

The Role Of The Senate

- **Senators must be 30 years of age, own property worth at least \$ 4,000 in the province where they reside.**
- **When Senators die or retire (at 75), the Prime Minister, with the formal approval at the Governor General, decides who will be appointed.**
- **Primary purpose (at the time of confederation - 1867) was to act as a second legislative house providing regional not popular representation.**
- **24 Ont, 24 Que, 6 BC, 6 Alta, 6 Man, 6 Sask, 1 NU, 10 NB, 4 PEI, 6 NFLD, 1 NWT, 1 Yukon.**
- **Second major purpose - to give “sober second thought” to legislation coming from the house of commons.**
 - *has the power to VETO (forbid) legislation, rarely happens.**
- **Third purpose – to ‘polish’ legislation, from the commons – committee work.**
- **These committees don’t make significant changes to the content, they deal with the precise wording and technical details.**
- **A senator can also be a Cabinet Member / Minister if the Prime Minister needs representation from part of the country that s/he doesn’t have any MP’s in.**