



# News Release

Advisory Working Group on a Senate 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Medal

---

## **Senators to honour ‘unsung heroes’ for Canada’s 150<sup>th</sup> birthday**

**Ottawa, April 6, 2017** – In celebration of Canada’s 150<sup>th</sup> birthday, senators will issue medals to commemorate the extraordinary contributions of Canadians.

The Senate Committee on Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration voted in favour of creating a Senate of Canada Sesquicentennial Medal during a committee meeting Thursday after a motion by Senator David Wells, who has been working with Senator Serge Joyal to launch this award.

A run of 1,500 medals will be struck as soon as an advisory working group approves the design. Senators Joyal and Wells are co-chairs of the working group, which also includes senators Patricia Bovey and Betty Unger.

The decision to strike a Senate medal comes after the federal government nixed plans for its own sesquicentennial medal. Senators believe it is important to honour Canadians who have made meaningful contributions to Canada, or whose achievements abroad have brought credit to Canada.

The Speaker of the Senate will be able to award 50 medals while every other senator will receive 12 medals to award.

The budget for the medals is \$225,000; work on the medals will begin immediately.

### **Quotes**

“We wanted to be able to honour Canada’s unsung heroes by giving credit where credit is due. In our work we encounter Canadians from all over the country who are deserving of recognition. On the occasion of Canada’s 150<sup>th</sup> birthday it is only right that we applaud the people who make Canada the best country in the world.”

**- Senator David Wells, Co-Chair of the Advisory Working Group on a Senate 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Medal**

“We have an opportunity at this stage of our history — at our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary — to recognize that Canada is thriving because of so many people whose generosity, conviction and hard work make life better for all of us. It is part of the celebration and it is worthwhile for the Senate’s role as the spokespeople for minorities, regions and all those who contribute to our nation.”

**- Senator Serge Joyal, Co-Chair of the Advisory Working Group on a Senate 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Medal**

### **Associated Links**

- Learn more about senators [Serge Joyal](#) and [David Wells](#).

**For more information, please contact:**

Claudine Courtois  
Director of Parliamentary Affairs  
The Office of the Hon. Senator David Wells  
Senate of Canada  
613-943-1788  
[claudine.courtois@sen.parl.gc.ca](mailto:claudine.courtois@sen.parl.gc.ca)

Aram Adjemian  
Parliamentary Research Assistant  
The Office of the Hon. Senator Serge Joyal  
Senate of Canada  
613-943-0434  
[aram.adjemian@sen.parl.gc.ca](mailto:aram.adjemian@sen.parl.gc.ca)