

CANADIAN COMMITTEE FOR A TRIPLE E SENATE

An ELECTED, EFFECTIVE Senate with EQUAL representation



A TRIPLE E SENATE IS ESSENTIAL FOR CANADA

The map tells it all. Political power is skewed and is focussed in Ontario and Quebec. The recent election of the Mulroney Government has not changed this fact.

Ontario alone has more members and, so, more power in the House of Commons than the four Western Provinces and two territories combined. It has three times as many seats as Atlantic Canada. It can vote the regions down on any issue. Toronto has more seats than Alberta. It has four times as many seats as Newfoundland.

If 84% of the seats in Ontario and Quebec were won by one party, that party would form a majority government even if every seat in every other province opposed it.

Even though the new Mulroney government has good representation from across Canada, a majority (125) of his caucus comes from Ontario and Quebec."

When it really matters to them, the Central Provinces dictate policy in Canada.

You cannot reasonably change the House of Commons representation. It is based on population. People must be represented as individuals. The House of Commons performs that democratic function. It must be retained, but must be balanced with an institution that

ensures equity between regions, that protects the rights of the minority regions just as the House of Commons protects the rights of the majority regions.

That is what this communication is all about.

The Canadian Committee for a Triple E Senate believes that a reconstituted Senate which is **elective, effective** and with an **equal** number of members from each province is the logical national response to the skewing of decision-making toward the Centre. The elected Senators would have the ability to speak up and protect the region that elected them. The elective Senate would strengthen government in Canada by building in strong regional voices while protecting the essential democratic principle of representation by population.

The existing government structure jeopardizes one-Canada.

Many Westerners and Maritimers see the government of Canada as essentially foreign to their interests. Backed by a national majority that rests on a narrow regional base (the Canadian "power corridor" which stretches from Windsor to Quebec City and contains 140 seats), the national government has tended to operate through confrontation, not accommodation, in the making of national policy.

Public servants raise their children in Ontario, they vote in Ontario provincial elections, they become Ontarians irrespective of their regional origins.

The government itself is forced, in the interests of its own political survival, to first accommodate the expectations of Ontario and Quebec. Westerners have a limited right to participate in decision-making even on exclusively Western issues that are vital to their own region.

Canadians living outside the industrialized centre see themselves as outsiders in their own country.

They are right.

They are outsiders.

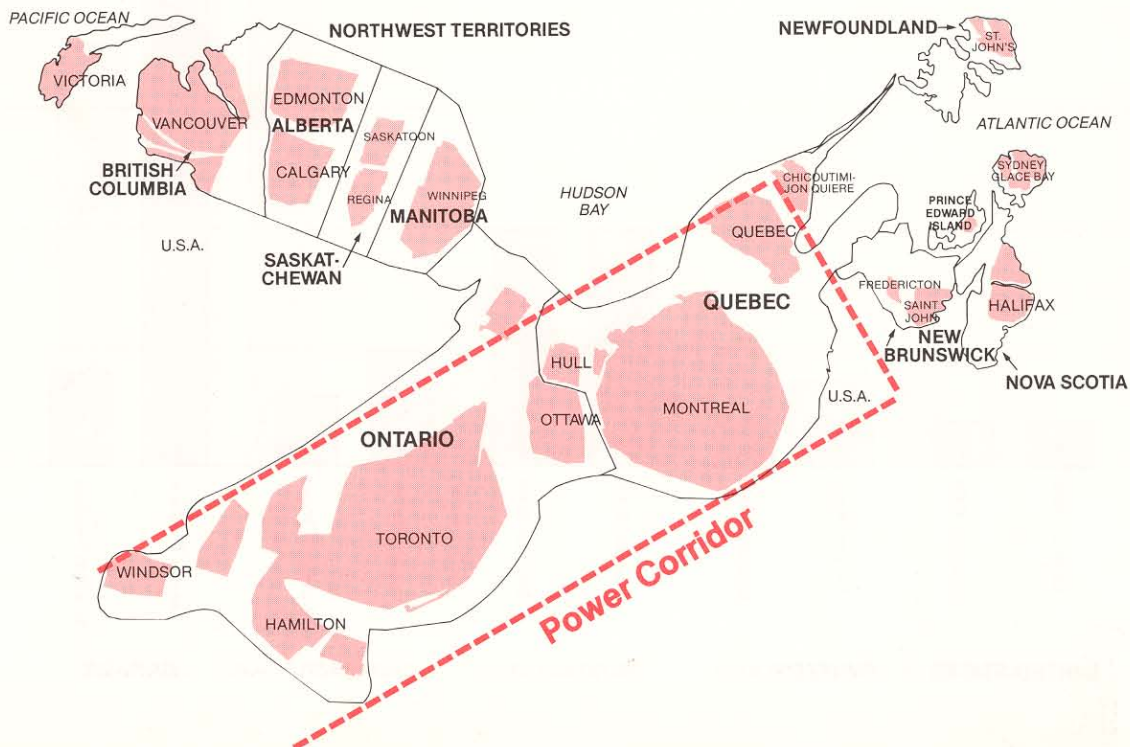
The disaffected regions do not want to get out of the Canadian Confederation. They want to get in. They want to play in the game, to be a participating partner.

That means a Triple E Senate.

And what can you alone do about it?

Alone, none of us can do much. Collectively, we may be able to do quite a lot. We detail the Committee on a following page. But don't overlook the coupon. **Join us today in the fight for meaningful Senate reform.**

POLITICAL POWER IN CANADA



WHY SENATE REFORM: ELECTED, EQUAL, EFFECTIVE

The Senate must be reformed to enable it to perform the original purpose for which it was designed. The existing Senate has the power to veto legislation passed in the House of Commons — a power essential if it is to protect the unique regional interests of the smaller population provinces.

It does not and will not use this power.

Its members are appointed by the Prime Minister and, as recent experience has confirmed, the criterion for choice is left up to the Prime Minister who appoints them. Their commitment is to the party and Prime Minister that appointed them, not to the regions of Canada.

The bias is toward the Centre; two provinces have 45% of the Senate seats; eight provinces and two territories have 55%.

Because the Senate is appointive it lacks the political will and the public credibility to ever challenge the power of the elective House of Commons.

The Fathers of Confederation provided the Senate of Canada with political teeth. The appointment mechanism has extracted those teeth.

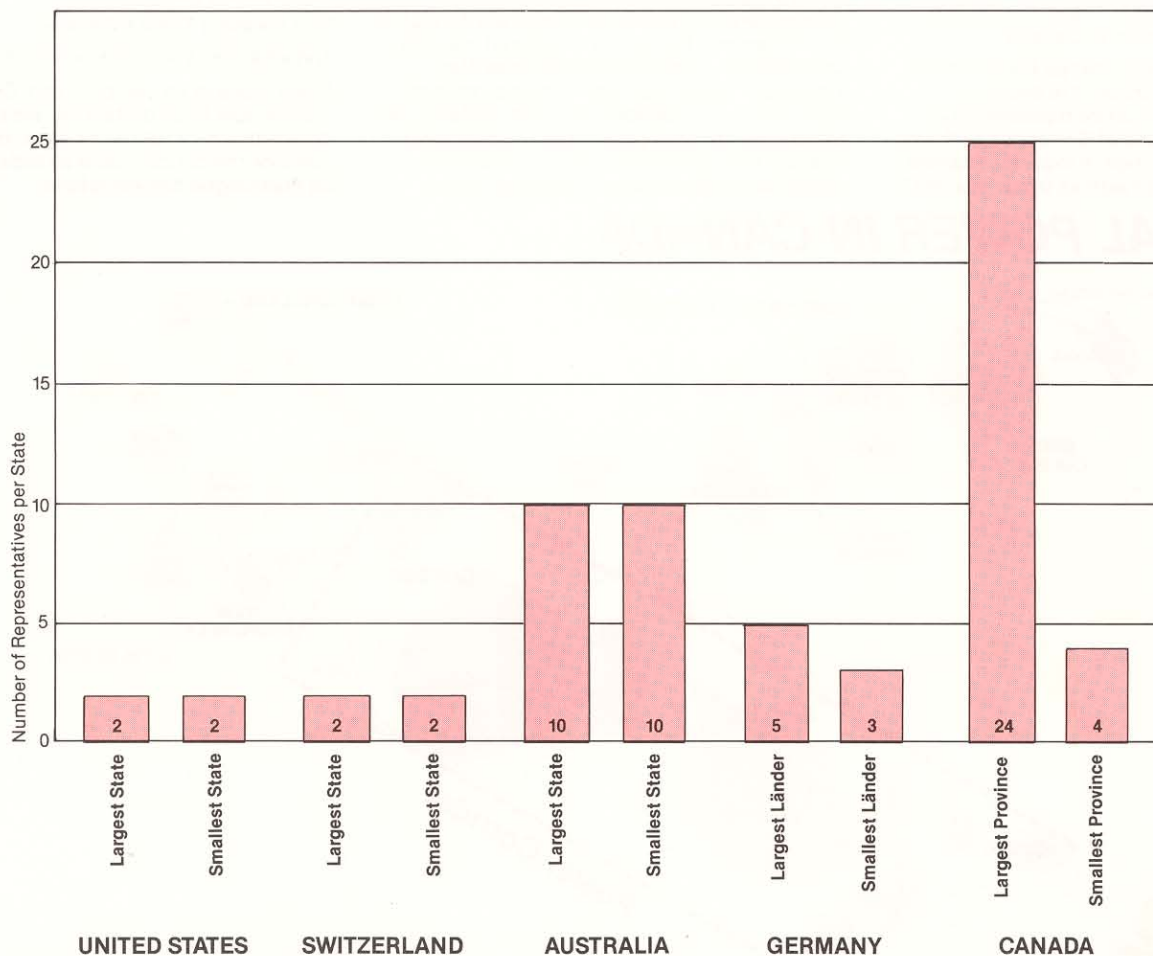
The consequence is an extreme centralization of political power — government of the nation by the central industrialized provinces.

There is nothing radical about the proposal of a Triple E Senate. It would merely bring Canada into step with the arrangements in other federated states in the world.

Figure 2 compares the representation in the Senate of the largest and smallest provinces in Canada with parallel states in other federated countries. In the United States, Switzerland and Australia, the representation from each is equal. Because they are elected, they have the credibility to be effective. Twenty-five states with 16.5% of the U.S. population elect 50% of the members of the powerful U.S. Senate — a source of no concern in the United States. Canada's five smallest provinces have 13.4% of the national population.

EQUALITY OF PROVINCES/STATES

Figure 2



POWER IN THE CENTRE, LITTLE IN THE HINTERLAND



Political power in Canada, centered in the elective House of Commons, is concentrated in the caucus of the majority party, the power of which, in turn, is concentrated in the federal cabinet.

Figure 3 illustrates the sharing of this power in the three major regions of Canada during the past nine governments, including 1984.

Of the members of the caucus of the governing party, 70% came from the two Central Provinces. And 19% came from Western Canada. Over the past decade much of the

West's cabinet membership has come from the Senate, appointed by the Prime Minister rather than elected by Westerners.

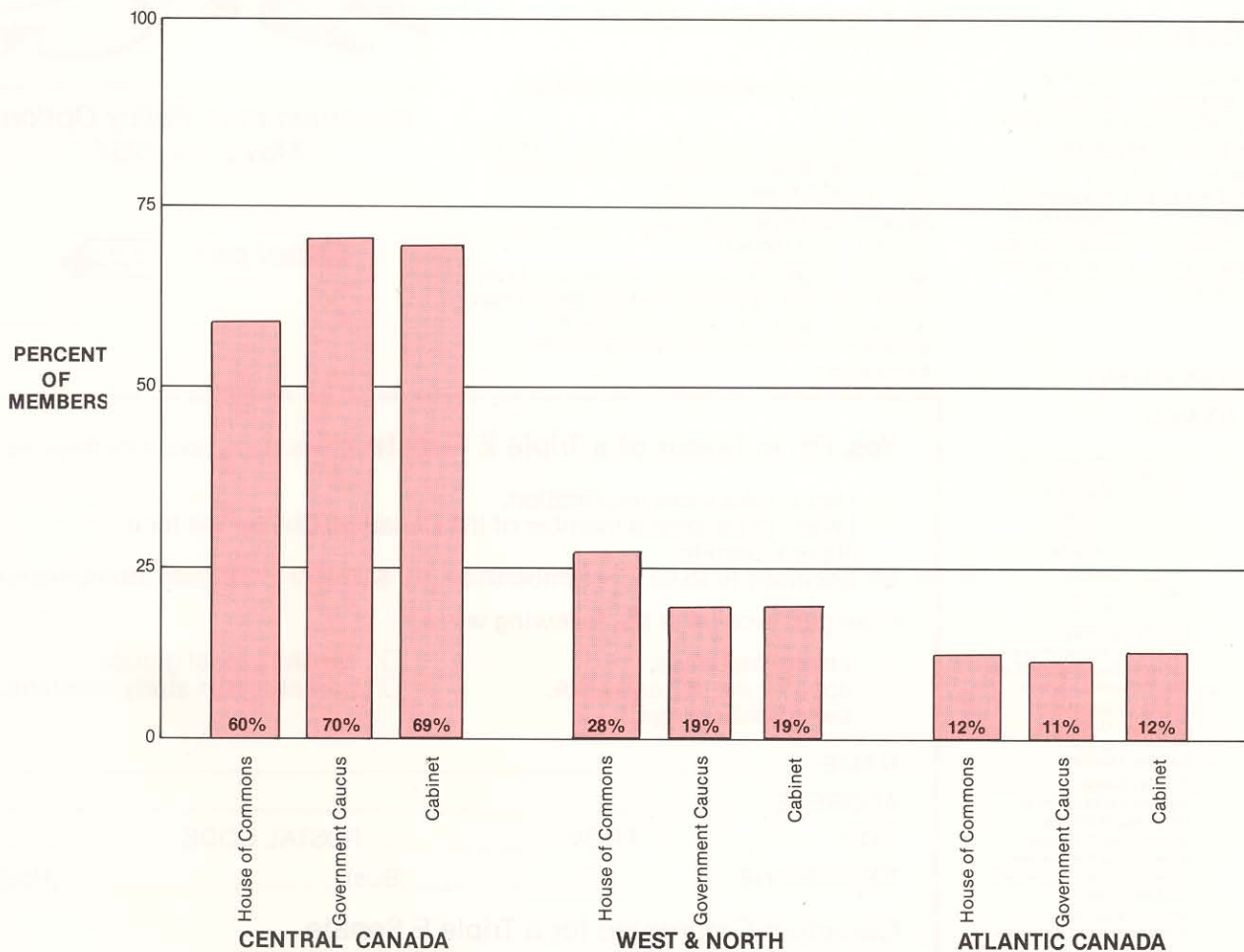
Predictably, the 70% of the caucus and cabinet from the two Central provinces first considered their own region. Western Canada not only had virtually no power to influence policies unique to the region; in the absence of an elective, equal and effective Senate, parallel to those in other federated states, it had no power to alter, amend or block centralizing policies that were demonstrably unfair to the Western region.

Atlantic Canada was similarly positioned. The dictatorship of the majority is inherent in the Canadian political institutional arrangements.

"Outer Canada" demands change.

REGIONAL POLITICAL POWER 1962 - 84

Figure 3





WHAT DO WE WANT FROM YOU?

First, who are "we"?
 We are not affiliated with any political party.
 We are presently a group of private citizens, many from the West and some from elsewhere, who believe Canada is worth building and is endangered by the existing power centralization. We believe that a Triple E Senate is a practical and practicable response. We believe that alienation in Newfoundland is as much of a hazard to a fair and united Canada as is alienation in Saskatchewan, Alberta or elsewhere. The causes of alienation must be removed.
 We are still a small group.
 We cannot do it alone.
 We need members from every province in Canada. We need to build a force that can be effective.

ARE WESTERNERS ALONE?

The lack of political equality in Canada is recognized by most Canadians. A survey of Ontario voters in July 1984 indicated that 56% of this province's electorate feel Western Canada has been treated "very badly" or "somewhat badly" by the federal government. And, a number of surveys over the past three years indicate that a majority of Ontarions and Atlantic Canadians are in favour of an elected senate with equal representation from each province.

SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE ALREADY JOINED ...

- | | |
|--|--|
| Hon. E.C. Manning
Retired Senator and Former
Premier of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta | Mr. Izzy Asper, Chairman,
Canwest Capitol Corp.
Winnipeg, Manitoba |
| Mr. Gordon Gibson
Businessman
Vancouver, B.C. | Dr. Peter McCormick
University Professor
Lethbridge, Alberta |
| Mr. Jim Gray
Executive Vice President
Canadian Hunter Ltd.
Calgary, Alberta | Mr. Alex Rose
Lawyer
Lacombe, Alberta |
| Mr. Ralph Hedlin
Energy Policy Consultant
Calgary and Ottawa | Dr. E.W. Barootes
Chairman, Saskatchewan
Mining & Development Corp.
Regina, Saskatchewan |
| Mr. Bert Brown
Farmer
Kathyrn, Alberta | Mr. Jack Gallagher
Chairman, Galtannia
Investments Ltd.
Calgary, Alberta |
| Mrs. Donna Jackson
Homemaker
Acme, Alberta | Dr. Clay Gilson
Agricultural Economist
Winnipeg, Manitoba |
| Mr. Horace Carver
Former Attorney General
Gov't of Prince Edward Island
Charlottetown, P.E.I. | Mr. Thomas P. d'Aquino
President of the Business
Council of National Issues
Ottawa, Ontario |
| Mr. Fred F. Chernoff
Farmer
Verigin, Saskatchewan | Mr. Curtis Bartlett
Student, Queens University
Ontario |
| Mr. Ted Byfield
Publisher, Alberta Report
Edmonton, Alberta | Mr. Russ Dearborn
Farmer
Eatonia, Saskatchewan |
| Mr. Gordon E. Taylor
Member of Parliament
Drumheller, Alberta | |

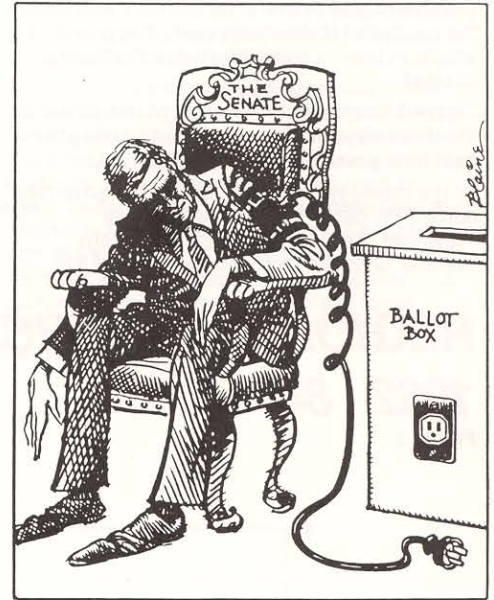
WHY ME?

We are raising this serious matter with you in the hope and belief that your concern for freedom, justice and equity will lead you to support the Triple E Committee. We hope and believe that you care about Canada and its regions. We hope and believe you agree with us that, if we do not organize, we lose by default; the industrial centre doesn't have to fight for power over all of Canada because they have it — their share and our share. If we do nothing now, we will not have a better tomorrow. If we don't have a better tomorrow, we may have no tomorrow at all as Canadians. Already some have given up on Canada and opted for separatism; others have rejected the political process. We believe we should change the system to better meet the needs of all Canadians.

We believe we should get in, not out.

SO I AGREE. WHAT DOES IT INVOLVE?

A lot or a little, depending on your time and commitment.
 First, join. Fill out the card. Mail it to us. We will send you an attractive Triple E polished brass lapel pin and more information.
 We will provide you with more brochures like this one, upon request.
 See your neighbors, discuss Triple E and invite them to join. Call a public meeting. We will mail out material and, if possible, arrange for someone to come out and take part in the discussions.



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Lapel pin 
 (actual size)

Yes, I'm in favour of a Triple E Senate. Check one or more of the following:

- I would like more information.
- I want to become a member of the Canadian Committee for a Triple E Senate.
- Enclosed is \$5.00 for membership. \$100 for Corporate Membership

I can get involved in the following way(s):

- attend meetings.
- contact my MP and MLA.
- sell memberships.
- speak to local groups.
- participate in study sessions.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ PROV _____ POSTAL CODE _____

TELEPHONE _____ (Bus) _____ (Res)

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 P.O. Box 120, Station M
 Calgary, Alberta T2P 2G9

