: Leonard J. Gustafson (Saskatchewan)

Bills reported

S-38 (amended)

C-40

Special studies

The present state and future of agriculture and forestry in Canada

› Interim report: *Slaughter Capacity in Canada*

Impact

Recognizing the need to solve the farm income crisis in Canada, this committee has produced a series of reports since 2004 that provide cogent advice on the issue to the government. And the government listened. Less than a month after the Committee tabled its interim report, which recommended government assistance for the development of producer-owned beef processing facilities, Agriculture and Agri-food Canada (AAFC) announced an infusion of \$17.1 million to help expand Canada's slaughter capacity. This announcement was quickly followed by another announcement from AAFC – again consistent with the Committee's recommendations – of a further million dollars for a ruminant slaughter facility assessment assistance program. This program is designed to assist Canadian producers with the costs of feasibility studies, business plans, marketing plans or other start-up costs for federally inspected ruminant slaughter plants.

recognizing the need to solve the farm
income crisis in Canada

⦿ Banking, Trade and Commerce

Chair: Jerahmiel S. Grafstein (Ontario)

Deputy Chair: W. David Angus (Quebec)

Bills reported

| | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| S-19 (amended) | S-25 (observations) |
| C-29 (amended) | C-55 (observations) |
| C-259 | |

Special studies

The present state of the domestic and international financial system

› study ongoing at end of 38th Parliament

Consumer issues arising in the financial services sector

› study ongoing at end of 38th Parliament

Issues dealing with the demographic change that will occur in Canada within the next two decades

› study ongoing at end of 38th Parliament

Issues dealing with interprovincial barriers to trade

› study ongoing at end of 38th Parliament

Current rates of productivity in Canada, whether they are limiting the well-being of Canadians

› Final Report: *Falling Behind: Answering the Wake-up Call: What Can Be Done to Improve Canada's Productivity Performance?*

Review of the Proceeds of Crime (Money Laundering) and Terrorist Financing Act (S.C. 2000, c. 17)

› study ongoing at end of 38th Parliament

Impact

Since the 1980s, the Banking, Trade and Commerce Committee has been involved in examining the roles and activities of Canada's financial institutions. Its reports have focused on increasing consumer protection, competing in a global economy and allowing chartered banks to broaden their activities. This work led to changes in legislation and regulations in 1992 that considerably enhanced the level of consumer protection.

Today, the Committee continues to follow the impact of these changes and investigate emerging problems. In its June 2005 report *Falling Behind*, the Committee made it clear that the federal government must amend the country's corporate and personal tax regimes to reflect today's global competitive imperatives. It also advocated the creation of a Forum on Productivity to monitor the effectiveness of government initiatives to enhance productivity. Not surprisingly, the issue of productivity was front and centre in the government's fall 2005 economic statement.

⌘ Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources

Chair: Tommy Banks (Alberta)

Deputy Chair: Ethel M. Cochrane (Newfoundland and Labrador)

Bills reported

| | |
|------|------|
| S-12 | S-36 |
| C-15 | C-66 |

Special studies

Emerging issues related to the Committee's mandate

- › Interim report: *Sustainable Development: It's Time to Walk the Talk*
- › Interim report: *Fact-Finding Mission to Paris and Vienna*
- › Interim report: *Water in the West: Under Pressure*

Impact

The state of the environment has been an ongoing concern of this committee. On behalf of Canadians, it has been examining, in depth, a number of outstanding environmental issues.

Its reports in 2005–2006 were no exception. Tabled in June 2005, *Sustainable Development: It's Time to Walk the Talk* took a hard look at government promises and obligations on changing the way we develop our natural resources. Analyzing reports of the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development and witness testimony, the Committee concluded that Canada can be doing much more to ensure that our natural resources will be there for future generations. It recommended, among other things, that the government strike a permanent Cabinet committee on sustainable development to keep the issue on the political front burner.

The Committee also conducted lengthy study and analysis of the effects of climate change on the water supply in Canada. In the resulting report, *Water in the West*, it identified an urgent need for action on a national water management strategy, especially in the dry Western provinces. "The cost of *not* responding to emerging water challenges," it wrote, "would likely dwarf the cost of addressing them, and failure to respond will jeopardize life as we know it."



❖ Fisheries and Oceans

Chair: Gerald J. Comeau (Nova Scotia)

Deputy Chair: Elizabeth Hubley (Prince Edward Island)

Special studies

Department of Fisheries and Oceans' changing fisheries management policy

› Interim report: *Canada's New and Evolving Policy Framework for Managing Fisheries and Oceans*

Impact

Maritime communities on both the East and West coasts of Canada learned in May 2005 that they have staunch allies in the Senate in their ongoing fight to retain and enhance the regional benefits of the fishing industry in Canada. In its interim report, the Committee established that the current federal policy framework for fisheries does not take into account the need to protect and promote the economic well-being of rural and Aboriginal communities on Canada's maritime coasts, and that it needs to be reworked.

As part of its mandate to examine the federal government's evolving policy framework, the Committee visited communities on the West coast in October 2005, and East coast hearings were planned for the coming year. Its interim report drew particular attention to the socio-economic downsides of quota systems that concentrate corporate control of fishing fleets while limiting the ability of local communities to protect and develop their local fisheries.

enhancing regional benefits
from the Canadian fishing industry

› Chief Councillor Keith Atleo welcomes Fisheries Committee members Elizabeth Hubley, Frank Mahovich (left) and James Cowan to the community of Ahousaht, a small fishing reserve on coastal Vancouver Island. In their time in Ahousaht, the Committee heard that shrinking fishing quotas and an expanding population are stretching the community's ability to survive. (November 2005)



Foreign Affairs

Chair: Peter A. Stollery (Ontario)

Deputy Chair: Consiglio Di Nino (Ontario)

Bills reported

S-37

C-25 (observations)

Special studies

The documents Overview, Diplomacy, Development and Commerce of Canada's International Policy Statement

› study ongoing at end of 38th Parliament

The development and security challenges facing Africa; the response of the international community to enhance that continent's development and political stability; Canadian foreign policy as it relates to Africa

› study ongoing at end of 38th Parliament

The Performance Reports for the period ending March 31, 2004 of (a) Foreign Affairs Canada, (b) International Trade Canada and (c) Canadian International Development Agency, tabled in the Senate on October 28, 2004

› study ongoing at end of 38th Parliament

Issues that may arise from time to time relating to foreign relations generally

› study ongoing at end of 38th Parliament

Impact

Africa is a continent rich in potential and poor in actuality; 36 of the world's 49 least-developed countries are located there. Worldwide efforts to help Africans lift themselves out of poverty appear to be having little effect.

Although it has yet to table its final report, the Foreign Affairs Committee devoted the lion's share of its time this year to studying this complex situation and finding ways for Canada's foreign policy to help improve it. Travelling to four African countries – Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria and Mali – the Committee met with prime ministers, senators, farmers and health care providers and visited agricultural regions, medical facilities and factories. In New York and Washington, the Committee met with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the United Nations to complete its research.

studying the complex situation in Africa



- › Members of the Foreign Affairs Committee traveled to four African countries in fall 2005 to learn more about Africa and the challenges its people face. Here, senators (accompanied by Canadian ambassador to Mali, Isabelle Roy, right) learn about farming practices in Fana, Mali. (October 2005)



❖ Human Rights

Chair: A. Raynell Andreychuk (Saskatchewan)

Deputy Chairs: Landon Pearson (Ontario) (April 1 – November 17, 2005)

Sharon Carstairs, P.C. (Manitoba) (November 21 – 29, 2005)

Special studies

Legal issues surrounding the division of matrimonial real property on reserve

› Interim report: *On-Reserve Matrimonial Real Property: Still Waiting*

Issues relating to human rights and, among other things, a review of the machinery of government dealing with Canada's international and national human rights obligations

› Interim report: *Canadian Adherence to the American Convention on Human Rights: It is Time to Proceed*

Canada's international obligations respecting the rights and freedoms of children

› Interim report: *Who's in Charge Here? Effective Implementation of Canada's International Obligations with Respect to the Rights of Children*

Impact

When the Human Rights Committee tabled its interim report *Who's in Charge Here? Effective Implementation of Canada's International Obligations with Respect to the Rights of Children* in November 2005, Canadians took notice of the Senate's record as a vocal advocate for children. The Committee issued a strong warning to the federal government: Canada is not doing enough to comply with its international and moral obligations to protect children's rights. The Committee's recommendations would have the government legally bind itself to fulfilling its international human rights commitments. And it strongly recommended establishing an independent children's commissioner to hold the government to its obligations.

The report is a call to action: Canada must take steps to live up to its international reputation as a human rights leader. Children's advocates agreed. "... This month, the standing Senate committee on human rights criticized the absence of a federal monitoring body and recommended the establishment of a Children's Commissioner. Our agency and other advocates of children's rights support the establishment of ... an ombudsman for children [which] would provide accountability that we currently lack, and to which we have already committed ourselves." (Rita Karakas, Save the Children Canada, *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix*, November 21, 2005)

advocating for the rights
and freedoms of children



Types of committees

- > A **standing committee** is a group of senators that undertakes special studies and examines legislation that falls under its particular area of expertise. The committee is reconstituted at the beginning of each new session of Parliament.
- > The **Committee of the Whole** is a committee composed of all senators that takes place in the Senate chamber. This allows for less formal discussion of a complex or controversial issue.
- > A **special committee** is an ad hoc committee assigned by the Senate to conduct studies on areas of special interest. They are usually dissolved after issuing their final report.
- > A **joint committee** is comprised of senators and members of the House of Commons who examine issues of joint interest. There are standing (permanent) joint committees, and from time to time the two houses agree to establish a special joint committee to undertake a particular study.

Legal and Constitutional Affairs

Chair: Lise Bacon (Quebec)

Deputy Chair: John Trevor Eyton (Ontario)

Bills reported

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| S-11 (amended, observations) | C-2 (observations) |
| C-10 (observations) | C-13 |
| C-38 | C-49 |
| C-53 | |

Special studies

The implications of including, in legislation, non-derogation clauses relating to existing Aboriginal and treaty rights of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada

- > study ongoing at end of 38th Parliament

Petitions tabled in the 37th Parliament calling on the Senate to declare the City of Ottawa, Canada's capital, a bilingual city

- > study ongoing at end of 38th Parliament

The document entitled "Judicial Compensation and Benefits Commission Report for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2004"

- > study ongoing at end of 38th Parliament

The document entitled "Annual Report of the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada" (2004-05)

- > study ongoing at end of 38th Parliament

Impact

We all know the catchphrase: the Senate is the "chamber of sober second thought." But it is true that it's the Senate's primary purpose to guarantee that bills are considered carefully, deliberately and from a variety of perspectives.

The Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee is the Senate's legislative workhorse. Its main charge is to scrutinize, debate and refine legislation dealing with the Criminal Code, the Constitution and any other bill concerned largely with legal policy. In 2005-06, the Senate asked this committee to study eleven bills – where the average, per committee, was three. The varied backgrounds and expertise of the Committee's members make it the ideal site for raking through legal policy and legislation to make sure that the details, as well as the big picture, have been clearly thought out.

⚙️ National Finance

Chair: Donald H. Oliver (Nova Scotia)

Deputy Chair: Joseph A. Day (New Brunswick)

Bills reported

| | |
|------|---------------------|
| C-8 | C-9 |
| C-11 | C-30 |
| C-33 | C-43 |
| C-45 | C-48 (observations) |

Special studies

The Main Estimates 2005–06

- › Interim report: *Second Interim Report on the Main Estimates 2005–06: Foundations*
- › Interim report: *Third Interim Report on the Main Estimates 2005–06: Officers of Parliament*
- › Interim report: *Fourth Interim Report on the Main Estimates 2005–06*

The Supplementary Estimates (A) 2005–06

- › *Report on the Supplementary Estimates (A), 2005–06*

Impact

Government spending: much relies on it. Without it, the work of many programs, our courts, and even Parliament itself would grind to a halt. In short, our government cannot proceed without it. So a committee whose responsibility it is to examine this spending – how much is spent, on what, and how – has a serious responsibility to fulfill. The Senate Committee on National Finance analyzes the government’s spending proposals, or the “Estimates,” the reports of the Auditor General and any bill that bears on national borrowing or spending.

This committee reported eight bills in 2005–06. It gave its approval to whistleblower legislation, whose subject it had studied since the issue first came before it with Bill S-13 in 1999. And it gave two Budget bills its full attention, furthering and expanding the debate, particularly on the controversial second budget bill, C-48. In addition to this heavy legislative workload, the Committee managed to dig into the numbers of the Main and Supplementary Estimates, calling the President of the Treasury Board to account for government spending, and producing four reports.

furthering and expanding debate

∴ National Security and Defence

Chair: Colin Kenny (Ontario)

Deputy Chair: J. Michael Forrestall (Nova Scotia)*

Bills reported

C-26 (observations)

Special studies

National security policy for Canada

- › Interim report: *Borderline Insecure – Canada’s Land Border Crossings are Key to Canada’s Security and Prosperity: Why the Lack of Urgency to Fix Them? What Will Happen if We Don’t?*
- › Interim report: *Wounded – Canada’s Military and the Legacy of Neglect: Our Disappearing Options for Defending the Nation Abroad and at Home*

Impact

The National Security and Defence Committee, in its two 2005 reports on the state of Canada’s armed forces and the security of Canada/U.S. border crossings, drew a line in the sand and made it clear to the government that the defenders of Canadian security must be provided with the budgets and tools to protect Canadians.

In its interim report *Wounded*, the first of three anticipated reports, the Committee concluded that over the next two decades Canada’s armed forces will be more crucial to the well-being of Canadians than at any time since World War II. But, the Committee noted, the funding has not been there to end “Canada’s sad era of military darkness.”

The Committee’s views with regard to enhancing Canada’s security extend to our border services as well. In its report *Borderline Insecure*, the Committee called on the federal government to arm inspectors at Canada-U.S. border crossings if it could not establish a permanent police presence to provide security. The Committee also recommended that the government move away from its current priority of collecting duties and revenues at border crossings. In its view, forcing border officers to collect relatively minor revenues severely weakens their ability to stop unwanted persons or contraband from entering Canada.

* The Committee will deeply miss the insight of Senator Forrestall, who passed away on June 8, 2006.

calling on the federal government
to arm border inspectors



- › Committee members took time out from public hearings in Saint John, New Brunswick to conduct a fact-finding visit with the Saint John Fire Department’s Mobile Command Unit. Here, senators receive a briefing on emergency response readiness.



⌘ Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs

Chair: Michael A. Meighen (Ontario)

Deputy Chair: Joseph A. Day (New Brunswick)

Special studies

Study on the services and benefits provided to veterans in recognition of their services to Canada

- › study ongoing at end of 38th Parliament

Impact

In this session, the Senate asked the Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs to study the services and benefits provided to veterans in recognition of their services to Canada. In addition to holding regular hearings, the Subcommittee travelled to Prince Edward Island to hear from federal officials on the modernization of veterans' benefits. It also conducted a fact-finding mission to the Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre in Ottawa to see first-hand the quality of medical services veterans receive.

“One person worth listening to in Ottawa is Senator Colin Kenny. His Senate committee recently said it was time to pursue a new border crossing with “wartime urgency.” Kenny suggests expediting construction through legislation. As he pointed out, our border is vulnerable to a terrorist attack that could cripple the economy in an instant. ”

The Windsor Star – Editorial

Official Languages

Chair: Eymard G. Corbin (New Brunswick)

Deputy Chair: John M. Buchanan, P.C. (Nova Scotia)

Special studies

The Official Languages Act and the regulations and directives made under it, within those institutions subject to the Act

› Interim report: *French-language Education in a Minority Setting: A Continuum from Early Childhood to the Postsecondary Level*

The relocation of federal department head offices from bilingual to unilingual regions

› study ongoing at end of 38th Parliament

The Annual Report of the Commissioner of Official Languages 2003–04

› study ongoing at end of 38th Parliament

Impact

Section 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees us all the right to educate our children in our primary official language, no matter where we live in Canada. In June 2005, the Senate Committee on Official Languages tabled the culmination of its study on how well this guarantee is actually applied to minority Francophone communities. Its report *French-language Education in a Minority Setting: A Continuum from Early Childhood to the Postsecondary Level* made thoughtful commentary on the subject and incisive recommendations on improving the federal government's Action Plan for Official Languages. In particular, the Committee emphasized the huge challenges minority-language communities face in trying to maintain their cultural vitality. It concluded that, when these communities are enabled to control education from early childhood to the postsecondary level, Canada will be much closer to its ideal of true linguistic duality.

emphasizing the challenges
minority-language communities face



- › Members of the Official Languages Committee share a light moment with witnesses at a hearing in St-Joseph-du-Moine, Nova Scotia. The Committee spent four days in Nova Scotia examining the learning opportunities in small francophone communities, gathering information for their study on minority language education. (September 2005)



⌘ Social Affairs, Science and Technology

Chair: Michael Kirby (Nova Scotia)

Deputy Chair: Wilbert Joseph Keon (Ontario)

Bills reported

| | |
|------|----------------|
| S-40 | C-12 (amended) |
| C-22 | C-23 |
| C-28 | |

Special studies

The state of preparedness for a pandemic on the part of the Canadian government

› study ongoing at the end of 38th Parliament

Issues concerning mental health and mental illness

› Interim report: *A Proposal to Establish a Canadian Mental Health Commission*

Impact

Although the Social Affairs, Science and Technology Committee had yet to complete its work on mental health, the November 2005 release of its fourth interim report spurred the government to action. The report recommended creating an arm's-length Canadian Mental Health Commission to facilitate a coordinated, national approach to Canada's fragmentary mental health care system. Shortly after the report was released, the federal government stated its intent to create the suggested commission. And as the following press release excerpts indicate, the reaction of the mental health community in Canada was uniformly positive about the Committee's contribution.

November 24, 2005 – "The Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), the Ontario Federation of Community Mental Health and Addiction Programs (OFCMHAP) and the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) today applauded ... the proposal by Senator Kirby's Standing Committee to create a Mental Health Commission"

November 24, 2005 – "The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) applauds Senator Michael Kirby, the Senate Social Affairs, Science and Technology Committee and the Minister of Health for today's announcement regarding the creation of the Canadian Mental Health Care Commission."

⌘ Transport and Communications

Chair: Joan Fraser (Quebec)

Deputy Chair: David Tkachuk (Saskatchewan)

Bills reported

S-31

C-3 (observations)

C-37 (amended, observations)

Special studies

The current state of Canadian media industries; emerging trends and developments in these industries; the media's role, rights, and responsibilities in Canadian society; and current and appropriate future policies relating thereto

› study ongoing at end of 38th Parliament

Impact

In early 2003, the Transport and Communications Committee began an ambitious study of the state of the news media in Canada – a response to vocal public concerns about media concentration and convergence. The last national-scale examination of the news media was the Kent Commission in the early 1980s, so a fresh examination was long overdue. As it relayed in its 2004 interim report, the Committee learned that considerable and continuing changes in technology, ownership, media business models and news consumption patterns have created an entirely new – and highly unstable – media landscape.

In the course of their study, the Committee's members heard from over 300 witnesses. They travelled across the country and to Washington, D.C., to hear from academics, regulators, media owners, working journalists and ordinary people affected by the recent rapid changes in the media sector. And it appeared that the government was listening. In 2004, then Heritage Minister Liza Frulla told the House of Commons' Canadian Heritage Committee that the government was impatiently awaiting the Committee's findings. The tabling of this much-anticipated report, however, was interrupted by the dissolution of Parliament in late November 2005.



responding to public concerns
over media concentration

Special committees



- › Senator Joyce Fairbairn (right), chair of the Special Senate Committee on the Anti-terrorism Act, talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Anne McLellan after a hearing in which the Minister gave testimony before the Committee. (November 2005)

∴ Anti-terrorism Act

Chair: Joyce Fairbairn, P.C. (Alberta)

Deputy Chairs: John Lynch-Staunton (Quebec) (April 1 – June 19, 2005)

James F. Kelleher, P.C. (Ontario) (June 20 – October 2, 2005)

A. Raynell Andreychuk (Saskatchewan) (October 24 – November 29, 2005)

Special studies

A comprehensive review of the provisions and operations of the Anti-terrorism Act

- › Study ongoing at end of 38th Parliament

Impact

The Senate struck the Special Committee on Anti-Terrorism in 2004 to review the Anti-terrorism Act, which Parliament passed in 2001 in response to the September 11 attacks on the United States. Because the government felt, in 2001, that enacting the Anti-terrorism Act was urgent, it asked Parliament to expedite its study of the legislation. Parliament agreed to do so. However, senators and members of the House of Commons alike were concerned that the period of study was too short. As a result, the government agreed with the Senate's proposal to have the bill reviewed by Parliament three years from the date of the bill's coming into force. This committee is the Senate's response to that commitment.

The committee held 33 meetings with 105 witnesses and spent an additional 30 hours fact-finding in 2005–06. Witnesses included the Privacy Commissioner, the Commissioner of the RCMP, the Secretary General of Amnesty International, the Information Commissioner, the Director of CSIS and five members of cabinet: the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, the Minister of Transport, the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, the Minister of Justice and the President of the Treasury Board.



Internal standing committees

⌘ Conflict of Interest for Senators

Chair: Serge Joyal, P.C. (Quebec)

Deputy Chair: A. Raynell Andreychuk (Saskatchewan)

The newest of the Senate's committees, the Conflict of Interest for Senators Committee was struck in June 2005. Its job is to implement the *Conflict of Interest Code for Senators* and exercise general direction over the Senate Ethics Officer, both of which were established to enhance the Senate's transparency and accountability. Its unique member election process (most committee memberships are chosen by the Selection Committee) proceeds mainly by secret ballot. This gives individual senators greater say in choosing its members and ensures that those members have significant autonomy in carrying out their important task.

⌘ Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration

Chair: George J. Furey (Newfoundland and Labrador)

Deputy Chair: Pierre Claude Nolin (Quebec)

The Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration Committee governs the internal finances and administration of the Senate. It sets budgetary policy and approves expenses for Senate committees in their studies, special events and activities, and for the administrative branches of the Senate.

Improving security on Parliament Hill for members of Parliament, employees and visitors to the Hill; working out a long-term vision for the parliamentary precinct; the governance of accommodations and improved communications for the Senate – these are some of the issues this committee dealt with in its aim to constantly smooth and improve the Senate's governance.

Amendments and observations

Senate committees have four options when they report on their study of a bill.

1. Report the bill **without amendment**.

> Senators feel the bill is adequate as is.

2. Report the bill without amendment, but **with observations**.

> Committee members don't feel the bill has such serious problems that it needs to be amended, but they have concerns. They will attach these concerns to their report on the bill as "observations."

3. Recommend **amendments**.

> The bill has flaws that the committee members believe can be corrected by making changes to its text. The committee's report to the Senate recommending these changes will be debated in the Senate chamber.

4. **Reject** the bill outright.

> The committee members think the bill is so flawed it can't be fixed. Their report will recommend that the Senate defeat the bill altogether.

∴ Rules, Procedures and the Rights of Parliament

Chair: P. David Smith, P.C. (Ontario)

Deputy Chairs: John Lynch-Staunton (Quebec) (April 1 – June 19, 2005)

Janis G. Johnson (Manitoba) (June 20 – November 29, 2005)

The Rules, Procedures and Rights of Parliament Committee recommends ways to refine the Senate's rules and procedures, making the Senate a more efficient tool in the legislative process. It also studies issues dealing with parliamentary privilege. After tabling the *Conflict of Interest Code for Senators* (May 2005) – which the Committee had developed over the previous two years – Committee members studied six motions from senators on improving the rules and initiated a reprinting of the *Rules of the Senate* booklet.

Studies

Implementation of the Conflict of Interest Code for Senators

› *Conflict of Interest Code for Senators*

Requiring consent of committee members present to dispense with clause-by-clause consideration of a bill (motion by Senator Banks)

› Fourth report, recommending a change to the *Rules of the Senate* to require consent of all members present at the meeting before dispensing with clause-by-clause consideration of a bill

Changing the numbering system of bills in the Senate to make the bill's origin clear (motion by Senator Rompkey)

› Fifth report, recommending that the Senate number its bills in a way consistent with the House of Commons

Reprinting an updated version of the *Rules of the Senate* (on the initiative of the Committee)

› Sixth report, recommending a new edition of the *Rules of the Senate* be printed

Allowing senators to participate in committee meetings via telephone or video conference (motion by Senator Fraser)

› Seventh report, recommending that the rules preventing meetings from being held by telephone or video conference be maintained

Allowing bills to be reintroduced in a new session at the same stage they had reached before Parliament was prorogued (motion by Senator Hervieux-Payette)

› study ongoing at end of 38th Parliament

Requiring senators to take an oath of allegiance to Canada as well as to the Queen (motion by Senator Lavigne)

› study ongoing at end of 38th Parliament

Allowing the use of Inuktitut, as well as English and French, in parliamentary proceedings (motion by Senator Corbin)

› study ongoing at end of 38th Parliament

∴ Selection

Chair: Rose-Marie Losier-Cool (New Brunswick)

Deputy Chair: Marjory LeBreton, P.C. (Ontario)

The Senate Selection Committee is struck at the beginning of each parliamentary session to nominate members for Senate committees and to recommend a senator to preside as Speaker *pro tempore*.

Standing joint committees

∴ Library of Parliament

Joint Chair: Marilyn Trenholme Counsell (New Brunswick)

This committee oversees the workings of the Library of Parliament, which provides research and reference services and support to parliamentary committees, senators and members of the House of Commons. This fiscal year, the Committee approved the nomination of the new Parliamentary Librarian, Mr. William Young.

∴ Scrutiny of Regulations

Joint Chair: John G. Bryden (New Brunswick)

Under the Statutory Instruments Act, Parliament is charged with reviewing all federal regulations after they are made. This increases accountability by ensuring that representatives of Canadians have oversight on the regulations made by the government. Established in 1971, the Joint Committee on the Scrutiny of Regulations is the body that fulfills this mandate. In fiscal year 2005–06, the Committee presented a report to revoke subsection 36(2) of the Ontario Fishing Regulations, 1989, and studied the legality of hundreds more.

04.

Senators' activities



When the Fathers of Confederation worked out the requirements to be a senator, they included some criteria that, at first glance, seem elitist – that is, the prospective senator had to own land and have assets of over \$4,000, a large sum at the time.

What isn't widely known, however, is that they weren't motivated to make these criteria by the desire to reserve a chamber of Parliament for the rich. Instead, they felt the requirements would lead to appointing people already recognized as leaders in their society, bringing a measure of respect and authority to their new position that would help them get things done.

Although the requirements have been left untouched over the years to deepen the appointment pool – a prospective senator still only has to have assets of \$4,000 – a senator's status has not diminished. Yes, the Senate has been a target for criticism – its efforts tend to be more methodical, less politically-charged, less publicized. But a senator's status remains important to us as Canadians, and they can use it in far-reaching ways.

Outside their work on legislation and in committees, senators use their position to help further the aims of Canadians. In particular, they act as ambassadors for Canada, raising its international profile and fostering cooperation with other nations through their activities. Senators also use their status to champion causes they believe in. And they can do it over the long term, because they outlast political trends and hold their status for longer than the term of an election.

The Fathers of Confederation crafted the position of senator deliberately: they knew that a hard-working senator, with the legitimacy of Parliament and the respect of personal leadership, could do great things.

Ambassadors of Canada's Parliament

One of a senator's jobs is to represent Canada to the world: they are ambassadors for our country and our parliamentary system. In this role, they attend and speak at international conferences to address global problems; they take part in exchanges with other countries' legislators to share the best of how we govern ourselves; they represent Canada at international and multi-lateral meetings; they take part in diplomatic visits and trade missions to other nations; and they welcome diplomats and international high functionaries on official visits to Canada. For example, in 2005-06:

- › Senator Mobina Jaffer went to war-torn Darfur on a fact-finding mission as part of the Prime Minister's Special Advisory Team on Sudan (November 2005)
- › Senator Wilbert Keon, at the invitation of Bill Gates Sr., represented Canada at the Pacific Health Summit in Seattle, Washington (June 2005)
- › Senator Raynell Andreychuck organized the Second Sub-Regional Parliamentary Seminar on HIV/AIDS in South Asia, held in Dhaka, Bangladesh (January 2006)
- › Senator Grant Mitchell traveled to Hong Kong as a member of the parliamentary delegation to the World Trade Organization's Sixth Ministerial Conference. He gave opening remarks at a panel on youth and trade (December 2005)

- › Senators Nancy Ruth, Lillian Dyck, Lucie Pépin and Claudette Tardif welcomed international delegates from countries such as Afghanistan, Rwanda and South Africa to the 2006 Forum on Women's Activism in Constitutional and Democratic Reform, which they helped organize on Parliament Hill (February 2006)



- › Senator Consiglio Di Nino participates in the Canadian Forces parliamentary program "The Army in Action" in Kabul, Afghanistan. Senator Di Nino lived with the troops and experienced first-hand the world-class training they receive and the quality-of-life issues they face. (August 2005)



- › Senator Vivienne Poy represents the Minister of Veterans Affairs Canada at a ceremony in Hong Kong marking the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Canadian POWs from Japanese internment camps. She is pictured here with Gerry Campbell, Consul-General of Canada to Hong Kong (right) and Canadian veterans. (December 2005)

Parliamentary associations and interparliamentary groups

The formal way for senators to fulfill their international role is through parliamentary associations and interparliamentary groups. These organizations comprise Canadian senators, members of the House of Commons, members of legislatures in other countries, and sometimes members of provincial legislatures cooperating to find solutions to shared problems. At annual meetings, conferences and exchanges, they address urgent global concerns like HIV/AIDS, terrorism and greenhouse gas emissions, or find ways of improving trade or diplomatic relations.

Most senators sit on at least one parliamentary association or interparliamentary group. Parliamentary associations are bilateral or multilateral, are supported financially and administratively by Parliament and have elected executive committees. Interparliamentary groups are less formal and aim to strengthen links between parliamentarians in Canada and the partner country. In 2005–06, Canada had twelve associations and four interparliamentary groups.

› *Multilateral associations*

Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie • Canada-Africa Parliamentary Association • Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association • Canadian NATO Parliamentary Association • Commonwealth Parliamentary Association • Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas • Inter-Parliamentary Union

› *Bilateral associations*

Canada-China Legislative Association • Canada-France Inter-Parliamentary Association • Canada-Japan Inter-Parliamentary Group • Canada-United Kingdom Inter-Parliamentary Association • Canada-United States Inter-Parliamentary Group

› *Interparliamentary groups*

Canada-Germany • Canada-Israel • Canada-Italy • Canada-Ireland



- › Senator Rose-Marie Losier-Cool (centre) represents the Canadian Government on the Co-operation and Development Committee of the *Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie* (APF), the French-language equivalent of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. Surrounding Senator Losier-Cool are parliamentarians from other member countries of the APF at a meeting in Delémont, capital of the Swiss independent canton of Jura. (March 2006)

Profile: Canada-United States Inter-Parliamentary Group

Like all interparliamentary groups, Canada-United States brings together legislators from two countries to delve into the social and political problems they have in common. It illustrates the kind of work that our Parliament's active interparliamentary groups can accomplish.

Executive Committee (2005–06)

› Co-chair

Jerahmiel S. Grafstein (Ontario)

› Vice-chairs

W. David Angus (Quebec)

D. Ross Fitzpatrick (British Columbia)

Janis G. Johnson (Manitoba)

Frank W. Mahovlich (Ontario)

Wilfred P. Moore (Nova Scotia)

The Canada-United States Inter-Parliamentary Group was established in 1959 to bring legislators from our two countries together. Its members wrestle with trade and economic issues – softwood lumber, energy, trade agreements – matters of international relations – terrorism, defence, the rise of China as a world power – and trans-border issues – the Great Lakes, border security, gun smuggling.

- › Group Co-chairs Senator Jerahmiel Grafstein (second from right) and MP Greg Thompson (far left) attend the Group's 46th annual meeting with American Ambassador to Canada David Wilkins (second from left), then Canadian Ambassador to the U.S. Frank McKenna (centre) and Senator John Buchanan (far right).



At their 2005 annual meeting, delegates from the Canadian and American Senates, the House of Commons and the House of Representatives wrangled over solutions to joint problems. They broached trade negotiations, the international promotion of democracy, the situations in the Middle East and Kosovo, border security, drugs, trans-border garbage. By the end of the annual meeting, they had issued unanimous statements calling on their governments to reach a quick resolution to Canada-United States disputes over tariffs on softwood lumber imports from Canada, and to establish a proactive, joint strategy to develop North American energy sources.

Members of the Group spoke at or attended 16 events in the course of 2005–06. They included:

- › Canadian-American Border Trade Alliance Conference, Ottawa, Ontario, April 24–26, 2005
Eight parliamentarians attended; Canadian co-chairs Senator Jerahmiel Grafstein and Greg Thompson, MP, spoke at the conference

- › National Conference of State Legislatures, Seattle, Washington, August 16–20, 2005
Six parliamentarians attended
- › 46th Annual Meeting of the Canada-United States Inter-Parliamentary Group, St-Andrews-by-the-Sea, New Brunswick, September 30 – October 3, 2005
Twenty-three parliamentarians and sixteen congressmen attended
- › Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) Regional Economic Leadership Forum, Whistler, B.C., November 16–19, 2005
Co-chair Senator Jerahmiel Grafstein attended
- › National Governors Association Winter Meeting, Washington, D.C., February 25–28, 2006
Five parliamentarians attended

The Speaker of the Senate: Canadian diplomat

Beyond acting as moderator of the Senate chamber's activities, the Speaker of the Senate has a diplomatic role as Canada's fourth highest-ranking representative after the Governor General, the Prime Minister and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. This part of the Speaker's job involves hosting official visits by diplomats or heads of state and leading Canadian delegations – particularly with a parliamentary focus – visiting other nations.

Senator Dan Hays was Speaker of the Senate in fiscal year 2005–06 until February 9, 2006, when the Governor General appointed Senator Noël Kinsella on the recommendation of newly-elected Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

During his tenure in 2005–06, Speaker Hays carried out the following activities:

Official visits

Japan

May 19-24, 2005

- › Led a parliamentary delegation at the invitation of Chikage Oogi, President of House of Councillors; was granted an audience with their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko

Peoples' Republic of China

June 6-10, 2005

- › Led a parliamentary delegation at the invitation of Wu Bangqiao, Chair of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China

Republic of Poland

August 30 – September 1, 2005

- › On behalf of Canada, attended ceremonies commemorating the 25th anniversary of Poland's solidarity movement and participated in a roundtable discussion on Poland's future

United Nations, New York

September 5-9, 2005

- › Addressed the Second World Conference of Speakers on parliamentary cooperation

Republic of Ireland; Romania

October 9-15, 2005

- › Led a delegation from Parliament to meet with fellow parliamentarians in Ireland and Romania

Kingdom of the Netherlands; Switzerland

November 6-12, 2005

- › Led a delegation from Parliament to meet with fellow parliamentarians in the Netherlands and Switzerland

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting

November 23-27, 2005

- › At the request of the Prime Minister, traveled to Malta to represent Canada at the meeting

- › Speaker Noël Kinsella greets His Excellency Georgiy Mamedov, Ambassador of the Russian Federation. (February 2006)



Selected meetings

President Natsagiyn Bagabandi,
President, Mongolia

President George W. Bush, President,
United States of America

President Vicente Fox Quesada,
President, United Mexican States

President Amadou Toumani Touré,
President, Mali

His Excellency Sadaaki Numata,
Ambassador, Japan

His Excellency Alvaro M. Moerzinger Pagani,
Ambassador, Uruguay

His Excellency David N. Reddaway,
High Commissioner, United Kingdom

The Honourable Margaret Wilson, Speaker,
House of Representatives, New Zealand

A new Speaker

In his new role as Speaker of the Senate, the Honourable Noël Kinsella received the following officials in the first few weeks of his mandate:

His Excellency Gabriele SarDO,
Ambassador, Italy

His Excellency William Norman Fisher,
High Commissioner, Australia

His Excellency the Most Reverend
Luigi Ventura, Apostolic Nuncio, Holy See

His Excellency Georgiy Mamedov,
Ambassador, Russian Federation



- › An annual event recognizing Canadian soldiers' past contributions and sacrifices, the Senate's televised Ceremony of Remembrance was particularly poignant in this international Year of the Veteran. It also marked the return home of the participants in the Aboriginal Spiritual Journey program – First Nations veterans, elders and youth who traveled to Belgium and France to call home the spirits of Aboriginal soldiers from the battlefields of Europe. Senate Speaker Dan Hays presided over the ceremony in the Senate chamber. (November 2005)

Senators as advocates

In addition to their formal role, senators advocate for social causes important to them. Senator Landon Pearson has long been known as “the children’s senator” for her years of defending the rights of children. Senator Janis Johnson’s work on Lake Winnipeg has helped secure funding for much-needed research on the health of Canada’s sixth largest lake. Because they hold their seats for longer terms, senators can deal in a sustained way with issues important to their constituents – issues that might otherwise get lost in the shuffle of federal elections.

And senators have ways to make things move in the causes they champion. Working inside and outside the Senate chamber, they:

- › hold the government to account on its record by interrogating Cabinet members in question period
- › draw attention to causes they support by making statements in the Senate chamber or engaging the press
- › seek a legislative solution by introducing bills to address the issue
- › introduce motions aimed at gaining the Senate’s endorsement of their cause or a particular course of action
- › appeal to fellow members of Parliament, ministers and other federal policy makers for change
- › lend their name, time and energy to causes and organizations they support



- › Senator Catherine Callbeck meets with (left to right) the Reverend David Hamilton, Jim Blanchard and the Reverend Bob Hutcheson, discussing future plans for Camp Abegweit, a Christian interfaith children’s camp on Prince Edward Island. Senator Callbeck is Honourary Chair of Camp Abby’s fundraising campaign. (November 2005)

Profile: Three senators, three causes

Senators championed a myriad of issues in 2005–06. Their work unlocked doors for consumer protection, the conservation of Canadian heritage, children’s literacy, seniors’ rights and religious and cultural tolerance among many other causes. The following profiles of three senators represent a fraction of the hard work senators do to bring our struggles to protect what we value to the attention of the entire country, and indeed, the world.



› **Roméo Dallaire**

Ending the humanitarian crisis in Sudan

Province Quebec

Appointed March 24, 2005

Retires June 25, 2021

Long before Prime Minister Paul Martin called him to the Senate, Retired General Roméo Dallaire was known to Canadians as a hero amidst the tragedy of the Rwandan genocide. Commander of the United Nations force there in 1994, he witnessed first-hand the horrors of that humanitarian crisis and called in vain for international help to stop the killing. Dallaire's bravery in remaining in Rwanda – with insufficient forces and little support – was eventually recognized worldwide. It was for this distinguished service that the Governor General awarded him the Meritorious Service Cross.

Dallaire became a senator in March 2005. Few Canadians since then have remained unaware of his rallying cries for government action on the humanitarian crisis in Darfur, Sudan – a crisis that has all the hallmarks of genocide like that in Rwanda. Soon after his appointment, Dallaire began to use his visibility as a senator and as a member of the Senate Committee on Human Rights to inform Canadians and raise support in Canada for UN intervention.

Response came quickly. In May 2005, the Prime Minister asked Dallaire to sit on the Special Advisory Team on Sudan (SATS). He represented Canada at the first donor's conference of the joint European and African Unions' African Mission in Sudan (AMIS) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, that same month. As a member of SATS, he was able to travel to Sudan in November 2005 to see the situation on the ground and meet with personnel and commanders of AMIS and key non-governmental organizations. In February 2006, he used his position to meet with the Minister of National Defence and press for action in resolving the crisis. And that March, the United Nations chose him as a member of its Committee on Genocide Prevention.

Known worldwide and highly respected at home, Senator Roméo Dallaire is pushing Canada to live up to its international reputation as a guardian of human rights.



› **Donald H. Oliver**

Visible minority rights

Province Nova Scotia

Appointed September 7, 1990

Retires November 11, 2013

Senator Donald Oliver holds the firm belief that a diverse society is a strong and prosperous one. He also believes that racism continues to prevent visible minorities from contributing to a better Canada. Three years ago, he raised half a million dollars to spearhead Conference Board research on the subject. Entitled *Maximizing the Talents of Visible Minorities*, the resulting study confirmed that diversity is essential to the economic viability of Canada and other western nations. It provided concrete evidence that diverse organizations profit from many competitive advantages. And it showed that systemic racism continues to impede the progress of visible minorities.

Oliver's advocacy is gaining international recognition. In April 2005, he provided the keynote address at a United Nations Conference in Brasilia, organized by the Special Secretariat on Policies to Promote Racial Equality. He spoke of Canada's success as a multicultural country and our nation's challenges in attracting immigrant talent in the face of an aging population and a declining birthrate. He also outlined the global implications of these demographic trends and warned of the worldwide dangers of continued racial discrimination.

In December 2005, Oliver also shared his insights as the sole Canadian representative at the conference *The Next Step: Celebrating Diversity in the EU*. Hosted by British Prime Minister Tony Blair, this conference brought together 300 leaders and managers from government, business and other organizations to explore the issues facing the EU as "a collection of diverse nations." While in London, Oliver also spoke at a special roundtable hosted by the Canadian High Commission and Operation Black Vote, a political advocacy group. And in April 2006, Oliver was the keynote speaker at World Event Canada, a conference in Stockholm for the managers and leaders of the Government Office of Sweden.



› **Claudette Tardif**

Minority language rights

Province Alberta

Appointed March 24, 2005

Retires July 27, 2022

When, in March 2005, Prime Minister Paul Martin recommended Edmontonian Claudette Tardif for a Senate seat, he was nominating one of the most successful champions of minority language rights in Canada. Prior to being summoned, Tardif – armed with a doctorate in education and a conviction that the pockets of Francophone culture outside Quebec had to be protected – helped establish some of the first French-language schools in Alberta. As Dean of the University of Alberta's Faculté Saint-Jean from 1995 to 2003, she expanded the existing courses of study to include engineering, nursing, business administration and graduate programs in Canadian studies and education. This revitalized enrolment at the only French-language post-secondary institution west of Winnipeg.

Tardif has brought her forceful and convincing advocacy with her to the Senate. She continues to devote herself to smoothing the path of linguistic minorities as well as to the importance of post-secondary education in Canada. Closer to federal policy builders than ever before, Tardif uses her skills and convictions to draw national attention to these issues close to home. She has used her position to raise the profile of the causes championed by Canadian Parents for French, the Caravan of Tolerance tour in Alberta (a traveling caravan on Canada's diverse population), the Centre de santé Saint-Thomas Health Centre Project (Alberta's first bilingual health care centre) and the John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights.

In October 2005, Tardif initiated a movement to study the relocation of federal institutions' head offices to unilingual regions. This relocation has the potential to breach the Official Languages Act guarantee that federal civil servants may work in the official language of their choice. And she was instrumental in the Senate Committee on Official Languages'



insightful report on minority language education and the safeguarding of cultural identities. She has spoken in the Senate on many occasions in support of post-secondary education and its importance to the economic and social success of Canadians.

A vocal advocate for linguistic duality and post-secondary education, Senator Claudette Tardif gets things done in Ottawa.

05.

The Senate's administration

The Senate plays a unique role in Canada. Senators work individually and for their parties in the glare of the public stage as they examine legislation, champion causes, represent Canada internationally and study public policy. But behind the sets of the chamber, the committee room and the press conference hall is the Senate Administration.

Made up of roughly 450 non-partisan employees, the Administration supports senators in their work. They do this by offering expertise and logistical planning for legislative matters – procedure, law, committee work and international parliamentary relations – and meeting senators' administrative and materiel needs. This support is critical to the vitality of the Senate as an institution, the stage upon which senators act on behalf of, and in full view of, Canadians.

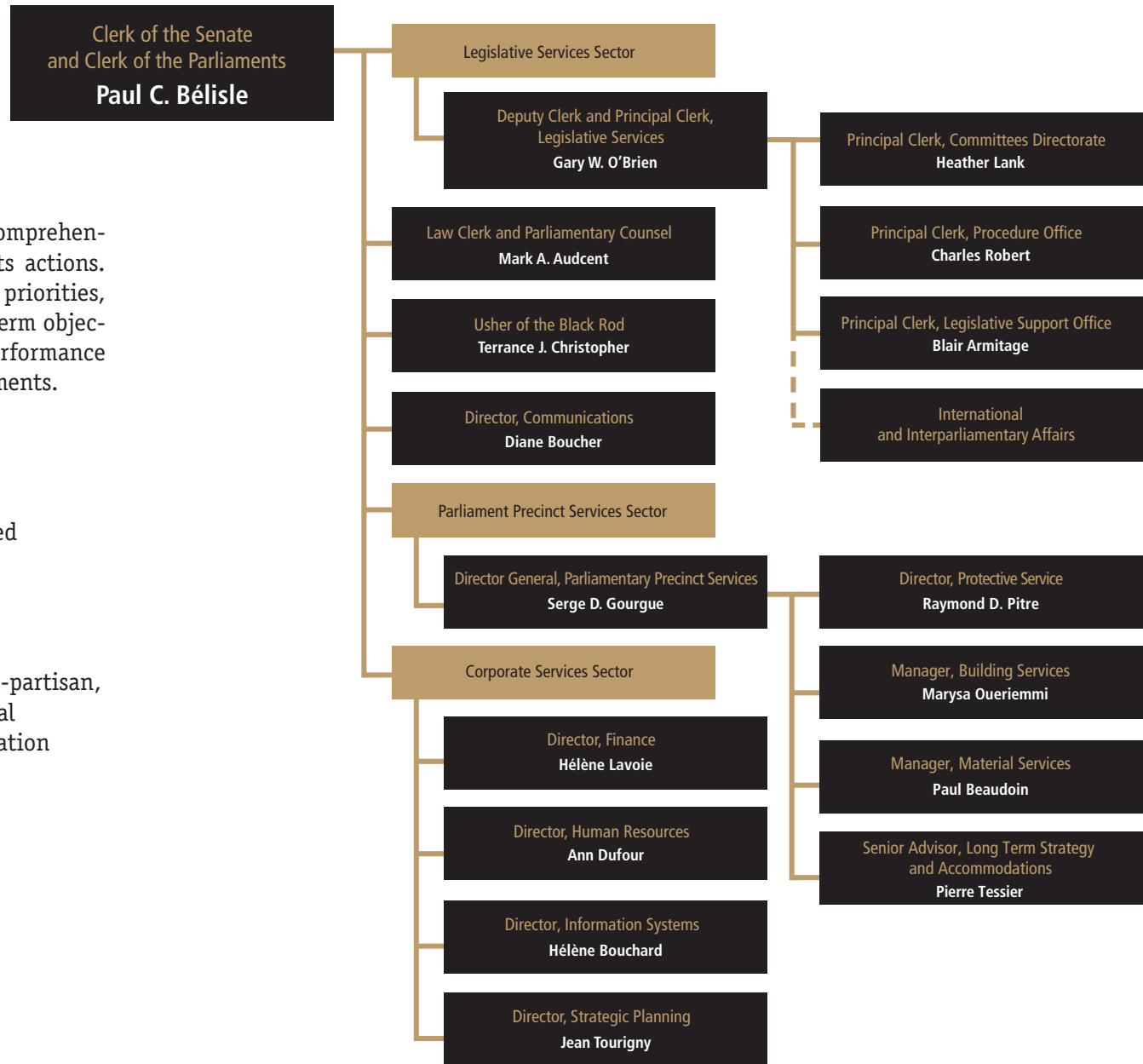
Under the guidance of the Standing Senate Committee on Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration and the Clerk of the Senate, the Administration maintained its commitment to providing senators with the best possible services in 2005–06, supporting them in their many roles as parliamentarians. Its employees

also reached out to Canadians through their activities promoting and contributing to a vibrant, knowledgeable and healthy society.

In January 2006, Canadians voted for a new government. It was the first time that power had passed from the Liberal Party's hands in thirteen years and it was Canada's second consecutive minority government. In addition to its usual activities, the Administration was busy in the winter of 2006 preparing the Senate for the change in leadership and paving the way for the Conservative Government to take power in the first session of the 39th Parliament.

Senators, political staff, parliamentary officials, directors and employees – the people of the Senate unite to make a single institution. And each person, in each role – be it starring or supporting – has one overarching aim: to help ensure our country has the laws, programs and policies that reflect our collective values and balance individual freedom with social justice.

The Senate's governance



The Senate Administration has a comprehensive vision and mission to guide its actions. Senior Administration officials set priorities, as well as short, medium and long-term objectives, aimed at improving its performance under the vision and mission statements.

Vision

The Senate is well-supported in its parliamentary role

Mission

The Senate Administration is a non-partisan, responsive, effective, ethical and soundly-managed organization

Administrative structure

Because the work of the Senate and senators' roles are unique in Canada, the Senate Administration has a somewhat unusual structure. It is governed by a committee of its clients – senators – and directed by a senior Senate official – the Clerk of the Senate and of the Parliaments. It is strictly non-partisan.

- › The **Senate Committee on Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration** is, in a sense, the Senate Administration's board of directors. It is composed of 15 senators who oversee all financial and administrative matters respecting the Senate, its premises, its services, its staff and senators.

Chair: George J. Furey (Newfoundland and Labrador)

Deputy Chair: Pierre Claude Nolin (Quebec)

Members (as of November 29, 2005)

Maria Chaput (Manitoba)

Gerald J. Comeau (Nova Scotia)

Joan Cook (Newfoundland and Labrador)

Joseph A. Day (New Brunswick)

Consiglio Di Nino (Ontario)

Yoine J. Goldstein (Quebec)

Mobina S. B. Jaffer (British Columbia)

Colin Kenny (Ontario)

Wilbert Joseph Keon (Ontario)

Paul J. Massicotte (Quebec)

Marie-P. Poulin (Charette) (Ontario)

David P. Smith, P.C. (Ontario)

Terry Stratton (Manitoba)

- › The Clerk of the Senate, Paul Bélisle (left), discusses the Senate's publications with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Internal Economy Committee, Senators George Furey (middle) and Pierre Claude Nolin.



- › Like the CEO of a corporation, the **Clerk of the Senate and the Clerk of the Parliaments** is responsible for the overall vision, planning and functioning of the Senate. Although he reports to the Speaker of the Senate on legislative matters, he is responsible to the Internal Economy Committee on all that relates to the Administration.

The Clerk of the Senate and Clerk of the Parliaments, 2005–06: Paul C. Bélisle

The Administration can be broken down into sectors, directorates and the offices of Senate officials. Each office, directorate and branch plays a critical role, be it direct or indirect, in the functioning of the Senate.

Legislative Services Sector

The Legislative Services Sector provides the Senate chamber and Senate committees the administrative and research support they need to function. It is headed by the **Deputy Clerk and Principal Clerk of Legislative Services**. Each directorate or office is supervised by a principal clerk.

The Deputy Clerk and Principal Clerk of Legislative Services, 2005–06: Gary W. O'Brien

- › **Committees Directorate**

The Committees Directorate organizes and coordinates the administration of the Senate's 20 committees, including budgeting and witness preparation. The Directorate is responsible for providing each committee with a clerk, who gives procedural advice as well as logistic and administrative support. It also is in charge of publicizing and disseminating the work of Senate committees.

Principal Clerk, Committees, 2005–06: Heather Lank

- › **Procedure Office**

This office is responsible for research and advice on Senate procedure. It prepares the *Journals of the Senate* and *Debates of the Senate*, documents that record proceedings in the chamber. It also supports the Speaker, the Clerk and senators in outreach initiatives.

Principal Clerk, Procedure, 2005–06: Charles Robert



› **Legislative Support Office**

This office manages the Legislative Sector's information, publishing the Senate's official publications, *Journals of the Senate*, *Debates of the Senate* and the *Order Paper and Notice Paper*. The Office coordinates all Legislative Sector information management projects, identifying opportunities and assisting them in improving their work processes. It also coordinates the broadcasting of Senate events and committee meetings.

Principal Clerk, Legislative Support, 2005–06: Blair Armitage

› **International and Interparliamentary Affairs Directorate**

International and Interparliamentary Affairs is an office jointly operated by the Senate and the House of Commons. Its staff administers programs grouped into four spheres: parliamentary associations, parliamentary exchanges, protocol and conferences. Within these spheres, the Directorate supports senators and members of the House of Commons in their promotion of democracy, the Canadian parliamentary system and good governance internationally.

Office of the Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel

The Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel provides advice to the Senate and individual senators on legal and constitutional affairs as well as matters of parliamentary privilege. His office assists senators in drafting bills, amendments and motions, and he acts as corporate counsel to the Senate Administration. This office also offers records management services through the Senate Archivist.

The Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel, 2005–06: Mark A. Audcent

Office of the Usher of the Black Rod

Historically, the Usher of the Black Rod was the personal attendant to the sovereign's representative. Today, he maintains Parliament's traditions and ceremonies by coordinating the protocol and logistics of the opening of Parliament and other official functions. He records attendance in the chamber and oversees the Mace bearer and the Senate pages in their responsibilities.

The Usher of the Black Rod, 2005–06: Terrance J. Christopher

- › The Senate Protective Service maintains peace and order within the Senate precinct. Ariel Martinez has been a constable in the Service since 2002.



Communications Directorate

The Communications Directorate directs the internal and external communications strategies for the Senate. It provides non-partisan advice to the Senate, senators, committees and the Administration on communications matters.

Director of Communications, 2005–06: Diane Boucher

Parliamentary Precinct Services Sector

The Parliamentary Precinct Services Sector is responsible for security and fire prevention within the Senate precinct and takes care of the physical logistics of the Senate.

Director General of Parliamentary Precinct Services, 2005–06: Serge D. Gourgue

› **Protective Service Directorate**

This directorate protects life and property and maintains peace and order within the Senate precinct. It is also responsible for information security, business continuity planning and security accreditation within the Senate.

Director of the Protective Service, 2005–06: Raymond G. Pitre

› **Building Services Branch**

This branch is responsible for accommodation planning and projects, the Parliamentary Precinct Services' Client Service Centre, committee room logistics, mail and courier services, transportation and cleaning services.

Manager of Building Services, 2005–06: Marysa Oueriemmi

› **Materiel Services Branch**

The Materiel Services Branch is responsible for purchasing, contracting, printing, asset management, warehousing and trade services.

Manager of Materiel Services, 2005–06: Paul Beaudoin

› **Long Term Accommodation Strategy Branch**

This branch ensures that the institution's accommodation needs, short and long term, are identified and receive approval from the appropriate authorities.

Senior Advisor, Long Term Accommodation Strategy, 2005–06: Pierre Tessier



Corporate Services Sector

This sector comprises four directorates responsible for the Senate's business operations.

› **Finance Directorate**

The Finance Directorate manages all financial information and activities of the Senate and provides financial services to senators and the Administration.

Director of Finance, 2005–06: H el ene Lavoie

› **Human Resources Directorate**

The Human Resources Directorate delivers human resources services to senators, managers, employees and staff in the area of staffing and recruitment, compensation, learning and well-being.

Director of Human Resources, 2005–06: Ann Dufour

› **Information Systems Directorate**

The Information Systems Directorate provides expertise and services to senators' offices and the Senate Administration on all information technology and management services and products. These include network and desktop services, application and web development, telecommunications and multimedia services.

Director of Information Systems, 2005–06: H el ene Bouchard

› **Strategic Planning Directorate**

The Strategic Planning Directorate develops and coordinates strategic and business planning activities for the Senate Administration. It provides support and advice to Administration directorates as they pursue continuous improvement of management policies, practices and processes to ensure greater transparency and accountability.

Director of Strategic Planning, 2005–06: Jean Tourigny

- › Internal and external mail is an important service in the functioning of the Senate. Here, Chantal Charette sorts mail for delivery in the Centre Block.

Continuous improvement

In keeping with the vision of supporting the Senate in its parliamentary role, the Clerk of the Senate identified **five strategic priorities** for the Administration's management team. In 2005–06, the Administration made great strides in enhancing its services to senators and developing new initiatives under these priorities.

1. Demonstrate good public management

It's a major aim of the Senate Administration to exceed the expectations for public sector management. With this in mind, the organization has implemented a number of initiatives to increase public accountability and transparency. In 2005–06:

- › the Senate voluntarily incorporated the Treasury Board's Management Accountability Framework – the public service's high standard for management transparency – and found an innovative way of doing it
- › continuing a mission, begun in 2004, to improve the Administration's long-term planning, the Senate developed a model reflecting the Administration's mission, vision, and objectives. This model will help managers develop strong performance indicators
- › to improve managers' ability to measure how their activities contribute to the Senate's effectiveness, every sector of the Administration developed and began to codify performance criteria and/or standards for its services
- › the Internal Economy Committee adopted a three-year plan for evaluating Administration programs, to be further refined in 2006–07

2. Enhance the administrative authority and operational effectiveness of the Senate

The Administration increased its efforts and pursued new initiatives in accordance with the objective of improving the functioning of the Senate and clarifying internal lines of authority. In 2005–06:

- › the Senate created a long-term vision planning secretariat to identify and plan for future accommodation needs
- › to give employees clear guidelines and procedures for identifying, storing, handling and destroying secure information, the Internal Economy Committee adopted a new information security policy (June 2005)
- › to ensure transparency in management practices, the Clerk led a review of senior job descriptions, clarifying lines of accountability
- › the Senate participated, with the House of Commons, the Library of Parliament and Public Works and Government Services Canada, in creating a long-term vision plan for accommodations on Parliament Hill

3. Ensure effective communications – with Canadians and within the Senate

Nurturing discussion is one of the Senate’s most important functions in Canadian politics and society. But the Senate’s ability to inform and participate in public debate is only as strong as the lines of communication between senators, their committees and the people they serve. In 2005–06:

- › the Internal Economy Committee adopted the first Senate communications strategy in May 2005 to help provide Canadians with accurate information on Senate chamber and committee work
- › the Communications Directorate increased its capacity to work on behalf of Senate committees – a key contributor to public policy debate – and expanded its publications branch
- › with the goal of availability to Canadians in late 2006, the Senate reached an agreement with the House of Commons to adapt its PARLVU webcasting system for live streaming of Senate chamber and committee proceedings in low and high resolution
- › cutting down time-consuming administrative work and allowing rapid circulation of updates, the Senate created Senate Committees Television (SCTV), an internal web page compiling all logistical and statistical information on the session’s committee meetings





4. Strengthen the human resources strategy

People form the core of every organization, and the Senate is committed to the people that make it work. Following its 2004 employee equity report, the Senate worked on a draft equity strategy through 2005–06, to be tabled in the next fiscal year. This will help the Senate focus on its objective of ensuring that its workforce reflects Canada's wide diversity. And the Administration continues to conclude fair collective bargaining agreements with bargaining agents. In 2005–06:

- › representation of visible minorities, persons with disabilities and Aboriginal peoples in the Senate Administration grew significantly and now exceeds labour market availability. Fully 42 of the 50 new employees in 2005–06 were part of groups identified as underrepresented
- › the Senate completed a classification review exercise and signed two new collective bargaining agreements in 2005–06, one with the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada (PIPS) and one with the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC). The contract with PIPS is the first agreement struck between the parties since 1998
- › saving time and paper, an automated leave recording service for Administration employees (iTams) was put into place

5. Leverage information technology/information management and knowledge management

Critical to the viability and success of any organization today, information technology and management are an integral component of the Administration's business plans. In 2005–06:

- › information specialists began to take advantage of new software features to streamline the digital audio recording system the Senate uses to validate transcripts of proceedings
 - › the Senate reaped significant savings by reaching an agreement with Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) to use the pension calculation system that PWGSC uses to prepare pensions for members of the House of Commons
 - › the Senate began to assess how to adapt the Legislative Information Management System (LIMS) – used by the House of Commons and the Department of Justice – to the Senate's legal documentation needs
 - › in order to strengthen Hill security, the Senate collaborated with the House of Commons and the Library of Parliament to create a new common security card. The new card carries a patented foil security logo and holographic images among other up-to-date security features
- › Annie Trudel helps fulfill one of the Senate Administration's five priorities: ensuring good communications with Canadians. She is one of the operators of the Senate's 1-800 information line.

Senate finances

The Senate focuses on spending its public funds carefully and accountably. Its expenditures fall under four main business lines:

- › Senators and their offices
- › Chamber operations
- › Committees and associations
- › Administrative support

The following figures represent the Senate's actual spending for fiscal year 2005–06.

Program expenditure by business line

| Business line | Operating | Capital | Grants and contributions | Total |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Senators and their offices | 36,312,400 | 354,174 | 138,756 | 36,805,330 |
| Chamber operations | 5,779,341 | 24,453 | – | 5,803,794 |
| Committees and associations | 8,442,283 | 175,970 | 339,710 | 8,975,963 |
| Administrative support | 22,831,341 | 2,128,476 | – | 24,959,817 |
| Total | 73,365,365 | 2,683,073 | 478,466 | 76,526,904 |

Expenditures by standard object

| Operating | 2005–2006 | 2004–2005 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Salaries and wages | 53,205,776 | 49,730,524 |
| Transportation and communications | 11,185,797 | 9,410,952 |
| Information and printing services | 171,409 | 201,146 |
| Professional and special services | 6,411,412 | 6,339,443 |
| Rentals | 173,393 | 194,366 |
| Purchased repair and maintenance services | 1,012,370 | 951,329 |
| Utilities, materials and supplies | 1,203,217 | 1,014,003 |
| Total operations | 73,363,374 | 67,841,763 |
| Capital | | |
| Acquisition of machinery and equipment | 2,683,073 | 2,264,846 |
| Total capital | 2,683,073 | 2,264,846 |
| Grants and contributions | | |
| Grants and contributions* | 478,466 | 542,153 |
| Other subsidies & payments | 1,992 | 2,860 |
| Total transfer payments | 480,458 | 545,013 |
| Total | 76,526,904 | 70,651,622 |

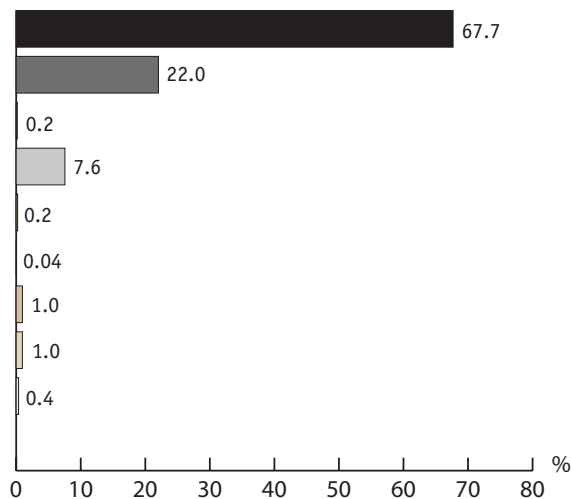
* This category includes the Senate's contributions for membership in international parliamentary associations.

Expenditures by business line

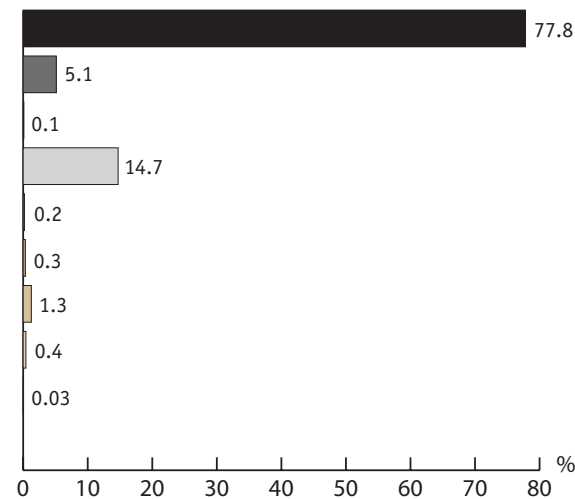
Categories

- Salaries and wages
- Transportation and communications
- Information and printing services
- Professional and special services
- Rentals
- Purchased repair and maintenance services
- Utilities, materials and supplies
- Acquisition of machinery and equipment
- Grants and contributions

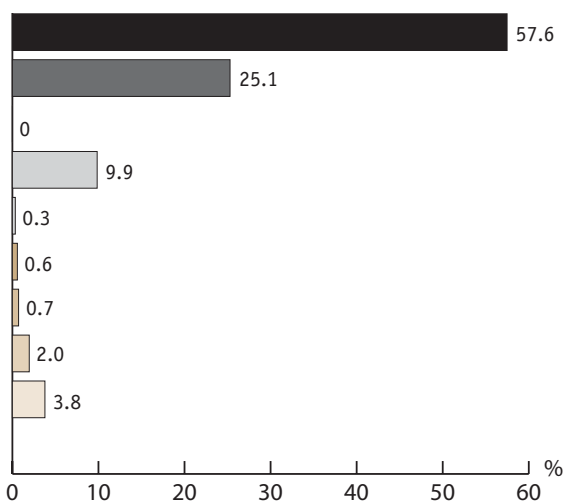
Senators and their offices



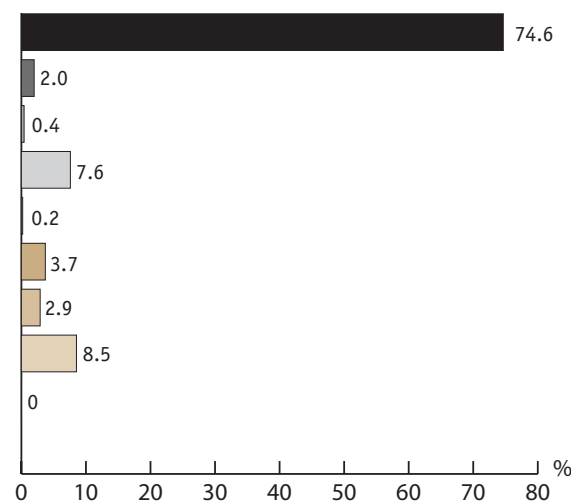
Chamber operations



Committees and associations



Administrative support



Reaching out to Canadians

As an institution – outside the political world of individual senators – the Senate plays an active role on the Canadian stage. Senators and employees of the Senate Administration take advantage of the uniqueness of their workplace to stage activities and offer programs to help Canadians learn more about our political system and society. They do this in ways that reflect our collective values of diversity, justice and broad political participation. These events range from helping educators gain a better understanding of our parliamentary system to providing employment opportunities for students and celebrating Canadians' achievements and diversity.

Offering professional development

Providing opportunities for professional growth is an important aspect of the Senate's outreach effort. Among the events it coordinated in 2005–06 are:

Fifth Annual Conference of the Canadian Association of Parliamentary Administration (CAPA) September 11-15, 2005

- › Hosted by the Senate and the House of Commons, this conference brought together senior officers responsible for administration in Canadian parliaments to discuss issues surrounding, and practices in, the administrative work supporting legislatures across the country.

CaféCOMM

December 6, 2005

- › A collaboration of the Senate's Communications Directorate and the federal government's Communications Community Office (CCO), CaféCOMM was a half day of seminars and social events aimed at helping government employees better understand the role of the Canadian Senate.

Parliamentary Officers' Study Program

- › The Senate, the House of Commons and the Library of Parliament jointly offer seminars to parliamentary staff from other legislatures. This year, the Parliament of Canada invited staff from the legislatures of Brazil and the Spanish-speaking countries of the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas (FIPA) to participate in a special Spanish study program in the fall of 2005.



- › Filling the Senate chamber and its galleries, over 200 federal government communications professionals attended CaféCOMM, an event designed to better familiarize them with the workings of the Senate. (December 2005)



Canada School of Public Service Orientation Seminars

- › In February 2006, the Senate and the House of Commons began to collaborate with the Canada School of Public Service to offer weekly joint seminars to new public servants. These seminars, part of a two-day orientation for new government employees, were given in the Senate chamber by officials from both houses of Parliament. They helped participants gain a better understanding of the legislative process and the nature of each chamber's role and powers.

Celebrating Canada

The Senate celebrated and promoted social awareness with events throughout the fiscal year. Among them were:

Opening Ceremonies for Aboriginal Awareness Week

May 24, 2005

- › Each year, the Senate works with the House of Commons and the Library of Parliament to celebrate the beginning of Aboriginal Awareness Week, honouring the cultures of Canada's First Nations, Inuit and Métis. This year's event was a blend of Algonquin dances and chants, colourful traditional costumes, the retelling of legends, and Montagnais folk music by Florent Volant.

Canadian Environment Week

June 6-10, 2005

- › Parliament proclaimed Canadian Environment Week in 1971 to raise awareness of our responsibility to reduce, reuse, recycle and rethink. In 2005, Partners for a Green Hill (see below) inaugurated a week-long calendar of events to celebrate it. Highlights included national Clean Air Day, on June 8, when the Partners set up an information and activities tent, and the first Parliament Hill Environment Awards ceremony.

International Women's Day

March 8, 2006

- › The Senate, the House of Commons and the Library of Parliament hosted a luncheon for 200 Parliament Hill employees to celebrate International Women's Day on March 8. Special tribute was paid to Audrey O'Brien, Clerk of the House of Commons, as the first woman in Canadian history to hold this position.

Contributing to common goals

The Senate is socially active in its internal activities as well. In 2005–06, they continued to “green” their business practices and made a substantial contribution to the Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign.

Partners for a Green Hill

In 2004, the Senate, the House of Commons, the Library of Parliament and Parliamentary Precinct Services (Public Works and Government Services Canada) merged their environmental programs into Partners for a Green Hill. This group’s objective is to coordinate and improve existing programs to help protect the environment, and initiate new ones, throughout the parliamentary precinct.

In 2005–06, Partners for a Green Hill won the national Pollution Prevention Award from the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME). This award recognized the importance of three of the Partners’ innovative projects:

- › Printing Services’ EcoLogo certification
- › Green procurement policies
- › Paper towel composting program

Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign

The Senate plays an active role in the Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign (GCWCC) for the United Way and other charities. In 2005, the 450 employees of the Senate were proud to surpass their campaign goal by nearly \$8,000, contributing a total of \$61,777 to the GCWCC.

Involving youth

The Senate, often in partnership with the House of Commons, the Library of Parliament and non-parliamentary organizations, offers and participates in annual programs aimed at engaging youth in Canada’s governance. The Senate’s involvement in these programs helps participants better understand our parliamentary system, and usually gives them a chance to meet and speak with working senators.

Senate Page Program

- › Each year, the Senate selects 15 youth from across Canada to take part in the Senate Page Program. Enrolled in undergraduate studies in one of the National Capital Region’s four universi-



- › Senators, their staff and Senate employees exceeded their 2005 fundraising goal for the Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Fund, raising a total of \$61,777.



- › The Clerk of the Senate, Paul C. Bélisle and Speaker Dan Hays swear in the 2005–06 Senate pages. The pages, all university students, will learn about Parliament directly, working part-time through the school year assisting senators in the Senate chamber and in committees. (October 2005)

ties, the participants work part-time for the Senate. They are responsible for a wide variety of tasks associated with the legislative process. They may also work for the Administration while the Senate is not in session, gaining a broader understanding of the institution. This year, the pages were also privileged to attend the September 27, 2005, installation of the new Governor General, Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, in the Senate chamber.

Encounters with Canada

- › This program, sponsored by the Canadian Unity Council, brings roughly 140 students from across the country to Ottawa each year. Moderators at the one-week sessions teach students aged 15 to 17 about Canada's diversity and governance. Students visit the Senate chamber every Monday for a talk given by one of Canada's senators.

Friends of the Senate

- › The Senate works in partnership with Ridgemont High School in Ottawa and L'École secondaire de l'Île in Gatineau, Quebec, to give students with special needs the chance to develop life skills to prepare them for the working world. Students gain experience in the different directorates of the Senate Administration, provide assistance and support to senators and Senate staff, and cultivate new skills.

Forum for Young Canadians

- › Operated by the not-for-profit Foundation for the Study of Processes of Government in Canada, the Forum for Young Canadians brings over 600 students aged 15 to 19 years to Parliament Hill every year to learn about the federal government and Canada's political system. The Speaker of the Senate hosts a breakfast for each of the Forum's four sessions, where students can chat with him and guest senators.

Teachers Institute

October 30 – November 4, 2005

- › The Teachers Institute on Parliamentary Democracy is an intensive six days on Parliament Hill for 70 outstanding teachers of subjects such as social studies, political science, and economics. It is coordinated by the Library of Parliament. The participants meet with the Speakers of both houses and other parliamentarians, and engage in sessions about issues of citizenship and democracy with procedural, political and teaching experts.



- › Senators Ethel Cochrane and Gerald Comeau engage students at the Forum for Young Canadians in discussion about a senator's role.



- › Senator Charlie Watt (left) takes the opportunity to discuss the Senate with a participant in the Teacher's Institute Program, which brings outstanding teachers of social science and politics to Ottawa to learn more about Parliament and the Canadian government.

In the Senate chamber and committees

Fiscal year 2005–06

38th Parliament, 1st session continued through 2005

An election was called November 29, 2005, dissolving Parliament

Parliament was dissolved for four months

39th Parliament opened on April 3, 2006

Change of leadership took place in the Senate as of the January 23, 2006 election of a Conservative government

Legislation

| | |
|---|-----|
| Number of bills considered by the Senate | 76 |
| Government bills | 40 |
| Private senators' bills | 36 |
| Private members bills | 2 |
| Number of bills referred to Senate committees | 51 |
| Number of bills that received Royal Assent | 42 |
| Percentage of Senate amendments concurred in by the House of Commons | 100 |
| Percentage of committee reports on legislation recommending amendments or making observations | 42 |

Committee work

| | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Committee reports | 90 |
| Committee meetings | 396 |
| Hours in committee meetings | 830 |
| Committee witnesses | 1,319 |
| Fact finding trips in Canada | 21 |
| Special studies | 38 |

Breakdown of Senate committee meetings

| | |
|---|------|
| Study of bills and subject matter of bills | 25 % |
| Special studies | 64 % |
| Internal committee work (Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration; Rules, Procedures and the Rights of Parliament; Library of Parliament; Selection; Scrutiny of Regulations) | 11 % |

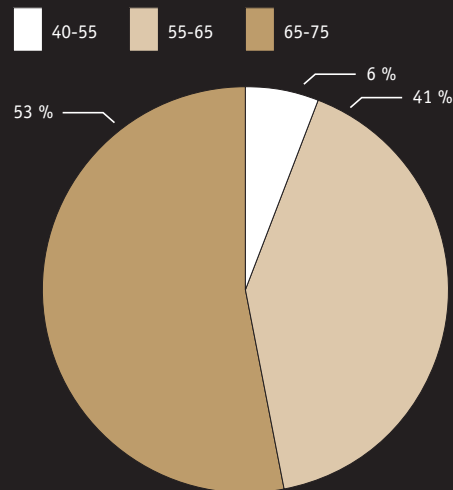
facts and figures

Senators

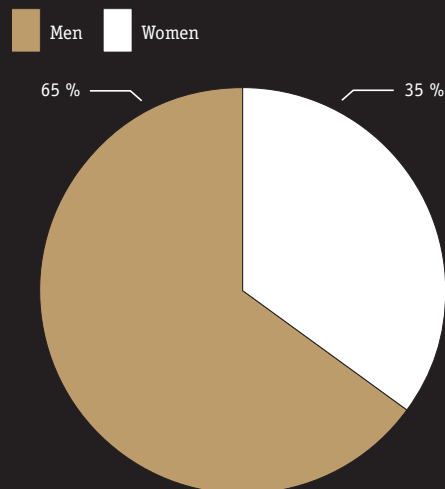
| | |
|---|-----|
| Number of senators as of April 1, 2005 | 98 |
| Number of senators as of March 31, 2006 | 100 |
| Number of retirements ¹ | 5 |
| Number of appointments | 9 |

Distribution of senators, as of March 31, 2006

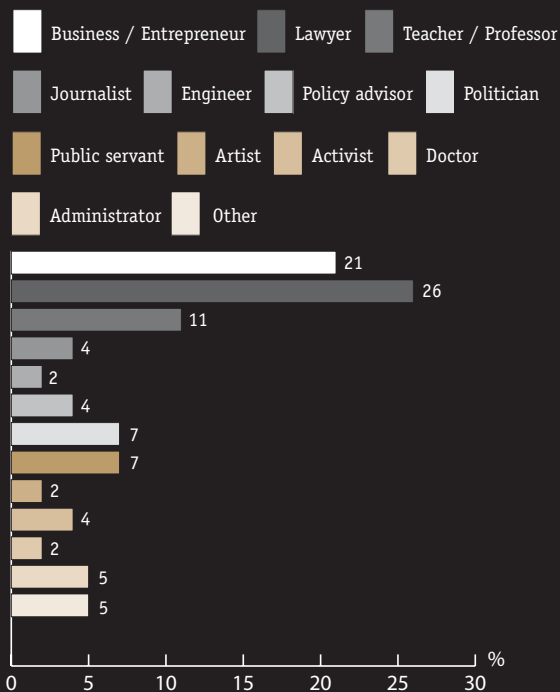
By age



By gender



By profession



Aboriginal senators

7%

¹ This figure does not include the deaths of Senators Shirley Maheu and William Doody. The senators passed away on December 27, 2005 and February 1, 2006 respectively.

In the Senate Administration

Employment equity breakdown

Visible minorities

| | |
|------|------|
| 2006 | 9.4% |
| 2005 | 7.9% |
| 2004 | 6.8% |

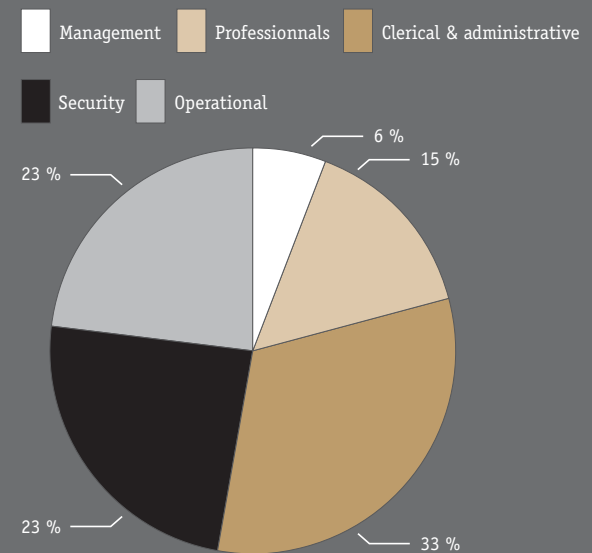
Persons with disabilities

| | |
|------|------|
| 2006 | 4.9% |
| 2005 | 4.4% |
| 2004 | 4.9% |

Women

| | |
|------|-------|
| 2006 | 44.9% |
| 2005 | 44.2% |
| 2004 | 45.2% |

Breakdown by profession



The Senate of Canada was made for debate. If debate is to be useful, it requires us to question our assumptions. To acquire and check facts. To accept dissent. To care about the outcome.



The Fathers of Confederation cared. Their debate about the best system of governance for their people raged for months. The need for, and nature of, an upper house for the Canadian Parliament was a fundamental part of that debate. A small number saw no need for such an institution. Some saw room for an elected Senate. Others advocated a chamber akin to the British House of Lords.

As the storm of the debate quieted, however, our political system began to emerge. And a consensus grew that the Senate, as we now know it, represented the best way to check and to balance a House of Commons elected by a majority. Rule by *all* the people – not just many of them – was best served, they decided, by members of Parliament whose political agendas were less urgent and more diverse, and who would be independent enough to withstand pressure from the powerful Cabinet of a majority government.

Our first Prime Minister, Sir John A. Macdonald, was a great supporter of an appointed Senate. Defending his idea of an upper chamber, he said, “We will enjoy here that which is the great test of constitutional freedom – we will have the rights of the minority respected.” By adding new perspectives, bringing to bear the needs and opinions of their regions, and defending the rights of those whose voice or vote is a single leaf in an entire forest of people, senators breathe a second life into our national debates. They do what they were mandated to do: they speak and act for their people.

We invite you to join the debate: to question assumptions, get facts, respect others’ opinions and care about the results. The Senate is an integral part of your Parliament, and senators are here to work on your behalf.

more facts, better debate

This annual report represents just a sliver of the information out there about the Senate. Here are some resources if you'd like to know more:

Publications and A/V resources

For copies of any publication, a full list of fact sheets and brochures, or the Senate Video, please contact us at the coordinates below (under "Contact us"). Many are also available on the parliamentary website at www.parl.gc.ca.

General information

The Senate Today

- › A short introduction to how the Senate works.

How Canadians Govern Themselves

- › The classic work on Canada's system of government.

Inside Canada's Parliament

- › An introduction to Canada's Parliament.

CPAC broadcasts

- › Senate committee meetings are often broadcast on CPAC. For a schedule, visit www.cpac.ca.

Senate of Canada Annual Reports (2002-2005)

For kids, teens and teachers

The Senate Video

- › An 18-minute video introducing the Senate's history, structure, and work, designed for high school students of history, civics, and political and social science. (Available in ASL and LSQ as well as English and French.)

FAQs

- › Designed for grade five students, the FAQ pamphlet answers all the basic questions about Canada's Senate.

Web resources

Parliament's website

www.parl.gc.ca is full of useful information about the past, present and future of Parliament. Come have a look around!

Streaming webcasts

A realtime audio stream of the proceedings of many Senate committee meetings is webcast in audio, and often video, streams.

Visit www.parl.gc.ca/Common/Committee_SenWebcast.asp.

Committees

Each committee has its own website with information about, among other things, its membership, schedule of meetings and reports. These websites are available on the main committees page at www.parl.gc.ca/Common/Committee_SenList.asp.

Visit the Senate

Come see senators at work! The Senate's public galleries are open when the Senate sits – usually Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Visitors are welcome to watch the debates on bills, committee reports and other issues of national importance.

Guided tours of the Centre Block on Parliament Hill, where the Senate and the House of Commons are located, are available year-round. Visit www.parl.gc.ca for more information.

Still have questions, or want to reach a senator?

Contact us

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Toll free | 1-800-267-7362 |
| Telephone | (613) 992-1149 (National Capital Region) |
| TTY | (613) 995-2266 |
| Fax | (613) 995-4998 |
| Email | sencom@sen.parl.gc.ca |

Senate committee members as of November 29, 2005

* Denotes ex officio member

Standing Committee on Aboriginal Peoples

Jack Austin, P.C. (or William Rompkey, P.C.)*
John M. Buchanan, P.C.
Andrée Champagne, P.C.
Ione Christensen
Leonard J. Gustafson
Noël A. Kinsella (or Terry Stratton)*
Sandra M. Lovelace Nicholas
Robert W. Peterson
Nick G. Sibbeston (Chair)
Gerry St. Germain, P.C. (Deputy Chair)
Charlie Watt
Rod A. A. Zimmer

Other senators who participated:

Willie Adams, W. David Angus,
Larry W. Campbell, Lillian Eva Dyck, D. Ross
Fitzpatrick, Aurélien Gill, Viola Léger, Terry M.
Mercer, Nancy Ruth, Landon Pearson, Claudette
Tardif and Marilyn Trenholme Counsell

Standing Committee on Agriculture and Forestry

Jack Austin, P.C. (or William Rompkey, P.C.)*
Catherine S. Callbeck
Joyce Fairbairn, P.C. (Chair)
Aurélien Gill
Leonard J. Gustafson (Deputy Chair)
Elizabeth Hubley
Noël A. Kinsella (or Terry Stratton)*
Terry M. Mercer
Grant Mitchell
Donald H. Oliver
Robert W. Peterson
Hugh D. Segal
David Tkachuk

Other senators who participated:

George Baker, P.C., Maria Chaput, Mac Harb, James F.
Kelleher, P.C., Noël A. Kinsella, Fernand Robichaud,
P.C., John Lynch-Staunton, Frank W. Mahovlich,
Pierrette Ringuette, Hugh D. Segal and Terry Stratton

Special Committee on the Anti-terrorism Act

A. Raynell Andreychuk (Deputy Chair)
Jack Austin, P.C. (or William Rompkey, P.C.)*
Joseph A. Day
Joyce Fairbairn, P.C. (Chair)
Mac Harb
Mobina S. B. Jaffer
Serge Joyal, P.C.
Noël A. Kinsella (or Terry Stratton)*
Noël A. Kinsella
Pierre Claude Nolin
David P. Smith, P.C.

Other senators who participated:

Jack Austin, P.C., Maria Chaput, Ione Christensen,
Anne C. Cools, James F. Kelleher, P.C., Marjory
LeBreton, P.C., Rose-Marie Losier-Cool, John Lynch-
Staunton, Grant Mitchell, Jim Munson, Pierre Claude
Nolin, Marcel Prud'homme, P.C., William Rompkey,
P.C., David P. Smith, P.C., Terry Stratton and Rod A.
A. Zimmer

Standing Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce

W. David Angus (Deputy Chair)
Jack Austin, P.C. (or William Rompkey, P.C.)*
Michel Biron
D. Ross Fitzpatrick
Jerahmiel S. Grafstein (Chair)
Mac Harb
Céline Hervieux-Payette, P.C.
Noël A. Kinsella (or Terry Stratton)*
Paul J. Massicotte
Michael A. Meighen
Wilfred P. Moore
Donald H. Oliver
Madeleine Plamondon
David Tkachuk

Other senators who participated:

George Baker, P.C., Tommy Banks, Maria Chaput,
Gerald J. Comeau, James S. Cowan, Consiglio Di
Nino, Art Eggleton, P.C., Yoine J. Goldstein, Leonard
J. Gustafson, James F. Kelleher, P.C., Noël A.
Kinsella, Elaine McCoy, Jim Munson, Nancy Ruth,
Gerard A. Phalen, Gerry St. Germain, P.C., Pierrette
Ringuette, William Rompkey, P.C., Hugh D. Segal,
Terry Stratton, Claudette Tardif and Rod A. A. Zimmer

Standing Committee on Conflict of Interest for Senators

A. Raynell Andreychuk (Deputy Chair)
W. David Angus
Sharon Carstairs, P.C.
Serge Joyal, P.C. (Chair)
Fernand Robichaud, P.C.

Standing Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources

Willie Adams
W. David Angus
Jack Austin, P.C. (or William Rompkey, P.C.)*
Tommy Banks (Chair)
John M. Buchanan, P.C.
Ione Christensen
Ethel M. Cochrane (Deputy Chair)
Leonard J. Gustafson
Colin Kenny
Noël A. Kinsella (or Terry Stratton)*
Raymond Lavigne
Lorna Milne
Mira Spivak
Claudette Tardif

Other senators who participated:

John G. Bryden, Maria Chaput, Joan Cook, James
S. Cowan, Dennis Dawson, Consiglio Di Nino, Isobel
Finnerty, Joan Fraser, Aurélien Gill, Jerahmiel S.
Grafstein, Elizabeth Hubley, Rose-Marie Losier-Cool,

Paul J. Massicotte, Elaine McCoy, Grant Mitchell, Wilfred P. Moore, Nancy Ruth, Robert W. Peterson and William Rompkey, P.C.

Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans

Willie Adams
Jack Austin, P.C. (or William Rompkey, P.C.)*
Gerald J. Comeau (Chair)
James S. Cowan
Elizabeth Hubley (Deputy Chair)
Janis G. Johnson
Noël A. Kinsella (or Terry Stratton)*
Frank W. Mahovlich
Michael A. Meighen
Pana Merchant
Gerard A. Phalen
Gerry St. Germain, P.C.
Charlie Watt

Other senators who participated:

John G. Bryden, Joseph A. Day, Pierre De Bané, P.C., Joan Cook, D. Ross Fitzpatrick, Elaine McCoy, Robert W. Peterson and Fernand Robichaud, P.C.

Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs

A. Raynell Andreychuk
Jack Austin, P.C. (or William Rompkey, P.C.)*
Pat Carney, P.C.
Eymard G. Corbin
Pierre De Bané, P.C.
Consiglio Di Nino (Deputy Chair)
Percy Downe
Jerahmiel S. Grafstein
Noël A. Kinsella (or Terry Stratton)*
Frank W. Mahovlich
Marcel Prud'homme, P.C.
Fernand Robichaud, P.C.
Hugh D. Segal
Peter A. Stollery (Chair)

Other senators who participated:

Tommy Banks, Lillian Eva Dyck, Art Eggleton, P.C., John Trevor Eyton, Leonard J. Gustafson, Mobina S. B. Jaffer, Janis G. Johnson, Marjory LeBreton, P.C., Pana Merchant, Nancy Ruth, Robert W. Peterson, Marie-P. Poulin (Charette), Vivienne Poy and Terry Stratton

Standing Committee on Human Rights

A. Raynell Andreychuk (Chair)
Jack Austin, P.C. (or William Rompkey, P.C.)*

George Baker, P.C.
Sharon Carstairs, P.C. (Deputy Chair)
Roméo Dallaire
Marisa Ferretti Barth
Noël A. Kinsella (or Terry Stratton)*
Marjory LeBreton, P.C.
Rose-Marie Losier-Cool
Donald H. Oliver
Vivienne Poy

Other senators who participated:

Ione Christensen, Jim Munson, Nancy Ruth, Landon Pearson, Lucie Pépin, Marie-P. Poulin (Charette) and Terry Stratton

Standing Committee on Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration

Jack Austin, P.C. (or William Rompkey, P.C.)*
Maria Chaput
Gerald J. Comeau
Joan Cook
Joseph A. Day
Consiglio Di Nino
George J. Furey (Chair)
Yoine J. Goldstein
Mobina S. B. Jaffer
Colin Kenny
Wilbert Joseph Keon
Noël A. Kinsella (or Terry Stratton)*
Paul J. Massicotte
Pierre Claude Nolin (Deputy Chair)
Marie-P. Poulin (Charette)
David P. Smith, P.C.
Terry Stratton

Other senators who participated:

Tommy Banks, Pierre De Bané, P.C., John Lynch-Staunton, Gerard A. Phalen, Marcel Prud'homme, P.C., Fernand Robichaud, P.C. and William Rompkey, P.C.

Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs

A. Raynell Andreychuk
Jack Austin, P.C. (or William Rompkey, P.C.)*
Lise Bacon (Chair)
John G. Bryden
Anne C. Cools
John Trevor Eyton (Deputy Chair)
Serge Joyal, P.C.

Noël A. Kinsella (or Terry Stratton)*
Lorna Milne
Grant Mitchell
Pierre Claude Nolin
Pierrette Ringuette
Jean-Claude Rivest
Nick G. Sibbeston

Other senators who participated:

Jack Austin, P.C., George Baker, P.C., Tommy Banks, Maria Chaput, Roméo Dallaire, Percy Downe, Leonard J. Gustafson, Elizabeth Hubley, Terry M. Mercer, Nancy Ruth, Landon Pearson, Marcel Prud'homme, P.C., Gerry St. Germain, P.C., Terry Stratton and Rod A. A. Zimmer

Standing Joint Committee on the Library of Parliament

Jean Lapointe
Marjory LeBreton, P.C.
Vivienne Poy
Terry Stratton
Marilyn Trenholme Counsell (Joint Chair)

Other senators who participated:

Jane Cordy and Elizabeth Hubley

Standing Committee on National Finance

Jack Austin, P.C. (or William Rompkey, P.C.)*
Michel Biron
Anne C. Cools
Joseph A. Day (Deputy Chair)
Percy Downe
Marisa Ferretti Barth
Mac Harb
Noël A. Kinsella (or Terry Stratton)*
Grant Mitchell
Lowell Murray, P.C.
Donald H. Oliver (Chair)
Pierrette Ringuette
Hugh D. Segal
Terry Stratton

Other senators who participated:

Jack Austin, P.C., Tommy Banks, John G. Bryden, Gerald J. Comeau, James S. Cowan, Art Eggleton, P.C., Isobel Finnerty, J. Michael Forrestall, Noël A. Kinsella, Rose-Marie Losier-Cool, Elaine McCoy, Shirley Maheu, Frank W. Mahovlich, Nancy Ruth, Pierre Claude Nolin, William Rompkey, P.C.,

David P. Smith, P.C., Claudette Tardif, David Tkachuk, Marilyn Trenholme Counsell and Rod A. A. Zimmer

Standing Committee on National Security and Defence

Norman K. Atkins
Jack Austin, P.C. (or William Rompkey, P.C.)*
Tommy Banks
Joseph A. Day
J. Michael Forrestall (Deputy Chair)
Colin Kenny (Chair)
Noël A. Kinsella (or Terry Stratton)*
Michael A. Meighen
Jim Munson

Other senators who participated:

Maria Chaput, Jane Cordy, John Lynch-Staunton, Terry M. Mercer and Pierre Claude Nolin

Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs

Norman K. Atkins
Jack Austin, P.C. (or William Rompkey, P.C.)*
Tommy Banks
Joseph A. Day (Deputy Chair)
J. Michael Forrestall
Colin Kenny
Noël A. Kinsella (or Terry Stratton)*
Michael A. Meighen (Chair)

Standing Committee on Official Languages

Jack Austin, P.C. (or William Rompkey, P.C.)*
John M. Buchanan, P.C. (Deputy Chair)
Andrée Champagne, P.C.
Maria Chaput
Gerald J. Comeau
Eymard G. Corbin (Chair)
Mobina S. B. Jaffer
Noël A. Kinsella (or Terry Stratton)*
Lowell Murray, P.C.
Claudette Tardif

Other senators who participated:

Raymond Lavigne, Viola Léger, Pana Merchant, Michael A. Meighen, Gerry St. Germain, P.C.

Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and the Rights of Parliament

A. Raynell Andreychuk
Jack Austin, P.C. (or William Rompkey, P.C.)*
Anne C. Cools
Consiglio Di Nino

Joan Fraser
George J. Furey
Mobina S. B. Jaffer
Janis G. Johnson (Deputy Chair)
Serge Joyal, P.C.
Noël A. Kinsella (or Terry Stratton)*
Marjory LeBreton, P.C.
Rose-Marie Losier-Cool
Shirley Maheu
Lorna Milne
Fernand Robichaud, P.C.
David P. Smith, P.C. (Chair)

Other senators who participated:

Sharon Carstairs, P.C., Maria Chaput, Gerald J. Comeau, Eymard G. Corbin, Art Eggleton, P.C., D. Ross Fitzpatrick, Elizabeth Hubley, Raymond Lavigne, John Lynch-Staunton, Pana Merchant, Grant Mitchell, Marie-P. Poulin (Charette), Pierrette Ringuette, William Rompkey, P.C., Terry Stratton and Charlie Watt

Standing Joint Committee for the Scrutiny of Regulations

George Baker, P.C.
Michel Biron
John G. Bryden (Joint Chair)
Céline Hervieux-Payette, P.C.
James F. Kelleher, P.C.
Wilfred P. Moore
Pierre Claude Nolin

Other senators who participated:

Noël A. Kinsella, John Lynch-Staunton

Standing Committee of Selection

Jack Austin, P.C. (or William Rompkey, P.C.)*
Lise Bacon
Sharon Carstairs, P.C.
Gerald J. Comeau
Joyce Fairbairn, P.C.
Noël A. Kinsella (or Terry Stratton)*
Marjory LeBreton, P.C. (Deputy Chair)
Rose-Marie Losier-Cool (Chair)
William Rompkey, P.C.
Terry Stratton
David Tkachuk

Standing Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology

Jack Austin, P.C. (or William Rompkey, P.C.)*
Catherine S. Callbeck
Andrée Champagne, P.C.
Ethel M. Cochrane
Joan Cook
Jane Cordy
Joyce Fairbairn, P.C.
Aurélien Gill
Wilbert Joseph Keon (Deputy Chair)
Noël A. Kinsella (or Terry Stratton)*
Michael Kirby (Chair)
Marjory LeBreton, P.C.
Lucie Pépin
Marilyn Trenholme Counsell

Other senators who participated:

Willie Adams, Maria Chaput, James S. Cowan, Lillian Eva Dyck, Janis G. Johnson, Terry M. Mercer, Landon Pearson, Hugh D. Segal, Fernand Robichaud, P.C., Gerry St. Germain, P.C., Terry Stratton and Claudette Tardif

Standing Committee on Transport and Communications

Jack Austin, P.C. (or William Rompkey, P.C.)*
Pat Carney, P.C.
Maria Chaput
John Trevor Eyton
Joan Fraser (Chair)
Janis G. Johnson
Noël A. Kinsella (or Terry Stratton)*
Terry M. Mercer
Pana Merchant
Jim Munson
Gerard A. Phalen
David Tkachuk (Deputy Chair)

Other senators who participated:

Willie Adams, George Baker, P.C., Michel Biron, Andrée Champagne, P.C., Jane Cordy, Dennis Dawson, Pierre De Bané, P.C., Percy Downe, Art Eggleton, P.C., Elizabeth Hubley, Francis Fox, P.C., Aurélien Gill, Marjory LeBreton, P.C., Frank W. Mahovlich, Lorna Milne, Wilfred P. Moore, Nancy Ruth, Pierre Claude Nolin, Gerry St. Germain, P.C., Claudette Tardif, Marilyn Trenholme Counsell, Charlie Watt and Rod A. A. Zimmer