



SENATE | SÉNAT
CANADA

CANADA'S SENATORS:
STRONG and
PRINCIPLED
VOICES





ABOVE AND BEYOND SOBER SECOND THOUGHT

The Senate is famous for giving sober second thought to bills passed by the House of Commons.

But it also does so much more.

105 senators are appointed by the governor general on the advice of the prime minister.

The Senate counts some of Canada's most accomplished women and men among its members. Armed with energy and wisdom, senators make the Red Chamber home to ideas, inspiration and vigorous debate.

Senators come from diverse ethnic, socio-economic and cultural backgrounds; they use the knowledge gleaned from their own experiences to give Canada's regions and minorities a strong voice in Parliament.

This is how they do it.

SENATORS **REPRESENT**

The Senate was created to represent regions so that areas of the country with fewer people – and thus with fewer seats in the House of Commons – would maintain a strong presence in Parliament. Today, senators also give a powerful voice to underrepresented groups like women, people with disabilities, Indigenous peoples, and linguistic and visible minorities.

SENATORS **INVESTIGATE**

Senators investigate issues of importance to Canadians. Senate committees are particularly well-regarded for their tenacity and diligence. For example, a comprehensive study on mental health helped bring mental illness out of the shadows, while an examination of digital currency showed how senators anticipate the issues of tomorrow. Senators rely on expert witnesses, fact-finding missions and their own experience to make recommendations that can change the country for the better.

SENATORS **DELIBERATE**

Senators deliberate about pressing concerns and grapple with issues on their merit. A bill on physician-assisted dying saw senators speak eloquently and movingly about what was literally a matter of life and death. The debate showed senators as they are – legislators who speak from their conscience and for the good of Canadians.

SENATORS **LEGISLATE**

Senators legislate by reviewing laws passed by the House of Commons and by drawing up their own bills. Senators have often caught mistakes in bills passed by the House of Commons, fixing errors before they become law. In one example, a government spending bill was sent to the Senate lacking a critical component that would have rendered it useless if an alert senator had not noticed and intervened.

BY THE NUMBERS

December 3, 2015 – June 21, 2019

Committee meetings held **2,187**

Committee reports published **414**

Witnesses heard **7,795**





The Senate is much more than a chamber of sober second thought.

It is a voice for regions and minorities, and a source of ideas, inspiration and legislation in its own right.