Parliamentary Reform: Do we need it?
What would it look like?
Honourable Joan Fraser
Chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and the Rights of Parliament
March 3, 2017
9:00am – 4:30pm

Required Readings

  http://encore.concordia.ca/iii/encore/record/C__Rb2352269?lang=eng

- Reference re Senate Reform (2014): The Supreme Court Clarifies the Senate Reform Process.

- First Report of the Special Committee on Senate Modernization: Senate Modernization: Moving Forward (https://sencanada.ca/content/sen/committee/421/MDRN/Reports/MDRN_FINAL_FirstReport_webversion_e.pdf)
  The “Report of the Special Senate Committee on Senate Modernization - Part 1” was presented in the Senate in October 2016. From the above link, read the First Report’s Executive Summary - page iii to iv. Read also the First Report’s 21 Recommendations on pages xiii to xix.

- Bill S-221 An Act to amend the Constitution Act, 1867 (Property qualifications of Senators)
  http://www.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?Language=E&Mode=1&DocId=8148767. This bill, introduced by Senator Dennis Glen Patterson (https://sencanada.ca/en/senators/patterson-dennis-glen/) in March 2016, amends the Constitution Act, 1867 to eliminate the requirement that Senators have a personal net worth of at least four thousand dollars and to eliminate the real property requirement for Senators representing a province other than Quebec. It is currently at Second Reading stage in the Senate.


- Motion No. 73 by the Honourable Senator Patterson: Senate Order Paper, March 24, 2016
  https://sencanada.ca/en/content/sen/chamber/421/orderpaper/024op_2016-03-24-e
  Motion No. 73 is “partnered” with Bill S-221. Students should read the motion as it is crucial to the bill.

- Major Speeches at Second Reading (http://www.parl.gc.ca/LegisInfo/BillDetails.aspx?Language=E&Mode=1&billId=6507421&View=4) of Bill C-586 (House of Commons and Senate Sponsor and Response speeches)

Recommended Readings:

- Library of Parliament Legislative Summary of Bill C-7: An Act respecting the selection of senators and amending the Constitution Act, 1867 in respect of Senate term limits http://www.parl.gc.ca/About/Parliament/LegislativeSummaries/bills_ls.asp?source=library_prb&ls=C7&Parl=41&Ses=1&Language=E&Mode=1
- Bill C-7 An Act respecting the selection of Senators and amending the Constitution Act, 1867 in respect of Senate term limits (2011) (Bill Short Title: Senate Reform Act; Sponsor: Minister of State (Democratic Reform) http://www.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?Language=E&Mode=1&DocId=5101177

Additional Recommended Readings:

  This easy-to-navigate document allows browsing by question topic. It is a helpful review of the Canadian Parliamentary system
Articles on the functioning of the Canadian Parliament: These “primers” are provided for students who might find them helpful as a refresher of the Canadian Parliamentary system.


Items available* at [https://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/](https://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/)

*If you are registered for non-credit and are unable to locate the readings, please contact us at wssr@concordia.ca