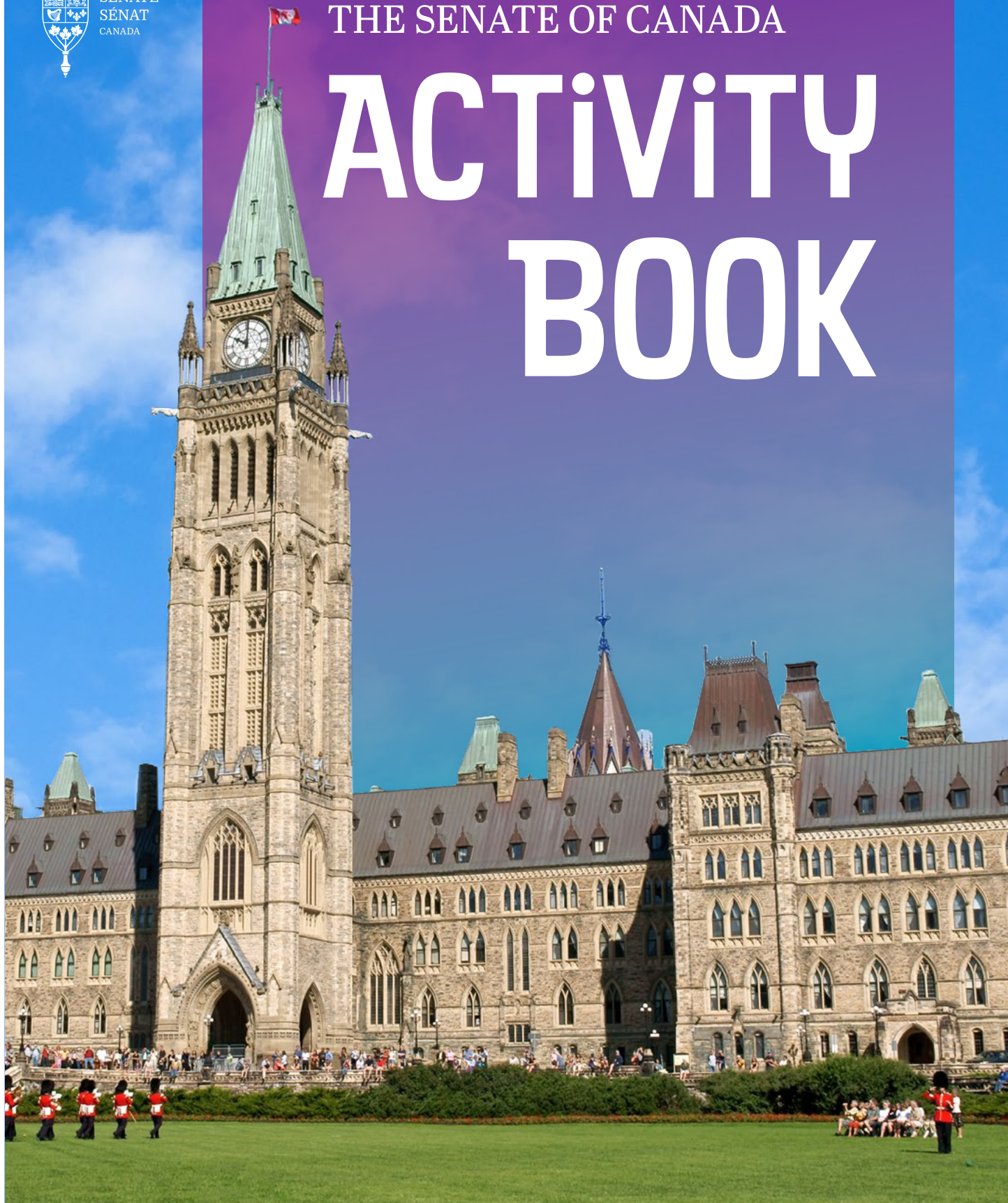




SENATE  
SÉNAT  
CANADA

THE SENATE OF CANADA

# ACTIVITY BOOK





**Hi!**

My name is Kaya.  
It's nice to meet you!

I just moved to Ottawa for my first  
year of university and now  
I am a Senate page!

I'll tell you more about  
what pages do in the Senate  
soon, but first you might  
want to know...

*just what exactly is the Senate?*

I didn't know much about what  
senators did when I first came  
here. But I learned the Senate is  
an interesting place. Come with  
me and I'll show you!





# THE SENATE OF CANADA ACTIVITY BOOK

Over the next few pages, you'll find lots of activities that will help you learn about the Senate and its role in Parliament.

Here and there you might come across a word that you've never seen before. That's because people on Parliament Hill use lots of special words for the work they do. But don't worry! If you see a **WORD IN BOLD**, turn to pages 23 and 24 to find a short definition.

**HAVE FUN AND GOOD  
LUCK WITH THE GAMES!**

# WHAT IS THE SENATE?

The **SENATE** is part of **PARLIAMENT**, which makes laws for Canada.

There are 105 senators who come from all over the country to meet in the Senate Chamber. They become senators when they are appointed by the **GOVERNOR GENERAL** on the advice of the **PRIME MINISTER** (so the prime minister gets to decide who will become a senator). Senators must be at least 30 years old to be appointed to the Senate, and they can work there until they are 75 years old.

The **HOUSE OF COMMONS** is also part of Parliament. It has 338 elected members called members of Parliament or MPs. Most laws get started in the House of Commons, but senators can also propose laws.

Together, the Senate and the House of Commons form what we call the legislative power in Canada.

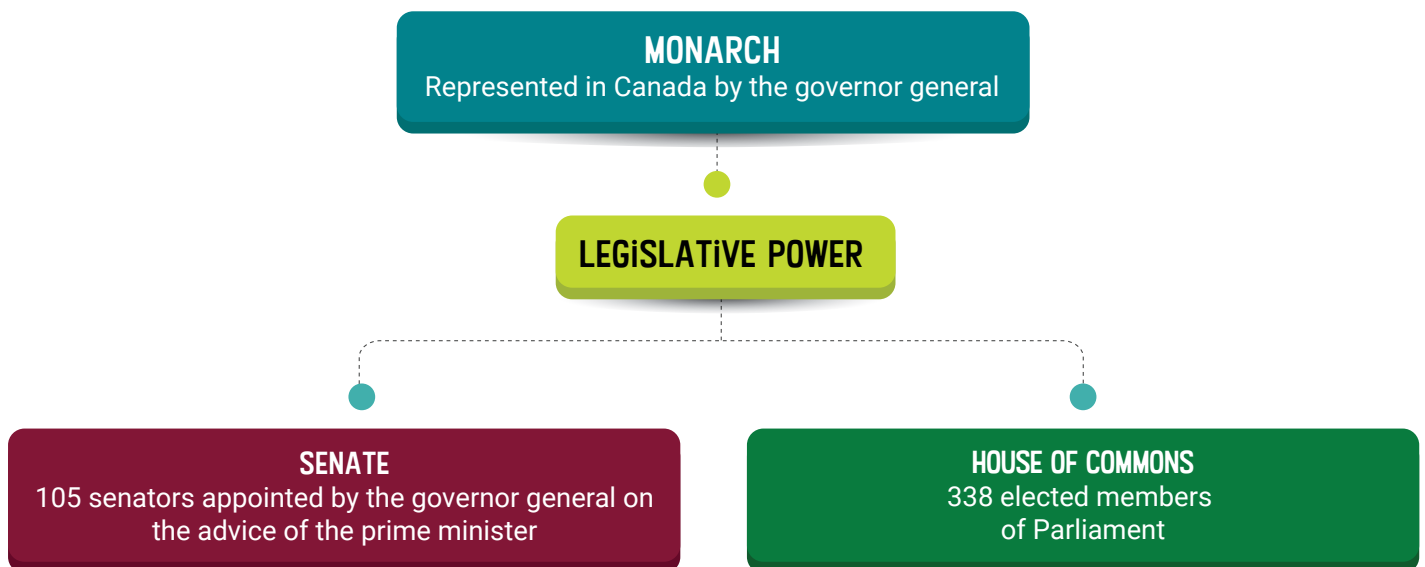


The Senate Chamber is also known as the Red Chamber, and it is home to 105 senators.



The House of Commons is home to 338 members of Parliament (MPs).

## CANADA'S PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM





## WHY DO WE NEED THE HOUSE OF COMMONS AND THE SENATE?

Think about a big province like Ontario and a small province like Nova Scotia. Because a lot of people live in Ontario, it has more seats in the **HOUSE OF COMMONS** than Nova Scotia does. So, things that Nova Scotians want could get ignored. When Canada was created in 1867, the **SENATE** was established to make sure regions with fewer people still had a strong voice in **PARLIAMENT**.

Nowadays, senators also stand up for groups that don't always have a big presence in the House of Commons, like Indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, visible minorities and women.



## WORD CLOUD

Circle the words related to the Senate.



MPs  
Regions  
Laws  
Senators  
Elected  
Appointed  
Red Chamber  
Parliament  
Minorities  
Canada

# THE SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

The Speaker is one of Canada's 105 senators. The Speaker's role is to keep order during **DEBATES** in the **SENATE** Chamber. He or she also makes sure that the Senate's rules are being followed.

The Speaker is a diplomatic figure who often greets leaders from other countries when they visit Ottawa. He or she also visits other countries on behalf of **PARLIAMENT**.

The Speaker is appointed to the role by the **GOVERNOR GENERAL** on the advice of the **PRIME MINISTER**.

## THE SPEAKER WEARS A SPECIAL UNIFORM AS PART OF A TRADITION THAT DATES BACK HUNDREDS OF YEARS.

### WHITE SHIRT

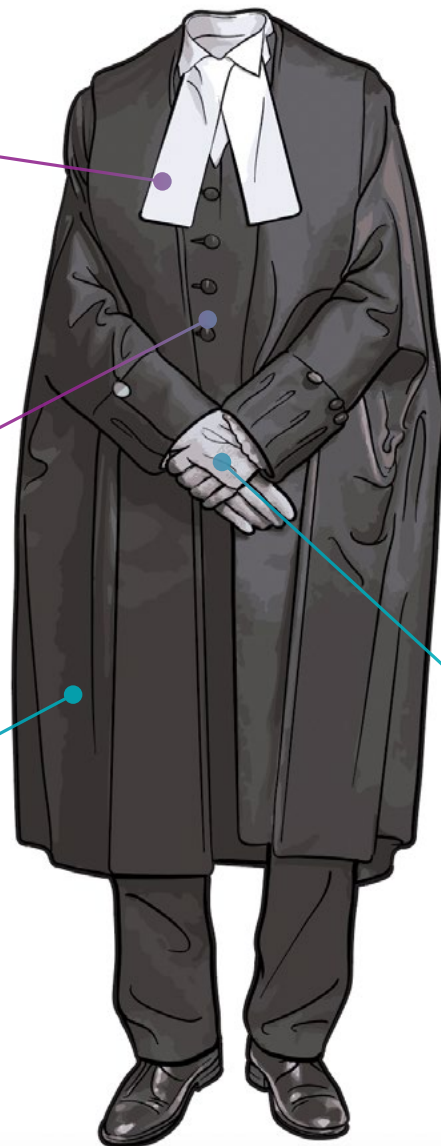
Two white bands called tabs are tied around the winged collar of the Speaker's white shirt.

### TAILCOAT

Underneath the robe is a black coat with large cuffs and seven buttons. It is worn over a black vest and pants trimmed with a narrow silk band.

### ROBE

The Speaker wears a black silk robe with a flat hood and 'wings' that hang from the open elbow sleeves.



### TRICORN HAT

The Speaker can choose to wear a tricorn hat, a style popular among European men in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

### COTTON GLOVES

For ceremonial occasions, like the **SPEAKER'S PARADE**, the Speaker wears white cotton gloves.

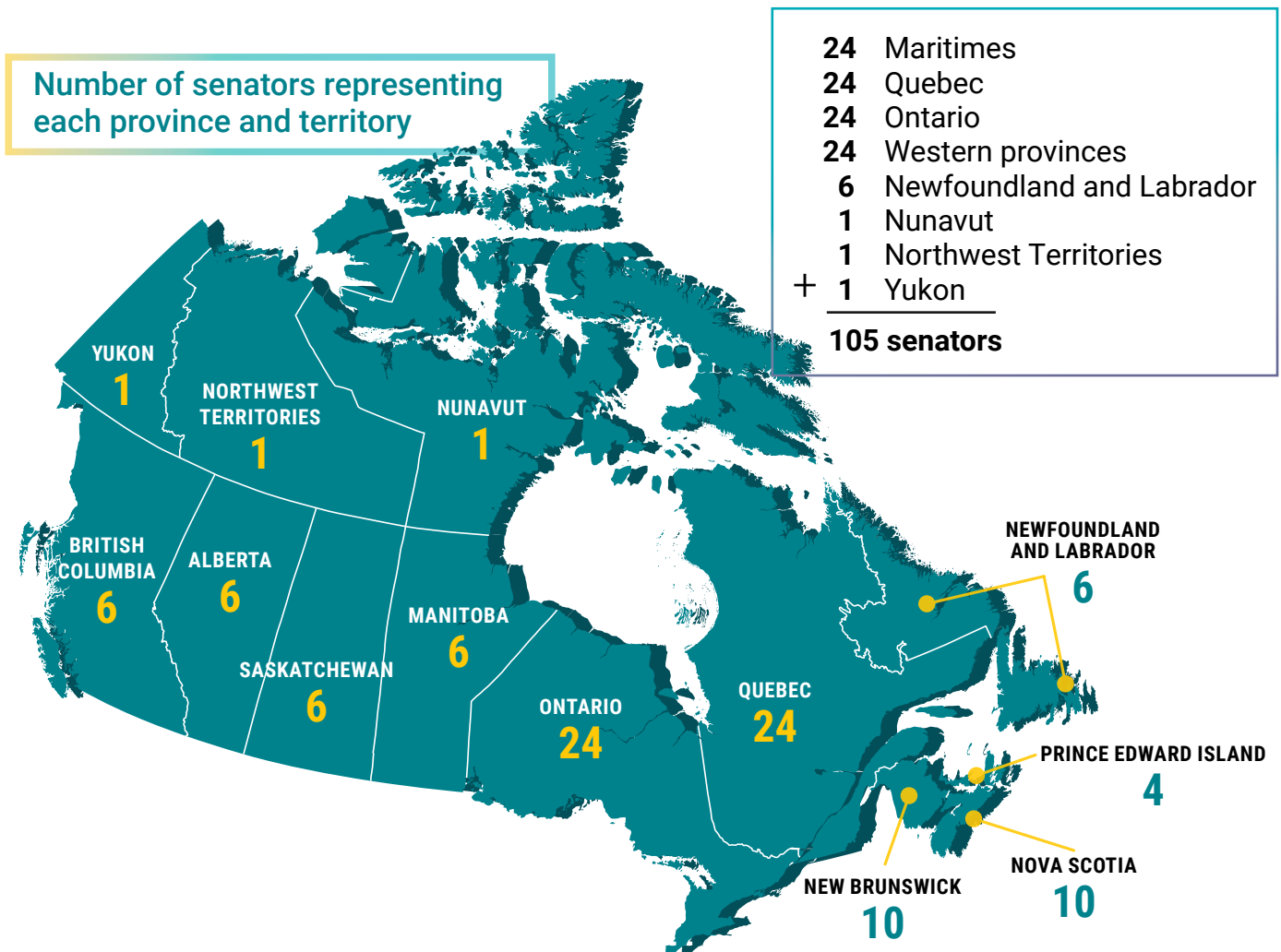
# WHAT DO SENATORS DO?

## SENATORS REPRESENT

Canada's 105 senators represent their province or territory. They also give a strong voice in **PARLIAMENT** to underrepresented groups like Indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, women, and linguistic and visible minorities.

You don't have to be a politician to be a senator. Some senators are scientists, judges, teachers and athletes. Others are police officers, businesspeople and women's rights supporters.

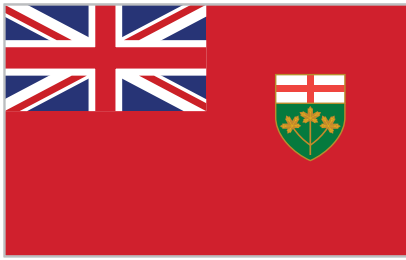
Together, this diverse group of people guides Parliament so that it acts in the best interest of the Canadians they represent. That includes you!





# NAME THAT FLAG

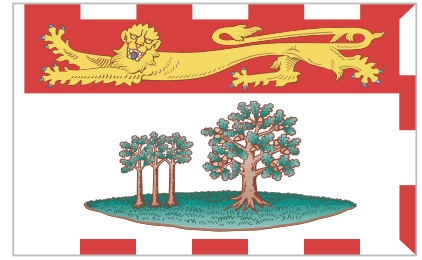
Fill in the blanks under each flag to complete the name of the provinces and territories that senators represent.



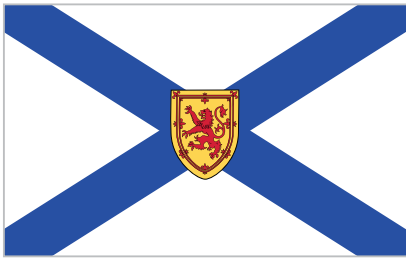
\_ N \_ \_ \_ O



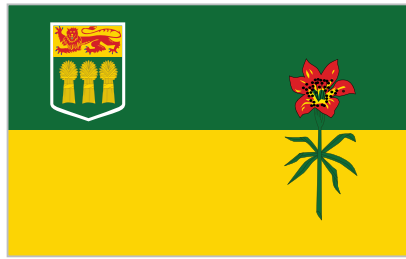
\_ R \_ \_ \_ H  
\_ \_ \_ U \_ \_ \_ A



P \_ \_ \_ \_ D \_ \_ \_  
\_ S \_ \_ \_



\_ \_ V \_ \_ C \_ \_ i \_



S \_ \_ \_ \_ T \_ \_ \_ A \_



\_ \_ R \_ W \_ \_  
\_ R \_ \_ \_ i \_



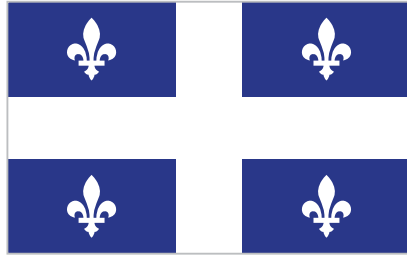
\_ \_ W \_ \_ N \_ \_ \_ C \_



\_ \_ B \_ \_ A



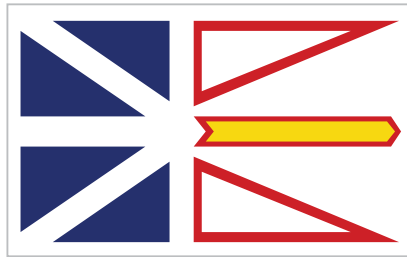
M \_ \_ T \_ \_



\_ U \_ \_ E \_



\_ \_ K \_ \_



\_ \_ W \_ \_ \_ D \_ \_ \_  
\_ \_ \_ \_ A \_ \_ \_ \_



\_ \_ N \_ \_ T

## WORD PLAY

Use the clues below to find the answers.



**James Gladstone**  
First senator from  
a First Nation

**What is the word for one underrepresented group of people that senators represent?**

**CLUES:** This group is composed of many smaller groups with their own cultures, languages and traditions. Inuit, Métis and First Nations peoples are part of this group.

- The first syllable is the opposite of “out.”
- The second syllable sounds like the fourth letter of the alphabet.
- The third syllable sounds like a part of your face where a beard might grow.
- The fourth syllable sounds like a two-letter pronoun that rhymes with “bus.”

Write your answer here: \_\_\_\_\_

# SENATORS INVESTIGATE



Senators often work in small groups called **COMMITTEES**. That's where they review **BILLS** (proposed laws) in detail to make sure there are no mistakes and to suggest improvements. They also study topics that are important to Canadians.

Committees regularly invite **WITNESSES** to Ottawa so senators can hear from experts or people who might be affected by a bill. But sometimes that's not enough, so committees will go on fact-finding missions to meet Canadians where they live. Committees then publish reports to tell everyone what they discovered.

Committees also make recommendations to the government in these reports, which often lead to new policies and laws.

## WORD PLAY

Use the clues below to find the answers.

**What is the word for a study group in the Senate?**

**CLUES:** This group of senators produces reports and investigates topics that are important to Canadians. It can also invite experts to meet and share their opinions.

- The first syllable is the end of many website addresses.
- The second syllable is another word for a baseball catcher's glove.
- The third syllable sounds like a hot drink that people in England adore.

Write your answer here: \_\_\_\_\_



# WORD SEARCH

Find the words associated with topics that Senate COMMITTEES study.

R E S O U R C E S C E J I D T D M Q V B  
 C J V H T U G N O N X X N E J A X D L U  
 J F K Q Z P I V P O E D D D P G U L A D  
 Q M P X R V J I P C I Z I M P R G C L G  
 Q K K V X H E R G E E W G A S I G O A E  
 B R U B E X X O P A Q T E P C C F M N T  
 T V E C R Z E N G N B R N H I U A M G S  
 P E B F X U U M R S A A O X E L D U U E  
 X F C G I L I E O U O N U P N T I N A I  
 J O T H O N V N J N J S S R C U V I G S  
 X R S C N F A T U S F P R P E R E C E T  
 E E O O A O I N T E G O F J M E R A S D  
 N S C M Q K L S C R A R H U L G S T H E  
 E T I M B R J O H E A T W S B R I I O F  
 R R E E A A N Y G E J D Y T H I T O N E  
 G Y T R K H N L X Y R M E I E G Y N U N  
 Y X Y C Z J V K F H N I A C S H F D B C  
 H B Q E T Q L W I N H F E E A T H M D E  
 K F X Q G H I V B N Z T L S V S H G S D  
 U K S E C U R I T Y G S V E T E R A N S

AGRICULTURE

BANKING

BUDGETS

COMMERCE

COMMUNICATION

DEFENCE

DIVERSITY

ENERGY

ENVIRONMENT

FINANCE

FISHERIES

FORESTRY

INDIGENOUS

JUSTICE

LANGUAGES

OCEANS

RESOURCES

RIGHTS

SCIENCE

SECURITY

SOCIETY

TECHNOLOGY

TRADE

TRANSPORT

VETERANS

# SENATORS LEGISLATE

Senators study **BILLS** passed by the **HOUSE OF COMMONS** to make sure they're in the best interest of Canadians. Senators can also propose bills.

As part of this work, senators **DEBATE** whether bills should be amended or passed without changes.

Once a bill has been passed in identical form by the **SENATE** and the House of Commons, the bill receives **ROYAL ASSENT** from the **GOVERNOR GENERAL** and becomes a law.

## HOW A SENATE BILL BECOMES A LAW

### 1. THE BILL IS INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE

- ✓ Senators debate the bill in the Senate Chamber.
- ✓ A Senate committee studies it and may suggest **AMENDMENTS** (changes).
- ✓ Senators have a final chance to debate the bill in the Senate Chamber and suggest changes.

*If it gets a majority of votes, the bill is sent to the House of Commons.*



### 2. THE BILL ARRIVES IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

- ✓ Members of Parliament (MPs) study and debate the bill in the House of Commons and in committee.
- ✓ If MPs change the bill, those changes have to be accepted by the Senate.

*If it gets a majority of votes, the bill is sent to the governor general for Royal Assent.*



### 3. THE BILL GETS ROYAL ASSENT

- ✓ Once the Senate and the House of Commons agree on what should be in the bill, it must receive **ROYAL ASSENT**.
- ✓ The **MONARCH** or the governor general grants Royal Assent, often in writing.

*At least twice a year, the governor general must grant Royal Assent during a special ceremony in the Senate Chamber.*



## THE BILL IS NOW A LAW!

# WORD SCRAMBLE

Put the letters in the right order.

1. LRYOA TNSASE: \_\_\_\_\_

Ceremony that turns a **BILL** into a law. It can only take place once the bill has been passed in the same form by the **SENATE** and the **HOUSE OF COMMONS**.

2. DANMEENMT: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed change to a bill.

3. SEDBEAT: \_\_\_\_\_

Senators' discussions in the **SENATE** Chamber.

4. ORRONGEV REANLEG: \_\_\_\_\_

Person who represents the **MONARCH** in Canada's parliamentary system.

5. DER RHECMAB: \_\_\_\_\_

Colourful nickname for the room where all 105 senators meet.

6. OSHUE FO SNOMCOM: \_\_\_\_\_

Part of Parliament that has 338 MPs.

7. TSEENA: \_\_\_\_\_

Part of Parliament that represents regions and minorities.



# WHERE DO SENATORS WORK? THE SENATE CHAMBER

Colour in the Red Chamber!

**Accessible public gallery**  
Everyone is welcome to watch Senate debates

**Royal thrones**

**Speaker's chair**

**Provincial and territorial shields**  
Symbols of the regions that senators represent

**Senators' desks**



# THE SENATE HAS MOVED

Senators work in Ottawa, Canada's capital. Usually they work in a building called Centre Block on Parliament Hill.



## 1912 HISTORIC TRAIN STATION

In February 2019, the **SENATE** moved into a 100-year-old building that used to be Ottawa's train station. That's because Centre Block is being renovated.

The train station is now called the Senate of Canada Building, and senators will work there until construction is done in Centre Block.



© William James Topley / Library and Archives Canada / PA-009110

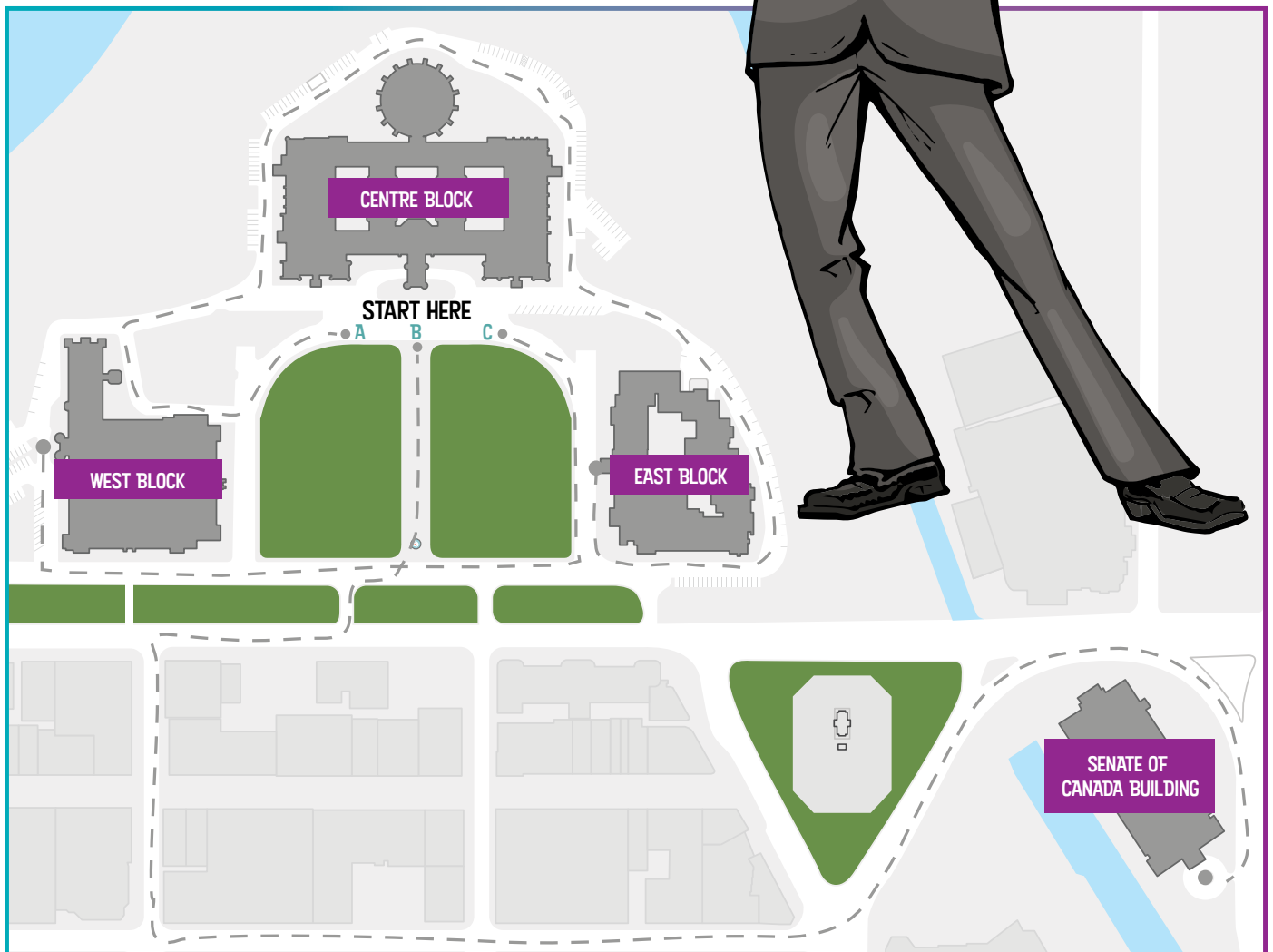
## 2019 SENATE OF CANADA BUILDING



# FIND THE RIGHT PATH

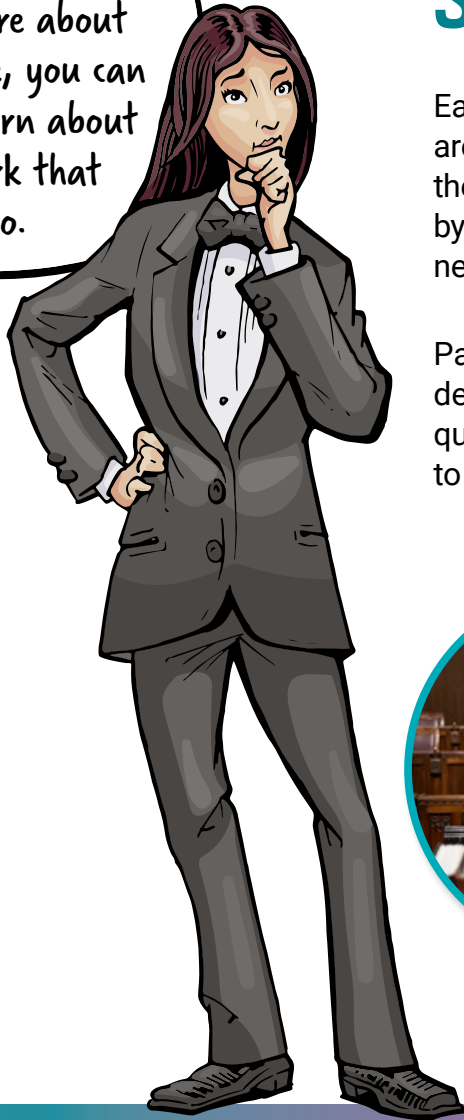
Help Kaya get from Centre Block to the Senate of Canada Building.  
Trace her route in **RED**.

Help Kaya get from Centre Block to the House of Commons' new home in West Block.  
Trace her route in **GREEN**.





Now that you know a bit more about the Senate, you can finally learn about the work that I do.



## SENATE PAGES

Each year, 15 university students from across Canada are selected to become Senate pages. They help make the **SENATE** and its **COMMITTEES** run smoothly, for example, by making sure senators have copies of documents they need to do their work.

Pages witness history in the making as **BILLS** are debated, amended and become law. Their work is done quietly and in the background – but it is essential to the work of the Senate.



### TRUE OR FALSE?

Can you guess what is true and what is false?

- |  |             |              |
|--|-------------|--------------|
| 1. There were no female Senate pages until 1971.   | <b>TRUE</b> | <b>FALSE</b> |
| 2. A page's uniform includes a tricorne hat, white gloves and a bow tie.   | <b>TRUE</b> | <b>FALSE</b> |
| 3. The bell that the pages ring to call senators to the Chamber is a recording of the original bell used on Parliament Hill. | <b>TRUE</b> | <b>FALSE</b> |
| 4. In the early days of the Senate, pages had to be small so they would fit in the uniforms – which came in only one size!   | <b>TRUE</b> | <b>FALSE</b> |
| 5. To become a page, you have to be from Ottawa.   | <b>TRUE</b> | <b>FALSE</b> |

# TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Now that you know more about the **SENATE**, try answering these questions.

Circle your answer.

1. How many senators are there in the Senate of Canada?
  - A. 338
  - B. 150
  - C. 105
  - D. 215
  
2. You have to be at least \_\_\_ years old to become a senator.
  - A. 30
  - B. 50
  - C. 75
  - D. 85
  
3. Where has the Senate moved while Centre Block — its permanent home — is being renovated?
  - A. Ottawa's former train station
  - B. The Rideau Centre shopping mall
  - C. East Block
  - D. The Peace Tower

4.

When was the Senate of Canada created?

- A. 1949
- B. 1812
- C. 1867
- D. 1990

5.

What do Senate committees do?

- A. They review bills very closely
- B. They ask experts and Canadians for their opinions on bills
- C. They produce reports
- D. All of the above

6.

The Senate is also known by which nickname?

- A. The Green Chamber
- B. The Red Chamber
- C. The Purple Chamber
- D. The Gold Chamber

7.

What job do you have to hold to be appointed to the Senate?

- A. Politician
- B. Journalist
- C. Teacher
- D. Senators come from all kinds of backgrounds

8.

What underrepresented groups get a strong voice in the Senate?

- A. Indigenous peoples
- B. Linguistic and visible minorities
- C. People with disabilities
- D. Women
- E. All of the above

9.

Who sits in the chair in front of the royal thrones in the Senate Chamber?

- A. The Speaker of the Senate
- B. The Prime Minister of Canada
- C. Any senator who is addressing the Chamber
- D. A Senate page

10.

The role of the Speaker of the Senate includes:

- A. Holding the microphone for senators who are giving a speech
- B. Making sure the Senate rules are being followed
- C. Greeting leaders from other countries
- D. B and C

11.

What do senators do?

- A. Represent
- B. Investigate
- C. Legislate
- D. All of the above

12.

Each senator represents:

- A. A province or territory
- B. A riding
- C. A bill
- D. A country

## CONGRATULATIONS!

You've finished all the games in this activity book — and now you know a lot about the Senate and its role in Canada's Parliament!

If you want to learn more, follow the Senate on social media or visit [sencanada.ca](https://sencanada.ca). You'll find all kinds of photos, videos and articles about the Senate!





# GLOSSARY

Here are some of the terms you've seen in this activity book and their definition.

## **AMENDMENT**

Change to a bill suggested by a senator or a member of the House of Commons.

## **BILL**

Proposed law. Bills often come to the Senate for approval from the House of Commons but senators can introduce bills too. Bills cannot become law unless the Senate and the House of Commons approve them in identical form. Once a bill has been approved, the final step is for the monarch or governor general to grant Royal Assent by signing it into law.

## **COMMITTEE**

Group of senators that meets to discuss bills and investigate important topics. Committees often invite expert witnesses to shed light on these issues; senators also go on fact-finding missions across the country to get new information firsthand. They use this information to create reports and make recommendations to the government.

## **DEBATE**

Senators' discussions in the Senate Chamber. Senators represent people from across the country and bring a variety of experiences to the Senate. While senators may not always agree with each other, they use research and evidence to support their views and they are respectful of each other's opinions.

## **GOVERNOR GENERAL**

Monarch's representative in Canada. Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon became Canada's 30<sup>th</sup> governor general on July 26, 2021.

## **HOUSE OF COMMONS**

Parliament's elected house. The House of Commons is made up of 338 members of Parliament (MPs for short), including the prime minister. MPs draft legislation, debate issues and represent Canadians who live in their riding.

## **MONARCH**

Queen or King of Canada.

## **PARLIAMENT**

Institution that consists of the monarch, the Senate and the House of Commons. Parliament passes laws that affect Canadians.

## **PRIME MINISTER**

Head of the government of Canada who is the leader of the governing political party. The prime minister sits in the House of Commons as a member of Parliament.

## **ROYAL ASSENT**

Ceremony that turns a bill into a law. Royal Assent is given by the monarch or the governor general. It takes place only after the bill has been passed in the same form by the Senate and the House of Commons.

## **SENATE**

Body of 105 senators that reviews and proposes bills. It's part of Parliament, along with the monarch and the House of Commons. It's also called the Red Chamber.

## **SPEAKER'S PARADE**

Parade that marks the opening of a Senate sitting. The parade includes officials who escort the Speaker into the Senate Chamber.

## **WITNESSES**

People who appear before committees to speak about a proposed law (a bill) or an important issue. Senators may recommend changing a bill because of what a witness says. Anybody with knowledge to share on a specific topic may be invited to be a witness – even young people!

# ANSWERS

## WORD CLOUD

PAGE 5

- Appointed
- Canada
- Minorities
- Red Chamber
- Regions
- Parliament
- Laws
- Senators

## NAME THAT FLAG

PAGES 8-9



Ontario



British Columbia



Prince Edward Island



Nova Scotia



Saskatchewan



Northwest Territories



New Brunswick



Alberta



Manitoba



Quebec



Yukon



Newfoundland and Labrador



Nunavut

## WORD PLAY

PAGE 9

IN-D-CHIN-US = Indigenous

## WORD PLAY

PAGE 10

COM-MITT-TEA = Committee

# WORD SEARCH

PAGE 11



# WORD SCRAMBLE

PAGE 13

1. Royal Assent
2. Amendment
3. Debates
4. Governor general
5. Red Chamber
6. House of Commons
7. Senate

# FIND THE RIGHT PATH

PAGE 17

Senate of Canada Building – B  
House of Commons – C

## TRUE OR FALSE

### PAGE 18

**TRUE.** Former senator Muriel McQueen Fergusson called attention to the lack of female pages. She became the first female Speaker of the Senate in 1972.

**FALSE.** It is the Senate Speaker who wears a tricorn hat. Pages do, however, wear white gloves and a bow tie.

**TRUE.** The recording was made after the original bells broke. Luckily, a parliamentary employee had kept a bell as a souvenir and the sound was recorded in a studio.

**TRUE.** Pages had to be small for several reasons. First, senators had difficulty hearing each other because there was no sound system in the Senate Chamber back then. Tall pages would have stopped the sound from carrying and blocked senators' view during debates. Most importantly, the uniforms came in only one size – so pages had to be small enough for the uniform to fit.

**FALSE.** Pages can come from any province or territory in the country. If you're a full-time student and in your first undergraduate degree program, you could be a page. You must also be able to speak English and French, Canada's two official languages.

## TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

### PAGES 19-21

1. **C** – 105
2. **A** – 30
3. **A** – Ottawa's former train station
4. **C** – 1867
5. **D** – All of the above
6. **B** – The Red Chamber
7. **D** – Senators come from all kinds of backgrounds
8. **D** – All of the above
9. **A** – The Speaker of the Senate
10. **D** – B and C
11. **D** – All of the above
12. **A** – A province or territory



# FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE SENATE AND HOW SENATORS REPRESENT YOU!

## WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW?

For a bill to become a law, the Senate and the House of Commons have to agree on what should be in it. Why? Because senators have an important contribution to make – they represent regions and minorities to give them a powerful voice in Parliament and make sure their concerns are heard.

Watch how a Senate bill goes through Parliament at [info.sencanada.ca/how-bill-becomes-law](https://info.sencanada.ca/how-bill-becomes-law)

## MISSED YOUR CHANCE TO VISIT CENTER BLOCK?

Although this iconic building is now closed, you can still experience its art and architecture through the Senate's immersive virtual tour.

Visit [tour.sencanada.ca](https://tour.sencanada.ca)



## WANT TO INVITE A SENATOR TO SPEAK TO YOUR CLASS?

The SENGage program can help you bring a senator to your class or event.

Visit [sencanada.ca/en/sengage](https://sencanada.ca/en/sengage)

sencanada.ca

