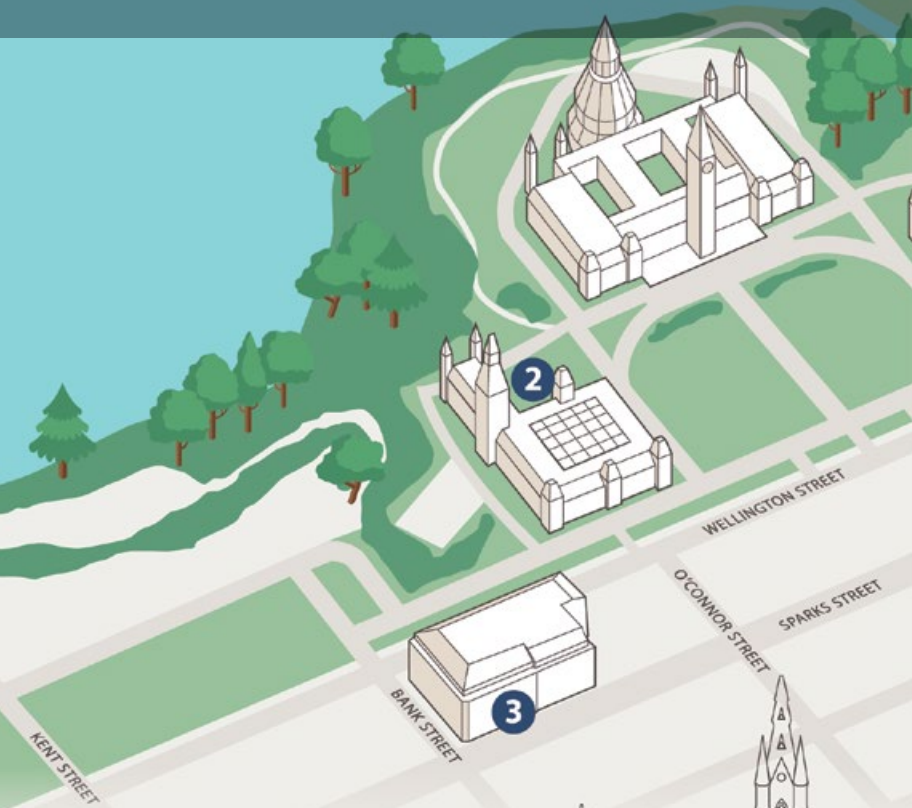


Welcome to Parliament



PARLIAMENT | PARLEMENT
CANADA

Visit Canada's Parliament



1



SENATE OF CANADA BUILDING
2 RIDEAU ST.

2



WEST BLOCK
111 WELLINGTON ST.



3



PARLIAMENT: THE IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE
211 SPARKS ST.

Senate of Canada Building



Completed in 1912, the Senate of Canada Building was originally Ottawa's central train station. The station closed in 1966 and was later converted into a government meeting space. The building was rehabilitated to house the interim Senate during Centre Block's closure.

West Block



Completed in 1865, West Block is one of the original Parliament Buildings. Over the years, it has housed offices for Members of Parliament and government departments. As part of the building's rehabilitation project, it was renovated to accommodate the interim House of Commons.

Parliament: The Immersive Experience



This innovative visitor experience brings you inside the main Parliament Building (Centre Block), which is currently closed for rehabilitation. Featuring a multimedia exhibit and a 360° show, it is a new way to discover the historical seat of Canada's Parliament.

You can also explore this historic building in virtual reality
or online at **experienceparliament.ca**.



Centre Block Highlights

In addition to featuring the Senate and the House of Commons, the Immersive Experience showcases some of Parliament's most iconic spaces.

Library of Parliament

The Library is the oldest part of Centre Block and a masterpiece of Neo-Gothic architecture. Behind the scenes, it is also a working institution that plays a key role in supporting the work of Parliament.

Peace Tower

Centre Block's iconic tower was completed in 1927 as a monument to peace and in commemoration of those who gave their lives during the First World War. Inside are the 53 bells of the carillon.

Memorial Chamber

This solemn chapel normally houses eight Books of Remembrance, which honour all Canadians who have died in military service. Today, visitors can see the books following a guided tour of West Block.



1898

Yukon

1871

British Columbia

1905

Alberta and Saskatchewan

1870

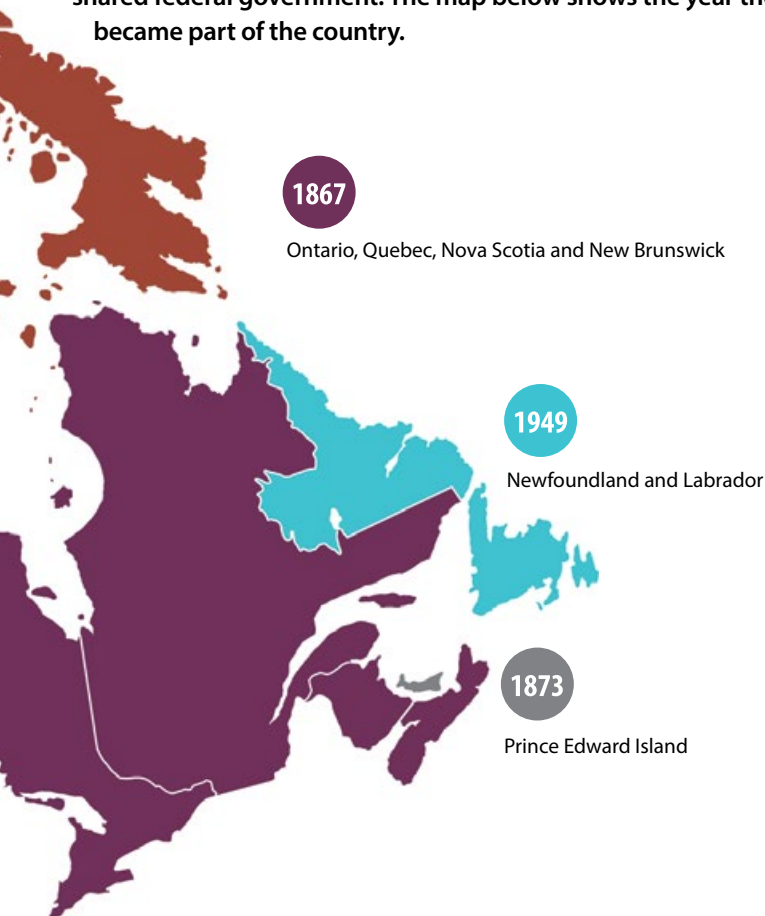
Manitoba and the
Northwest Territories

1999

Nunavut

Building Canada through Confederation

Canada is made up of ten provinces and three territories, led by a shared federal government. The map below shows the year they became part of the country.






Canada's System of Governance

Canada is a constitutional monarchy. This means the King or Queen is the Head of State, but the Prime Minister is the Head of Government. Bills are passed by Parliament, but the Governor General (the Monarch's representative in Canada) signs them into law.

How Parliament Works

Parliament has three parts:

The Monarch	The Senate	The House of Commons
		
The Head of State	The Upper Chamber	The Lower Chamber
Represented by the Governor General	Appointed	Elected
	Represents Canada by region	Represents Canada by population

Making Canada's Laws

Canada's legislative process involves all three parts of Parliament. To become a law, a bill must be approved by both chambers and the Governor General.

How Does It Work?

A bill (proposed law) is introduced in either the Senate or the House of Commons.



Parliamentarians debate the bill and vote to decide if it should be studied further.



If the bill passes, it is sent to a committee, which studies it in depth and may suggest changes.



The bill goes back for a final debate and vote based on the committee's report.



If the bill passes the vote, it is sent to the other chamber, where it goes through the same process.



Once the bill has been passed by both chambers, it goes to the Governor General for Royal Assent and becomes Canadian law.



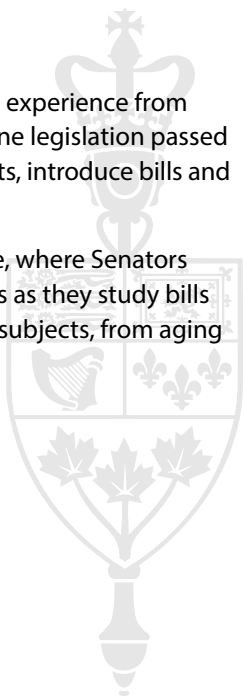
The Senate

The Senate is Parliament's independent Upper Chamber. Senators are appointed by the Governor General on the advice of the Prime Minister. Seats are distributed by region to ensure equal representation across the country.

Senators at Work

Senators are Canadians of accomplishment and experience from various professional backgrounds. Senators refine legislation passed by the House of Commons, suggest amendments, introduce bills and debate the issues of the day.

Much of the Senate's work is done in committee, where Senators draw on their expertise and hear from witnesses as they study bills in depth. Committees focus on a wide range of subjects, from aging and poverty to national security.



The Speaker of the Senate

The Speaker is the presiding officer of the Senate. They play an important role in the chamber, facilitating daily proceedings and ensuring that the rules and traditions of the Senate are respected.

The Role of the Speaker

The Speaker is a senator who is appointed to their role by the Governor General, on the advice of the prime minister. In addition to presiding over the chamber, they have a wide range of responsibilities: they have ceremonial and administrative duties, receive diplomats and foreign dignitaries, and represent Canada abroad. Like other Senators, they also serve the people of their home province or territory.



The House of Commons

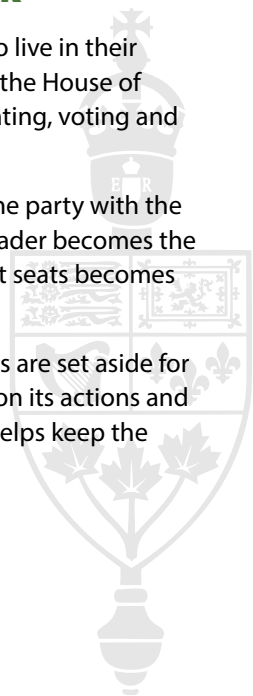
The House of Commons is the elected law-making body in Parliament. Each Member of Parliament (usually called an MP) represents a specific geographic area in Canada, known as a constituency or riding.

Members of Parliament at Work

MPs serve as representatives of the people who live in their constituency, and they bring their concerns to the House of Commons. MPs spend much of their time debating, voting and participating in committees.

Most MPs belong to a political party. Usually, the party with the most seats forms the Government, and their leader becomes the Prime Minister. The party with the second-most seats becomes the Official Opposition.

Every day when the House is sitting, 45 minutes are set aside for opposition MPs to challenge the Government on its actions and policies. This process, called Question Period, helps keep the Government accountable to Canadians.



The Speaker of the House of Commons

The Speaker is the impartial referee of the House, maintaining order and enforcing the rules of debate. As presiding officer, they ensure that the Government can conduct its business, while also protecting the opposition's right to be heard

The Role of the Speaker

The Speaker is elected by their peers to preside over debates, votes and other proceedings. They interpret and apply the rules of the House, ensuring the orderly conduct of business. Outside the chamber, they oversee the administration and finances of the House and have diplomatic responsibilities. As an elected MP, they also serve the constituents in their riding.



Ways to Experience Parliament

- Reserve free tour tickets online at **visit.parl.ca**
- Attend debates in the public galleries of the Senate or the House of Commons
- Watch the proceedings of the Senate (**senparlvu.parl.gc.ca**) or the House of Commons (**parlvu.parl.gc.ca**)
- Explore publications, games, videos and more at **learn.parl.ca**



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Contact Us

Information Service
Parliament of Canada
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A9
info@parl.gc.ca

Telephone: 613-992-4793
Toll-free (Canada): 1-866-599-4999
TTY: 613-995-2266

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