



# The Senate **REPORT**

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Summer 2003

## Business Highlights

The adjournment of the Senate on June 19 put an end to a very busy spring for the Upper House and its Committees. Between the beginning of April and the summer adjournment, several Senate Committees presented or tabled numerous reports.

From the health of the Canadian and international financial systems, through Canada-US and Canada-Mexico trade relations, to proposed solutions for the dwindling fish stocks in the North Atlantic, the range of subjects studied by Senate committees is vast and varied. Since Canadians do not follow the activity of the Senate on a daily basis, they do not always catch the echoes of its productive discussions and prudent recommendations.

One recent report was an exception to this rule, attracting a striking amount of attention in the media and a great many letters to the editor from readers with opinions on the subject. The bill dealing with cruelty to animals, which the Senate and the House of Commons continue to send back and forth to each other, seems to have hit a nerve.

Some people have wrongly accused Senators of blocking long-needed changes in outdated legislation that no longer reflects current values. On the contrary: there is obviously quite a broad consensus in both houses on the need for a law against cruelty to animals. The amendments



*The official portrait of the 44<sup>th</sup> Speaker of the Senate, the Honourable Gildas Molgat, was unveiled on April 29. Senator Molgat, who died in January of 2001, served as Speaker from 1994 to 2000. His widow, Allison, and his daughter, Anne Marie, attended the ceremony, which was hosted by the current Speaker, the Honourable Dan Hays. Many Senators and MPs of all political stripes were present to hear highlights of the many achievements of this much admired and learned man, who was a soldier, businessman, diplomat and politician. The portrait is the work of Manitoba artist Mary Valentine; visitors can admire it and a series of other portraits of former Speakers in the corridor adjacent to the Senate Chamber.*

suggested by the Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs, and endorsed by the whole Senate, are designed to protect traditional Aboriginal hunting and fishing practices and reasonable and generally accepted livestock raising and management practices.

In the debates around passage of this bill, the Senate has unequivocally demonstrated what it does best: focussing its full attention on the careful consideration of issues, enabling improvements to proposed legislation for greater benefit of all Canadians. The complete account of the Committee's proceedings can be found at [www.parl.gc.ca](http://www.parl.gc.ca) under "Committee Business."

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## Senators' Forum

*The Honourable Serge Joyal, P.C.\*  
(LIB, Quebec, Senatorial division of Kennebec)*

No one who knows anything about the Senate is indifferent to it.

More often than not, however, those who criticize or want to reform the Senate have never set foot inside the Chamber, read its reports, or familiarized themselves with its work.



*Following the May 27 launch of *Protecting Canadian Democracy: The Senate You Never Knew*, a book he edited, Senator Serge Joyal autographs copies for Senators Raymond C. Setlakwe and Gerard A. Phalen, Bernard Patry, MP. and Senator Douglas*

In fact, few Canadians know very much about the Senate and until now they did not really have a convenient means to learn about it as an integral part of our national Parliament.

This is what personally motivated me, along with a group of renowned Canadian academics from across the country and two experienced colleagues from the Senate, to undertake a study on the history, role and functions of the Senate in our parliamentary system.

All of us wanted to present a perspective on the true nature of the Senate and to fill the clear need for objective and publicly accessible information about it.

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The Parliament of Canada is the only bicameral legislature in this country. Within our constitutional framework, each House has a specific role in examining bills, reviewing the budget and studying policies of public interest.

As the role of Parliament grew and became more complex, so too did the relationship between the House of Commons and the Senate, the chamber of sober second thought. Fundamentally, however, the appointed Senate has always played an important role as a complementary counterbalance to the elected House of Commons.

Historically, the Senate was also intended to ensure regional balance and the protection of minority interests. The responsibility for defending minority rights has taken on greater meaning since the incorporation into our Constitution of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms in 1982. The Senate has assumed a responsibility in guaranteeing these rights and freedoms and counterbalancing the influence of majorities.

Through a collection of essays, this book defines the institutional principles that underpin the Senate and its particular role as the complementary chamber to the House of Commons. We have also addressed the question of reform. Several proposals are put forward to improve the Senate, to make it better and more credible to the public, without requiring a constitutional amendment.

The end result is an understanding and appreciation of the real Senate.

*\* Sen. Joyal directed the research and edited *Protecting Canadian Democracy: the Senate You Never Knew*, published in May 2003.*



*Senator Lowell Murray, also a contributing author to the newly released book on the Senate, signs the copy belonging to Serge Pelletier, Exec. Secretary of the Canadian Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and of the Canada-France Inter-Parliamentary Association.*

The Senate provides some check on the power of Cabinet and its Commons' majority without challenging or offending today's democratic culture. Contrary to the working assumption of many of our critics, journalistic and otherwise, repeated studies have shown that the Senate's work is cost effective. Its abolition would only increase the already excessive control of our governmental institutions by the Cabinet and bureaucracy.

"Triple-E" advocates, who believe that elected senators from their regions would be impervious to the call of party loyalty and could be counted on to support the perceived regional perspective instead, are not thinking realistically. It would be quite risky to proceed to an elected Senate without, at the same time, negotiating at least its powers in relation to those of the Commons, and its regional distribution of seats.

Tightening our attendance rules, creating an ethics committee and other such improvements will not assuage those who hold a principled objection to the Senate as presently constituted. For them, the Senate's definitive, existential flaw, that it is a non-elected legislative chamber, nullifies its virtues.

In my opinion, none of the alternatives proposed by the opponents to the system of prime-ministerial appointments would be an improvement. In fact, the patronage prerogative lets the Prime Minister compensate somewhat for imbalances of gender and race in the elected House.

I believe the Senate should consider making a number of areas of national importance its areas of continuing study. The institutional memory and continuity of the Senate would be used to good advantage in this way. The federal public service, the armed forces and RCMP, the legal and judicial system, public broadcasting, and the National Capital Region need more serious and continuous attention than they are now getting.

\* Sen. Murray is one of the authors who contributed to *Protecting Canadian Democracy: The Senate You Never Knew*.

## Legislative Activities

Proposed legislation in a wide variety of areas is examined by the Parliament of Canada, in the form of bills. These can be introduced either in the Senate or in the House of Commons, and are divided into two main groups:

### **Public Bills**

Public bills deal with public policy. They are introduced either in the Senate by the Government Leader in the Senate (in which case their number is preceded by the letter S), or in the House of Commons by a Cabinet Minister (in which case their number is preceded by the letter C).

An ordinary Senator can also initiate consideration of a public bill by introducing it in the Senate (as can a private Member in the House of Commons).

### **Private Bills**

Private bills convey special rights or powers on a particular individual or a specific group.

Below is a list of bills being considered in Committee or in the Senate Chamber, and their status when its proceedings adjourned on June 19, 2003.

### **Government Bills Introduced in the Senate**

**S-13** *An Act to amend the Statistics Act.* Intended to enable researchers and the public to have access to census data after a certain period of time.

**Stage:** Passed at third reading, May 27, 2003. Referred to the House of Commons for concurrence on May 28, 2003.

### **Government Bills Introduced in the House of Commons**

**C-6** *An Act to establish the Canadian Centre for the Independent Resolution of First Nations Specific Claims to provide for the filing, negotiation and resolution of specific claims and to make related amendments to other Acts.*

**Stage:** Under debate at third reading.

**C-10** *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (cruelty to animals and firearms) and the Firearms Act.*

**Stage:** Bill split on October 28, 2002 into **C-10A** and **C-10B**.



**C-10A** *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (firearms) and the Firearms Act.*

**Stage:** Royal Assent on May 13, 2003.

**C-10B** *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (cruelty to animals).*

**Stage:** Committee report stressing the merits of certain amendments proposed and was passed on June 19, 2003. Bill returned to the House of Commons.

**C-25** *An Act to modernize employment and labour relations in the public service and to amend the Financial Administration Act and the Canadian Centre for Management Development Act and to make consequential amendments to other Acts.*

**Stage:** In Committee (National Finance).

**C-35** *An Act to amend the National Defence Act (remuneration of military judges)*

**Stage:** Under debate at second reading.

**C-42** *An Act respecting the protection of the Antarctic Environment.*

**Stage:** Introduction and first reading.

### Private Senator Public Bills

**S-3** *An Act to amend the National Anthem Act to include all Canadians* (Senator Vivienne Poy). Intended to change words in the English version of the national anthem.

**Stage:** In Committee (Social Affairs, Science and Technology).

**S-4** *Federal Nominations Act* (Senator Terry Stratton). Intended to increase transparency and objectivity in the selection of candidates for certain high public positions.

**Stage:** Under debate at second reading.

**S-6** *Public Service Whistleblowing Act* (Senator Noël Kinsella). Aims to assist in the prevention of wrongdoing in the public service by establishing a framework for education on ethical practices in the workplace, for dealing with allegations of wrongdoing and for protecting whistleblowers.

**Stage:** Under debate at second reading.

**S-7** *An Act to protect heritage lighthouses* (Senator Michael Forrestall).

**Stage:** In Committee (Social Affairs, Science and Technology).

**S-8** *An Act to amend the Broadcasting Act* (Senator Noël Kinsella). Proposes primarily to enable the CRTC to make regulations establishing criteria for the awarding of costs, and to give the Commission the power to award and tax costs between the parties that appear before it.

**Stage:** Passed at third reading, April 2, 2003 and sent to the House of Commons.

**S-9** *An Act to honour Louis Riel and the Metis people* (Senator Thelma Chalifoux).

**Stage:** In Committee (Legal and Constitutional Affairs).

**S-10** *An Act concerning personal watercraft in navigable waters* (Senator Mira Spivak). Proposes to require the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to make regulations forbidding or restricting the use of personal watercraft in designated waterways.

**Stage:** In Committee (Energy, Environment and Natural Resources).

**S-11** *An Act to amend the Official Languages Act* (Senator Jean-Robert Gauthier). Designed to clarify the scope of section 41 and establish clearly that it is binding.

**Stage:** In Committee (Official Languages).

**S-12** *Statutes Repeal Act* (Senator Tommy Banks). Proposes to repeal legislation that has not been brought into force within ten years of receiving royal assent.

**Stage:** In Committee (Legal and Constitutional Affairs).

**S-14** *An Act to amend the National Anthem Act to reflect the linguistic duality of Canada* (Senator Noël Kinsella). Proposes to combine portions of the English and French versions of the national anthem to create a version that reflects the linguistic duality of Canada.

**Stage:** In Committee (Official Languages).

**S-15** *An Act to remove certain doubts regarding the meaning of marriage* (Senator Anne C. Cools). Proposes to define marriage as a voluntary union of one man and one woman as husband and wife to the exclusion of all others.

**Stage:** Under debate at second reading.

**S-16** *An Act to amend the Constitution Act, 1867 and the Parliament of Canada Act* (Senator Donald Oliver). Provides for the election of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Senate.

**Stage:** Under debate at second reading.

**S-17** *Canadian International Development Agency Act* (Senator Roch Bolduc). In particular, this bill provides for the continuation, governance, administration and accountability of the Agency.

**Stage:** In Committee (National Finance).

**S-18** *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (lottery schemes)* (Senator Jean Lapointe). Proposes to limit the installation of lottery terminals and slot machines to racetracks and premises dedicated to gaming.

**Stage:** Under debate at second reading.

**S-20** *An Act to amend the Copyright Act* (Senator Joseph A. Day). Aims to amend the text that eliminates an exception to the general rule on ownership of copyright.

**Stage:** Under debate at second reading.

### Private Member Public Bills

**C-249** *An Act to amend the Competition Act*. Aims to amend section 96 of the *Competition Act* to guarantee that consumers benefit from mergers resulting in gains in efficiency.

**Stage:** Under debate at second reading.

**C-300** *An Act to change the names of certain electoral districts*.

**Stage:** In Committee (Legal and Constitutional Affairs).

### Private Bills

**S-19** *An Act respecting Scouts Canada* (Senator Consiglio Di Nino). To update various laws governing the association known as "Boy Scouts of Canada" to better reflect its present status.

Replaces the association's name with "Scouts Canada" and makes other changes with regard to the administration of its business.

**Stage:** In Committee (Legal and Constitutional Affairs).

**S-21** *An Act to amalgamate the Canadian Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors and The Canadian Association of Financial Planners under the name The Financial Advisors Association of Canada* (Senator Michael Kirby).

**Stage:** In Committee (Banking, Trade and Commerce).

## Royal Assent

**C-2** *An Act to establish a process for assessing the environmental and socio-economic effects of certain activities in Yukon*. Passed at third

reading on May 6, 2003 and given Royal Assent on May 13, 2003.

**C-10A** *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (firearms) and the Firearms Act*. Senate amendments passed on May 6, 2003. Royal Assent given on May 13, 2003.

**C-9** *An Act to amend the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*. Passed at third reading on June 5, 2003 and given Royal Assent on June 11, 2003.

**C-15** *An Act to amend the Lobbyists Registration Act*. Senate amendments passed on June 6, 2003, Royal Assent given on June 11, 2003.

**S-5** *An Act respecting a National Acadian Day*. Passed at third reading on June 5, 2003 and given Royal Assent on June 19, 2003.

**C-24** *An Act to amend the Canada Elections Act and the Income Tax Act (political financing)*. Passed at third reading on June 19, 2003 and given Royal Assent the same day.

**C-28** *An Act to implement certain provisions of the budget tabled in Parliament on February 18, 2003*. Passed at third reading June 19, 2003 and given Royal Assent the same day.

**C-31** *An Act to amend the Pension Act and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Superannuation Act*. Passed at third reading on June 17, 2003. Received Royal Assent on June 19, 2003.

**C-39** *An Act to amend the Members of Parliament Retiring Allowances Act and the Parliament of Canada Act*. Passed at third reading on June 19, 2003. Royal Assent was given the same day.

**C-44** *An Act to compensate military members injured during service*. Passed at third reading June 18, 2003. Received Royal Assent on June 19, 2003.

**C-47** *An Act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service of Canada for the financial year ending March 31, 2004*. Passed at third reading on June 18, 2003. Given Royal Assent one day later.

**C-205** *An Act to amend the Statutory Instruments Act (disallowance procedure for statutory instruments)*. Passed at third reading on June 19, 2003 and received Royal Assent the same day.

**C-411** *An Act to establish Merchant Navy Veterans Day*. Passed at third reading on June 19, 2003. Royal Assent was given the same day.

## Committee Activities

An indispensable cog in the machinery for examining bills and public policy, Committees are the heart and soul of the Senate. They investigate a vast range of subjects, carry out in-depth studies, call for and listen to evidence from both experts and ordinary citizens, publish substantial reports and influence the content of legislation.

Are you interested in the work of the Senate's committees? The Web site [http://www.parl.gc.ca/Common/Committee\\_SenList.asp](http://www.parl.gc.ca/Common/Committee_SenList.asp) contains a wealth of useful information about them. In particular, you will find a list of Standing and Special Committees, lists of their members, transcripts of their proceedings, a calendar of their meetings, their most recent reports, and the names, addresses and phone numbers of their contact people.

**For further information, contact the Senate's Committees and Private Legislation Directorate at 1-800-267-7362.**

## Aboriginal Peoples

The Committee recently conducted a

study of Bill C-6, the proposed *Specific Claims Resolution Act*. The Act seeks to establish the Canadian Centre for the Independent Resolution of First Nations Specific Claims to provide the filing, negotiations and resolution of specific claims and make related amendments to other Acts. Members reported the bill to the Senate with six amendments as well as observations after hearing from the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the Assembly of First Nations, First Nations Communities and other interested groups. The Committee hopes that their observations

concerning particular issues will be considered by the Minister when he conducts his review of mandate of the Centre and of the legislation, which is required in three to five years of its coming into force.

The Committee has now returned to its special study of issues affecting urban Aboriginal youth. Primarily, the Committee is examining the issues of access, provision and delivery of services; policy and jurisdictional issues; employment and education; access to economic opportunities and youth participation and empowerment. The Committee hopes to complete the study shortly after Senate resumes sitting in September.

## Agriculture and Forestry

From November 2002 to June 2003, the

Committee examined the effects of climate change on Canada's agricultural, forestry sectors and rural communities. This study resulted from the Committee's previous study, *Canadian Farmers at Risk*.

Since climate change is affecting agriculture and forestry operations from coast to coast, the Committee actively sought the views of farmer organizations, rural associations, ecotourism groups and environmental and conservation organizations from all regions of Canada.

The Committee also identified the leading researchers in the field of climate change and adaptation and heard from witnesses at the forefront of the subject from universities, research centres, and governments across Canada as

Recently, the Committee travelled to the Maritimes to hear the concerns of Atlantic Canada's farmers. The farmers repeatedly expressed their apprehension about changes in climate yet remained unsure as to how they could cope with, or adapt to, apparently new climate scenarios.

The Committee's interim report, *Climate Change: We Are At Risk*, was released on June 18 and the Committee is now inviting stakeholders to propose relevant and realistic suggestions that could help Canadians in rural areas and also, where applicable, in urban areas to adapt to climate change.

The Committee anticipates releasing its final report in October 2003.

## Banking, Trade and Commerce

A year-long study of the present state of the

domestic and international financial system came to a close with the June 19 tabling of the Committee's twelfth report, *Navigating Through "The Perfect Storm: Safeguards To Restore Investor Confidence"*. Specifically, the Committee focussed on the Canadian dimension of the ENRON collapse.

Hoping to help restore investor confidence in a stock market shaken by several years of corporate scandals

across North America, the Committee members were unanimous in their recommendations for legislative changes that would affect federally incorporated corporations and their directors, executives and accountants.

The Committee also began their examination of the administration and operation of the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act and the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*. Thus far, seven meetings have been held and more than 34 witnesses have appeared before the Committee. Members will resume this study in September.

## Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources

Since the beginning of April, the Committee has

studied three bills.

Regarding Bill **C-2**, *An Act to establish a process for assessing the environmental and socio-economic effects of certain activities in Yukon*, the Committee heard testimony from the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, officials from his department and representatives from seven other organizations. The Committee reported the bill without amendment.

Regarding Bill **S-10**, *An Act concerning personal watercraft in navigable waters*, sponsored by the Honourable Mira Spivak, the Committee heard over a dozen organizations and individuals in hearings that began in the spring and went until June.

Thirdly, the Committee studied Bill **C-9**, *An Act to amend the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, and reported it to the Senate without amendment.

Respecting its order of reference to consider “emerging issues related to its mandate,” the Committee chose to focus on the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol. The Committee heard from the Honourable Herb Dhaliwal, Minister of Natural Resources, officials from his department and officials from the Climate Change Secretariat. Members also heard from the Honourable David Anderson, Minister of the Environment, and officials from his department. The Committee is currently gathering evidence from various stakeholders (industry, environmental groups, etc.) to prepare a report on how Canadians can reach the goal of reducing their greenhouse gas emissions to one tonne, as proposed in the *Climate Change Plan for Canada*.

## Foreign Affairs

Since April, the Committee has continued its

long-term examination of Canada's trade relationships with both the United States and Mexico. Over the last few months, 29 meetings have been held and close to 100 individuals have been heard including Mr. Luis Ernesto Derbez Bautista, the Mexican Secretary of Foreign Relations. Prior to heading to Washington on a fact-finding mission, the Committee met with United States Ambassador, Paul Cellucci, on April 28, for an informal exchange of views on trade issues, as well as the potential impact of new security measures on cross-border trade.

While in Washington, the Committee attended a series of scheduled meetings on trade issues with U.S. Senator Craig Thomas, Chair of the Subcommittee on International Trade; U.S. Senator Susan Collins, Chair of the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs; the Northern Border Caucus and senior administration officials.

Following its extensive examination of Canada's trade relations, the Committee tabled its report entitled: *Uncertain Access: The Consequences of U.S. Security and Trade Actions for Canadian Trade Policy (Volume 1)* on June 13. The report contains 15 recommendations such as the need for a secure and trade-efficient border and the establishment of a NAFTA secretariat, which would explore new ways of ending trade disputes and improve the effectiveness of existing dispute mechanisms. The Committee also recommended that the Government improve the official Canadian presence in the United States, establish a Parliamentary Office in Washington, continue to seek out a comprehensive free trade agreement with Europe and make free trade with key Asian countries a priority.

## Fisheries and Oceans

The Committee presented its 3<sup>rd</sup>

report on March 27, 2003, and recommends the immediate implementation of a multi-faceted plan to rebuild the Northern and Gulf cod stocks, which are at historically low levels. The report also recommends that a task force be set up to identify the reasons for the stock collapse and present solutions for stock recovery and conservation.

On June 16, 2003, the Committee tabled its 5<sup>th</sup> report, an interim report on straddling fish stocks in the Northwest Atlantic, the result of six months' work on the stock collapse in this region. The Committee recommended, among other things, that Canada have more say in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization and that our country move to ratify the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. When the Committee resumes its work in the fall, it will be examining the issues related to fish habitat, and the fisheries of Nunavut and Nunavik.



## Human Rights

The  
Committee  
continued its

examination of the Organization of American States (OAS) American Convention on Human Rights. The Committee studied the Convention's provisions and focussed on incompatibilities between the Convention and current Canadian law.

The Committee's thorough research and investigation, which originally began in November 2002, culminated in May with the release of its fourth report, *Enhancing Canada's Role in the OAS: Canadian Adherence to the American Convention on Human Rights*.

Despite having heard legitimate concerns about the compatibility of Canadian law with some of the Convention's provisions, the Committee did not find any insurmountable obstacles to ratification. Instead, the Committee focused on the benefits of ratification, such as an increase in the protection of human rights for Canadians, and recommended that Canada ratify the Convention before its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2008.

In June, members started their examination of legal issues affecting on-reserve matrimonial real property on the breakdown of a marriage or a common-law relationship. Background information on the current situation of matrimonial property was provided by Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs during his appearance before the Committee prior to the summer adjournment.

Over the course of this study, the Committee will be examining:

- the interplay between provincial and federal laws in addressing the division of matrimonial property and, in particular, the enforcement of court decisions;
- the practice of land allotment on-reserve, with respect to custom land allotment, and
- in the case of marriage or common-law relationships, the status of spouses and how real property is divided on the breakdown of the relationship.

Members will resume hearings in September.

## Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration

The  
Committee's  
mandate is to

consider all financial or administrative matters relating to the internal management of the Senate.

Since April 1<sup>st</sup>, the Committee met on six occasions. Among the numerous issues addressed during these meetings were new measures aimed at making the work of the Upper Chamber and its committees more accessible to the hearing-impaired.

In the spirit of making the Senate more accessible, the Committee has, for the first time, opened the Salon de la Francophonie to visitors this summer.

## Legal and Constitutional Affairs

The  
Committee  
conducted an

exhaustive series of hearings on Bill **C-10B**, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (cruelty to animals)* before proposing five amendments. The Senate adopted the Committee's report on May 29 and returned the bill to the House of Commons. The House returned a message to the Senate on June 6, accepting only some of the Senate's amendments.

The matter was put back into the Committee's hands when the Senate referred the House's message regarding the bill's amendments for further study. The Committee recommended that some amendments be insisted upon and the Senate concurred. As the House had already adjourned, this controversial legislation must await the return of Parliament in the fall.

The Committee also reviewed Bill **C-24**, *An Act to amend the Canada Elections Act and the Income Tax Act (political financing)* and Bill **C-39**, *An Act to amend the Members of Parliament Retiring Allowances Act and the Parliament of Canada Act.* Both bills were reported to the Senate without amendment.

The Committee also undertook the study of two Private Senator Public Bills. Bill **S-5**, *An Act respecting a National Acadian Day*, sponsored by the Hon. Gerald Comeau was reported with amendments.

In addition, the Committee began studying Bill **S-12**, *An Act to repeal legislation that has not been brought into force within 10 years of receiving royal assent (Statutes Repeal Act)*, sponsored by the Hon. Tommy Banks. Examination of this bill will resume in September.



## National Finance

The Committee continued its

examination of the Government's Main Estimates for 2003-2004 and presented an interim report to the Senate on May 27. As part of the review, members heard from the President of the Treasury Board, the Honourable Lucienne Robillard, who appeared before the Committee earlier in May. The Committee also examined Bill **C-28**, the *Budget Implementation Act, 2003*, which received Royal Assent on June 19.

On June 13, 2003, the Committee received an Order of Reference to examine Bill **C-25**, the *Public Service Labour Relations Act*. This Act seeks to modernize employment and labour relations in the public service, to amend the *Financial Administration Act*, the *Canadian Centre for the Management Development Act* and to make consequential amendments to other Acts.

## National Security and Defence

Since April 2003, the Committee made

its ongoing evaluation of Canada's ability to defend its territorial waters and its capability to police the continental coastline a priority.

These hearings update an earlier Committee report, *Defence of North America: A Canadian Responsibility (September 2002)*, which found Canadian coastal defence efforts to be largely ad hoc and fragmented.

The Committee heard testimony from government witnesses including officials from the Navy, the Canadian Coast Guard, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Transport Canada, Canada Customs and Revenue Agency and Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

In order to gather as much information as possible, the Committee also heard from a number of academics as well as retired public servants whose former activities involved coastal matters. The Committee expects to finalize its report in the near future.

This coming fall, the Committee will return to its study on first responders. As part of its long-term evaluation of Canada's ability to contribute to security and defence in North America, the Committee has already held several hearings concerning the federal government's support of the men and women across the country who respond first to emergencies or disasters.

## Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs

The past three months have been a busy

and active time for the Subcommittee. One of the Subcommittee's recommendations from its recent report, *Fixing the Canadian Forces' Method of Dealing with Death or Dismemberment*, released this past April has now been taken up by the Minister of National Defence. The Honourable John McCallum recently announced his intention to introduce the legislation for retroactive payments to members of the Canadian Forces (CF) below the rank of Colonel, who were severely injured or killed on duty, and have not received certain benefits.

The Subcommittee's report dealt with inequalities in the insurance program for members of the CF and, since its release, many policy changes have been made to the insurance program.

In early April, the Subcommittee was asked to examine the bill **C-227**, *An Act Respecting a National Day of Remembrance of the Battle of Vimy Ridge*. The Subcommittee listened to four witnesses and reported the bill without amendment, although it did recommend that the Department of Canadian Heritage develop criteria for the flying of flags at half-staff, and also for the addition and deletion of occasions for the flying of flags at half-staff on the Peace Tower. The bill was passed in time for the first observance of the National Day of Remembrance on April 9, 2003.

The Subcommittee also concluded its study of services for veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and its report, *Occupational Stress Injuries: The Need for Understanding*, was tabled in the Senate on June 19. The Subcommittee undertook fact-finding visits and heard from numerous witnesses including the Minister of Veteran Affairs.

Chief among their recommendations was that an aggressive outreach program informing veterans that service-related psychological injuries are as pensionable as physical injuries be put in place.

In addition, the Subcommittee undertook a study of Bill **C-411**, *An Act to establish Merchant Navy Veterans Day*. Bill **C-411** was given Royal Assent on June 19 and the first ever Merchant Navy Veterans Day will be observed on September 3, 2003.

## Rules, Procedures and the Rights of Parliament

Examination  
of the  
Government's

Ethics Package continued this spring and an interim report advocating an independent Senate Ethics Officer was tabled April 10. The report provided general recommendations for the drafters of related legislation and key elements from the report were included in the resulting proposed legislation Bill **C-34**.

During the course of the study, the Committee heard from academics, current provincial Ethics Commissioners, former Parliamentarians and colleagues from the House of Lords.

Since tabling the interim report, the Committee has been examining a draft of rules of conduct for Senators and further academic witnesses on this subject have been heard. In addition, the Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the Government in the House of Lords, Lord Williams of Mostyn, appeared before the Committee on June 9, along with officials from the House of Lords and his ministerial office, to discuss the implementation of their code of conduct. The Committee also studied Bill **C-15**, *An Act to amend the Lobbyists Registration Act*, which was given Royal Assent on June 11.

## Social Affairs, Science and Technology

The  
Committee's  
study of mental

health problems and mental illnesses in Canada continues. In the spring of 2003, the Committee heard from four individuals who were personally touched by difficulties associated with mental disorders. The Committee then proceeded with several roundtable discussions covering:

- Prevalence and Costs;
- Mental Health in the Workplace;
- Stigma, Discrimination, Myths and Public Awareness;
- Childhood and Adolescent Disorders;
- Adult Disorders;
- Seniors Disorders;
- De-Institutionalization and Rehabilitation;
- Delivery of Mental Health Services; and
- Research and Information Dissemination.

According to the Committee's work plan, these roundtable discussions are part of a two-phase study. Following the completion of its initial roundtables, the Committee will prepare an interim report. Based on the opinions received from its preliminary findings, it will then proceed with further consultations and prepare a final report.

The Committee also concluded its examination of Bill **S-13**, *An Act to amend the Statistics Act*, which would permit the release of past census information to individuals.

On June 19, the Committee received an Order of Reference to undertake a study on the infrastructure and governance of the public health system in Canada, as well as on Canada's ability to respond to public health emergencies arising from outbreaks of infectious disease.

## Transport and Communications

On April 29,  
2003, the  
Committee began a

major review of Canada's news media. Members are currently examining the appropriate role of public policy in order to help ensure that Canadian news media remains healthy, independent and diverse given the changes in the media in recent years: notably due to

globalization, technological change, convergence, and concentration of ownership.

The Committee has already heard from some thirty witnesses including academics, lawyers, former newspaper publishers and broadcasting executives, as well as producers. Hearings are expected to continue throughout the year and to involve travel within Canada.

## Interparliamentary Activities

### Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (APF)

The APF Parliamentary Affairs Committee met in Sofia, Bulgaria, from May 17 to 21, 2003, under the chairmanship of the Honourable Pierre De Bané. The meeting focussed on the protection of minorities and on sustainable development, the topic for the next Francophone Summit.

The Canadian Branch of the APF held its annual meeting on May 6, 2003, and elected its steering committee. The nine elected members will serve a two-year term. Three senators will sit on the steering committee: the Honourable Pierre De Bané (Vice-President), the Honourable Gerald Comeau and the Honourable Rose-Marie Losier-Cool.

The APF was founded in 1967. Its objectives, among others, are to represent the interests and aspirations of French-speaking peoples before the governing bodies of international French-language organizations, to promote co-operation and strengthen solidarity within the international French-speaking community, while respecting the right to development, and to contribute to the spread of the French language.

### Canada-China Legislative Association

The Canada-China Legislative Association held its Annual General Meeting on April 2, in Ottawa. The meeting was presided by Senator Jack Austin, Co-Chair. Senators John Buchanan, Joseph A. Day and Vivienne Poy were elected as Vice-Chairs.

Due to the SARS situation, a number of the Association's activities and visits from Chinese parliamentarians and officials were postponed. Nevertheless, members of the Association are anticipating hosting their Chinese counterparts in Canada this coming fall.

Established in the fall of 1998, the Canadian Group of the Canada-China Legislative Association exchanges information and promotes better understanding between Canadian parliamentarians and representatives of the National Peoples' Congress of the Peoples' Republic of China on general issues of governance, specific issues of common interest and accomplishments, as well as differences and challenges of their respective systems and cultures.

The Association also provides a forum for the proposal of initiatives that are likely to lead to a better mutual understanding of bilateral and multilateral problems and to develop co-operation between the two countries.

### Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association

On March 18, 2003, the Association held a dinner meeting with the Honourable Roy MacLaren, former Minister of International Trade and former Canadian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom. Mr. MacLaren engaged his audience in a discussion of the history of Canadian-European relations and expressed his regret that Europe still refuses to enter into a free trade agreement with Canada.

From March 31 to April 4, Senators John Lynch-Staunton and Peter Stollery participated in the Second Part of the Ordinary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, held in Strasbourg.

The Honourable Charles Caccia, MP, and Chair of the Association, headed the delegation, which included MPs Yvon Charbonneau and Paul Forseth. Among the topics discussed in Strasbourg were: (a) Europe and the crisis in Iraq; (b) the human rights situation in Chechnya; (c) the new European agricultural policy and agriculture in an enlarged Europe; (d) the common European policy on immigration and asylum; (e) the human rights of prisoners held in Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay; and (f) human rights in Belarus. Parliamentarians from Canada and Mexico (regular observers at these meetings) also held a meeting to discuss NAFTA's Chapter 11, in particular the dispute settlement mechanisms. Founded in 1980, this Association aims to provide a structured forum for the exchange of information and ideas between Canadian parliamentarians and parliamentarians from the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Western European Union Assembly and individual parliaments of all countries of Western Europe.

### Canada-France Inter-Parliamentary Association

On April 29, 2003, the Executive Committee of the Canadian Branch of the Canada-France Inter-Parliamentary Association held a lunch meeting with Mr. Alain Lambert, the French Minister Delegate for the Budget and Budget Reform. The Minister was accompanied by Deputy Jean-Claude Lenoir. Mr. Lambert, a former Senator, is also Chair of the *Association nationale France-Canada*. He was visiting Canada to learn how the Canadian government was able to control its budget expenses and to learn about Canadian public service reform.

On May 22, during the visit of the French Prime Minister, Mr. Jean-Pierre Raffarin, to Canada, the Association took part in a roundtable discussion on the theme of *Canada-France relations: a pillar of transatlantic relations*. Chaired by Senator Lise Bacon, Chair of the Association's Canadian Branch, and Mr. Marc Laffineur, Chair of the French Branch, the roundtable was attended by 12 French parliamentarians, several Canadian parliamentarians and a number of experts. Senator Raymond Setlakwe made a noteworthy contribution to the discussion on trade relations between Canada and Europe.

was appointed to the Executive Committee.

Established on March 18, 1981, the Canadian Section of the Canada-Japan Inter-Parliamentary Group promotes exchanges between Japanese and Canadian parliamentarians, proposes initiatives that are likely to lead to a better mutual understanding of bilateral and multilateral matters and works to develop co-operation between the two countries.

Bilateral meetings are held annually with Canada and Japan alternating as hosts. In addition to developing

relationships abroad, the Canadian Section maintains a special relationship with the Embassy of Japan in Canada and also with the business community.

The meeting's agenda included trade and economic issues such as agriculture, energy and World Trade Organization (WTO) issues. The Inter-Parliamentary Group also dealt with international issues pertaining to Iraq, North Korea, terrorism, North American defence and the future of the transatlantic relationship. Transborder issues such as border security, facilitation and Canadian drug policies were also discussed.

Founded in 1959, the aim of the Group is to exchange information and promote better understanding between Canadian and US parliamentarians on common problems and concerns, as well as differences, in the relations between the two countries.

### Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

Senators Joan Fraser and Donald H. Oliver participated in the 108<sup>th</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Conference in Santiago, Chile, from April 6 to 16.

Senator Fraser contributed to the work of the Executive Committee, on which she sits. Its discussions, which focused on IPU reform, led to the approval of various statutory amendments. The Committee also debated at length the request for affiliation from the Shura Council of Saudi Arabia and the topic of co-operation with the United Nations system.

Senator Fraser participated in the meetings of the Co-ordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians, of which she is a member. As Rapporteur of the IPU Gender Partnership Group, she gave an account of the Group's work in Santiago. The participants were deeply interested in her comments and unanimously approved the Group's proposed new areas of activity.



*From left to right: Mr. Claude Goasguez, Deputy for Paris, Chair of the France-Quebec Friendship Group; Mr. Marc Laffineur, Deputy for Maine and Loire, Chair of the French Branch of the Canada-France Inter-Parliamentary Group; the Honourable Lise Bacon, Senator, Chair of the Canadian Branch of the Canada-France Inter-Parliamentary Group; and Mr. Marcel-Pierre Cléach, Senator for Sarthe, Chair of the Senate's France-Canada Friendship Group.*

Founded in 1965, the Canada-France Inter-Parliamentary Association serves as a forum in which Canadian and French parliamentarians can exchange information and ideas.

### Canada-Japan Inter-Parliamentary Group

Senator Marie-P. Poulin was re-appointed as Co-Chair of the Canadian Section when the Canada-Japan Inter-Parliamentary Group held its Annual General Meeting in Ottawa on May 7. Senator Donald H. Oliver was elected Vice-Chair and Senator Joseph A. Day

### Canada-United States Inter-Parliamentary Group

The 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Canada-United States Inter-Parliamentary Group was held with members of the US Senate and the House of Representatives from May 15 to 19. Senator Jerry Grafstein and Joe Comuzzi, MP, led the 24-member Canadian delegation in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, which included Senators Roch Bolduc, John Buchanan, George Furey and Frank Mahovlich. US Senator Mike Crapo and Representative Amo Houghton co-chaired the US delegation.



Senator Oliver is the First Vice-President of the Canadian IPU group, a member of the IPU Inter-Parliamentary Council and a member of the Twelve Plus Group (one of six geopolitical groups representing Europe, Canada, Australia and New Zealand).

As a Council member, he participated in the general debate days and in the work of the Second Committee on democratic institutions and human development, even helping to draft the final resolution.

Senator Oliver agreed to work on finding sources of private funding for various IPU programs. He was elected Rapporteur of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade, which will meet during the 109<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly in Geneva, from September 29 to October 3, 2003.

Founded in 1889, today's Union is composed of national groups from parliaments of more than 130 member countries. The Union aims to foster exchange among parliamentarians, to unite them in order to secure and maintain the full participation of their respective states in the establishment and development of representative institutions and to promote peace and international co-operation by supporting the objectives of the United Nations.

## Other Activities

### Children's Miracle Network

In late March 2003, 11 children ranging in age from one to 14, their parents and siblings visited Ottawa and Parliament Hill as part of a Children's Miracle Network sponsored trip to Disneyworld in Florida. The children were chosen to be ambassadors for the Children's Miracle Network, which links together children's hospitals from across Canada and the US. For most of them, it was their first visit to Ottawa.

The Honourable Dan Hays, Speaker of the Senate, had the pleasure of hosting a reception in their honour at the Senate where the families were

The children then left for Florida, where they met up with the American representatives and taped the Children's Miracle Network Celebration 2003, a television fundraiser.

### The first annual Senate Page alumni reception

On the evening of May 28, all of the planning and research undertaken to locate former Senate Pages came together for the current Pages when over fifty Pages, spanning six decades of service, gathered for the first annual Senate Pages alumni reception. The evening was a celebration of the success of the Senate Page Program and to acknowledge the contributions of all the Pages who have served the Senate over the years.



*With Florida as their final destination, a group of children sponsored by the Children's Miracle Network enjoy a visit to Parliament and proudly pose for a photo in the Senate Foyer.*

able to mingle with both Senators and Members of Parliament. The children's visit to Parliament ended in the Senate's Gallery where they were acknowledged by the Speaker from the Senate floor.

The alumni gathered to share memories and talk about the evolution and career-enhancing benefits of the Program. Among them was Francis James Foran, who was a Page in the 1950s and retired in 1993 from the Parliamentary Precinct Services Directorate. "I went there for a few

days to help out as an honorary Page during the railroad strike and I stayed there forty years,” he explained.

Implemented in 1867, the Senate Page Program has played an important role in Senate business and has provided an excellent opportunity for young Canadians to further their knowledge of parliamentary affairs.

All former Senate Pages are encouraged to contact the office of the Usher of the Black Rod, who manages the Program (613-992-8483 or 1-800-267-7362) and submit their contact information in order to participate in future Page alumni activities.



*The Clerk of the Senate, Paul C. Bélisle, accompanied by former and current Senate Pages at the first annual Senate Pages alumni reception.*

**Do you know of any university students who might be interested in this Program? For more information, visit <http://senate-senat.ca/pages.asp>.**



### **Unveiling the new portrait of Her Majesty**

Since June 2, visitors have been able to admire the new Canadian portrait of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, by Michael Bedford, in the Senate Foyer. The photograph commemorates the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her coronation. Many dignitaries attended its official unveiling, and a group of pupils from Queen Elizabeth II School in Ottawa, who had been studying our constitutional monarchy in class, were also present.

Taken on October 13, 2002, during the Queen's visit to Canada on the occasion of her Silver Jubilee, the new portrait will be on display in the Senate Foyer until it moves to its permanent home in the new Portrait Gallery of Canada in about two years' time.

**You can see the portrait and obtain information about it by visiting [www.pch.gc.ca/special/reine-queen](http://www.pch.gc.ca/special/reine-queen).**

## Memorial Service for deceased parliamentarians

On June 3, the Senate hosted the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians' (AFP) fourth Memorial Service for deceased parliamentarians. Senators, MPs, former parliamentarians and family members of some of the 23 parliamentarians who passed away since April 2002, gathered in the Senate Chamber for this annual ceremony of remembrance. The service included performances by Ottawa's Redeemer Christian High School Choir and Pipe Major Hugh Macpherson, CD.

The Right Honourable Ramon John Hnatyshyn, former Governor General of Canada from 1990-1995, was also remembered in the Senate Chamber.

The presentation of the CAFPP's fifth Distinguished Service Award, which recognizes a living former parliamentarian's outstanding contributions to the promotion and understanding of Canada's parliamentary system, followed the service. The recipient is Aideen Nicholson, a former MP.



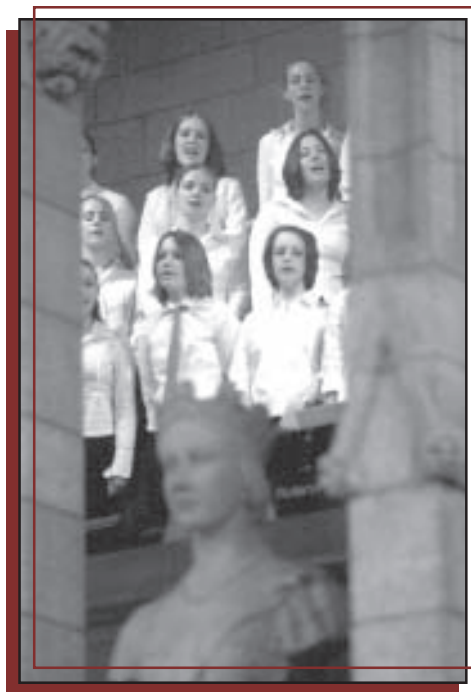
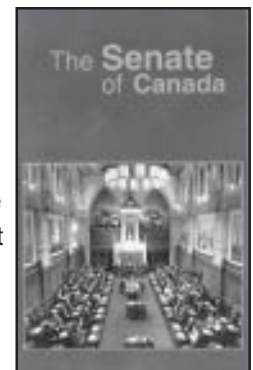
Among those from the Senate who were remembered during the service were:

- The Honourable Joseph Julien Jean-Pierre Côté - Québec (Kennebec), summoned to the Senate in 1972.
- The Honourable Richard James Doyle - Ontario (North York), named to the Senate in 1985.
- The Honourable Ronald J. Duhamel - Manitoba, appointed to the Senate in 2002.
- The Honourable Louis de Gonzague Giguère - Québec (De la Durantaye), summoned to the Senate in 1968.
- The Honourable Louise Marguerite Renaude Lapointe - Québec (Mille-Isles), who was called to the Senate in 1971 and became the first woman francophone Speaker in Parliament when she was appointed Speaker of the Senate in 1974, serving in that role until 1979.
- The Honourable Hartland de Montarville Molson - Québec (Alma), summoned to the Senate in 1955.

## The Senate in the classroom and on the Net

Now available on the Internet, the educational video produced by the Senate can be reached with a click of the mouse. Intended as a working tool for teachers of Canadian history, politics, social science and civics, the 22-minute video gives an overview of the Senate, in the context of the Canadian Constitution. It explains what Senators do in the Upper House, in committee and across the country. A guide for teachers is included, with learning activities matched to the breakdown of the information by module.

Everyone can now have access to it by visiting the Web, where it has been divided into nine themed video clips at <http://senate-senat.ca/videos.asp>.





## Milestones

### Appointments

On June 26, the Prime Minister's Office announced that the Governor General had agreed to summon Mr. Percy Downe of Prince Edward Island, and Mr. Paul Massicotte of Quebec, to the Senate. Mr. Downe served as a senior advisor to a number of provincial and federal ministers. As for Mr. Massicotte, he was a senior manager of major real estate companies and is currently Chief Executive Officer of the Alexis Nihon Real Estate Investment Trust. Both will sit as Liberals.

### Award



On June 1, 2003, during a ceremony in Montreal to highlight Italy's National Day, the Honourable Marisa Ferretti Barth was made a Grand Officer of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic. His Excellency Marco Colombo, Ambassador of Italy to Canada, awarded Senator Ferretti Barth this prestigious honour.

### Retirements



The Honourable Raymond C. Setlakwe (Quebec, the Laurentians) left the Chamber on July 3, having reached the age of mandatory retirement. Appointed to the Senate on June 20, 2000, Liberal Senator Setlakwe was very active in many committees during his three years in the Upper Chamber.

On September 10, the Honourable Roch Bolduc will take his well-deserved retirement after more than 15 years in the Senate, where he sat as a Progressive Conservative Senator. Before becoming a Senator, Mr. Bolduc had worked his way up to the highest level in the Quebec public service. His colleagues paid him a warm tribute on the last sitting day before the Senate adjourned for the summer on June 19.



*When a group of close to fifty young male singers from Lyon (France) visited Parliament Hill on July 16, they took the opportunity to showcase their vocal talents for the appreciative tourists.*

*A portion of the singers are shown in this photo taken in the Salon de la Francophonie, which was opened to visitors for the first time this summer. They are accompanied by the Honourable Marcel Prud'homme who acted as their impromptu tour guide.*

## Standings in the Senate

(as of July 15, 2003)

<b>Liberal</b>	64
<b>Progressive Conservative</b>	30
<b>Independent</b>	4
<b>Canadian Alliance</b>	1
Vacant Seats	6
Ontario (2); Quebec (1); New Brunswick (1); Nova Scotia (1); Alberta (1)	
<b>Total</b>	<b>105</b>