



The Senate **REPORT**

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Winter 2003

Senate Business Highlights

The last session was particularly busy for the Senate in terms of both new initiatives and the culmination of important ongoing work. Over the summer, a number of Senate Committees continued their hard work on issues of interest and importance to Canadians and reported their findings this fall.

The Special Committee on Illegal Drugs issued its thorough, controversial and highly acclaimed report on cannabis policy in September. It not only prompted extensive public discussion, but provided an important impetus for the government to reconsidering cannabis legislation and penalties that may well produce proposals for legislation in the coming months.

The new Standing Committee on National Security and Defence was also very active, producing several reports examining Canadian border and domestic security issues in the wake of the deadly terrorist attacks on the United States last year. These included a report on airport security. It also made major recommendations addressing the state and funding of Canada's armed forces.

The Standing Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology completed work on its in-depth study of health care in Canada with its sixth volume. This was a comprehensive report that included recommendations for the financing and the future of our health care system. The Senate Committee report set the stage for the Romanow Commission Report and a new round of negotiations on revamping our health care system.

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The Standing Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce has just released its report on mergers of banks and financial institutions. This report will influence the government as it formulates positions on key economic structural issues.

Other events included the prorogation of the First Session of the Thirty-Seventh Parliament and the Speech from the Throne in the Senate Chamber introducing the Second Session. The Senate has engaged in important debates and consideration of key public policy issues, from climate change, energy policy and the Kyoto Accord to the war on terror and international tensions in Afghanistan and Iraq, from the status and treatment of endangered species to use of, and accountability for, government contingency funds.

There is a great deal more to come as the Senate considers both pending government legislation referred to it, legislative initiatives identified by Senators and key social, economic, security and public policy issues dear to the hearts and minds of Canadians. In this issue of the Senate Report, we outline many of these topics and other significant activities.

Senator's Forum

The Honourable Roch Bolduc, PC., Senator

After 15 years at the Senate, I have only happy memories of my stay in the National Capital.

I learned my trade in the Chamber and in committee with some terrific colleagues, both on the government side and on the opposition side. I myself have sat on both sides. I worked hard to become as familiar as possible with the issues placed before the Foreign Affairs and National Finance committees, and made my modest contribution to the work of both of them. The collaboration of the clerks and research assistants was invaluable. As a former senior member of the Quebec public service, I also appreciated the competence of the senior federal public servants who appeared before us to give evidence.



Being a member of the PC Caucus enabled me to get to know a remarkable group of people whose overriding concern is the well-being of our country.

I also participated in the activities of the Canada-Europe Inter-Parliamentary Association and the Canada-United States Inter-Parliamentary Group. I think the latter should be even more active, given the importance of our relations with our American friends.

I want to thank all the members of the Senate, and its employees, managers and administrators, for their unfailing dedication.

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The Senate

REPORT

Feature

Keeping in touch with Canadian Communities

Public consultations are an important part of Senate Committee work. They often take place in the Senate, but from time to time Committees need to take the pulse of the community more directly or learn

about specialized topics. That is why they travel to communities throughout Canada. For example, the Agriculture Committee held hearings throughout the prairie provinces on the role of the Canadian Wheat Board. Similarly, the Sub-committee on the Boreal Forest traveled to isolated Canadian forest communities as part of its work, and the Subcommittee on Veterans' Affairs visited veteran care facilities across Canada.

In the past year, the Senate has, as it often does, looked well beyond specific legislation to subjects of concern to Canadians in their everyday life. Perhaps the most notable examples are the Committee on National Security and Defence studies of Canada's preparedness and of anti-terrorism measures, the Social Affairs Committee study on the future of Health Care, and the Special Committee on Illegal Drugs look at cannabis policy. The committees consulted extensively with citizens about their views and made a very real impact on public discussions of the issues.

Visits to communities often include fact-finding visits to sites of interest as well as traditional Public Hearings. The Special Senate Committee on Illegal Drugs departed from the usual format in an innovative and highly effective way in a series of evening town hall meetings in various communities, with the goal of facilitating more direct dialogue with Canadians and bringing them closer to the Senate.

To stimulate informed debate, the Committee on Illegal Drugs published a discussion paper that was distributed to the community in advance of these meetings. The Committee also worked closely with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and local communities to make appropriate facilities and information available. Local media were informed through news releases and public service announcements were made to encourage people to participate. Steps were taken to broadcast the Ottawa

"On many issues, the Senate is no longer just a "sober second thought." It's becoming a "fruitful first thought."

*Angus Reid, Vancouver Sun,
January 25, 2003*

hearings live over the Internet so Canadians could follow the Committee's progress.

Local visits were structured to maximize opportunities to gather information and opinion. A small panel of experts was invited to open the proceedings by giving a brief statement, and then members of the public were invited to freely speak their minds. Anyone who wished to make a contribution had only to register and step up to the microphone.

This take on the traditional town hall meeting seems to have been particularly well suited to the Committee's work. The non-partisan, substantive and open nature of Senate proceedings, combined with the structure and traditions of the institution, provided for an orderly and productive discussion.

"Senate committees have advanced debate on drug laws, defence spending and bank mergers with thoughtful, well-researched studies."

*National Post,
December 16, 2002*

Legislative Activities

Government bills introduced in the House of Commons

C-10, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (cruelty to animals and firearms) and the Firearms Act*
Status: Divided in two parts called C-10A and C-10B.

C-10A, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (firearms) and the Firearms Act*
Status: Adopted by the Senate and referred to the House of Commons for study and approval.

C-10B, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (cruelty to animals)*
Status: In Committee: Legal and Constitutional Affairs

C-12, *An Act to promote physical activity and sport*
Status: At third reading

Senate Public Bills

S-3, *An Act to amend the National Anthem Act to include all Canadians* (Senator Vivienne Poy)
Status: At second reading

S-4, *An Act to provide for increased transparency and objectivity in the selection of suitable individuals to be named to certain high public positions* (Senator Terry Stratton)
Status: At second reading

S-5, *An Act respecting a National Acadian Day* (Senator Gerald Comeau)
Status: In Committee: Legal and Constitutional Affairs.

S-6, *An Act 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* (Senator Noël Kinsella)
Status: At second reading

S-7, *An Act to protect heritage lighthouses* (Senator Michael Forrestall)
Status: At second reading

S-8, *An Act to amend the Broadcasting Act* (Senator Noël Kinsella)
Status: In Committee: Transport and Communications

S-9, *An Act to honour Louis Riel and the Metis People* (Senator Thelma Chalifoux)
Status: At second reading

S-10, *An Act concerning personal watercraft in navigable waters* (Senator Mira Spivak)
Status: At second reading

House of Commons Public Bill

C-300, *An Act to change the names of certain electoral districts* (Marlene Catterall)
Status: At second reading

Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change

On December 12, 2002, after eight days of lively debate, the Senate adopted the following motion with respect to the Kyoto Protocol: "Whereas the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol in Canada can better be achieved through the collaboration of the Provinces, Territories and the Federal Government, the Senate urges the Provinces, Territories and the Federal Government to increase their efforts to secure collaboration and the Senate calls on the government to ratify the Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change."

Committees

Aboriginal Peoples

During the First Session of the 37th Parliament, the Committee held 34 meetings, heard 68 witnesses, and examined Bill **S-24** (the *Kanesatake Interim Land Base Governance Act*), and Bill **C-37**, (the *Claim Settlements (Alberta and Saskatchewan) Implementation Act*), both of which were reported without amendment. In total, the Committee submitted seven reports.

On March 12, 2002, the Committee received an Order of Reference to examine and report on the opportunities to expand economic development, including tourism and employment, associated with national parks in Canada. This was delegated to a Subcommittee, which heard four witnesses and held three meetings. In May 2002, the Subcommittee sent a fact-finding delegation to the Northwest Territories, the Yukon, and Nunavut and tabled its final report, entitled *Northern Parks: A New Way*, on September 27, 2001.

On October 29, 2002, the Committee received an Order of Reference to examine and report upon issues affecting urban Aboriginal youth in Canada. It heard from a number of government departments and national Aboriginal political organizations, and is continuing this study in the Second Session of the 37th Parliament, working towards producing an "Action Plan for Change." Public hearings will be held in Vancouver, Edmonton, and Winnipeg, and witnesses from other regional centres will be heard by videoconference. The Committee hopes to table its final report in June 2003.

Agriculture and Forestry

Following the opening of the new session, the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Forestry embarked on a significant new study on the impact of climate change on Canada's agriculture and forestry sectors and on rural communities. It will also examine how both industries are adapting to the new challenges and what new tools and practices must be developed in the future. The Committee intends to zero in on potential adaptation options, focusing on primary production, practices, technologies, ecosystems and other related areas.



From left to right: Senators Marjory LeBreton, Leonard J. Gustafson, Mira Spivak; researcher Frédéric Forge; Senator Donald Oliver; the clerk of the committee Daniel Charbonneau; Senators Elizabeth Hubley, Jean Lapointe and Lorna Milne

To date, the Committee has heard from several federal government officials and from researchers from the Canadian Climate Change Impact and Adaptation Research Network (C-CIARN). The work will continue in February.

Banking, Trade and Commerce

On October 24, 2002, the Honourable John Manley, Minister of Finance, and the Honourable Maurizio Bevilacqua, Secretary of State for International Financial Institutions, asked the Standing Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce to conduct public hearings into the broad public interest issues that are raised by bank merger proposals,

including major considerations that should apply in determining the public interest. In responding to the Ministers' request, the Banking Committee heard from 39 witnesses over five days of hearings and received six written submissions from academics, consumer and business groups, and the financial services sector.

In a 32-page unanimous report, tabled in the Senate on December 12, 2002, the Banking Committee said that, in principle, bank mergers would help strengthen the Canadian economy and benefit Canadian consumers. Therefore, the

Government should permit Canadian banks with more than \$5 billion in equity to amalgamate, following a positive review by the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions (OSFI) and the Competition Bureau. The Committee believes that bank mergers are a valid business strategy, and

that they would contribute to Canadian growth and prosperity.

"For decades, Senate Banking has enjoyed a reputation as one of the best committees on Parliament Hill because its members have some experience of the real world."

*Ian Macdonald, Montreal Gazette,
October 30, 2002*

Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources

In the Second Session of the 37th Parliament, the Standing Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources has so far studied two bills: Bill **C-5**, *An Act respecting the protection of wildlife species at risk in Canada* and Bill **C-14**, *An Act providing for controls on the export, import or transit across Canada of rough diamonds and for a certification scheme for the export of rough diamonds in order to meet Canada's obligations under the Kimberley Process*.

Bill **C-5**, the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA), was introduced and deemed to have passed all stages in the House of Commons on 9 October 2002. This bill is identical to an earlier bill with the same title and number that had been tabled at the beginning of the First Session of the 37th Parliament in February 2001, but that died on the *Order Paper* when Parliament was prorogued in September 2002. That earlier bill was the first piece of federal legislation dealing with the listing, protection and recovery of endangered species and other species at risk under federal jurisdiction.

Bill **C-5** is described as one part of a three-pronged federal strategy to protect species at risk, the other two components being stewardship and incentive programs, and the federal/provincial/territorial *Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk*. The Committee held hearings from October 24 to December 2, 2002 and heard testimony from a variety of witnesses and organizations. It reported the bill to the Senate on December 4, 2002 without amendment, but with observations.

Bill **C-14** implements the Kimberley Process, which is an internationally agreed system of certification for rough diamonds that is intended to prevent so-called “conflict diamonds” – rough diamonds used by rebel movements to finance military activities, including those against legitimate governments – from entering lawful markets. This certification scheme requires participating countries to ensure that rough diamonds are imported and exported in tamper-resistant containers accompanied by a valid certificate from the government of the exporting country stating that the diamonds are not conflict diamonds. The Committee heard witnesses and reported the bill to the Senate without amendment.

Fisheries and Oceans

The Committee undertook a study on fish habitat, focused primarily on the concept of community stewardship, which would permit all Canadians to contribute in one way or another to the protection and improvement of fish habitats. This study, interrupted when Parliament prorogued in September 2002, resumed in November 2002.

Foreign Affairs

During the First Session of the 37th Parliament, the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs heard from 71 witnesses, held 41 meetings, and considered four bills: **C-6**, *An Act to amend the International Boundary Waters Treaty Act*; **C-32**, *An Act to implement the Free Trade Agreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of the Republic of Costa Rica*; **C-35**, *An Act to amend the Foreign Missions and International Organizations Act*; and **C-50**, *An Act to amend certain Acts as a result of the accession of the People's Republic of China to the*

Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization.

The Committee released 16 reports, including its special study on emerging political, social, and economic and security developments in Russia and Ukraine. This report was the first in-depth study of Russia and Ukraine ever carried out by a Canadian parliamentary committee and contains 20 recommendations to foster sound and sustainable relations with two countries that could become significant partners in international affairs.

The Committee heard a great deal of evidence, and met with some of the most prominent and senior Russian dignitaries, including President Vladimir Putin. The final product is a gold mine of information for anyone interested in the region.

Human Rights

During the First Session of the 37th Parliament, the Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights undertook an examination of issues relating to human rights in Canada, including the machinery of government dealing with Canada's international and national human rights obligations. This resulted in the December 2001 report entitled *Promises to Keep: Implementing Canada's Human Rights Obligations*, which contained both immediate recommendations and identified issues for future study. As a result of this work, the Committee began an examination of Canada's adherence to international human rights instruments. The initial focus of this study was the possibility of Canada adhering to the American Convention on Human Rights. The Committee heard evidence from witnesses in Ottawa and visited San Jose, Costa Rica. This work was interrupted by prorogation in mid-September.

Illegal Drugs

Following the review of the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* by the Senate in 1996, Canada's Upper Chamber felt that it was time for a comprehensive review of Canada's drug policies, especially those related to marijuana and its use. On March 13, 2001, the special committee was struck to examine Canada's approach to cannabis and the effectiveness of this approach. The committee was also mandated to review the current policies in other countries, our international obligations, and the consequences of any future policy changes.

From April 2001 until June 2002, the Committee held more than 40 public hearings in Ottawa as well as in ten other communities throughout the country, hearing from more than 200 witnesses from all backgrounds. In its research program, the committee also produced 23 research papers and benefited from summaries of work conducted in other countries. The culmination of this herculean effort was the publication of its final report, *Cannabis: Our Position for a Canadian Public Policy*. In it, the committee presented 11 recommendations, including the

creation of a National Advisor on Psychoactive Substances and Dependency, the introduction of an exemption scheme from the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*, amnesty for anyone convicted of possession and the establishing of new regulations for the therapeutic use of marijuana.

National Finance

The work of the Senate Committee on National Finance is focused on examination of the government's Main Estimates and Supplementary Estimates. In carrying out examination of the Estimates, the Committee requests that President of the Treasury Board as well as officials of the Treasury Board Secretariat appear to answer questions. Then it presents a report to the Senate for each set of Estimates it examines. In addition, the Committee may examine specific issues relating to government expenditures. For example, in the last session, the Committee presented a report on the Government Contingencies Vote in the Estimates, an amount provided in the Government's Main Estimates each year to allow the government to meet unforeseen and minor expenses. The Committee examined whether the government was using the contingency fund for its intended purpose and whether there is proper accountability to Parliament by the government. The Committee also presented a report on the National Capital Commission.

The National Finance Committee

"By surprising the country with a recommendation to legalize marijuana and by putting forward a substantial body of argument to back it up, a special Senate committee has managed to trigger an instant and passionate national discussion."

Chantal Hébert, Chronicle-Herald, September 10, 2002

also carried out and presented reports on three special studies: the effectiveness of, and possible improvements to, the present equalization policy, the role of the government in the financing of deferred maintenance costs in Canada's post-secondary institutions and the administrative contract at the Goose Bay, Labrador Airfield. During its hearings on

equalization, ministers of finance from several provinces and the Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador appeared before the Committee.

During the 37th Parliament, the Committee also examined five bills, including Bill **S-23**, *An Act to amend the Customs Act and to make related amendments to other Acts*, which were introduced in the Senate.

National Security and Defence

The Committee on National Security and National Defence conducted an introductory survey of the major security and defence issues facing Canada. During this study, the Committee spent 173.5 hours meeting 204 people in hearings and fact-finding visits. In addition to holding hearings in Ottawa, the committee made a fact-finding visit to Washington D.C and visited ports and airports in Montreal, Vancouver and Halifax. It also heard from military personnel in regular and reserve units of the Canadian Forces in Montreal, Esquimalt, Winnipeg, Halifax, Dartmouth and Gagetown. In Washington, the Committee met with congressional and Administration leaders responsible for defence, security and homeland defence.

In February 2002 the Committee submitted its report entitled *Canadian Security and Military Preparedness*. One of the recommendations of that report was the call for an examination of the need for a national security policy. Subsequently, the Senate asked this Committee to undertake this study.

From April to prorogation in September, the Committee spent 102 hours meeting 191 people in hearings and fact-finding visits. In addition to hearings in Ottawa,

the Committee held hearings in Toronto on airport security and made two fact-finding visits in Canada. The Committee visited military installations in Ottawa and a land border crossing in Lansdowne, Ontario, as well as military bases in Kingston, Borden, Trenton and Petawawa.

On this order of reference, the Committee issued a substantive report entitled *Defence of North America: A Canadian Responsibility*.

In the new session of Parliament, the Committee's order of reference on the need for a national security policy was renewed. One aspect of this study dealt with "the capacity of the Department of National Defence to defend and protect the interests, people and territory of Canada and its ability to respond to or prevent a national emergency or attack." The Committee released, in mid November, a report entitled *For an Extra 130 bucks...Update On Canada's Military Financial Crisis – A VIEW FROM THE BOTTOM UP*. The report reiterated an earlier recommendation calling for an immediate addition of \$4 billion to the Department of National Defence budget. It also called for the withdrawal of all Canadian Forces from overseas duty for 24 months in order to re-group and re-train.

In January 2003, the Committee released a report entitled *The Myth of Security at Canada's Airports*. The report recommended measures to address "the huge security gaps that persist behind the scenes in the Canadian travel industry" and make airline travel significantly safer.

"Recently the Senate committee on national security and defence, chaired by Senator Colin Kenny, has issued important reports on the safety of Canada's airports and ports."

*Thomas Axworthy,
Ottawa Citizen,
September 16, 2002*

Official languages

On October 10, 2002, the Senate adopted a motion proposed by Senator Jean-Robert Gauthier to create an independent Senate committee on official languages.

The Senate is the Upper Chamber of the Canadian federation, and has, since its creation in 1867, represented the interests of the regions and minorities in Canada.

Senator Gauthier convinced his colleagues that the Senate should have its own committee if it really wants to fulfill its mandate.

The mandate of the committee

To study and report on the operation of the Official Languages Act, and of the regulations and directives made thereunder, within institutions that are 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.

The committee held its first meeting on December 5, 2002. The witness, the Commissioner of Official Languages, discussed her annual report, tabled in Parliament in October 2002.

The Senate has a reputation for doing its work without partisanship. This committee will work seriously toward improving the situation of the regions of Canada, with particular attention to linguistic issues.

Rules, Procedures and the Rights of Parliament

During the autumn session, the Committee held eight meetings and issued four substantive reports on the following subjects: holding committee meetings during extended adjournments of the Senate, tabling of committee reports with the Clerk of the Senate when the Senate is not sitting, and a proposal to change the name of the Standing Committee on Fisheries to Fisheries and Oceans.

Social Affairs, Science and Technology

In October 2002, the Committee tabled its long-anticipated final report on its massive study of the state of the health care system in Canada. Its sixth volume, entitled *Recommendations for Reform* called for:

- restructuring the current hospital and doctor system to make it more efficient and more effective in providing timely and high quality patient care;
- creating a "health care guarantee" that would ensure that patients would have to wait no longer than a specific maximum amount of time for major hospital or diagnostic procedures;
- expanding public insurance to include coverage for catastrophic prescription drug costs, immediate post-hospital home care costs and the costs of providing palliative care



From left to right: Senators Wilbert Keon, Joan Cook, Brenda Robertson and Joyce Fairbairn

for patients who choose to spend the last weeks of their life at home;

- strengthening the federal contribution to, and role in, health care infrastructure, including health information systems, health care technology, the evaluation of health care system outcomes, health care human resources supply, health research, health promotion and protection and the nation's sixteen Academic Health Science Centres;
- raising additional federal revenue for health care and administering it in a transparent and accountable manner.

In the First Session of the 37th Parliament, the Committee received an order of reference from the Senate to examine and report on the document entitled *Santé en français — Pour un meilleur accès à des services de santé en français* (French-Language Healthcare – Improving Access to French-Language Health Services.) The Committee held five meetings, hearing from a variety of francophone organizations with a particular interest in health care matters.

The Committee concluded that the Francophone and Acadian communities of Canada have made remarkable gains in a number of social areas, including justice and education. These communities are now using that same energy and determination to improve access to health care in French.



From left to right: Senator Michael Kirby; committee clerk Cathy Piccinin; Senators Marjory LeBreton, Jane Cordy and Lucie Pépin

The Committee recommended that the report serve as a basis for the government's action plan for linguistic minorities and that the issue of health care delivery to minority language communities be placed on the agenda for the next federal-provincial-territorial conference of health ministers.

The Committee also dealt with three pieces of legislation. It passed two bills without amendment: Bill **C-12**, *An Act to promote physical activity and sport*, and Bill **C-11**, *An Act to amend the Copyright Act*. The Committee passed Bill **C-8**, *An Act to protect human health and safety and the environment by regulating products used for the control of pests* without amendment but with observations. Some of the Committee's observations focused on the need for additional resources at Health Canada to conduct scientific

research on the health effects of pesticides, on the protection of children from risks posed by pesticides and on the collection of data for pesticide use.

The report of the Senate committee chaired by Mr. Kirby on the health-care problem in Canada is a brilliant tour de force.

Irwin Pressman, Ottawa Citizen, November 21, 2002

Royal Assent

Her Excellency the Governor General, the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson gave Royal Assent to six Government Bills. As well, on December 12, the Governor General came to the Senate Chamber to give Royal Assent to the following bills in the presence of senators and members of the House of Commons:

S-2, *An Act to implement an agreement, conventions and protocols concluded between Canada and Kuwait, Mongolia, the United Arab Emirates, Moldova, Norway, Belgium and Italy for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion and to amend the enacted text of three tax treaties*

C-5, *An Act respecting the protection of wildlife species in Canada*

C-8, *An Act to protect human health and safety and the environment by regulating products used for the control of pests*

C-11, *An Act to amend the Copyright Act*

C-14, *An Act providing for controls on the export, import or transit across Canada of rough diamonds and for a certification scheme for the export of rough diamonds in order to meet Canada's obligations under the Kimberley Process*

C-21, *Appropriation Act No. 3, 2002-03*

Inter-Parliamentary Activities

Assemblée parlementaire de la francophonie

Senators Pierre De Bané, Gerald Comeau and Rose-Marie Losier-Cool and MPs Bernard Patry (Chair of the Canadian Branch of the APF), Claude Duplain, and Michel Guimond were the Canadian delegates to the 28th Ordinary Session of the *Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie* (APF), which took place in Bern, Switzerland, from July 4 to 10, 2002. In preparation for the Beirut Summit, there was a presentation, discussion and vote on the draft "Opinion on the dialogue between cultures." In addition to reports and resolutions presented by the four committees, the general debate this year focused on "the marginalization of parliaments in the context of globalization."

19th meeting of the Americas Region of the APF (Halifax, September 4 to 8, 2002)

The working sessions at this meeting concerned access to services in French, the state of La Francophonie, and the emerging role of parliaments in diplomacy.

The Canadian delegation was composed of three Senators, the honourable Rose-Marie Losier-Cool, Lucie Pépin and Gerald Comeau, and two MPs, Bernard Patry and Gilles Perron.

Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association

From November 22 to 30, 2002, a delegation from the Association including Senator Consiglio Di Nino and led by the Chair, Charles Caccia, MP, went to the European Parliament in Brussels for discussions with European counterparts. The topics included:

- the environment and sustainable development
- the European Convention
- the growth of Europe
- integration of immigrants
- regulations on GMO
- WTO trade negotiations
- trade and investment relationships between Canada and Europe
- trans-Atlantic relationships
- the International Criminal Court
- terrorism, and
- protection of personal information and cyber-crime

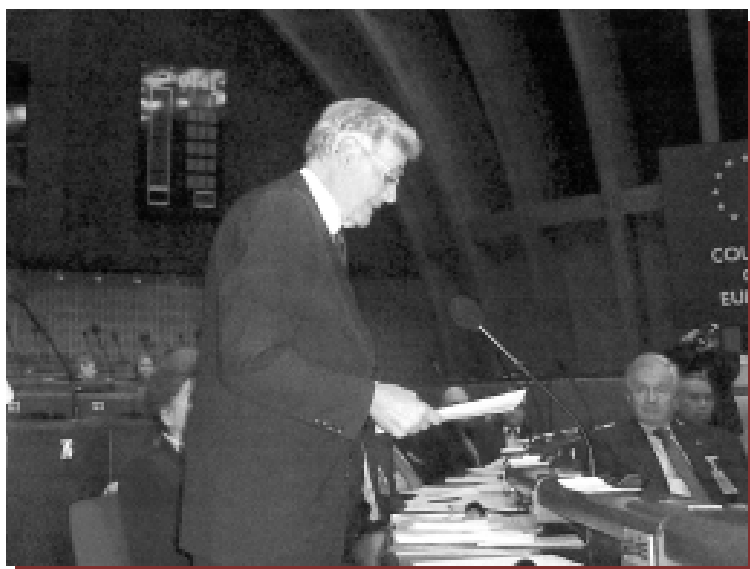
At the end of the mission, the delegation observed a clear convergence of opinion between Canada and Europe on certain issues, in particular, Iraq, Kyoto, and the International Criminal Court. On the other hand, the Europeans are looking to Canada for advice on solving their refugee and immigrant integration problems.

The mission continued to Copenhagen, Denmark, a country whose European presidency ends on December 31, 2002, for working meetings with Danish parliamentarians, the Foreign Minister, the Secretary General of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, and representatives of the European Environment Agency.

Senator Laurier LaPierre and MP Gérard Binet represented the Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association at the November 19, 2002, meeting of parliamentarians at the United Nations and

participated in the General Assembly debate on relations between the United Nations and regional or other organizations on November 20 and 21. They also joined the Canadian IPU Group delegation at the information session with the staff of Canada's Permanent Mission to the United Nations, organized by Ambassador Heinbecker to discuss current major international issues.

As part of the activities of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, where Canada has observer status, Senator Noel Kinsella along with MPs Francine Lalonde, Serge Marcil and Aileen Carroll visited London and Strasbourg from January 23-31, 2003. In London the delegation met with representatives of the Metropolitan Police and the National Criminal Intelligence Service to discuss the structures in place for combating the financing of terrorist groups in the United Kingdom. The Economic Affairs Committee met the following day at the head office of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) for discussions on Europe's economic prospects, especially in central and eastern Europe, and the ERDB's activities. The Committee also



Senator Roch Bolduc with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe delegation in Strasbourg

discussed the themes globalization and sustainable development, reforming the public service in Europe, and tax measures for encouraging heritage conservation.

In Strasbourg, the delegation attended the first part of the regular session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. A number of subjects were on the agenda, both in committee and in plenary session, and the Canadian delegates made notable contributions in the following areas: (a) the Iraq issue (Francine Lalonde); (b) the conflict in Chechnya (Aileen Carroll); (c) the draft of a European protocol on terrorism (Senator Kinsella); and (d) the European *Code of Good Practices in Electoral Matters* (Francine Lalonde). Other topics discussed were: social policy challenges in "greying" societies, the full social integration of persons with disabilities, the environment and human rights, and globalization and sustainable development. The delegation also held a working lunch with Mexican parliamentarians (Mexico also has observer status at the Assembly), including the Speaker of the Mexican Senate.

MP Charles Caccia led the delegation to the fall session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, in Strasbourg, from September 23 to 27, 2002. The delegation included Senators Lucie Pépin and Roch Bolduc and MPs Gérard Binet, Francine Lalonde and Betty Hinton.

Members of the delegation participated actively in meetings of the Assembly's political groups and committees and intervened in several key Assembly debates, notably the one on the OECD and the world economy, and in the urgent debates that took place on the risks to the integrity of the International Criminal

Court and on the threat of military action against Iraq.

Canada-France Inter-Parliamentary Association

Since the legislative elections in France in June 2002, the French Branch of the France-Canada Inter-Parliamentary Association has a new chair, Mr. Marc Laffineur, a member of the *Union pour la majorité présidentielle*. He replaces Mr. François Loncle. The Canadian Branch, chaired by Senator Lise Bacon, will welcome a small French parliamentary delegation to Ottawa in February 2003, to make preparations for the next annual meeting of the Association, which will be held in France in July 2003.

Canada-Japan Inter-Parliamentary Group

Senator Marie-P. Poulin, Co-Chair of the Canada-Japan Inter-Parliamentary Group, with Co-Chair, Bryon Wilfert, MP for Oak Ridges, Ontario, led a delegation of nine parliamentarians to Japan, from September 24 to 29, 2002, for the Association's 12th Annual Meeting with the Japan-Canada Diet Friendship League. Also present was the Honourable Jean-Claude Rivest, Senator.

The schedule of the nine parliamentarians included political meetings on all levels, science and technology demonstrations, visits to rural areas and world heritage sites.

Delegates spoke about stimulating business partnerships, cooperation on international security and the environment. The next consultations will take place in Canada in 2003.

Canada-United States Inter-Parliamentary Group

From March 4 to 6, 2002, the Honourable Jeremiah Grafstein, Senator and Co-Chair, attended a special meeting on softwood lumber at the Department of Commerce, in Washington, DC.

Senators Grafstein, Norman Atkins, Roch Bolduc, John Buchanan, Céline Hervieux-Payette and Joan Cook attended the 43rd annual meeting from May 16 to 20, 2002, in Newport, Rhode Island. They met with members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

Senators Raynell Andreychuk and Lorna Milne participated in the 48th CPA Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Namibia from



Participants in the 2nd Canadian Parliamentary Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in Ottawa

September 2-15, 2002. The Canadian delegation also included the following members of Parliament: Sarmite Bulte, Hedy Fry, Monique Guay, Gary Lunn, Karen Redman and Bob Speller.

The Honourable Céline Hervieux-Payette, Senator and the Honourable Lucie Pépin, Senator, joined MPs Yvan Loubier and Joe McGuire at the 25th Canadian Regional Parliamentary Seminar in Québec City from October 9 to 12, 2002.

The 14th CPA Seminar was held in Andhra Pradesh, India, from October 20-27, 2002. Senator Nick Taylor attended.

The 2nd CPA Canadian Parliamentary Seminar was held in Ottawa from November 3-9, 2002. Twenty-three delegates from 17 branches attended.

Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas

The president of the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas (FIPA), the Honourable Céline Hervieux-Payette, has chaired two meetings of the international Executive Committee, the first in Buenos Aires, in August 2002, and the latter in Panama in early December. The Executive Committee has continued to work on its virtual parliament project, which should eventually lessen the need for the parliamentarians to meet as frequently in person. The virtual parliament project may set a new standard for the international work of parliamentarians in the 21st century and serve as the model for other parliamentary fora to follow.

FIPA will be holding its next plenary meeting in Panama on February 20 and 21, 2003. Panama has offered to host the meeting in 2003 to mark its 100th anniversary of independence.

Inter-Parliamentary Union

A Special Session of the governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) was held in Geneva from September 23 to 27, 2002. Senators Joan Fraser, a member of the Executive Committee of the IPU, and Donald Oliver, a member of the IPU Council, were in the Canadian delegation, along with three MPs, Paddy Torsney, President of the Canadian Group and head of the delegation, Stéphane Bergeron, and Monte Solberg. The Council held a general debate on the topic of financing for development and made important decisions concerning the restructuring of the IPU, relations between the IPU and the United Nations, and the IPU's budget, which had increased by 7%. The Council also elected its new president, Sergio Paéz from Chile. Senator Fraser was particularly effective in the Executive Committee where she succeeded in limiting the expected increases in the Union's budget, as well as in the Gender Partnership Group, leading the changes to the IPU Statutes with respect to the presence of women on national delegations to the Union's various institutions and activities.

On November 19, 2002, Senator Al Graham and MPs Paddy Torsney and Antoine Dubé, representing the Canadian IPU Group, took part in the meeting of parliamentarians at the United Nations in New York. The parliamentarians heard from senior staff members of the UN on current major international issues, particularly Iraq, Kyoto and UN reform. On November 20 and 21, the Canadian delegation participated in the debate in the General Assembly on relations between the United Nations and regional or other organizations. During this mission, the IPU was given observer status at the UN, along with the right to

circulate its documents to the UN, a goal of the IPU for many years. In addition to the meetings at the UN, Senator Graham met with Canada's Permanent Representative to the UN, Mr. Paul Heinbecker, for an information session; with Canada's Consul General in New York, Pamela Wallin; and with another Canadian, Louise Fréchette, Deputy Secretary-General of the UN.

Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region

On August 11-13, 2002, the Fifth Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region was held in Tromsø, Norway. MP Clifford Lincoln headed the Canadian delegation that included Senator Frank Mahovlich and MPs Peter Adams, Bernard Bigras and Judy Wasylycia-Leis. House of Commons Speaker, the Honourable Peter Milliken, joined the delegation for the Tromsø meetings.

A comprehensive conference statement was adopted by consensus by the elected representatives of Canada, Denmark/Greenland, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, the USA and the European Union. It can be found on the Arctic Parliamentarians' website at www.grida.no/parl/conf/index.htm.

OSCE Parliamentary Association

From July 6 to 10, 2002, the Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association, OSCE, sent a delegation of three Senators (Beaudoin, Grafstein and Kenny) and seven MPs to Berlin for the 11th Annual Session of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA). Head of delegation Clifford Lincoln, MP, was elected rapporteur of the Committee on Political Affairs and Security, on which his colleagues the Honourable Jerry Grafstein and the Honourable

Colin Kenny also sat. The Honourable Gérald Beaudoin sat on the Committee on Democracy and Human Rights.

The Honourable Jerry Grafstein, who is now serving the second year of his first two-year term as the OSCE PA's treasurer, also attended the Bureau Meeting of the OSCE PA in Porto on December 5, 2002, which was followed by the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting on December 6 and 7.

Other Activities

Recognition of the Gravesite of the Right Honourable R.B. Bennett

Senator Laurier LaPierre represented the Minister of Canadian Heritage on August 5 in Mickleham, Surrey, England at a ceremony to honour the gravesite of the Right Honourable Richard Bedford Bennett, the only Canadian Prime Minister not buried in Canada. When R.B. Bennett retired as Prime Minister of Canada in 1935, he went to Britain, where he sat in the House of Lords as Viscount Bennett until he died in 1947.

America Day in Canada

Senator Jeremiah Grafstein introduced a motion in the Senate on October 8 to establish September 11 as a Canadian commemorative day to be known as "America Day in Canada." Senator Grafstein was very active in support of relief efforts in New York City and throughout the United States and was one of the key organizers of the Canada Loves New York celebrations.

Royal Visit to the Senate

On the occasion of her Golden Jubilee, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II visited Canada from October 4 to October 15. The Speaker of the Senate, the Honourable Dan Hays, hosted ceremonies awarding the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medals on October 2 and 4.

Story Time at the Senate

To celebrate Literacy Day on October 30, a group of senators read to children. Speaker Hays and Senators Ethel Cochrane, Joyce Fairbairn, Joan Fraser, Lorna Milne, Frank Mahovlich, Consiglio Di Nino and Landon Pearson welcomed 40 grade one students from Centennial Public School to the Speaker's Office. Each Senator took a small group of children and read to them



Speaker of the Senate Dan Hays, accompanied by his wife Kathy Hays, welcomes a group of children into the Speaker's office for a reading session

from his or her favourite book. Senator Mahovlich, for example, chose *The Hockey Sweater* by Roch Carrier, while Speaker Daniel Hays, resplendent in his formal robes, read to all the children from *Daniel's Father* by Robert Munsch.

The event was organized by Liz Matte and Carol Shepherd of the Parliamentary Spouses Association with help from Kathy Hays.

Senators Against Landmines: Night of a Thousand Dinners

November 4 was the second annual Night of a Thousand Dinners on Parliament Hill to mark the fifth anniversary of the signing of the Ottawa Treaty against landmines. The event, organized by Senators Elizabeth Hubley, Ione Christensen, William Rompkey and Joseph Day, raised funds for the Canadian Landmines Foundation through ticket sales, a silent auction and a live auction featuring famous restaurateur Dave Smith. Senators helped to obtain many of the auction items and the event was judged a great success by the 350 who attended.

Senate Tribute to Outstanding Veterans and Citizens

On November 7, veterans attended the fifth annual Veterans' Week

Ceremony of Remembrance in the Senate Chamber, hosted by Senate Speaker, the Honourable Dan Hays and attended by the Minister of Veterans Affairs and other dignitaries. As part of the ceremony, 26 distinguished Canadians were awarded the 2002 Minister of Veterans' Affairs Commendation for contributions to the care and well being or remembrance of Canada's

veterans. They are: Dr. A. Lynne Beal; Robert R. Cassels; Clifford Chadderton; Charles S. Christie; James L. Davis ; Jacques Dupuis ; Robbins Elliott ; Donald Stewart Ethell; Norman Graham; Cecile Houle; James Irvine; Walter A. Jones; Joseph Kobolak; Edwin Laird; Harold O. Leduc; Philip M. Lyons; Kathleen MacNeill; C James Margerum; the Honourable Jack Marshall; William J. Neil; Joyce G. Paynter; Les Peate;



Veterans, parliamentarians and other dignitaries gathered inside the Senate Chamber for the Remembrance Ceremony

Donald James Saunders; Earnest Alvia Smith; John Stroud; and Douglas L. Whorral.

A New Lectern in memory of the Hon. Gildas Molgat

A new lectern, or Speaker's stand, was installed in the Senate Chamber on November 7 to honour the memory of Gildas Molgat, former Speaker of the Senate, who died in February 2001. Mr. Molgat spent 50 years in public life. He was appointed to the Senate in 1970 by Pierre Elliott Trudeau, and served as Speaker from 1991 to 2001.

The lectern, fashioned of white oak in traditional neo-gothic style, was a donation from Senator Serge Joyal, who called it "a symbol of wisdom expressed through speech" and a fitting memorial to Senator Molgat's "unfailing integrity and steadfast loyalty to the Senate."



From left to right: The Speaker of the Senate Dan Hays, Anne Marie Molgat and Allison Molgat and Senator Serge Joyal

National Child Day in the Senate

More than 200 children from Ottawa area schools joined senators and other community leaders for the Senate's second annual celebration of National Child Day on November 20.

The event was organized by Senator Landon Pearson and John Godfrey, MP for Don Valley West, in association with Child and Youth Friendly Ottawa. National Child Day commemorates the unanimous adoption by the United Nations of the Convention on the Rights of the Child on November 20, 1989.

Unveiling of Official Portrait

Over a hundred people, including several Cabinet Ministers, many Senators, Members of the House of Commons and other

dignitaries attended the unveiling of an official portrait of the Right Honourable Roméo LeBlanc on December 4. Mr.

LeBlanc was summoned to the Red Chamber in 1984, and in 1993 became the 43rd Speaker of the Senate. He was appointed Governor General of Canada in 1995 and served in that role until October 1999. The portrait, painted by Bernard Aimé Poulin, shows Mr. LeBlanc against a dual background, symbolizing his long career on Parliament Hill and his attachment to his native province of New Brunswick. It will hang in the Senate Speakers Gallery, on the western wall of Corridor E on the second floor of Centre Block.



The Former Speaker of the Senate the right hon. Romeo LeBlanc at the unveiling of his official portrait

Senate Standings

| | |
|--|---------|
| Liberal Party | 63 |
| Progressive Conservative Party | 30 |
| Independent | 4 |
| Canadian Alliance | 1 |
| Vacant seats | 7 |
| Ontario (2), Quebec (1), Prince Edward Island (1), New Brunswick (1), Nova Scotia (1), Alberta (1) | |
| TOTAL | 105 |

Milestones

Appointments

The Red Chamber has three new members. On December 12, Prime Minister Chrétien announced that the Governor General had summoned Maria Chaput, Pana Merchant and Pierrette Ringuette-Maltais to the Senate.

These appointments bring the number of women in the Senate to 34. All three will sit as Liberals.

A new Speaker Pro Tempore

At the beginning of the parliamentary session, the Senate's Committee of Selection nominated Senator Lucie Pépin as Speaker of the Senate *pro tempore*. The speaker pro tempore, or acting speaker, serves whenever the Speaker is absent.

A new Usher of the Black Rod

On December 3, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien announced the appointment of Lieutenant-Commander Terrance J. Christopher, OMM, LVO, CD as Usher of the Black Rod, effective December 9, 2002. Lieutenant Commander Christopher retired from the Canadian Forces in 1994 after a successful 30-year career. As Manager of the Canada Reception Centre, he was responsible for all operations of the Government of Canada VIP reception facility for the National Capital Region. He also distinguished himself as Canadian Forces Task Force Coordinator and Royal Visit Coordinator.

The Usher of the Black Rod carries on a 500-year old parliamentary tradition as the personal attendant and messenger of the Sovereign or her Representative when either person is in Parliament.

Appointment

On August 9, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister for International Cooperation announced the appointment of Senator Mobina Jaffer as Canada's Special Envoy to the Sudanese peace process, a position previously held by Senator Lois Wilson. Senator Jaffer will represent



Canada at the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development Partners Forum and contribute to the peace process and human rights in Sudan.

Awards

On October 2, 2002, Senator Jean-Robert Gauthier was awarded the rank of officer of the Legion of Honour by the French Republic. Senator Gauthier has been active all his life in the Canadian francophonie in activities related to the promotion, development and flourishing of official languages in francophone communities living in a minority milieu.



Senator Gérald-A. Beaudoin was awarded the Medal of Recognition by the International Commission of Jurists in August for his contributions to constitutional law and human rights in Canada over the last half century. Senator Beaudoin was also recognized with the publication of a book of essays in his honour on the challenges of constitutionalism.

Passing

Canadians were deeply saddened on September 30 by the passing of Senator Ronald J. Duhamel. Senator Duhamel, appointed to the Senate on January 15, 2002 to represent Manitoba, was a highly respected educator and parliamentarian. He was first elected to the House of Commons in 1988 and served in Cabinet as Secretary of State for the Francophonie, Science, Research and Development and Western Diversification and as Minister of Veterans Affairs from 1997 to 2002.



Retirement

On November 17, Senator Nicolas (Nick) Taylor retired from the Senate. Senator Taylor was appointed March 7, 1996 as a representative of Alberta. A successful geologist, businessman, Member of the Alberta Legislature and Leader of the Liberal Party in Alberta before his appointment, Senator Taylor was active in a wide variety of Senate Committees, recently chairing the Subcommittee on the Boreal Forest.

