

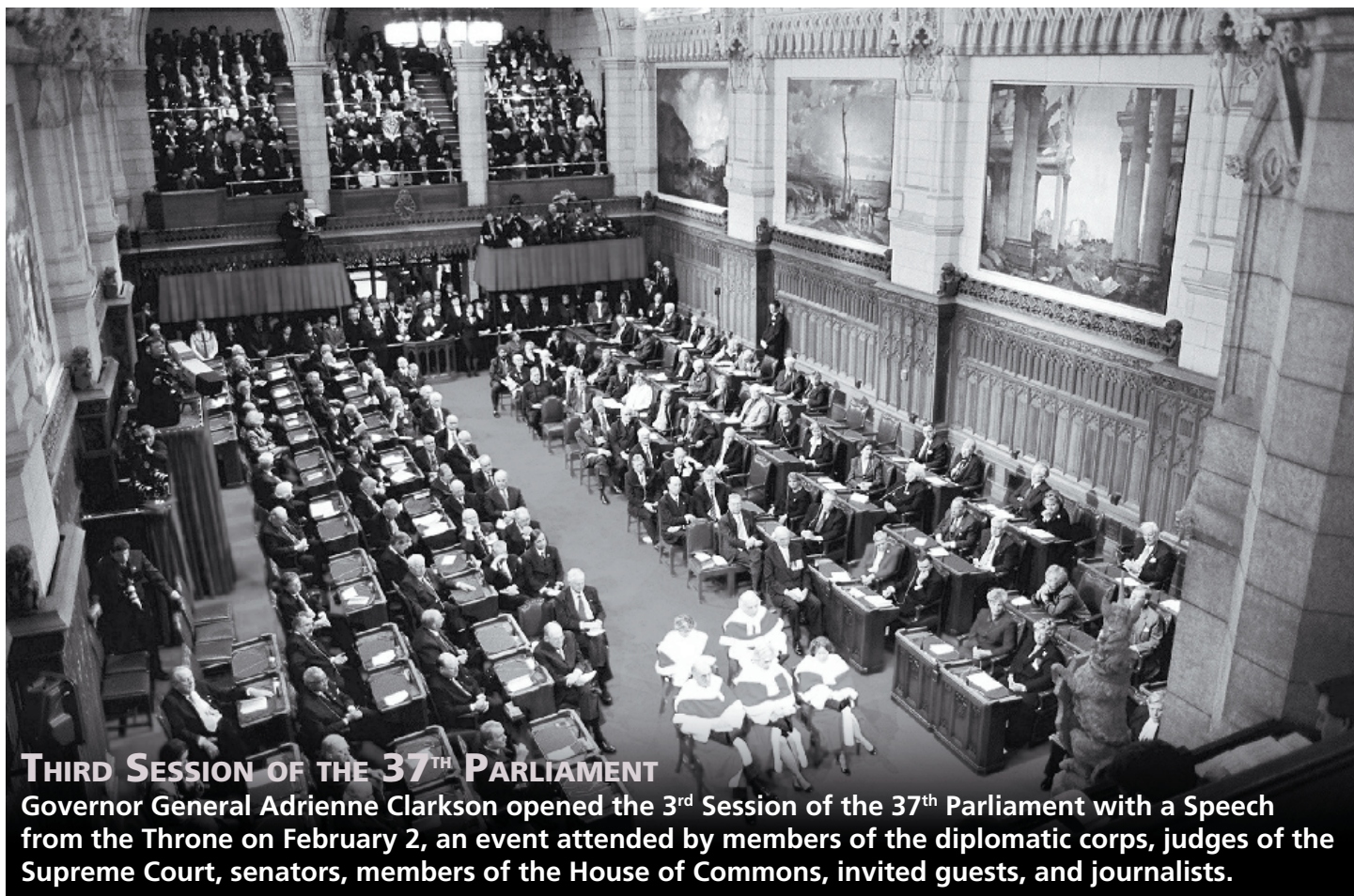


The Senate

REPORT

Volume 3, Issue 1

Summer 2004



THIRD SESSION OF THE 37TH PARLIAMENT

Governor General Adrienne Clarkson opened the 3rd Session of the 37th Parliament with a Speech from the Throne on February 2, an event attended by members of the diplomatic corps, judges of the Supreme Court, senators, members of the House of Commons, invited guests, and journalists.

During the 16-week session, the Senate studied 45 bills, of which 25 were given royal assent and made law. Senate committees held 187 meetings, heard from 521 witnesses and produced 78 reports.

The session ended on May 23 with the dissolution of Parliament and the issuance of election writs by Her Excellency the Governor General on the advice of the Prime Minister.

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LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

The Parliament of Canada examines proposed legislation in a wide variety of areas in the form of bills. Bills can be introduced either in the Senate (in which case their number is preceded by the letter S) or in the House of Commons (in which case their number is preceded by the letter C) by either the Government (i.e. a cabinet minister) or by private members (i.e. either a Senator or a Member of Parliament). There are two types of bills:

1. **Public bills**, which deal with public policy; and
2. **Private bills**, which convey special rights or powers on a particular individual or a specific group.

Below is a list of bills considered by the Senate during the 3rd Session of the 37th Parliament (February 2 to May 23, 2004). For the **status of a bill**, please refer to the Status of Legislation chart on page 7. Bills marked with an asterisk (*) were given royal assent and made law.

Public Bills Introduced by Private Members in the Senate

S-2

Spam Control Act

Senator Donald H. Oliver
(C–Nova Scotia)

This Act provides for initiatives to control spam on the Internet. Any person may give a notice that they wish to be on a “no-spam list,” and persons sending spam must first check to see if the address is on the “no-spam list.” The Act provides for offences and punishments that are more severe in respect of messages that involve pornography, explicit sexual activity or attempted fraud or that target children as receivers. It also establishes a cause of civil action in nuisance for sending excessive spam and deems damage to have been caused if the volume is sufficient to cause inconvenience.

S-3

An Act to amend the Constitution Act, 1867, and the Parliament of Canada Act (Speakership of the Senate)

Senator Donald H. Oliver
(C–Nova Scotia)

This Act amends the *Constitution Act, 1867* to provide for the election of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Senate. It further amends the *Constitution Act, 1867* to provide for a voting procedure in the Senate similar to the one used in the House of Commons, where the elected Speaker of that House may not vote except when the votes on a question are equally divided.

S-4***An Act to amend the Official Languages Act (promotion of English and French)***

Senator Jean-Robert Gauthier
(Lib–Ottawa–Vanier, Ontario)

This Act amends the *Official Languages Act* to clarify the scope of section 41 in order to make it enforceable. (Section 41 states that “The Government of Canada is committed to (a) enhancing the vitality of the English and French linguistic minority communities in Canada and supporting and assisting their development; and (b) fostering the full recognition and use of both English and French in Canadian society.”)

S-5***Heritage Lighthouse Protection Act***

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

This Act protects heritage lighthouses within the legislative authority of Parliament by providing a means for their designation as heritage lighthouses; by providing an opportunity for public consultation before authorization is given for the removal, alteration, destruction, sale, assignment, transfer or other disposition of a designated heritage lighthouse; and by requiring that designated heritage lighthouses be reasonably maintained.

S-6***An Act to amend the Criminal Code (lottery schemes)***

Senator Jean Lapointe
(Lib–Saurel, Quebec)

This Act amends the *Criminal Code* in relation to gaming offences to narrow the exemption that allows provincial governments to lawfully conduct and manage lottery schemes involving video lottery terminals and slot machines by limiting the locations at which such machines can be installed to racetracks and premises dedicated to gaming.

S-7***An Act respecting the effective date of the representation order of 2003***

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

The Speaker ruled that Bill S-7 deals with the same object as Bill C-5 and as such it should be discharged from the Order Paper. It was withdrawn on March 23.

S-8***Personal Watercraft Act***

Senator Mira Spivak (Ind–Manitoba)

This Act requires the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to make regulations forbidding or restricting the use of personal watercraft.

S-9***Louis Riel Act***

Senator Thelma Chalifoux
(Lib–Alberta)

This Act honours Louis Riel as a Metis patriot and Canadian hero and establishes May 12 as Louis Riel Day. It also acknowledges the arrowhead sash as the recognized symbol of the Metis people.

S-10***Marriage Act***

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

This Act amends the *Marriage (Prohibited Degrees) Act* and the *Interpretation Act* in order to affirm the meaning of the term “marriage.”

S-11***Statutes Repeal Act***

Senator Tommy Banks
(Lib–Edmonton, Alberta)

This Act provides that any Act or provision of an Act that is to come into force on a date to be fixed by proclamation or order of the Governor in Council must be included in an annual report laid before both Houses of Parliament if it does not come into force by the December 31 that is nine years after royal assent, and that the Act or provision is repealed if it does not come into force by the following December 31.

S-12***An Act to amend the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act (modernization of employment and labour relations)***

Senator Pierre Claude Nolin
(C–De Salaberry, Quebec)

This Act amends the *Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act* to provide for a comprehensive system for the certification of a police association composed of members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and for collective bargaining rights.

S-13***Federal Nominations Act***

Senator Terry Stratton
(C–Red River, Manitoba)

This Act provides for increased transparency and objectivity in the selection of suitable individuals to be named to certain high public positions in Canada. It establishes a nominations committee of the Queen’s Privy Council for Canada to develop public selection criteria and procedures and provides a process to identify and assess candidates. With respect to appointments to the Senate, the enactment provides for provincial and territorial premiers to select individuals for appointment from a short list comprised of candidates recommended as eligible for appointment to the Senate by the nominations committee. With respect to appointments to other positions, the enactment provides for parliamentary review. Appointments to the positions of Governor General, Chief Justice of Canada, Speaker of the Senate, Lieutenant Governor of a province and Commissioner of a territory, and appointments to the Supreme Court of Canada, must be reviewed. Appointments to the Federal Court of Canada and to the superior courts in the provinces may be reviewed.

S-14***An Act to Amend the Agreement on Internal Trade Implementation Act***
Senator James F. Kelleher, P.C.
(C–Ontario)

This Act amends the *Agreement on Internal Trade Implementation Act*. It removes the requirement that the consent of the Attorney General of Canada be given before private action may be commenced in respect of an act or omission contrary to the agreement. This is limited to certain specified subjects. This enactment binds Her Majesty in right of a province.

S-16***An Act to amend the Copyright Act***
Senator Joseph A. Day
(Lib–Saint John-Kennebecasis,
New Brunswick)

This Act amends the *Copyright Act* to eliminate an exception to the general rule on ownership of copyright. Under that exception, a person who commissioned a photograph, engraving or portrait for consideration is the first owner of the

copyright in the work. The effect of these changes is that the photographer is the author of a photograph for the purposes of the *Copyright Act*, and that photographs, engravings and portraits fall under the general rule that gives first ownership of the copyright in a work to the author.

S-17***An Act to amend the Citizenship Act***

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

This Act is designed to remedy the situation where a person has, as a child, lost their Canadian citizenship by law because a parent of that person acquired the nationality or citizenship of a country other than Canada or renounced his or her Canadian citizenship. This Act makes it easier for such a person to regain their Canadian citizenship, as they will no longer have to reside in Canada as a permanent resident for a year before applying for citizenship.

S-18***An Act to amend the Canada Transportation Act (running rights for carriage of grain)***

Senator Tommy Banks
(Lib–Edmonton, Alberta)

This Act amends the *Canada Transportation Act* to empower the Minister of Transport to grant running rights to a railway company for the carriage or transportation of grain, having regard to the public interest in the efficient and economical movement of grain. It also provides for the imposition of conditions respecting the exercise of those rights and for the payment of compensation to the railway company whose property and facilities are being used.

Public Bills Introduced by the Government in the House of Commons

C-3****An Act to amend the Canada Elections Act and the Income Tax Act***

This Act amends the *Canada Elections Act* to adjust the requirements for political party registration in response to the June 27, 2003 decision of the Supreme Court of Canada in *Figueroa v. Canada (Attorney General)*, 2003 SCC 37. It also amends the *Income Tax Act* to suspend the authority of a registered party to issue tax receipts while an application by the Commissioner for judicial deregistration is pending.

C-4****An Act to amend the Parliament of Canada Act (Ethics Commissioner and Senate Ethics Officer) and other Acts in consequence***

This Act amends the *Parliament of Canada Act* to provide for the appointment of a Senate Ethics Officer. It also requires the Senate Ethics Officer to perform the duties and functions assigned by the Senate regarding the conduct of its members. The Bill also amends the Act to provide for the appointment of an Ethics Commissioner. It also provides for the Ethics Commissioner to perform the duties and functions assigned by the House of Commons regarding the conduct of its members and to administer any ethical principles, rules or obligations established by the Prime Minister for public office holders.

C-5****An Act respecting the effective date of the representation order of 2003***

This Act provides that the representation order of 2003 is effective on the first dissolution of Parliament that occurs on or after April 1, 2004.

C-6****Assisted Human Reproduction Act***

This Act prohibits assisted reproduction procedures that are considered to be ethically unacceptable. Other types of assisted reproduction procedures are prohibited unless carried out in accordance with a licence and the regulations, which will address health and safety concerns. The creation and use of embryos for research purposes is also addressed. A privacy regime governs the collection, use and disclosure of health reporting information. The Act creates the Assisted Human Reproduction Agency of Canada. The Agency will provide advice to the Minister of Health on the matters governed by the Act. It will also be responsible for the issuance and review of licences, the collection and analysis of health reporting information, inspections and the enforcement of the Act. The Act creates offences for contravention of the provisions of the Act, the regulations made under it or the terms and conditions of a licence.

C-7***Public Safety Act, 2002**

This enactment amends certain Acts of Canada, and enacts the *Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention Implementation Act*, in order to enhance public safety.

C-8***Library and Archives of Canada Act**

This Act creates the Library and Archives of Canada as the successor to the National Library and the National Archives of Canada and provides for the appointment of its head, the Librarian and Archivist of Canada. This Act amends the *Copyright Act* by providing for a longer term of protection for unpublished or posthumously published works of authors who died before 1949.

C-9***An Act to amend the Patent Act and the Food and Drugs Act (The Jean Chrétien Pledge to Africa)**

This Act amends the *Patent Act* and the *Food and Drugs Act* to facilitate access to pharmaceutical products to address public health problems afflicting many developing and least-developed countries, especially those resulting from HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other epidemics.

C-11***Westbank First Nation Self-Government Act**

This Act gives effect to the Westbank First Nation Self-Government Agreement.

C-12**An Act to amend the Criminal Code (protection of children and other vulnerable persons) and the Canada Evidence Act**

This Act amends the *Criminal Code* to (a) amend the child pornography provisions with respect to the type of written material that constitutes child pornography, and with respect to the child pornography defences; (b) add a new category to the offence of sexual exploitation of young persons and make additional amendments to further protect children from sexual exploitation; (c) increase the maximum penalty for child sexual offences, for failing to provide the necessities of life and for abandoning a child; (d) make child abuse an aggravating factor for the purpose of sentencing; (e) amend and clarify the

applicable test and criteria that need to be met for the use of testimonial aids, for excluding the public, for imposing a publication ban, for using video-recorded evidence or for appointing counsel for self-represented accused to conduct a cross-examination of certain witnesses; and (f) create an offence of voyeurism and the distribution of voyeuristic material.

C-13***An Act to amend the Criminal Code (capital markets fraud and evidence-gathering)**

This Act amends the *Criminal Code* by creating a new offence of prohibited insider trading and creating a new offence to prohibit threatening or retaliating against employees for disclosing unlawful conduct.

C-14***An Act to amend the Criminal Code and other Acts**

This Act amends the *Criminal Code* by (a) establishing more serious offences for placing, or knowingly permitting to remain in a place, a trap, device or other thing that is likely to cause death or bodily harm to a person; (b) permitting the use of as much force as is reasonably necessary on board an aircraft to prevent the commission of an offence that would be likely to cause immediate and serious injury to the aircraft or to any person or property in the aircraft; (c) modifying the provision dealing with the provision of information on oath in relation to weapons; and (d) creating an exemption to the offence of intercepting private communications in order to protect computer systems. It amends the *Financial Administration Act* in order to authorize the federal government to take necessary measures to protect its computer systems.

C-15***International Transfer of Offenders Act**

This Act repeals and replaces the *Transfer of Offenders Act*, sets out the principles that govern the international transfer of offenders and authorizes Canada to enter into administrative agreements for the international transfer of offenders.

C-16***Sex Offender Information Registration Act**

The Act requires that certain information about sex offenders be registered in a national database. This database is part of the automated criminal conviction records retrieval system maintained by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. It is intended to serve as a tool that will help police investigate crimes of a sexual nature by providing them with access to current and reliable information relating to sex offenders. The Act amends the *Criminal Code* to enable the Crown to apply for an order to require an offender who is convicted of, or found not criminally responsible on account of a mental disorder for, certain offences to report regularly to a designated registration centre and provide information. It creates a new *Criminal Code* offence for failure to comply with the order, as well as an offence for providing false or misleading information. The Act regulates access to, and the use and disclosure of, the information contained in the database and includes an offence for contravention of those provisions.

C-17***Amendments and Corrections Act, 2003**

This enactment amends and makes corrections to certain laws of Canada.

C-18***An Act respecting equalization and authorizing the Minister of Finance to make certain payments related to health**

This Act amends the *Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements Act* to authorize an additional two billion dollars for the provinces as part of the Canada Health and Social Transfer. In addition, this Act amends that Act, as well as the *Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements Regulations, 1999*, to extend the equalization program for an additional fiscal year beginning on April 1, 2004 and ending on March 31, 2005.

C-20***An Act to change the names of certain electoral districts**

This Act changes the names of 38 electoral districts.

C-21****An Act to amend the Customs Tariff***

This Act amends the *Customs Tariff* to extend the General Preferential Tariff and the Least Developed Country Tariff to June 30, 2014.

C-22***An Act to amend the Criminal Code (cruelty to animals)***

This Act amends the *Criminal Code* by consolidating animal cruelty offences and increasing the maximum penalties.

C-24****An Act to amend the Parliament of Canada Act***

This Act amends the *Parliament of Canada Act* to permit members of Parliament who cease to be members after the age of 50 but before the age of 55 to participate in medical, dental and life insurance plans that they would be eligible to participate in if they had reached the age of 55. It also amends that Act to permit former members of Parliament who are in receipt of a disability allowance to participate in medical, dental and life insurance plans that they would be eligible to participate in if they were in receipt of an allowance under the *Members of Parliament Retiring Allowances Act*.

C-26****Appropriation Act No. 4, 2003-2004***

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.

C-27****Appropriation Act No. 1, 2004-2005***

An Act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service of Canada for the financial year ending March 31, 2005.

C-28****An Act to amend the Canada National Parks Act***

This Act amends the *Canada National Parks Act* to withdraw lands from Riding Mountain National Park of Canada and Pacific Rim National Park Reserve of Canada for the purposes of Indian reserves.

C-30****Budget Implementation Act, 2004***

An Act to implement certain provisions of the budget tabled in Parliament on March 23, 2004.

Public Bills Introduced by Private Members in the House of Commons

C-212****User Fees Act***

Roy Cullen, MP
(Lib—Etobicoke North, Ontario)
This Act provides for parliamentary scrutiny and approval of user fees set by regulating authorities. It also provides for greater transparency in the cost recovery and fee setting activities of those authorities, by requiring them to engage in a participatory consultation with clients and other service users before introducing or amending those fees.

C-249***An Act to amend the Competition Act***

Hon. Dan McTeague, MP
(Lib—Pickering-Ajax-Uxbridge, Ontario)
The Act amends the *Competition Act* to clarify the Competition Tribunal's powers to make or not an order in the case of a merger when gains in efficiency are expected or when the merger would create or strengthen a dominant market position.

C-250****An Act to amend the Criminal Code (hate propaganda)***

Svend Robinson, MP
(NDP—Burnaby-Douglas, British Columbia)
This Act expands the definition “identifiable group” relating to the area of hate propaganda in the *Criminal Code* to include any section of the public distinguished by sexual orientation.

C-260****An Act to amend the Hazardous Products Act (fire-safe cigarettes)***

Hon. John McKay, MP
(Lib—Scarborough East, Ontario)
This Act amends the *Hazardous Products Act* by adding to the list of prohibited products cigarettes that do not meet the flammability standard to be set out in the regulations.

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

Marlene Catterall, MP
(Lib—Ottawa West-Nepean, Ontario)
This enactment changes the names of 14 electoral districts.

Private Bills Introduced by Private Members in the Senate

S-15****An Act to amend the act of incorporation of Queen's Theological College***

Senator Lowell Murray, P.C. (PC—Pakenham, Ontario)

This Act amends the original Act of incorporation of Queen's Theological College by (a) changing the composition and role of the Board of Management of the Corporation; (b) changing the representation of the College at the Senate of Queen's University at Kingston; and (c) making technical or incidental amendments to the Act.

Status of Legislation Studied by the Senate

3rd Session, 37th Parliament (February 2 to May 23, 2004)

The chart below shows the status of each bill at the time of dissolution. For the summary of a bill, please see Legislative Activities on page 2.

Public Bills Introduced by Private Members in the Senate

Bill	1 st Reading	2 nd Reading	Committee	Report	3 rd Reading	Royal Assent
S-2			Transport and Communications May 6			
S-3			Legal and Constitutional Affairs			
S-4					March 11	
S-5					February 5	
S-6			Legal and Constitutional Affairs April 21			
S-7			Bill withdrawn pursuant to Speaker's Ruling March 23			
S-8					March 11	
S-9	February 5					
S-10	February 10					
S-11			Legal and Constitutional Affairs April 22			
S-12			National Finance			
S-13	February 19					
S-14			Banking, Trade and Commerce			
S-16			Social Affairs, Science and Technology			
S-17					May 6	
S-18	May 13					

Status of Legislation Studied by the Senate

(continued)

Public Bills Introduced by the Government in the House of Commons

Bill	1 st Reading	2 nd Reading	Committee	Report	3 rd Reading	Royal Assent
C-3						May 14
C-4						March 31
C-5						March 11
C-6						March 29
C-7						May 6
C-8						April 22
C-9						May 14
C-11						May 6
C-12	May 13					
C-13						March 29
C-14						April 22
C-15						May 14
C-16						April 1
C-17						May 6
C-18						March 29
C-20						May 14
C-21						April 29
C-22			Legal and Constitutional Affairs			
C-24						May 14
C-26						March 31
C-27						March 31
C-28						May 14
C-30						May 14

Public Bills Introduced by Private Members in the House of Commons

Bill	1 st Reading	2 nd Reading	Committee	Report	3 rd Reading	Royal Assent
C-212						March 31
C-249			Banking, Trade and Commerce May 12			
C-250						April 29
C-260						March 31
C-300	February 3					

Private Bills Introduced by Private Members in the Senate

Bill	1 st Reading	2 nd Reading	Committee	Report	3 rd Reading	Royal Assent
S-15						April 1

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Committees have three basic functions: (1) detailed study of proposed legislation; (2) investigation of policy matters; and (3) examination of government spending proposals. Senate committees are groups of five to fifteen senators who call and listen to expert witnesses and Canadians affected by a proposed bill. A committee completes its study of a bill with a clause-by-clause analysis, before producing a report for the full Senate to consider.

Below are highlights of Senate committee activities, including reports released and bills studied, during the 3rd Session of the 37th Parliament (February 2 to May 23, 2004).

For coverage prior to this time period, or for more detailed information, visit www.parl.gc.ca and select "Committee Business." Or, contact the Senate's Committees Directorate at 1-800-267-7362.

Aboriginal Peoples

Examines legislation and matters relating to the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada.

Activities: The Committee was authorized to examine and report upon planned federal expenditures, as set out in the 2004-2005 Main Estimates and the March 2004 federal budget, in relation to programs and services delivered to First Nation communities by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

Bills studied: C-11 (*Westbank First Nation Self-Government Act*)

Agriculture and Forestry

Examines legislation and matters relating to agriculture and forestry generally, and the Canadian Wheat Board.

Reports released: *The BSE Crisis — Lessons for the Future*, an interim report tabled on April 15, gave an overview of the Canadian beef industry's situation and problems, and proposed a long-term approach to ensuring greater security and stability. The Committee recommended (1) that the Government funnel some of the venture capital funding announced in the budget specifically into additional value-added capacities for the livestock sector in both Western and Eastern Canada, and that it develop with the industry a long-term vision for further processing in that sector; and (2) that Canada and its North American partners use the lessons learned from the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) crisis and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) recommendations to enhance the harmonization of their sanitary and phytosanitary standards and, to this end, that they set up a permanent North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) agricultural secretariat with the mandate to use these standards and generate reports, including recommendations for actions by NAFTA partners to regulate the trade flow when a sanitary or phytosanitary issue occurs. The interim report is available at www.senate-senat.ca/agfo.asp.

Activities: The Committee was authorized to examine the issues related to the development and marketing of value-added agricultural, agri-food and forest products, on the domestic and international markets. The Committee was also asked to hear from witnesses, including both individuals and representatives from organizations, and report on the present state and the future of agriculture and forestry in Canada.

Banking, Trade and Commerce

Examines legislation and matters relating to finance and business, including: (1) banking, insurance, trust and loan companies, credit societies, "Caisses populaires" and small loan companies; (2) customs and excise; (3) taxation legislation; (4) patents and royalties; (5) corporate affairs; and (6) bankruptcy.

Activities: The Committee was authorized to study credit rates; examine and report on the present state of the domestic and international financial system; and examine and report on issues dealing with charitable giving in Canada. Also, David Dodge, Governor of the Bank of Canada, appeared before the Committee on Tuesday, April 20 to review economic and financial trends in the context of Canada's inflation-control strategy.

Bills studied: S-14 (*An Act to Amend the Agreement on Internal Trade Implementation Act*), C-13 (*An Act to amend the Criminal Code (capital markets fraud and evidence-gathering)*), C-21 (*An Act to amend the Customs Tariff*), and C-249 (*An Act to amend the Competition Act*)

Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources

Examines legislation and matters relating to energy, the environment and natural resources generally, including: (1) mines and natural resources, other than fisheries and forestry; (2) pipelines, transmission lines and energy transportation; (3) environmental affairs; and (4) other energy-related matters.

Activities: The Committee was authorized to examine and report on emerging issues related to its mandate, including: (1) The current state and future direction of production, distribution, consumption, trade, security and sustainability of Canada's energy resources; (2) environmental challenges facing Canada, including responses to global climate change, air pollution, biodiversity and ecological integrity; (3) sustainable development and management of renewable and non-renewable natural resources including water, minerals, soils, flora and fauna; and (4) Canada's international treaty obligations affecting energy, the environment and natural resources and their influence on Canada's economic and social development.

Bills studied: S-8 (*Personal Watercraft Act*), C-28 (*An Act to amend the Canada National Parks Act*), C-260 (*An Act to amend the Hazardous Products Act (fire-safe cigarettes)*)

Fisheries and Oceans

Examines legislation and matters relating to fisheries generally.

Reports released: *Nunavut Fisheries: Quota Allocations and Benefits*, released in English, French and Inuktitut on April 2, called on the Government of Canada to act on the Memorandum of Understanding on emerging fisheries it signed with the Government of Nunavut in August 2000. Much of the report's discussion focuses on the Baffin Fisheries Coalition (BFC), a not-for-profit corporation consisting of six hunters' and trappers' organizations and five other Inuit organizations. The report highlights the concerns expressed by some BFC members about the Coalition's direction and control. The report is available in electronic format at www.senate-senat.ca/nunavut-quota.asp.

Activities: The Committee was authorized to study matters relating to straddling stocks and fish habitat.

Foreign Affairs

Examines legislation and matters relating to foreign and Commonwealth relations, including: (1) treaties and international agreements; (2) external trade; (3) foreign aid; (4) defence; and (5) territorial and offshore matters.

Reports released: *Mexico: Canada's Other NAFTA Partner (Volume 3)*, released on March 30, examines the positive and negative impacts of NAFTA on Mexico and the state of trade relations between our two countries. The report makes six recommendations, three of which seek to advance bilateral relations, one which attempts to draw on the lessons of Mexico's successes and two that endeavour to strengthen Canada's role in NAFTA. The study is the third volume of a broad review of the trade relationship between Canada and the United States of America and between Canada and Mexico. To read the report, please visit www.senate-senat.ca/foraffetrang.asp.

Activities: The Committee, together with the House of Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade, held a joint meeting to meet with His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama and his delegation on April 21.

Bills studied: C-9 (*An Act to amend the Patent Act and the Food and Drugs Act*)

Human Rights

Examines matters related to human rights generally.

Activities: The Committee was authorized to examine and report upon key legal issues affecting the subject of on-reserve matrimonial real property on the breakdown of a marriage or common law relationship and the policy context in which they are situated.

Legal and Constitutional Affairs

Examines legislation and matters relating to legal and constitutional matters generally, including: (1) federal-provincial relations; (2) administration of justice, law reform and all related matters; (3) the judiciary; (4) all essentially juridical matters; and (5) private bills not otherwise specifically assigned to another committee, including those related to marriage and divorce.

Activities: The Committee was asked to study petitions calling on the Senate to declare the City of Ottawa a bilingual city.

Bills studied: S-3 (*An Act to amend the Constitution Act, 1867, and the Parliament of Canada Act (Speakership of the Senate)*), S-6 (*An Act to amend the Criminal Code (lottery schemes)*), S-11 (*Statutes Repeal Act*), S-15 (*An Act to amend the act of incorporation of Queen's Theological College*), C-3 (*An Act to amend the Canada Elections Act and the Income Tax Act*), C-5 (*An Act respecting the effective date of the representation order of 2003*), C-14 (*An Act to amend the Criminal Code and other Acts*), C-15 (*International Transfer of Offenders Act*), C-16 (*Sex Offender Information Registration Act*), C-17 (*Amendments and Corrections Act, 2003*), C-20 (*An Act to change the names of certain electoral districts*), C-22 (*An Act to amend the Criminal Code (cruelty to animals)*), and C-250 (*An Act to amend the Criminal Code (hate propaganda)*)

National Finance

Examines government spending and the report of the Auditor General.

Activities: The Committee studied Chapter 1, Information Technology; Government On-Line; Chapter 2, Accountability and Ethics in Government; Chapter 3, The Sponsorship Program; and Chapter 4, Advertising Activities, of the November 2003 report of the Auditor General of Canada to the House of Commons, tabled in the Senate of Canada on February 10, 2004. The Committee also examined the Main Estimates laid before Parliament for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2004; the Supplementary Estimates (B) 2003-2004; the Main Estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2005; and the motion approving the appointment of Maria Barrados, of Ottawa, Ontario, as President of the Public Service Commission for a term of seven years.

Bills studied: S-12 (*An Act to amend the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act (modernization of employment and labour relations)*), C-18 (*An Act respecting equalization and authorizing the Minister of Finance to make certain payments related to health*), C-27 (*Appropriation Act No. 1, 2004-2005*), C-30 (*Budget Implementation Act, 2004*), and C-212 (*User Fees Act*)

National Security and Defence

Examines matters relating to national defence and security generally.

The Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs examines matters pertaining specifically to Canadian veterans.

Reports released: *National Emergencies: Canada's Fragile Front Lines*, released on March 30, examined interactions among federal, provincial and municipal planners and practitioners with regard to emergency preparedness. The report includes 19 recommendations toward improving emergency preparedness in Canada. For more, please visit www.sen-sec.ca.

Activities: The Committee was authorized to study the need for a national security policy; and the services and benefits provided to veterans of war and peacekeeping missions in recognition of their services to Canada.

Official Languages

Examines matters relating to official languages generally.

Activities: The Committee was authorized to perform a study on the operation of the *Official Languages Act*, and of regulations and directives made thereunder, within those institutions subject to the Act, as well as upon the reports of the Commissioner of Official Languages, the President of the Treasury Board and the Minister of Canadian Heritage.

Bills studied: S-4 (*An Act to amend the Official Languages Act (promotion of English and French)*)

Rules, Procedures and the Rights of Parliament

Proposes amendments to the [procedural] rules of the Senate; examines and reports on any question of privilege; and considers the orders and customs of the Senate and privileges of Parliament.

Activities: The Committee was authorized to consider a code of conduct for senators.

Bills studied: C-4 (*An Act to amend the Parliament of Canada Act (Ethics Commissioner and Senate Ethics Officer) and other Acts in consequence*)

Social Affairs, Science and Technology

Examines legislation and matters relating to social affairs, science and technology generally, including: (1) veterans affairs; (2) Indian and Inuit affairs; (3) cultural affairs and the arts; (4) social and labour matters; (5) health and welfare; (6) pensions; (7) housing; (8) fitness and amateur sport; (9) employment and immigration; (10) consumer affairs; and (11) youth affairs.

Activities: The Committee was authorized to study issues arising from, and developments since, the tabling of its final report on the state of the health care system in Canada in October 2002. In particular, the Committee was asked to examine issues concerning mental health and mental illness.

Bills studied: S-16 (*An Act to amend the Copyright Act*), S-17 (*An Act to amend the Citizenship Act*), C-6 (*Assisted Human Reproduction Act*), C-8 (*Library and Archives of Canada Act*), and C-24 (*An Act to amend the Parliament of Canada Act*)

Transport and Communications

Examines legislation and matters relating to transport and communications by land, air, water, and space; tourist traffic; common carriers; and navigation, shipping and navigable waters.

Reports: *Interim Report on the Canadian News Media*, released on April 1, examined 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. The report is available electronically at www.senate-senat.ca/transcom.asp.

Bills studied: S-2 (*Spam Control Act*) and C-7 (*Public Safety Act, 2002*)

INTERPARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITIES

Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (APF)

From January 21 to 23, a delegation from the Canadian Branch of the APF took part in the **APF Bureau meeting** in Cayenne, French Guyana. MP Bernard Patry (Lib–Pierrefonds-Dollard, Quebec), President of the Canadian Branch, was accompanied by the Branch Vice President, Senator Pierre De Bané (Lib–De la Vallière, Quebec).

From April 7 to 10, Senator De Bané chaired the **APF's Parliamentary Affairs Committee**, which met in Vientiane, Laos.

At the invitation of the Romanian Branch, the **APF's Education, Communications and Cultural Affairs Committee** met in Bucharest, Romania, from April 15 to 18. The Canadian Branch was represented by Senator Rose-Marie Losier-Cool (Lib–Tracadie, New Brunswick), Vice President of the APF's Network of Women Parliamentarians.

From May 24 to 27, Senator Losier-Cool also attended the meeting of the **APF's Cooperation and Development Committee** in Marrakech, Morocco, as a rapporteur.



On March 25, 10 distinguished Canadians were decorated with the **Ordre de la Pléiade** by the Canadian Branch of the APF at a ceremony on Parliament Hill. Senator Jean-Robert Gauthier (Lib–Ottawa-Vanier, Ontario), former APF President, who has the rank of Grand Croix, made the presentations. Senator Viola Léger (Lib–Acadie, New Brunswick) received the rank of Officer. Senator Gauthier is pictured above in the centre of the back row; Senator Léger is second from the left in the front row.

Canada-Africa Parliamentary Association

On December 11, 2003, the **Executive Committee** of the Canada-Africa Parliamentary Association held its first meeting. Members discussed a work plan that included comprehensive briefings by officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). Senator Raynell Andreychuk (C–Saskatchewan) is the co-chair.

On March 11, a **roundtable to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Rwandan genocide** was co-hosted by the Association, Senator Mobina Jaffer (Lib–British Columbia), and members of the Canadian Committee on Women, Peace and Security (CCWPS). Members of the local Rwandan community, including genocide survivors, joined parliamentarians and officials from Foreign Affairs Canada, CIDA and CCWPS staff at the event.

Rwandan participants reported on the current situation in Rwanda, before ending the roundtable with a visit to the Senate Chamber, where they were recognized in the galleries and invited to listen to senators' statements on the Rwandan genocide.

Canada-China Legislative Association

The **6th Bilateral Meeting of the Canada-China Legislative Association** was held in Canada from September 19 to 29, 2003. This was the third visit to Canada by a Chinese delegation since the Association was founded in November 1998.

Themes included:

- Canadian views on the Doha round of World Trade Organization negotiations;
- the international situation of the auto manufacturing industry;
- issues regarding compliance with the Kyoto Accord; and
- democratic reform of the Canadian Parliament

The visit also gave Canadian and Chinese delegates an opportunity to discuss national and international questions, to meet with government members and to talk with parliamentarians and officials in Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia, in order to acquaint themselves with the provincial and municipal levels of government. Particular attention was also given to the aeronautical and agricultural industry sectors.

The Canadian delegation was led by Senator Jack Austin (Lib–Vancouver South, British Columbia), Leader of the Government in the Senate, and included Senator Joseph Day (Lib–Saint John-Kennebecasis, New Brunswick).

Members of the Canada-China Legislative Association and the Canada-Japan Inter-Parliamentary Group participated in the **12th Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF)** in Beijing, from January 12 to 14. Senators Marcel Prud'homme (Ind–La Salle, Quebec), Marie-P. Poulin (Lib–Northern Ontario), Co-Chair of the Canada-Japan Inter-Parliamentary Group, and Joseph Day (Lib–Saint John-Kennebecasis, New Brunswick), Co-Chair of the Canada-China Legislative Association, were in attendance.

The Annual Meeting held in-depth discussions on political, security and economic issues, and cooperation for the stability and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region.

Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association (CEPA)

CEPA sent a delegation of six parliamentarians to the **Interparliamentary Conference on the Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons of Mass Destruction and Materials of Mass Destruction**, hosted by the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, on November 20 and 21, 2003.

Led by Association President Charles Caccia, MP (Lib-Davenport, Ontario), delegation members included Senators Colin Kenny (Lib-Rideau, Ontario) and John Lynch-Staunton (C-Grandville, Quebec), with MPs Francine Lalonde (BQ-Mercier, Quebec) and John Herron (PC-Fundy-Royal, New Brunswick). The Conference concluded that while technical non-proliferation strategies are crucial, what is needed even more at present is political coherence.

Senator Isobel Finnerty (Lib-Ontario) attended the Parliamentary Assembly of the **Council of Europe's economic committee meeting** at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in London on January 22 and 23. Senator Finnerty was briefed by Scott Clark, EBRD Executive Director for Canada, on two issues of particular concern to Canada: the importance given to human rights

in decision-making on project funding and the implications of European Union enlargement for the EBRD. EBRD meetings also covered countries in transition, project evaluation, counterfeiting, corporate ethics in Europe, and parliamentary oversight of international economic organizations.

A four-parliamentarian delegation then attended the **First Part Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)** in Strasbourg from January 26 to 30. Senators Isobel Finnerty (Lib-Ontario) and Consiglio Di Nino (C-Ontario) attended with the Hon. Charles Caccia, MP (Lib-Davenport, Ontario), and Clifford Lincoln, MP (Lib-Lac-Saint-Louis, Quebec). Although Canada's delegation was only an observer, delegates did have opportunities to intervene in the debates. Senator Di Nino spoke on the indirect effects of terrorism on human rights and democracy.

From March 10 to 13, Senator Peter Stollery (Lib-Bloor & Yonge/Toronto, Ontario) travelled to Dublin and The Hague with a delegation headed by the Hon. Charles Caccia, MP (Lib-Davenport, Ontario), to meet with officials from the **European Parliament**.

On April 18 and 19, Senator Alasdair Graham (Lib-The Highlands, Nova Scotia), attended the **Interparliamentary Forum on Transatlantic Dialogue** with the Hon. Charles Caccia, MP (Lib-Davenport, Ontario), and Gary Lunn, MP (C-Saanich-Gulf Islands, British Columbia). Discussions focussed on transatlantic dialogue in promoting democratic stability, and conflict prevention and resolution. Senator Graham spoke of the importance of recognizing shared principles and values of Europeans and North Americans and the need for greater cooperation.

Senator Marilyn Trenholme Counsell (Lib-New Brunswick) was the Senate's delegate to the **Second Part Session of the PACE** from April 26 to 30, led by Roy Cullen, MP (Lib-Etobicoke North, Ontario) and including MPs Reed Elley (C-Nanaimo-Cowichan, British Columbia) and Grant McNally (C-Dewdney-Alouette, British Columbia). Senator Trenholme Counsell contributed to a debate on euthanasia, citing the Senate's 1995 and 2000 reports on palliative care.

Canada-France Inter-Parliamentary Association

A Canadian delegation went to Paris for a **meeting of the Standing Committee** on February 24 and 25. Senators Lise Bacon (Lib-De la Durantaye, Quebec) and Jean-Claude Rivest (C-Stadacona, Quebec) represented the Senate. The following topics were discussed:

- Senator Bacon explained the content and scope of the Speech from the Throne.
- Senator Rivest explained the concept of the Council of the Federation and its implications for the evolution of Canadian federalism.
- The French section explained the thrust of France's decentralization legislation. France's *départements* [administrative regions] would be responsible for roads, certain airports, and vocational training. To finance these responsibilities, the central government would pay the *départements* a portion of the domestic petroleum products tax (TIPP).
- The delegation had interesting discussions on the head scarf issue in France versus the Canadian approach (integration).

Mr. Claude Laverdure, Canada's Ambassador to France, held an official dinner at which the members of the delegation were able to continue their discussions with French parliamentarians.

Canada-United States Inter-Parliamentary Group

Twelve members of the Canadian Section of the Canada-United States Inter-Parliamentary Group, led by Senator Jerry Grafstein (Lib-Metro-Toronto, Ontario) and the Hon. Susan Whelan, MP (Lib-Essex, Ontario), travelled to Washington, D.C. in mid-March for **meetings with members of the U.S. House of Representatives**.

The delegation included Senate Speaker Dan Hays (Lib-Calgary, Alberta) and Senators Donald Oliver (C-Nova Scotia) and Len Gustafson (C-Saskatchewan). The focus of this visit was to discuss the BSE (mad cow) crisis, animal tracking and other issues related to the North American market for cattle, beef and animal feed. The delegation also met with representatives of the Grocery Manufacturers of America and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

Canadian NATO Parliamentary Association

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Parliamentary Assembly held its **joint meeting of the Defence and Security, Economics and Security, and Political Committees** in Brussels from February 15 to 17. Senators Raynell Andreychuk (C–Saskatchewan), Jane Cordy (Lib–Nova Scotia), Joseph Day (Lib–Saint John–Kennebecasis, New Brunswick) and Pierre Claude Nolin (C–De Salaberry, Quebec) attended the meeting with Association Chair David Price, MP (Lib–Compton–Stanstead, Quebec). The meeting included briefings by NATO officials, which concentrated on the recent expansion of NATO and operational preparedness in the wake of ongoing global security threats.

Senators Cordy and Nolin also attended the **NATO Parliamentary Assembly's Standing Committee Meeting** in Oslo from March 26 to 28. The meeting concentrated on the Assembly's operational priorities for 2004.

Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas (FIPA)

From April 1 to 3, a delegation of Canadian parliamentarians went to Valparaíso, Chile, to attend the **Third Plenary Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas (FIPA)**. As President of FIPA's Canadian Section, the Hon. Don Boudria, MP (Lib–Glengarry–Prescott–Russell, Ontario) led a delegation of seven parliamentarians: Senators Céline Hervieux-Payette (Lib–Bedford, Quebec), Mac Harb (Lib–Ontario), Michel Biron (Lib–Mille Isles, Quebec) and Madeleine Plamondon (Ind–The Laurentides, Quebec) and MPs Roy Bailey (C–Souris–Moose Mountain, Saskatchewan) and Philip Mayfield (C–Cariboo–Chilcotin, British Columbia).

Senator Hervieux-Payette was re-elected by acclamation for another two-year term as President of FIPA. Many parliamentarians praised the work that Senator Hervieux-Payette had done as President and stressed the need to maintain continuity of leadership during FIPA's debates.

During the proceedings, parliamentarians from over 20 countries in the hemisphere discussed the threat of terrorism, the participation of parliamentarians in the negotiations on the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), and the various economic-budgetary systems in the Americas. The recommendations of the various working groups can be consulted on the FIPA Web site (www.e-fipa.org).

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)

From November 23 to 29, 2003, the Canadian Branch of the CPA hosted the **3rd CPA Canadian Parliamentary Seminar** in Ottawa. Twenty-one participants from Commonwealth countries attended a weeklong seminar on Strengthening Democracy and the Role of Parliamentarians: Challenges and Solutions. Despite the November 12th prorogation of Parliament, CPA members from the Senate and the House of Commons participated in the seminar and associated activities, including Senators Jane Cordy (Lib–Nova Scotia) and Joan Cook (Lib–Newfoundland and Labrador) who both played an active role.

Senate Speaker Dan Hays represented Canada at the opening ceremony of the mid-year CPA **Executive Committee (EXCO) meeting** on April 19 in Kampala, Uganda. Representing House of Commons Speaker and EXCO President Peter Milliken, Speaker Hays also attended in camera EXCO meetings. Senator David Smith (Lib–Cobourg, Ontario) was also in attendance as an observer. Canada will host the next Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference this September in Quebec City and Toronto. Both Speaker Hays and Senator Smith actively lobbied EXCO members to approve the conference program.

Senator Terry Stratton (C–Red River, Manitoba) was this year's delegate to the annual **CPA United Kingdom visit**, from May 15 to 21, where he established new connections with parliamentarians from around the Commonwealth.

Between May 16 and 23, the **16th CPA Parliamentary Seminar** was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Senator Laurier LaPierre (Lib–Ontario) represented the Canadian Branch at this year's Pacific Region Seminar, where he acted as lead speaker on the subject of "The Relationship Between Parliament, the Executive and the Public/Civil Service."

Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

A Canadian parliamentary delegation attended the **110th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)** hosted by the Mexican Senate in Mexico City from April 18 to 23. The delegation included Senators Donald Oliver (C–Nova Scotia), First Vice-President of the Canadian IPU Group, Joan Fraser (Lib–De Lorimier, Quebec), Sharon Carstairs (Lib–Manitoba), and Marcel Prud'homme (Ind–La Salle, Quebec).

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict was at the forefront of discussions and media coverage, as well as a variety of gender and human rights issues. Senator Oliver attended meetings of the Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade. Senator Prud'homme was active in the meetings of the Committee on Peace and International Security, and Senator Carstairs participated in meetings of the Committee on Democracy and Human Rights. She also assumed the role of rapporteur for the drafting committee examining the emergency item (i.e. the Israeli-Palestinian conflict).

Two Canadian delegates were elected to important committee positions. Senator Fraser was elected President of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians and Senator Carstairs was elected as a Substitute Member for the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians.

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA)

As Deputy Head of the **OSCE PA Observer Team**, Senator Jerry Grafstein (Lib–Metro–Toronto, Ontario) attended the January 4 presidential election in Georgia. The Observer Team reported that the presidential election demonstrated notable progress over previous elections and brought the country closer to meeting international commitments and standards for democratic elections.

The **3rd Winter Meeting of the OSCE PA** was held on February 19 and 20 in Vienna. Secretary-General Spencer Oliver delivered the Treasurer's Report on behalf of Senator Grafstein, who was unable to attend.

On April 23 and 24, Senator Grafstein and Clifford Lincoln, MP (Lib–Lac-Saint-Louis, Quebec), attended the **Expanded Bureau Meeting** in Copenhagen. As Treasurer, Senator Grafstein reported that the OSCE PA is in excellent financial shape.

Senator Grafstein also accompanied a ministerial delegation to an **OSCE conference on anti-Semitism** in Berlin on April 28.

Standings in the Senate

(as of May 23, 2004)

Liberal	64
Conservative	25
Independent	5
Progressive Conservative	3

Vacant Seats	8
Quebec (3)	
Alberta (2)	
New Brunswick (1)	
Nova Scotia (1)	
Saskatchewan (1)	

Total	105
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FEATURE

Weighty Responsibility

The Senate's new Mace Bearer takes it all in stride

As **Jan Potter** walked into the Senate Chamber on February 2, during the Speech from the Throne ceremony opening the 3rd Session of the 37th Parliament, she also walked into the history books, becoming the Senate's **first-ever woman Mace Bearer**. Not bad for the first day on the job.

"I'm sure there were a few butterflies, but once it all got going it was fine," she says.

The 1.6 metre-long mace, for which Jan is now responsible, is made of brass and gold and dates from the mid-19th century. It symbolizes royal authority, parliamentary privilege, and the authority of the Senate and the Speaker.

As Mace Bearer, Potter must lift the 16 kg (35 lb.) mace, carry it during the Speaker's Parade, which starts each sitting of the Senate, and lower it onto the clerk's table, its crown placed in the direction of the throne.

"It took some training, but I'm happy to report that I'm meeting the physical challenge," she laughs. "I made up a 35-pound pretend mace at home just to get the arm strength and to figure out how to adjust to it."



SPEAKER'S DIPLOMATIC VISITS

United Kingdom

Speaker Dan Hays, accompanied by Senators Alasdair Graham, P.C. (Lib—The Highlands, Nova Scotia) and Norman Atkins (PC—Markham, Ontario), paid a working visit to the United Kingdom from December 2 to 7, 2003.

The delegation met with parliamentarians at Westminster, including Lord Falconer of Thornton, Lord Chancellor; Baroness Amos, Leader of the Government in the House of Lords; and House of Commons Speaker Michael Martin. Discussions dealt with recent reforms to the House of Lords, its Code of Conduct and Registrar of Interests, the role of the proposed Speaker of the Lords (to replace the position of Lord Chancellor) and proposals made for modernizing the Lords.

Germany

From January 24 to 27, Speaker Hays led a delegation comprised of Senators Colin Kenny (Lib—Rideau, Ontario) and Brenda Robertson (C—Riverview, New Brunswick), on a working visit to Germany.

The delegation met with Mr. Dieter Althaus, President of the Bundesrat (upper house); Dr. Norbert Lammert, Vice-President of the Bundestag (lower house); Dr. Wolfgang Boehmer, Minister-President of Saxony-Anhalt; and Mr. Reinhold Robbe, Chairman of the Bundestag Defence Committee. Talks centred on the division of powers between different levels of government, taxation powers, bicameralism and the public perception of the two countries' upper houses.

The delegation also met with Dr. Mathais Jopp, Director of the Institute for European Policy, to discuss issues concerning European integration.

Slovenia

Following the visit to Germany, Speaker Hays and Senators Kenny and Robertson visited Slovenia from January 27 to 31 at the invitation of His Excellency Janez Susnik, President of Slovenia's National Council. (The 40-seat upper house plays a purely advisory role to the 90-seat lower house, or National Assembly, and can propose, but not initiate, legislation.)

The delegation met with President Janez Drnovsek, Prime Minister Anton Rop and National Assembly President Borut Pahor to promote the strength of the Canadian economy and the possibilities it offers to EU members in general and to Slovenia in particular, encourage closer ties between the Senate of Canada and the Slovenian National Council, and further greater understanding of common domestic and international challenges.

In the National Assembly, the Canadian delegation witnessed the historic vote ratifying Slovenia's accession to the European Union. Slovenia became a full member of both the European Union and NATO in May.

Barbados

On March 8, Speaker Hays represented Canada at the state funeral of former Barbadian Prime Minister Sir Harold St. John, who served as prime minister from March 1985 to May 1986 and was a Member of Parliament for 37 years until his retirement in 2003.

During his brief visit, Speaker Hays met with House of Assembly Speaker Ishmael Roett to discuss Canadian parliamentary programs in the Caribbean. Speaker Hays also had an opportunity to meet with the Barbados Cadet Corps, which has been working on an exchange program with Canadian cadets.

France

Speaker Hays paid a working visit to France, from April 21 to 25. In Paris, he met with Senate President Christian Poncelet, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Secretary-General Don Johnson, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the OECD Jocelyne Bourgon, International Energy Agency (IEA) Deputy Executive Director Bill Ramsay, and members of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

South Africa

Speaker Hays then traveled to Pretoria, South Africa, from April 26 to 29, to represent Canada at the inauguration of newly re-elected President Thabo Mbeki. During this visit, which coincided with the 10th anniversary of the end of apartheid, the Speaker met with Minister of Education Naledi Pandor, who is also the former Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces.

European Conference of Presidents of Parliaments

From May 17 to 19, Speaker Hays took part in the European Conference of Presidents of Parliaments, organized by the Council of Europe (CoE) at its Strasbourg headquarters.

Parliamentary representatives of the CoE's 45 member-states attended the Conference, as well as observers from Canada, Mexico and Israel, and those of several other parliamentary associations, such as NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) and the OSCE (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe).

Speaker Hays also held several bilateral meetings with his colleagues from the Netherlands, Belgium and the Russian Federation, and Senator Fernando Margain of Mexico.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Launch of National Plan of Action for Children

On May 10, a special ceremony commemorated the second anniversary of the United Nations Special Session on Children and launched Canada's response, "A Canada Fit for Children." Senator Landon Pearson (Lib-Ontario), who was instrumental in developing the document, submitted it to the United Nations in New York City on April 22, on behalf of the Government of Canada. "A Canada Fit for Children is the result of input from thousands of Canadians, including young people, who have a common interest in the rights and well-being of children," said Senator Pearson. The full report is available at <http://sen.parl.gc.ca/lpearson/specialsession/>.



Senate Page Program alumni Keli Hogan and Alexandra Spiess. Hogan is now a Committee Clerk with the Senate's Committees Directorate.

Canadian Committee on Women, Peace and Security Roundtable

On May 5, Senator Mobina Jaffer (Lib-British Columbia), Chair of the Canadian Committee on Women, Peace and Security, and Alexa McDonough, MP (NDP-Halifax, Nova Scotia) co-hosted a roundtable discussion featuring Minister Zahira Kamal, Minister of Palestinian Women's Affairs. Minister Kamal is one of the most prominent Palestinian women leaders in the West Bank and Gaza, advocating for women's rights and for greater participation of women in the political arena. She is an active supporter of dialogue and peaceful co-operation among Palestinian and Israeli women.

Page Alumni Reunion

On May 14, Speaker Dan Hays welcomed over 50 Senate Page Program alumni to their annual reunion on Parliament Hill.

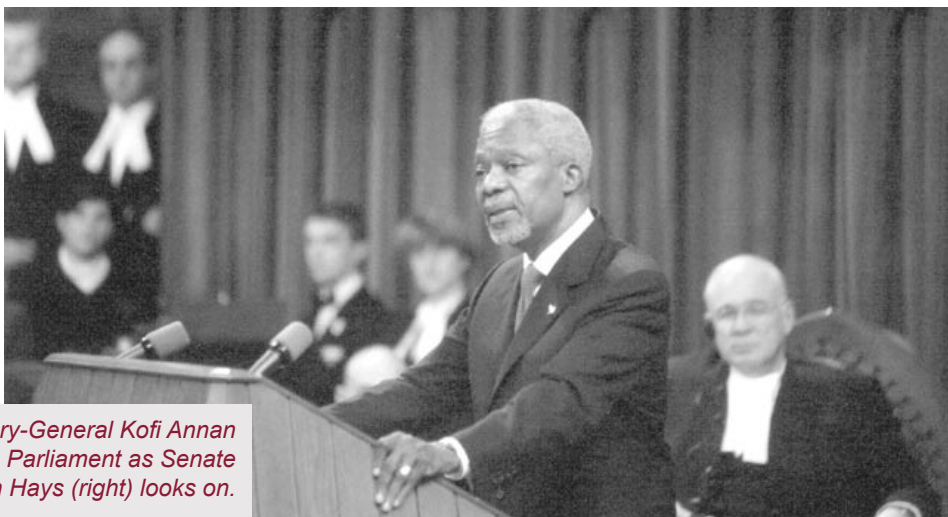
Each year, 15 full-time university students from across Canada are selected to participate in the program. As of the 2003-2004 academic year, some pages can earn academic credit for their work in the Senate. Senate pages support the work of senators in the Chamber and in committees by collecting and distributing official documents, and acting as messengers for the Speaker, senators and table officers. To find out more, go to www.parl.gc.ca > About Parliament > Youth Programs > Senate Page Program.

National Student Commonwealth Forum

On May 3, the Senate Chamber was the venue for the 32nd National Student Commonwealth Forum (NSCF) roundtable discussion on contentious Canadian issues, part of the six-day program organized by the Ottawa Branch of the Royal Commonwealth Society. The forum is a weeklong session of discussion, brainstorming, role-playing and learning, culminating in a model Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, in which the goal is to achieve consensus on resolutions drafted by the delegates themselves. The theme for this year's forum was "Food."

Visit of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan

On March 9, Senate Speaker Dan Hays, together with Prime Minister Paul Martin and House of Commons Speaker Peter Milliken, welcomed His Excellency Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Mrs. Nane Annan and their delegation to Parliament. During their visit, the Secretary-General addressed senators and MPs in the House of Commons.



UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan addresses Parliament as Senate Speaker Dan Hays (right) looks on.

RECOGNITION AND HONOURS

Dr. Marilyn Trenholme Counsell Early Childhood Literacy Awards

On May 12, the Literacy Coalition of New Brunswick and the Fédération D'Alphabétisation du Nouveau-Brunswick re-named the Early Childhood Literacy Awards to pay tribute to **Senator Marilyn Trenholme Counsell** (Lib–New Brunswick). Throughout her careers as a physician, member of the New Brunswick Legislative Assembly, Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick and senator, Marilyn Trenholme Counsell has supported and promoted early childhood literacy. Awards in six categories will recognize people who support the literacy development of children aged 5 years or under. For more information, visit www.nald.ca/nbclhom.htm.

Prix Distinction of the Chambre de commerce du Centre-de-la-Mauricie

On May 12, at the 11th *Gala Distinction* of the Chambre de commerce du Centre-de-la-Mauricie, **Senator Madeleine Plamondon** (Ind–The Laurentides, Quebec) received the *prix Distinction*, which is awarded to the personality of the year. The senator's many years of service in the defence of consumers were cited in the ceremony, which took place at the Centre des arts de Shawinigan.

African-Canadian Achievement Award

On April 3, **Senator Donald Oliver** (C–Nova Scotia) won an African-Canadian Achievement Award for outstanding achievement in politics. The awards are organized and hosted annually by Toronto-based *Pride News Magazine* and seek to recognize and honour the accomplishments and excellence of African-Canadians in different categories and endeavours, as well as foster a sense of

pride and a spirit of dignity within the African-Canadian community.



Duke of Edinburgh's Award Tribute Dinner

On April 3, **Senator Marilyn Trenholme Counsell** (Lib–New Brunswick) was honoured by the New Brunswick Division of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award at a tribute dinner in Fredericton. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award was founded in Great Britain in 1956 by His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. In Canada, the Award has operated since 1963 with over 150,000 participants from all across the country. Senator Trenholme Counsell was recognized for her support of youth and literacy projects.

100 Edmontonians of the Century

On May 3, **Senator Tommy Banks** (Lib–Edmonton, Alberta) was named one of the 100 Edmontonians of the Century. An initiative of the Alberta capital's Celebrate 2004 committee, the list also included playwrights, former premiers and sports legends. This year marks the city's centennial. Senator Banks is best known as a Juno Award-winning jazz musician and entertainer.

Honorary Chairmanship of the Official Languages Committee

On February 11, the Standing Senate Committee on Official Languages honoured **Senator Jean-Robert Gauthier** (Lib–Ottawa-Vanier, Ontario) by making him Honorary Chair of the Committee, in recognition of his "exceptional commitment to official languages" and "the accomplishments he brought to the work of this Committee throughout the course of his career." Senator Gauthier will be retiring from the Senate on October 22.

APPOINTMENTS

Senator

Jim Munson (Lib–Ottawa/Rideau Canal, Ontario) was appointed to the Senate on December 10, 2003 by Governor General Adrienne Clarkson, on the advice of Prime Minister Jean Chrétien. Prior to his appointment, Senator Munson was Mr. Chrétien's Director of Communications. A two-time Gemini Award-nominated journalist, Senator Munson worked as a national affairs correspondent for CTV News. As CTV's bureau chief in Beijing from 1987 to 1992, he covered the Tiananmen Square massacre of June 4, 1989. Other major assignments included the Iran-Iraq War and the Gulf War.