



WHAT CAN MY SENATOR DO FOR ME?



STATEMENTS

Senators are able to request statement slots that enable them to highlight important events; pay tribute to local leaders and outstanding Canadians; speak to issues that are important to them and the people represent; and so much more. As long as a statement doesn't speak to legislation or an issue currently before the Senate, there is a lot of latitude on how to use that time.



SPEECHES

The primary function of a Senator is to be a legislator. The Senate's primary purpose is to provide sober second thought on legislation, and to ensure that regional concerns and the concerns of minorities are brought forward and represented in the Senate Chamber.



QUESTION PERIOD

Every sitting day, Senators have the opportunity to ask questions of the Government Leader on any topic that is within the federal jurisdiction. The answers received to these questions are important as they are part of the official record, called "the Hansard"; it's a way of ensuring the government is accountable for their actions or, in some cases, inaction. Senators also have the opportunity to question Ministers of the Crown from time to time, or they could choose to ask a question of a committee Chair about that committee's work.

Senators play a key role in reviewing all federal legislation and acting as the voice of minorities and regions within Parliament. They have several tools available to them to help advocate for you and the issues that matter most to you.

GET IN TOUCH!
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LESS FREQUENTLY USED TOOLS



Inquiries
 For topics that Senators feel deserve more time to be discussed and debated, Senators can start Inquiries that allow fellow Senators to put on the record their thoughts and opinions on those issues. Some inquiries are coordinated so that multiple Senators stand and speak to the topic in a single day, while others can occur over the course of weeks, months and sometimes years. This keeps an issue relevant and top of mind, while allowing for a diverse collection of voices to weigh in.



Motions
 More rarely used, Senators can initiate motions to try and get Senators to agree to take a united stand on a topic or issue or agree to a specific action or study.



Public Bills
 Senators can take issues that don't require money to fix and try to pass into law something to address that issue. This is called a Senate Public Bill. For more information on how a Bill becomes a law, see "Charting the Passage of Legislation."



Private Bills
 A private bill is based on a petition from the group or person asking for specific legislation to be passed; however, this is very rare.



Watch the proceedings
<https://senparlvu.parl.gc.ca/Harmony>



Read the transcripts
<https://sencanada.ca/en/in-the-chamber/debates/>