



SENATE OF CANADA

Canada's Perspective on Post-Legislative Scrutiny

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Senator**

Senate of Canada

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Canada's Federal Legislative Process



To become law, bills are:

- debated and voted on during three separate readings
- passed in same form by Senate and House of Commons



Statutory Review Provisions



- require laws to be studied after a fixed period of time
- e.g., Canada's *Conflict of Interest Act*
 - 5-year review completed in 2013
 - parliamentary committee held 16 meetings, heard from 26 witnesses



“Sunset” Provisions



- like an expiration date for legislation
 - fixed date on which all or part of a statute cease to have the effect of law
- e.g., Canada’s *Anti-terrorism Act*
 - sunset provisions for preventive arrests and investigative hearings

Statutes Repeal Act



- provides for repeal of statutes – in whole or in part – if they have not been brought into force with 10 years of Royal Assent
- report tabled in House of Commons annually listing laws or parts thereof not yet in force during last nine years



Written Questions



- questioning the government of the day with the purpose of:
 - obtaining information, research and statistics held by government
 - receiving opinions or explanations about a government decision



Access to Information Process



- purpose is to obtain documents produced and held by government
- requests must be responded to within 30 days
- departments or agencies can seek time extension to respond
- certain documents are exempted from release



Canada's Auditor General



- special reports, which call matters of pressing urgency to Parliament's attention
- inquiry and report: on request, Auditor General can inquire and report into any matter relating to financial affairs of Canada



Parliamentary Budget Officer



- mandate is to provide independent analysis to Parliament on:
 - federal budget
 - estimates
 - matters of significance to nation's finances
 - costing of proposed measures



Thank you!



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