

CONSERVATIVE In 2004, Stephen Harper vowed: "I will not name appointed people to the Senate. Anyone who sits in the Parliament of Canada must be elected by the people they represent." He has since has appointed 57 senators (two of whom were appointed twice, reinstated after they resigned to launch failed runs for the House of Commons), including Duffy, Pamela Wallin and Patrick Brazeau—all suspended last year over allegations concerning their spending. The Supreme Court of Canada ruled last year that Harper could only institute seven provinces with the support of at least

CHRIS WATTE/REUTERS

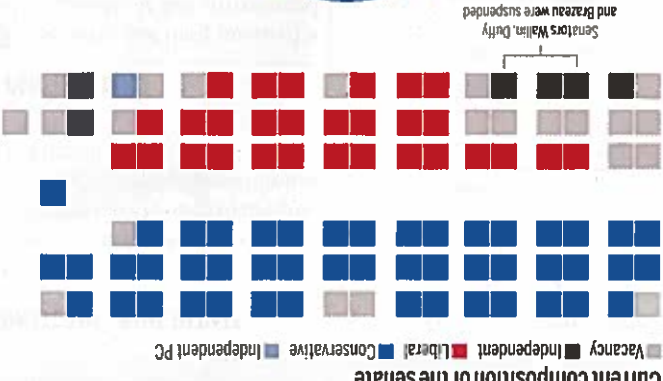
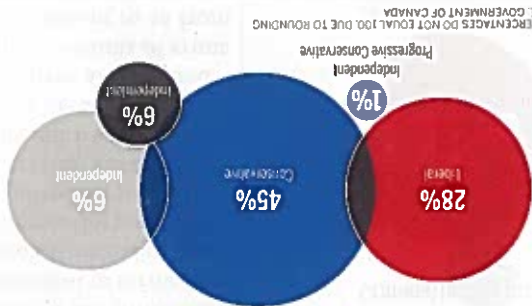
WHERE THE PARTIES STAND

Disgraced former Tory Sen. Mike Duffy's trial resumes in August, when the fraud trial of former senator Mac Harb, who was appointed as a Liberal, is also slated to begin. And auditor general Michael Ferguson has referred the expenses of nine senators to the RCMP for investigation. In his July report, Ferguson found that 30 of 116 current and former senators included in his review had filed questionable expenses. The Senate appointed retired Supreme Court justice Ian Binnie as its special arbitrator to review cases where senators dispute Ferguson's findings.

CAMPAIGN AND COURT TIMETABLES INTERSECT

SHOULD THE SENATE STAY OR GO, or, at least, change? It's an old, often frustrating debate. This year, the main parties have staked out distinct positions. The Conservatives would like to see an elected upper chamber, though lately they've suggested the provinces should take the lead on making that happen. The NDP wants to abolish the Senate. The Liberals would establish an independent process of some sort for nominating senators.

SENATE REFORM



BY THE NUMBERS

“The Senate expense scandal has shown that the operation of the Senate is clearly broken. Similarly, many Canadians view the House of Commons and Canadian politics with cynicism, if not disdain. It has become cliché for political parties to talk about ‘cleaning up Ottawa’ and ‘democratic reform.’ I think Canadians want to know what concrete measures each political party will take to improve our democratic institutions.”
 —Adam Dodge, University of Ottawa law professor

EXPERT OPINION

GREEN Elizabeth May has criticized Bill C-7, the Senate Reform Act, and has said the Greens would focus on more accessible democratic reforms, such as proportional representation in voting, reducing partisanship in the Senate, and even lowering the voting age. The Greens want to hold a referendum on reopening the Constitution, but has also suggested removing senators from party caucuses and even ceasing to fund its operations.

LIBERAL Justin Trudeau kicked all Liberal senators, 32 at the time, out of his party's caucus in 2014, and has advocated a non-partisan appointment process. “An independent-minded, non-partisan group of people could be formed by everyone—from provincial interests to prominent Canadians to ordinary Canadians, as well—[who], in various ways, would make recommendations to the prime minister, who would then appoint the person of his choice from a list,” Trudeau told *Maclean's*. His approach has the advantage of not requiring any constitutional wrangling with the provinces.

NDP The party has long advocated abolishing the upper house, which would require reopening the Constitution, but has also suggested removing senators from party caucuses and even ceasing to fund its operations.

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senators—until the premiers propose reforms he recently vowed to stop appointing any new senators. Prevented from moving unilaterally, or agree to abolish the Senate.

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