



**THE HOUSE
OF
COMMONS:**

SENATORS

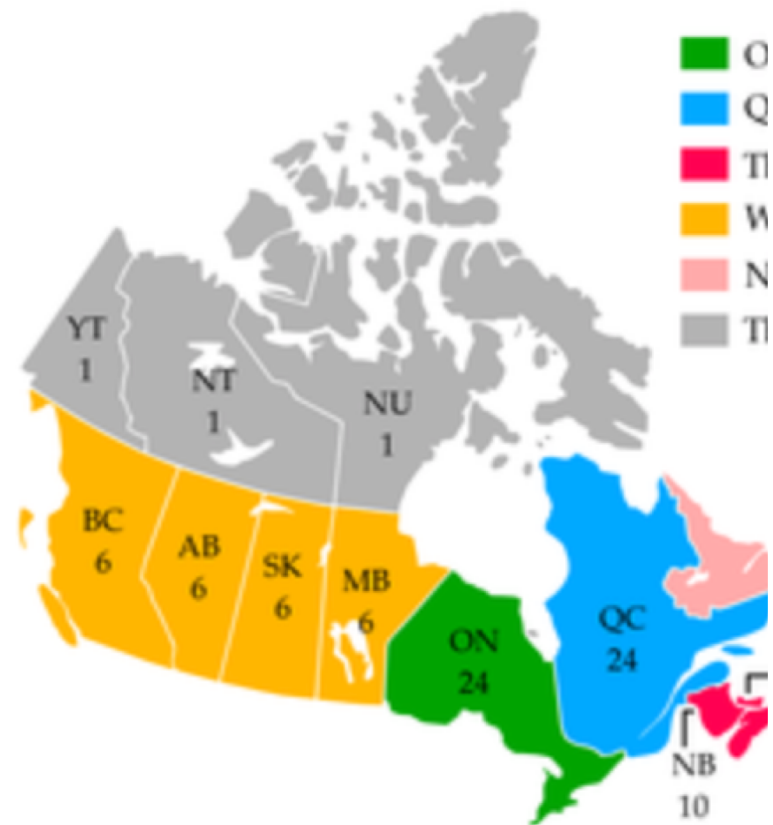
AND

**MEMBERS OF
PARLIAMENT**



CANADIAN SENATE DIVISIONS

- Seats are assigned on a regional basis
- 24 seats are assigned to Ontario, Quebec, the Maritime provinces, and the Western provinces
- The remaining 9 seats are assigned to Newfoundland & Labrador and the three territories



WHAT IS A SENATOR?

■ Selection Process and Qualifications

- Senators are **not elected**. They are **appointed** by the Governor General on the advice of the Prime Minister (105 seats)
- Senators must:
 - Be at least 30 years old and retire by the age of 75
 - Live and own property in the Canadian province or territory that they represent
- Backgrounds of Senators include former provincial premiers, cabinet ministers and business people from many economic sectors. This wide range of experience provides an expertise that helps with their investigations.



WHAT IS A SENATOR?

Roles and Responsibilities

1. Examine and revise the legislation
 - ❖ provide a “sober, second thought”
 - ❖ review federal legislation clause by clause
 - ❖ have the power to introduce bills
2. Investigate national Canadian issues
 - ❖ contribute to in-depth studies on public issues
3. Represent regional, provincial and minority interests
 - ❖ meet and consider regional impact of legislation
 - ❖ represent the rights of groups/individuals who may be overlooked



WHAT IS A SENATOR?

Roles and Responsibilities

4. Watchdog on government (checks & balances)
 - ❖ provide a detailed review of all legislation
 - ❖ routinely question and challenge the Leader of the Government

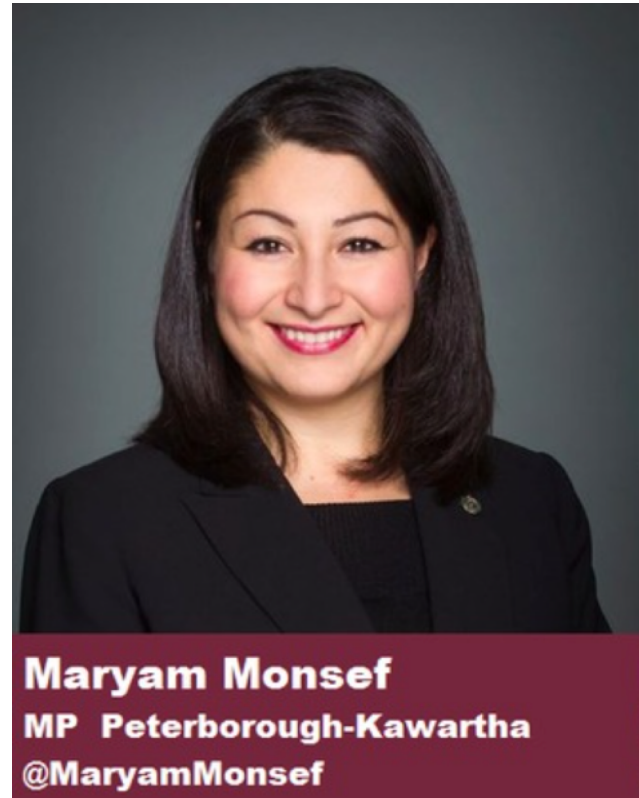
5. Party Supporters
 - ❖ supports a political party and plays a role in its operation



WHAT IS A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT?

Selection Process and Qualifications

- MP's are elected in a general election



WHAT IS A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT?

Roles and Responsibilities

1. Representing constituents in Parliament
 - ❖ the '*people's*' representatives in the House of Commons
 - ❖ maintain a high profile
2. Making Laws
 - ❖ influence legislation through debates
3. Watchdogs on Government (checks & balances)
 - ❖ influence federal government policy
 - ❖ raise policy issues and concerns



WHAT IS A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT?

Roles and Responsibilities

4. Party Supporters

- ❖ usually belong to a political party and plays a role in it's operation

5. Offices

- ❖ maintain two offices with staff for which they are responsible (Parliament Hill and in their constituency)

