The SPEAKERS of the Senate of Canada
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Introduction
The Speaker of the Senate presides over sittings of the Senate and has important procedural, ceremonial, and protocol responsibilities and duties. The office was instituted at the time of Confederation, when the Senate was created as the successor to the Legislative Council of Canada.

Like the various members of the Senate, the men and women who have served as its Speaker since 1867 come from diverse backgrounds and experiences. The Senate’s Speakers have all approached and performed the office in their own way, depending on their personalities and the challenges of the times. Collectively, they provide an important perspective on the Senate through the years.

THE ORIGINS OF THE SPEAKERSHIP OF THE SENATE

CONSTITUTION ACT, 1867

Under the Constitution Act, 1867 (formerly known as the British North America Act, 1867), the federal legislative power rests with the Parliament of Canada, which consists of the Queen, the Senate, and the House of Commons.

In the negotiations leading up to Confederation in 1867, more time was spent discussing the powers and role of the Senate than almost any other aspect of the proposed union. In the end, the Constitution established the Senate as an amalgam of the British House of Commons and the House of Lords. It was to be a regionally based chamber of sober second thought, performing a revising role, and acting as a counterweight to the House of Commons. Senators were to be appointed for life.¹ Section 18 of the Constitution Act, 1867 authorized the Senate and the House of Commons to claim, by statute, the same privileges, immunities and powers possessed by the British House of Commons.

The Constitution Act, 1867 also specifies that there shall be a Speaker of the Senate who is appointed, but the act does not set out any specific powers or responsibilities of the office, not even that of presiding over the Senate.

¹ Lifetime appointments were abolished in 1965 when an amendment was made to the Constitution requiring mandatory retirement at age 75 for all senators appointed after June 1 of that year.
The Speaker of the Senate is appointed by the Governor General, on the recommendation of the Prime Minister. The Senate is not formally involved in the process; however, the Prime Minister may consult with senators informally to seek their opinion on the matter. Several attempts to change the appointment process have been proposed over the years, with motions being moved in the Senate as early as 1868. The most recent proposal was contained in a bill introduced in 2003 and again in 2004. None of these attempts at reform have been successful.

The office of Speaker of the Senate is characterized by a relatively frequent turnover. Leaving aside those Speakers in the early years who were appointed to fill a temporary vacancy, the tenure of Speakers has usually been of short duration. In the first 50 years following Confederation, all Speakers served for one Parliament at most. After 1922, most terms have lasted up to two Parliaments. Only two Speakers have served for a period of three Parliaments.

Various conventions have been claimed over the years with respect to a rotation of Speakers in the Senate, but few of them have been followed rigorously and the existence of some is disputed. For example, there was a suggestion in the 19th century that the Speakership had been intended to rotate among the senatorial divisions of the country; however, a quick examination of the Speakers and the regions they represented makes it clear that this approach has never been followed.

In many instances, an anglophone Speaker of the Senate has been succeeded by a francophone, and vice versa. However, this too is not a hard and fast rule. For example, when a Speaker has had to be replaced during a Parliament, the successor has almost always been selected from the same linguistic background. This occurred in 1888 when Speaker Allan succeeded Speaker Plumb; in 1930 when Speaker Hardy followed Speaker Bostock; and again in 1943 with Speaker Vien replacing Speaker Parent. Since 1980, the pattern of alternating linguistic groups has not been maintained, with five consecutive francophone Speakers (Marchand, Riel, Charbonneau, LeBlanc and Molgat) being followed by two anglophone Speakers (Hays and Kinsella).

Most Speakers have had considerable experience in the Senate, and have had an opportunity to become familiar with its procedures and traditions before being appointed to preside over the chamber. Indeed, many Speakers have been appointed near the end of their parliamentary careers. One was a member of the Senate for 32 years before being named Speaker. Most appointees have had more than five years’ experience in the Senate, and nearly half have had more than 10 years. Nevertheless, an appointment to the Senate and to the Speakership can occur simultaneously, and this has happened on four occasions.

Traditionally, when a Speaker leaves office he or she is made a Privy Councillor, if not already a member.

2. See Debates of the Senate, January 24, 1884, p. 64.
PARTISANSHIP

In keeping with the Speakership’s roots in the British system of government, the Speaker of the Canadian Senate was originally expected to be partisan, not impartial. The Speakership of the Senate was a political office, to be filled by the government. Some notable examples include two Speakers who were Cabinet ministers without portfolio while in the chair, and some others who moved directly to the Speakership from the Cabinet or a provincial premiership. Even in recent years, all Speakers of the Senate have had – and have generally retained – ties to a party.

One of the most important features of the office is that, because the government in power chooses the Speaker, it can ensure that one of its own members fills the post, even if the governing party does not hold the majority of the seats in the Senate.

The Constitution Act, 1867 and the Rules of the Senate both assume that the Speaker will take an active part in political life. The Rules permit the Speaker to participate in debate, provided that he or she speaks from the floor, not the chair. Moreover, the Speaker retains the right to vote on all matters before the Senate. This is a deliberative or original vote, and not a casting vote. In other words, the Speaker is not entitled to vote in order to break a tie in the Senate.

In the early years of Confederation, Speakers routinely voted. More recently, however, they have tended to refrain from engaging in debate, usually restricting themselves to administrative or non-contentious matters. Similarly, Speakers have increasingly hesitated to vote, unless the outcome is expected to be particularly close or the matter is an important one for the government.
ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SPEAKER

PRESIDING OFFICER

The office of the Speaker of the Senate was patterned on the United Kingdom office of the Lord Chancellor, who was, until 2006, the presiding officer of the House of Lords but also a member of the Cabinet and a judicial officer. Unlike the House of Commons, where the Speaker was intended to “speak” on behalf of the members, the House of Lords was reluctant to surrender any more of its powers to the Lord Chancellor than was absolutely necessary. Thus, he or she traditionally performed a fairly minimal role in presiding over the sittings of the House of Lords.

Similarly, the early Speakers of the Canadian Senate were perceived as having a limited role in guiding the proceedings of the chamber. As Robert A. Mackay wrote in 1926: “[T]he Speaker of the Senate is in reality but a chairman or presiding senator, not the spokesman of the house in dealing with the Crown as the Speaker of the Commons is historically, nor yet a president who sits above the party struggle.” Furthermore, the Speaker of the Senate has never been a judicial officer nor played any judicial role in the way that the Lord Chancellor used to.

Since all senators were regarded as equal, the Senate initially sought to conduct its business by consensus, and the Speaker of the Senate was not originally given any specific powers or responsibilities to maintain order or to enforce the Rules of the Senate. He was authorized to explain the Rules and practices of the Senate only when called upon to do so. In this respect, during the 19th century, the Senate was largely self-regulating, and the need for the Speaker to intervene was infrequent.

Until 1906, the Senate consciously referred to the House of Lords tradition whereby the Lord Chancellor intervened in debate to rule on a procedural question only at the request of a member. However, during the 1890s and the early part of the 20th century, the occasional rowdiness of a few senators led to a movement to break with House of Lords tradition and give the Senate Speaker more authority. The 1906 revision of the Senate Rules gave the Speaker increased powers and explicitly authorized the Speaker to preserve order and decorum, and to decide questions of order.

The adoption of the new Rules did not have an immediate or profound effect, as there seems to have been some uncertainty about the extent of the powers conferred and the circumstances under which they could or should be used, and some hesitancy on the part of the Speakers to resort to them. From the 1930s on, both Speakers and senators on occasion alluded to the existence of an “unwritten” rule that Speakers did not intervene until requested.
to do so by a senator. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, however, some Speakers became more active in their interventions and did not always wait for their attention to be drawn to breaches of the Rules before intervening.

Uncertainty about the role of the Speaker persisted until the adoption of revised Rules in 1991. Proposed and adopted in the aftermath of a turbulent debate over the Goods and Services Tax, the 1991 amendments to the Rules of the Senate were the most extensive since 1906. The new Rule 18 clarified the role of the Speaker in the Senate. It specifies that it is not necessary for breaches of order and decorum to be drawn to the attention of the Speaker, and that he or she may interrupt any debate to restore order or to enforce the Rules. In the case of “grave disorder” the Speaker is explicitly empowered to suspend the sitting of the Senate for up to three hours. The Rule also allows the Speaker to determine when sufficient argument has been heard to decide a question of privilege or point of order.

Even as the role of the Speaker changed, certain features remained constant. In keeping with the egalitarian nature of the Senate, all rulings of the Speaker are subject to an appeal to the full Senate for confirmation or rejection. The Senate reserves for itself the final authority over the interpretation of its Rules and practices. The equality of all senators is further illustrated by the practice of senators addressing each other directly, rather than through the Speaker.

The right to appeal a Speaker’s ruling was used successfully for the first time in 1873. Appeals have been infrequent except when the mood of the chamber was particularly partisan and hostile. The open political affiliation of Senate Speakers, and the fact that they do not necessarily come from the majority side, means that there may be dissatisfaction with their rulings; generally, however, Speakers have shown impartiality in their rulings, and appeals are in fact rare.

The Speaker plays an important role in facilitating the conduct of business in the Senate chamber. He or she calls out items during the daily Routine of Business and items on the Notice Paper, as well as “recognizing” senators who wish to speak. The Speaker reminds senators about time limits for different categories of activity, including Senators’ Statements and Question Period, and presides over any vote taken in the Senate. The Speaker reads messages from the Governor General and the House of Commons, and introduces visitors in the galleries. The Speaker is responsible for ruling on all questions that are raised with respect to parliamentary procedure in the chamber or with respect to the privileges, rights and immunities of the Senate or of individual senators as they carry out their duties. He or she also rules on applications for emergency debates.

While the Speaker’s authority and powers in presiding over sittings of the Senate have been enhanced, this development has generally not been matched by any similar increase in administrative responsibilities. Given the partisan antecedents of the office, and how it was originally envisioned and characterized, it is perhaps understandable that the Speaker’s administrative role was limited and has remained so.
Over time, the Speaker of the Senate has come to more closely resemble the Speaker of the House of Commons – for instance, in assuming a more proactive role in preserving order in the chamber, and abstaining from debate and voting. This is, in part, a reflection of the changes to the Rules of the Senate adopted by the Senate – especially those of 1906 and 1991 – and of the behaviour of various incumbents of the office. It also reflects the experiences and expectations of senators, many of whom come from a background in the House of Commons or provincial legislatures.

**AMBASSADOR**

In addition to presiding over the Senate’s deliberations, modern Speakers have a significant role in representing the Senate and senators on formal occasions of state both nationally and internationally. The Speaker ranks fourth in the Table of Precedence for Canada, after the Governor General, the Prime Minister and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. In keeping with this status, the Speaker often receives diplomats and other parliamentary officials. As well, the Speaker is frequently asked to represent the Senate, and sometimes the government, at national events and at foreign legislatures. The Speaker also spends a great deal of time meeting and addressing groups to provide insight into the parliamentary process and the important role of the Senate.
The absence of explicit constitutional or statutory provisions governing the Speakership of the Senate has allowed the office to evolve. As Professor W. F. Dawson wrote in 1969, traditions have grown up that set the Senate Speaker apart from other presiding officers in the parliamentary system: “Such issues as appointment and removal as well as political partisanship and the position of the Speaker in the House have all acquired a distinctively Canadian flavour, and have combined to change the nature of the Speakership into something that was clearly not contemplated in 1867.”

While conscious of its history, the Senate has also been innovative. It was the first chamber on Parliament Hill to have a female Speaker with the appointment of Muriel Fergusson in 1972; she was succeeded in 1974 by Renaude Lapointe, the first female francophone Speaker.

This collection of short biographies of the 42 Speakers of the Senate since Confederation illustrates the wide variety of regional, professional and personal qualifications of the incumbents. For most of these distinguished individuals, their period in the chair – however long or brief – was just one of many highlights in lives that were marked by achievement in various areas. Although success in law and politics is a common denominator that links many of them, others have had noteworthy careers in the military, in business, as educators or as journalists; some achieved prominence in as many as three or four different fields. Indeed, appointment to the Senate and later to the Speakership of the Senate can be seen as the apex of many successful careers.

Unlike other legislative bodies where the Speakers have often played a prominent role in the conduct of proceedings, the Speakers of the Senate have historically exercised their authority under greater restraint. The Senate, as an appointed body that is smaller than the Commons and usually less partisan, has traditionally prided itself on being largely self-governing. Many of its routine proceedings are still managed informally by consensus. Nevertheless, the Speaker of the Senate performs an important role, and this overview of the 42 men and women who have occupied the office provides a useful perspective on the history of the Senate since 1867.
About This Publication
The Speakers of the Senate of Canada contains information from a variety of sources, both historical and contemporary. This publication does not attempt to provide exhaustive biographical information about each Speaker, but rather seeks to shed light on the tenure of each individual who has served as Speaker of the Senate of Canada.

Titles associated with the Speakers’ names reflect their lifetime achievements. Thus, an individual who became a member of the Privy Council or Governor General after his or her tenure as Speaker is referred to as “the Honourable” or “the Right Honourable,” even though these titles were not held during his or her Speakership.

The professional background identified for each Speaker includes only the field(s) of his or her primary work.

For simplicity, the political affiliations associated with each Speaker are identified using broad terms. As such, “Liberal” indicates a member of the Liberal, Laurier Liberal, or Liberal Progressive parties; “Conservative” indicates a member of the Conservative, Liberal Conservative, Unionist, National Liberal and Conservative, National Conservative, National Government, or Progressive Conservative parties. The affiliation attributed to each Speaker is the one that he or she held during the term of the Speakership.

For the purpose of this publication, a Speaker is considered to remain in office until a new Speaker is appointed; therefore, following a dissolution of Parliament, a Speaker continues to hold his or her position until a successor is appointed. There are, however, certain gaps in the timeline of Speakers’ tenure due to unforeseen circumstances such as illness or death.

It should be noted that until 1894 there was no provision for a replacement if the Speaker of the Senate was absent from the chamber: a new Speaker had to be appointed by the Governor General for the period of the absence. In 1895, a change was made to allow another senator to perform the duties of the Speaker during a temporary absence. In 1982, the Rules of the Senate were amended to provide for the election of a Speaker pro tempore at the beginning of each session. The Speaker pro tempore is effectively the deputy Speaker of the Senate, presiding over sittings whenever the Speaker is unavailable. The Speaker pro tempore remains in place until the end of the session.
Hon. Joseph Édouard Cauchon
P.C. (1867-1869) (1869-1872) (1872)

Already a notable journalist, successful land speculator and veteran politician by Confederation in 1867, Joseph Cauchon became the first Speaker of the Senate in the new Dominion of Canada.

Cauchon began his political career in the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada, where he was first elected in 1844 and re-elected six more times. His political prominence in Canada East led the first Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec, Narcisse-Fortunat Belleau, to call on him after Confederation to form the government of the new province. Cauchon was unsuccessful, mainly because of the Protestant–Roman Catholic political complexities in Quebec. In the meantime, he was elected by acclamation to the House of Commons and to the Legislative Assembly of Quebec, dual mandates being allowable at the time.

The Prime Minister, Sir John A. Macdonald, had known Cauchon since they had both been elected to the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada in 1844, and he was aware that Cauchon’s views on sectarian education in Quebec had made him unpopular among many parliamentarians.

Yet Cauchon had to be recognized politically by the government in some way. Rather than bring him into his first Cabinet, Macdonald nominated him for appointment to the Senate on November 2, 1867. Three days later, Macdonald appointed Cauchon as Speaker of the Senate.

While Speaker, Cauchon continued to own Le Journal de Québec and retained his seat in the Quebec Legislative Assembly. Except for two brief absences from the chair, he served as Speaker until June 30, 1872.

Cauchon resigned the Speakership to run as an Independent for a seat in the House of Commons. He subsequently joined the Liberal Party and held two Cabinet posts in the government of Liberal Prime Minister Alexander Mackenzie, who nominated him for appointment as Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba in 1877. He retired in 1882, and died in 1885 at his home in Whitewood, in Saskatchewan’s Qu’Appelle Valley.
BORN
St-Roch, Lower Canada, 1816

DIED
Qu’Appelle Valley, Saskatchewan, 1885

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND
Journalism, Law, Business

POLITICAL AFFILIATION
Conservative

POLITICAL RECORD
• Appointed to Senate: 1867
• Cabinet Appointments:
  President of the Privy Council, 1875–1877;
  Minister of Inland Revenue, 1877
• First Appointed to Speakership:
  November 5, 1867

PRIME MINISTER DURING SPEAKERSHIP
• John A. Macdonald
Hon. John Ross
Q.C. (1869)

A long-serving politician before Confederation, John Ross served as Speaker of the Legislative Council – the upper house – of the Province of Canada from 1854 to 1856. He was well connected to leading political families in Canada West, having married the daughter of Robert Baldwin, co-Premier of the province, and held offices in several ministries during his 19 years on the Legislative Council. His role on political and economic missions that he undertook in Great Britain has been described as “one of the antecedents of the office of high commissioner in London.”

Ross was one of the first 72 senators appointed at Confederation in 1867. Less than two years later, when Senate Speaker Joseph Édouard Cauchon was absent from the chamber to attend his son’s funeral, Ross was appointed Speaker in his place for 10 days (May 17–26, 1869).

Until 1894, the Senate had no procedure for appointing a deputy or acting Speaker who could step in when the Speaker was unexpectedly or unavoidably absent during the session. Another Speaker had to be formally appointed in the absent Speaker’s place. Upon returning, the original Speaker would be reappointed by the Governor General.

In 1894, a statute was passed to provide for a Deputy Speaker in the Senate.

Ross served in the Senate until his death on January 31, 1871.
BORN
County Antrim, Ireland, 1818

DIED
Toronto, Ontario, 1871

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND
Law, Business, Military

POLITICAL AFFILIATION
Conservative

POLITICAL RECORD
• Appointed to Senate: 1867
• Appointed to Speakership: May 17, 1869

PRIME MINISTER DURING SPEAKERSHIP
• John A. Macdonald
Hon. Amos Edwin Botsford
P.C. (1872) (1880)

In becoming the Speaker of the Senate, Amos Botsford followed in the footsteps of his grandfather, father and brother, who all served as Speakers of the New Brunswick House of Assembly.

When he was summoned to the Senate in 1867, Botsford had already spent 34 years as an appointed Conservative member of New Brunswick’s Legislative Council. His patience, tact and common sense led to his appointment as a joint commissioner to settle New Brunswick’s border with Nova Scotia; as a delegate to the City of Québec in 1839 to determine the border between New Brunswick and Lower Canada; and as a commissioner to Washington to discuss a border problem. He was also a strong advocate of Confederation, and moved the motion for union in New Brunswick’s Legislative Council.

Botsford’s first appointment as Speaker – for three days from June 3 to 5, 1872, the shortest term in Senate history – arose because of the temporary absence from the chair of Joseph Cauchon. Botsford was appointed for a second time from February 16 to April 18, 1880, when David Macpherson fell ill only four days after his appointment as Speaker. Macpherson was reappointed Speaker upon his recovery two months later.

By the time of his death in 1894 at the age of 89, Botsford had made many contributions over his 61 years in public life.
BORN
Saint John, New Brunswick, 1804

DIED
Sackville, New Brunswick, 1894

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND
Agriculture, Law

POLITICAL AFFILIATION
Conservative

POLITICAL RECORD
• Appointed to Senate: 1867
• First Appointed to Speakership: June 3, 1872

PRIME MINISTER DURING SPEAKERSHIP
• John A. Macdonald
Hon. Pierre-Joseph-Olivier Chauveau
Q.C. (1873-1874)

Before Prime Minister Sir John A. Macdonald nominated him for appointment to the Senate, Pierre Chauveau already had had a federal political career that extended over 11 years. At the age of 24, he ran successfully for a seat in the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada in 1844, and he was re-elected in 1848, 1851 and 1854. He held two ministry posts from 1851 to 1854. He was also a journalist, poet and novelist: his novel, Charles Guérin (1852), was widely praised. Chauveau was a founder of the Royal Society of Canada.

When the position of Superintendent of Canada East’s Board of Education became available in 1855, Chauveau was appointed to the position. He instituted significant reforms during his dozen years, and in the charged sectarian atmosphere of Canada East, he was generally seen to have brought in worthwhile improvements. When Joseph Cauchon failed to form a government for the new Province of Quebec in 1867, Chauveau was asked to be Premier largely on the strength of his educational work. He was able to bring together a ministry, and held it together for five years.

By 1873, Chauveau realized that factionalism in his ministry made his resignation inevitable. Hector-Louis Langevin, a prominent Quebec Conservative, arranged his summons to the Senate and appointment as Speaker.

In November 1874, Prime Minister Macdonald’s government resigned over a question of bribery in awarding contracts for the railway to the Pacific. Chauveau was replaced as Speaker by the incoming government of Alexander Mackenzie, and he resigned from the Senate at the same time to run for a seat in the House of Commons; however, he was defeated. He returned to writing, received two patronage appointments with the Quebec Harbour Commission and as Sheriff of Montréal, and then taught law at Laval University’s new Montréal campus from 1878 to 1890, the year of his death.
BORN
City of Québec, Lower Canada, 1820

DIED
City of Québec, Quebec, 1890

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND
Law, Literature

POLITICAL AFFILIATION
Conservative

POLITICAL RECORD
• First Elected to House of Commons: 1867
• Appointed to Senate: 1873
• Appointed to Speakership: February 21, 1873

PRIME MINISTERS DURING SPEAKERSHIP
• John A. Macdonald
• Alexander Mackenzie
Hon. David Christie
P.C. (1874-1878)

A Scottish-born farmer, David Christie became interested in improving agriculture in Canada West at an early age. By the time he was 31, he was advocating for agrarian reform as part of a group of radical Reform Party supporters calling themselves “Clear Grits” – a name he himself most likely coined. “No dirt, clear grit all the way through,” he said, referring to the pure coarse sand favoured by stonemasons.

Two years later, in 1851, he was elected to the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada, and he was re-elected in 1854 and 1857. When the Legislative Council became an elected rather than appointed body, he ran successfully in the 1858 election for an eight-year term, and resigned his seat in the Assembly. Christie spoke out strongly in favour of Confederation, and in 1867, he was appointed to the new Senate of Canada.

Prime Minister Alexander Mackenzie appointed Christie to his Cabinet in November 1873 as Secretary of State. Two months later, on January 9, 1874, Christie was appointed as Speaker of the Senate. During his tenure, the members of the Senate authorized him to prepare a report on the rules and forms of Senate procedure, and to put forward any amendments he deemed advisable. His report became the basis of a select Senate committee’s recommendations.

Christie resigned the Speakership when Mackenzie’s government was defeated in October 1878.

CHRISTIE IS SAID TO HAVE COINED THE TERM “GRITS,” WHICH BECAME A SYNONYM FOR THE LIBERAL PARTY OF CANADA.
BORN
Edinburgh, Scotland, 1818

DIED
Paris, Ontario, 1880

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND
Agriculture

POLITICAL AFFILIATION
Liberal

POLITICAL RECORD
• Appointed to Senate: 1867
• Cabinet Appointment:
  Secretary of State of Canada, 1873–1878
• Appointed to Speakership:
  January 9, 1874

PRIME MINISTER DURING SPEAKERSHIP
• Alexander Mackenzie
Hon. Robert Duncan Wilmot
P.C. (1878-1880)

As with many senators appointed in the first year of Confederation, Robert Duncan Wilmot had had an active political career long before his summons to the Senate. In the colony of New Brunswick he held an elected seat in the Legislative Assembly from 1846 to 1861, and again from 1865 to 1867, including 15 months as Associate Premier. He also served on the Executive Council as a member of the ministries of two administrations.

A well-known opponent of Confederation, he gradually came to see the benefits of union for New Brunswick, and in 1866-1867 attended the London Conference that provided the framework for the British North America Act, 1867. Two weeks before the 1st Session of the 1st Parliament of the Dominion of Canada opened on November 6, 1867, Wilmot took up his appointment as senator.

After nearly 11 years in the Senate, he accepted Prime Minister Sir John A. Macdonald’s invitation to join his second ministry as Minister without Portfolio, and simultaneously Macdonald’s nomination for appointment as Speaker of the Senate.

While unusual in Canada, dual appointments were analogous to the practice in the United Kingdom, where the Speaker of the House of Lords was until 2006 the Lord Chancellor, invariably a member of the Cabinet.

Wilmot had a very clear understanding of the role of the Senate: it was established with “territorial representation especially for the purpose, among others, of guarding the interests of the smaller Provinces, and to resist any encroachment on the part of the larger Provinces.” He went on to observe that the Senate “should be in a position to check hasty legislation and more popular clamor, and give time to allow public opinion to assert itself.”

In February 1880, after 15 months in the chair, Wilmot resigned as Speaker and senator on being recommended for appointment as the Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick.

Wilmot was the first senator to be appointed simultaneously as Speaker and also as a member of the Cabinet.
BORN
Fredericton, New Brunswick, 1809

DIED
Belmont, New Brunswick, 1891

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND
Shipping, Business

POLITICAL AFFILIATION
Conservative

POLITICAL RECORD
• Appointed to Senate: 1867
• Cabinet Appointment: Minister without Portfolio, 1878–1880
• Appointed to Speakership: November 7, 1878

PRIME MINISTER DURING SPEAKERSHIP
• John A. Macdonald
Hon. David Lewis Macpherson
P.C., K.C.M.G. (1880) (1880-1883)

A Scottish-born railway entrepreneur and financier, David Macpherson was a largely self-made businessman with firm views on public issues. Running for election in 1864 for the first and only time, he was successful in gaining a seat in the Legislative Council of the Province of Canada, and a place in the Great Coalition of co-Premiers Sir Étienne-Paschal Taché and John A. Macdonald.

In 1867, Macpherson was appointed to the Senate. Sir John A. Macdonald felt that Macpherson’s financial acumen and organizational skills would be useful to the Liberal Conservative government. Within five years Macpherson found himself at odds with Macdonald over trade and banking policy, and had begun writing pamphlets about public expenditures, of which at least nine have survived. When later reconciled with Macdonald’s economic policies, he wrote another pamphlet that was considered to have played an important role in the 1878 election.

Two years later, on February 11, 1880, Macdonald appointed him to the Cabinet as Minister without Portfolio and simultaneously as Speaker of the Senate. Five days later, however, Senator Amos Botsford was appointed in his place because of Macpherson’s ill health. When Macpherson regained his health two months later, he was once more appointed Speaker. His tenure as Speaker ended in 1883 when Macdonald appointed him Minister of the Interior. Historians claim that his mishandling of that portfolio was a factor that led to the North-West Rebellion in 1885.
BORN
Inverness, Scotland, 1818

DIED
At sea en route to Canada;
buried in Toronto, 1896

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND
Business, Law

POLITICAL AFFILIATION
Conservative

POLITICAL RECORD
• Appointed to Senate: 1867
• Cabinet Appointments:
  Minister without Portfolio, 1880–1883;
  Minister of the Interior, 1883–1885
• Appointed to Speakership:
  February 11, 1880

PRIME MINISTER DURING SPEAKERSHIP
• John A. Macdonald
William Miller was a 28-year-old lawyer when he was elected to Nova Scotia’s House of Assembly in 1863. This was the beginning of a political career that would last more than 48 years. A Reformer at first, he supported the principle of the union of all British North American colonies and opposed the more limited Maritime union proposal of Sir Charles Tupper, the Premier and later the Prime Minister of Canada. He also opposed the financial arrangements for smaller colonies that emerged from the 1864 Quebec Conference. As he saw that Confederation might flounder, however, he made an impassioned speech in the House of Assembly that influenced Nova Scotia’s legislators to reverse their anti-Confederation position.

His proposal that a conference be convened in London was accepted by the Province of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and the British North America Act, 1867 became a reality by February 1867. As a reward for his efforts, the following October Miller was appointed to the new Senate of Canada at the age of 32, making him the youngest senator in Canadian history. His view of the Senate was that it “was constituted as a check on the larger Provinces, and a protection for the weaker ones.” Commentators regarded him as “one of the most ready and effective debaters” in the chamber who “generally takes a leading place in all great discussions.”

In part because of his growing expertise in parliamentary procedure and broad experience in committee business, he was appointed Speaker of the Senate in 1883 and remained in the chair until 1887.

Although Miller’s increasing deafness meant that he rarely participated in debates, he remained in the Senate until his death in 1912. He served longer than any other senator to that point.
BORN
Antigonish, Nova Scotia, 1835

DIED
Ottawa, Ontario, 1912

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND
Law

POLITICAL AFFILIATION
Conservative

POLITICAL RECORD
• Appointed to Senate: 1867
• Appointed to Speakership: October 17, 1883

PRIME MINISTER DURING SPEAKERSHIP
• John A. Macdonald
Hon. Josiah Burr Plumb

(1887-1888)

Josiah Plumb immigrated to Canada from New York State in 1865 at the age of 49. His Canadian-born wife, Elizabeth, was the daughter of a United Empire Loyalist and sister of Thomas Clark Street, who was both a member of the House of Commons and one of the wealthiest men in Ontario. Plumb had been a successful banker and railway entrepreneur in the United States. After the American Civil War, he retired from business and settled in the Niagara Falls area.

Prime Minister Sir John A. Macdonald became aware of Plumb’s connections and business acumen, and encouraged him to run for a seat in the House of Commons. He was successful in by-elections in December 1874 and March 1879. Three years later he was defeated, however, and Macdonald nominated him for appointment to the Senate in 1883. A Cyclopaedia of Canadian Biography noted that, as a senator, Plumb was “distinguished by his urbanity and judicial rectitude.”

Prime Minister Macdonald appointed Plumb as Speaker in 1887 to replace William Miller. Less than a year later Plumb died suddenly. His death – the first time a Speaker had died in office – precipitated a debate on how the chamber should proceed without a Speaker. Eventually the senators decided to ask a member to take the chair, and then adjourn until a new Speaker was appointed.

Plumb’s New York Times obituary said that he “was popular because of his Parliamentary experience, his fluency in speech, his conceded ability, and his faculty as an enter-tainer in the social life of which he was so prominent a figure.”
BORN
East Haven, Connecticut, United States, 1816

DIED
Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, 1888

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND
Banking, Business

POLITICAL AFFILIATION
Conservative

POLITICAL RECORD
• First Elected to House of Commons: 1874
• Appointed to Senate: 1883
• Appointed to Speakership: April 4, 1887

PRIME MINISTER DURING SPEAKERSHIP
• John A. Macdonald
Hon. George William Allan
P.C. (1888–1891)

The son of a distinguished member of Toronto society, George Allan was a wealthy financier, benefactor, and patron of the Canadian arts, higher education and horticulture. When he was only 15, he volunteered as a private in the Bank Rifle Corps during the Upper Canada Rebellion of 1837, and later became Lieutenant Colonel of the Militia in East Toronto. He enjoyed travelling internationally; as well as making the traditional European grand tour, he twice ventured into the Middle East and North Africa.

Allan’s political interests emerged early: he was a Toronto alderman by the age of 27, and was elected Mayor five years later. Like his father, he was elected to the Legislative Council of the Province of Canada, serving from 1858 to 1867. It was during this period that Allan decided to support the Canadian artist Paul Kane by commissioning 100 oil paintings for $20,000. Kane dedicated his book *Wanderings of an Artist among the Indians of North America* (1859) to him.

Allan was one of many Liberal–Conservative senators appointed in 1867 to the Senate. As he did in the Legislative Council, he chaired the Senate’s Private Bills Committee, and later the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce. More than 20 years later, in 1888, Prime Minister Sir John A. Macdonald appointed him as Speaker, following the sudden death of Josiah Plumb.

The death of Plumb and the appointment of Allan to the Speakership raised an interesting question for the Senate. Some felt that a practice existed for the Senate to change Speakers at the same time as the House of Commons, and for the mother tongue of the Speakers of the two chambers to be different, one being English and one being French. Although these traditions were followed only intermittently, and sometimes wholly ignored, they seem to have motivated the decision to replace Allan as Speaker in 1891.

By the time he died in 1901, Allan had sat for nearly 34 years in the Senate.
BORN
York, Upper Canada, 1822

DIED
Toronto, Ontario, 1901

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND
Law

POLITICAL AFFILIATION
Conservative

POLITICAL RECORD
• Appointed to Senate: 1867
• Appointed to Speakership: March 17, 1888

PRIME MINISTER DURING SPEAKERSHIP
• John A. Macdonald
Hon. Sir Alexandre Lacoste
P.C., K.C.M.G., K.C. (1891)

A prominent Montréal lawyer, Alexandre Lacoste was the son of a well-known notary, legislative councillor, and senator. He played an important role in advising the Conservative Party behind the scenes, but resisted pressure to run for elective office. Instead, Lacoste concentrated on his law practice, which included many trips to London to plead before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, then Canada’s highest court. In one of his most significant constitutional cases he successfully argued that, under the British North America Act, 1867, a province had the power to tax commercial corporations. He was always ready to share his admiration for the Constitution given to Canada by Confederation and for the United Kingdom’s “liberal political policy” and institutions, especially as they affected French-speaking Canadians.

Eventually he agreed to accept a seat in Quebec’s upper house, the Legislative Council, in 1882, at the age of 40. In December 1883, he resigned, and the next month Conservative Prime Minister Sir John A. Macdonald nominated him for appointment to the Senate. Alfred DeCelles, the Associate Parliamentary Librarian, described what Lacoste “understood to be the chief function of the Senate: that our highest legislative body should form a court of revision, whose vigilance should be untiring.”

Lacoste’s rational and focused approach to law, which was described by Laurent-Olivier David as “Nothing brilliant, [with] little polish in his arguments ... but plenty of logic, force and clarity,” made him perfectly suited to sit on this “court of revision.”

Lacoste’s appointment as Speaker of the Senate in April 1891 was popular among his fellow senators. Less than five months later, however, Lacoste resigned the Speakership and his seat in the Senate to become the Chief Justice of the Court of Queen’s Bench in Quebec, a position he held for 16 years. Shortly after this appointment, he was knighted by Queen Victoria in 1892, when he was 50.
BORN
Boucherville, Canada East, 1842

DIED
Montréal, Quebec, 1923

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND
Law

POLITICAL AFFILIATION
Conservative

POLITICAL RECORD
• Appointed to Senate: 1884
• Appointed to Speakership:
  April 27, 1891

PRIME MINISTERS DURING SPEAKERSHIP
• John A. Macdonald
• John Abbott
Hon. John Jones Ross
P.C., M.D. (1891–1896)

Dr. John Ross, a physician and railway entrepreneur, spent 40 years as an active politician in a remarkable and perhaps unequalled number of positions in the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada (1861–1867), the Legislative Assembly (1867) and the Legislative Council (1867–1901) of the new Province of Quebec, the House of Commons (1867–1874), and the Senate (1887–1901).

During much of this time he held seats simultaneously in provincial and federal assemblies until the double mandate was abolished. In Quebec, he was Speaker of the Legislative Council, three times. In addition to being a member of the Cabinet as Speaker, he held two other Cabinet posts, and was Premier of Quebec for three years. Ross resigned as Premier in 1887, largely because of the failure of his government to take a clear position on the hanging of Louis Riel in 1885 after the North-West Rebellion. Three months later, Conservative Prime Minister Sir Charles Tupper appointed him to his short-lived Cabinet (from May 1 to July 8, 1896).

His role in the Senate, so far as Ross was concerned, was to “protect the interests and defend the representation of the province of Quebec.” Although he did not have a reputation as a forceful leader or compelling debater, he was “universally esteemed” in Parliament, a contemporary observer noted. In 1891, after the death of Macdonald, the new Conservative Prime Minister, Senator John Abbott, appointed Ross Speaker of the Senate.

Towards what would be the end of Ross’s term as Speaker in 1896, Prime Minister Sir John A. Macdonald appointed him to the Senate.
BORN
Ste-Anne-de-la-Pérade, Lower Canada, 1831

DIED
Ste-Anne-de-la-Pérade, Quebec, 1901

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND
Medicine

POLITICAL AFFILIATION
Conservative

POLITICAL RECORD
• First Elected to House of Commons: 1867
• Appointed to Senate: 1887
• Cabinet Appointment:
  Minister without Portfolio, 1896
• Appointed to Speakership:
  September 14, 1891

PRIME MINISTERS DURING SPEAKERSHIP
• John Abbott
• John Thompson
• Mackenzie Bowell
• Charles Tupper

Source: The Senate of Canada
Called to the bar in 1860 as a lawyer, Charles Alphonse Pelletier graduated from the Military School of Quebec and enlisted as a volunteer in 1861 at the time of the “Trent Affair.” In the United States Civil War, the Navy of the northern Union forces illegally boarded a neutral British ship and seized two Confederate diplomats; war nearly broke out between Canada and the United States. Pelletier was commissioned as a lieutenant in the 9th Battalion of the Voltigeurs de Québec, and during the 1866 Fenian raids he was a major on active service.

In the 1867 election, Pelletier ran as a Liberal for the House of Commons, but the returning officer for the riding of Kamouraska nullified the election because a brawl broke out during the voting. He won in the by-election of 1869, and sat in the House until 1877. He also ran successfully for the Quebec Legislative Assembly in 1873, and during the campaign was slightly wounded in the head when an attempt on his life failed. He resigned his provincial seat in 1874 when dual mandates were abolished.

Prime Minister Alexander Mackenzie appointed Pelletier to the Senate in 1877, principally because of his continuing value as a significant Quebec organizer for the Liberal Party. He was appointed to the Cabinet at the same time, but the government fell the next year. In the Quebec election campaign of 1890, Pelletier was kidnapped while he was on a train; 26 people were arrested and charged for the offence.

Following his efforts on behalf of the Liberal Party in Quebec, Pelletier was appointed Speaker of the Senate in 1896 by Prime Minister Wilfrid Laurier. As Speaker, his reputation was that of a mediator and conciliator. Pelletier was knighted in 1898. He resigned the Speakership in 1901, and left the Senate in 1904 for a position on the bench of the Superior Court of Quebec. Four years later he was appointed as Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec; he died in office in 1911.
BORN
Rivière-Ouelle, Lower Canada, 1837

DIED
Sillery, Quebec, 1911

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND
Law, Military

POLITICAL AFFILIATION
Liberal

POLITICAL RECORD
• First Elected to House of Commons: 1869
• Appointed to Senate: 1877
• Cabinet Appointment:
  Minister of Agriculture, 1877–1878
• Appointed to Speakership:
  July 13, 1896

PRIME MINISTER DURING SPEAKERSHIP
• Wilfrid Laurier
Hon. Lawrence Geoffrey Power

P.C., K.C., B.A., LL.B. (1901-1905)

Lawrence Power came to the Senate with an ideal background for a future Speaker. He was well-educated, familiar with parliamentary procedure, and experienced in drafting legislative bills.

In 1858, he received his B.A. when he was just 16 years old from St. Mary’s College, a small Roman Catholic institution in Halifax. For two years, he studied at a pair of Roman Catholic colleges in Ireland. He earned his Bachelor of Laws degree at Harvard Law School, where he took part in mock parliaments. One of his classmates at Harvard was Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., who would sit on the United States Supreme Court for 30 years.

Power’s father was a member of the House of Commons, but rather than politics the younger Power initially chose non-partisan work: he was Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Bills of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly from 1867 to 1877. As part of his duties he drafted several major bills and helped prepare the Revised Statutes of Nova Scotia. He was elected twice to the Halifax City Council and served as a commissioner of schools for a decade.

His interest in Roman Catholicism may have led indirectly to his appointment to the Senate in 1877 by Prime Minister Alexander Mackenzie. The year before, he had written a letter to the Toronto Globe challenging the opposition of certain Roman Catholic prelates to the Liberal Party - a letter that attracted wide attention. When the Nova Scotian Sir Edward Kenny - the spokesman for English-speaking Roman Catholics - was removed from the Senate for non-attendance, Power was seen as a logical replacement.

He was appointed Speaker 24 years later, in 1901, “owing to his wide knowledge, his sterling character, courtesy and general spirit of fairness,” a later observer suggested. He served as Speaker until 1905. Sir John A. Macdonald is said to have remarked as Power passed by, “There goes an honest man.”
BORN
Halifax, Nova Scotia, 1841

DIED
Halifax, Nova Scotia, 1921

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND
Law

POLITICAL AFFILIATION
Liberal

POLITICAL RECORD
• Appointed to Senate: 1877
• Appointed to Speakership: January 29, 1901

PRIME MINISTER DURING SPEAKERSHIP
• Wilfrid Laurier
Right Hon. Raoul Dandurand  

Raoul Dandurand, a Montréal corporate lawyer, was one of the most influential politicians of his generation. With Charles Lanctôt, he published his first law text, *Traité théorique et pratique de droit criminel* (1890), when he was 29 years old, and a year later *Manuel du juge de paix* (1891). His wife, Joséphine Marchand, the daughter of Gabriel Marchand, a future Premier of Quebec, was a noted journalist and feminist.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier appointed him to the Senate at the age of 36, and he would serve for slightly more than 44 years. Laurier knew Dandurand through his work for the Liberal Party in Quebec, both as a trusted advisor and as an active participant in numerous elections. Nevertheless, Dandurand was a firm advocate of non-partisanship in the Senate, which he felt distinguished it from the House of Commons and led to better scrutiny and revision of legislation. Professor Robert MacKay of Cornell University maintained in 1926 that, as a result, "few, if any, senators have exercised such lasting influence on the character of the Senate as did Dandurand."

In 1905, Laurier appointed him to the Speakership, and shortly afterwards Dandurand presided over a major reform to the *Rules of the Senate*. Previously, explicit provisions for the duties of the Speaker were almost non-existent, because Senate procedure was in part modelled on the U.K. House of Lords. The Senate amended the *Rules* in 1906 to empower the Speaker to intervene in debates to preserve order and decorum, similar to the Speaker of the House of Commons.

Dandurand resigned as Speaker in 1909, but his Senate and political responsibilities continued. He served as a minister in Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King’s Cabinets at various times between 1921 and 1942, and he was Leader of the Government in the Senate three times and Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, also three times.

In addition to his Senate work, Dandurand was entrusted with representing Canada internationally. Perfectly bilingual, he was a Canadian representative at the League of Nations Assembly in 1924, President of the Assembly in 1925, and a delegate to the League’s Council from 1927 to 1930. In 1941, a year before he died, he was appointed to the Imperial Privy Council.
BORN
Montréal, Canada East, 1861

DIED
Ottawa, Ontario, 1942

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND
Law

POLITICAL AFFILIATION
Liberal

POLITICAL RECORD
• Appointed to Senate: 1898
• Cabinet Appointments:
• Appointed to Speakership:
  January 9, 1905

PRIME MINISTER DURING SPEAKERSHIP
• Wilfrid Laurier
Hon. James Kirkpatrick Kerr
P.C., K.C. (1909–1911)

A prominent Toronto lawyer and businessman, James Kerr was attracted to Liberal politics in Ontario early in his career. In 1862, he was called to the Upper Canada bar when he was 21, and joined the law firm of Samuel Blake and his brother Edward, who later became Premier of Ontario and leader of the federal Liberal Party. Two years later Kerr married Anne Margaret Blake, sister of Samuel and Edward. Kerr was a respected member of the legal profession, and he argued several cases in London before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, then Canada’s highest court.

Kerr’s political interests at first centred on provincial politics. In 1891, however, he contested a federal seat in Toronto for the Liberal Party, but he was defeated. He resumed his work with the provincial party, becoming its president in 1892. Several years after becoming Prime Minister, Sir Wilfrid Laurier nominated Kerr for appointment to the Senate in 1903. He was appointed Speaker in January 1909, and served until October 1911.

Kerr was actively involved in Freemasonry, which presented opportunities to do charitable works and to make professional contacts.

Over the years he held many offices, including Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada.

Once described as “urbane, energetic and emphatic,” Kerr was “a man who has won the respect and confidence of all,” according to former Prime Minister Sir Charles Tupper.

Kerr’s Distinguished Record as a Freemason Earned Him the Grand Cross of the Temple, Which He Received from the Prince of Wales, Later Edward VII.
BORN
Near Guelph, Canada West, 1841

DIED
Toronto, Ontario, 1916

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND
Law

POLITICAL AFFILIATION
Liberal

POLITICAL RECORD
• Appointed to Senate: 1903
• Appointed to Speakership: January 14, 1909

PRIME MINISTER DURING SPEAKERSHIP
• Wilfrid Laurier
Hon. Auguste-Charles-Philippe-Robert Landry


Philippe Landry is one of the Senate’s few Speakers who can be described as loving “controversy and conflict” as a principle of debate: “he rejoiced in the storm of political life,” a fellow Conservative senator once commented.

Perhaps appropriately, Landry was also strongly attracted to a military career. A student of 16, he joined the Quebec Seminary’s cadet corps, and later his battalion was called into active service during the 1870 Fenian raids.

In 1873, he made his first foray into Quebec provincial politics, failing to be elected as a Conservative in a by-election but succeeding in the general election of 1875. The next year, however, the election was annulled because of illegal electoral activities and Landry was disqualified from running again at the provincial level for seven years. He then turned to federal politics, secured a seat at the next federal general election in 1878 and was re-elected in 1882. Before his defeat in 1887, he was known as a fierce and frequent debater in the House of Commons on behalf of the Conservatives.

In 1892, Prime Minister John Abbott nominated him for appointment to the Senate, where Landry immersed himself in religious and educational issues affecting Quebec and French-language education in Ontario. He published two books and at least nine pamphlets on these political disputes. Prime Minister Robert Borden appointed him Speaker in 1911; he resigned four and a half years later, in part because the federal government was reluctant to intervene in an Ontario controversy over separate schools.

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In 1915, Landry’s rulings were often appealed and overturned by the chamber. At one point, Landry absented himself from the chair for several sitting days, because, as he stated on his return to the chamber, “I felt deeply the defection of Conservative friends which has been manifested by the hostile vote of some of them.” The following year he faced a motion of censure over his allegedly calling Liberal senators “fanatics.” Eventually, the motion was withdrawn and Landry resigned at the end of the session.
BORN
City of Québec, Canada East, 1846

DIED
City of Québec, Quebec, 1919

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND
Agriculture, Military, Literature

POLITICAL AFFILIATION
Conservative

POLITICAL RECORD
• First Elected to House of Commons: 1878
• Appointed to Senate: 1892
• Appointed to Speakership: October 23, 1911

PRIME MINISTER DURING SPEAKERSHIP
• Robert Borden
Educated as a lawyer and notary, Joseph Bolduc was also a farmer, railway promoter and businessman. The son of a Militia captain, he graduated from the Military School of Quebec at 18 and served as a lieutenant in the Militia. First elected to the House of Commons in 1876 at the age of 29, he was re-elected in 1878 and 1882. Halfway through Bolduc’s third term as a member of Parliament, in 1884, Prime Minister Sir John A. Macdonald nominated him for appointment to the Senate.

Bolduc was noted for his good humour and good will. According to Colonel Ernest Chambers, the Senate’s Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, he was always “favourable to the bonne entente between the different nationalities in this Dominion.”

Prime Minister Sir Robert Borden appointed Bolduc as Speaker in 1916, and his diplomatic skills were soon tested in debate on the Military Service Act of 1917. The proposed act allowed for national conscription for the First World War, and was strongly opposed in Quebec. Senator Philippe-Auguste Choquette attempted to delay conscription, and his speeches were so inflammatory that Bolduc threatened to “name” him, a symbolic censure. Bolduc was interpreting the revised 1906 Rules of the Senate, which authorized the Speaker to preserve order and decorum. Choquette finally sat down without the need for senators to move a motion of censure.

Bolduc died in 1924, after nearly 48 years of service in Parliament.
BORN
St-Victor-de-Tring, Canada East, 1847

DIED
St-Victor-de-Tring, Quebec, 1924

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND
Railways, Agriculture, Law, Business

POLITICAL AFFILIATION
Conservative

POLITICAL RECORD
• First Elected to House of Commons: 1876
• Appointed to Senate: 1884
• Appointed to Speakership: June 3, 1916

PRIME MINISTERS DURING SPEAKERSHIP
• Robert Borden
• Arthur Meighen
Hon. Hewitt Bostock
P.C., M.A. (1922–1930)

A

British Columbia rancher and fruit-grower, Hewitt Bostock settled in Canada in 1893 at the age of 29. He arrived with a degree in mathematics from the University of Cambridge and qualifications to practise law from Lincoln’s Inn, London – neither of which he used in his new career – and a certain amount of wealth from his late father’s investments.

In 1894, he founded the Province as an anti-Conservative weekly newspaper in Victoria, and four years later he moved to the mainland to re-found the paper as the Vancouver Daily Province; it would grow to have the largest circulation in British Columbia. He started up his second paper, the Kamloops Inland Sentinel, in 1896 to support his successful campaign as a Liberal for a seat in the House of Commons. He did not run in the general election of 1900, and was nominated for appointment as a senator by Prime Minister Sir Wilfrid Laurier in 1904.

In 1914, Bostock became Leader of the Opposition in the Senate. While serving in this position, however, he was in favour of conscription as proposed by Conservative Prime Minister Sir Robert Borden’s Military Service Act of 1917, and supported Borden’s Union government. Later, he reconciled with the Liberals, and the new Liberal Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King appointed him to two Cabinet posts in December 1921-January 1922. He resigned both positions in February to accept the Speakership of the Senate, which he held for more than eight years, the longest term until the 1990s.

In 1925, Bostock was chosen as one of Canada’s three delegates to the Sixth Assembly of the League of Nations in Geneva.
BORN
Walton Heath, England, 1864

DIED
Monte Creek, British Columbia, 1930

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND
Agriculture, Business, Law

POLITICAL AFFILIATION
Liberal

POLITICAL RECORD
• First Elected to House of Commons: 1896
• Appointed to Senate: 1904
• Cabinet Appointments:
  Minister of Public Works, 1921–1922;
  Minister of Immigration and Colonization
  (acting), 1922
• Appointed to Speakership:
  February 7, 1922

PRIME MINISTERS DURING SPEAKERSHIP
• William Lyon Mackenzie King
• Arthur Meighen
Hon. Arthur Charles Hardy
P.C., Q.C., B.A., LL.B. (1930)

Perhaps it was inevitable that Arthur Hardy should have been drawn to a political career: he was the son of an Ontario premier, grandson of a Cabinet minister in the pre-Confederation Province of Canada, and son-in-law of a senator.

Although he was a lawyer, his real interest seemed to be breeding cattle, at which he was an expert. His Holstein–Frisian May Echo Sylvia was the first of any breed to produce 1,000 pounds of milk in seven days, and his Jersey Rosebay’s Jolly Rose produced a record 1,004 pounds of butterfat over a year.

Hardy ran unsuccessfully in the 1917 federal general election. He headed the Ontario Liberal Association from 1919 to 1932, and was nominated to the Senate by Liberal Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King in 1922.

King appointed him to the Speakership of the Senate in May 1930, but his term ended in September when King was defeated by Conservative leader R. B. Bennett in the 1930 general election. Hardy’s tenure was the shortest in Senate history other than Speakers appointed temporarily to replace an absent Speaker.

He was inducted into the Privy Council the next year, when he was also appointed as Honourary Lieutenant Colonel of the Governor General’s Foot Guards, Canada’s senior Militia infantry regiment.

On his death at 89 in 1962, he was the longest-serving member of the Senate.

A NOTABLE CATTLE BREEDER, HARDY SOLD A HOLSTEIN-FRIESIAN CALF IN 1918 FOR $106,000 (ROUGHLY $1.1 MILLION TODAY).
BORN
Brantford, Ontario, 1872

DIED
Brockville, Ontario, 1962

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND
Law, Agriculture

POLITICAL AFFILIATION
Liberal

POLITICAL RECORD
• Appointed to Senate: 1922
• Appointed to Speakership: May 13, 1930

PRIME MINISTER DURING SPEAKERSHIP
• William Lyon Mackenzie King
A Quebec notary, circuit court clerk, and alderman of Grand-Mère (now part of Shawinigan), Pierre Blondin’s experience prepared him well for election as a member of the House of Commons in 1908 at age 34. His oratorical gifts soon became apparent, and on his re-election in 1911, he was appointed Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons. Promotion to the Cabinet came in 1914, and other posts followed over the next seven years. Although he was defeated in the 1917 general election, he remained Postmaster General.

Blondin’s defeat occurred because of opposition in Quebec to conscription under the 1917 Military Service Act brought in by Conservative Prime Minister Sir Robert Borden. Blondin, however, believed that all Canadians should rally to the war effort; he personally raised the 258th Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force and commanded it overseas. The French government acknowledged his war service by awarding him the Légion d’honneur with the rank of Commander.

On Blondin’s return to Canada in 1918, Borden nominated him for appointment to the Senate, where he was Borden’s Quebec lieutenant and the chief French-Canadian supporter of the Union government until its defeat in December 1921.

Prime Minister R. B. Bennett appointed Blondin as Speaker of the Senate in 1930. He presided over many debates on major issues during the Great Depression, including the formation of the Canadian Radio Broadcasting Commission (later the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation) in 1932, and the creation of the Bank of Canada in 1935.

Blondin’s Speakership ended in 1936, and he remained in the Senate until his death in 1943.
BORN
St-François-du-Lac, Quebec, 1874

DIED
St-François-du-Lac, Quebec, 1943

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND
Law, Military

POLITICAL AFFILIATION
Conservative

POLITICAL RECORD
• First Elected to House of Commons: 1908
• Appointed: Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees of the Whole of the House of Commons, 1911-1914
• Appointed to Senate: 1918
• Cabinet Appointments: Minister of Inland Revenue, 1914-1915; Secretary of State of Canada, 1915-1917; Minister of Mines, 1915-1917; Postmaster General, 1917-1921
• Appointed to Speakership:
  September 3, 1930

PRIME MINISTER DURING SPEAKERSHIP
• R. B. Bennett
Hon. Walter Edward Foster
P.C. (1936-1940)

Walter Foster had initially worked in a bank following high school; after a decade he advanced his business career by joining a dry-goods company and marrying the owner’s daughter. He also enlisted in the New Brunswick Regiment, Canadian Artillery, and retired from his Militia regiment as a captain in 1903.

Foster served as President of the Saint John Young Liberals Club, but he failed to win a seat in the 1912 provincial general election. In 1916, he was invited to become leader of the Liberal Opposition in New Brunswick. The following year his party won, and he became Premier, but he did not win his own seat until an uncontested by-election shortly thereafter. Foster was one of the only premiers in Canada to take office before he was a member of a Legislative Assembly.

In the New Brunswick legislature, Foster gained a reputation as a dull speaker with a wooden personality, but also as an unexcelled constituency representative. Foster’s government was re-elected in 1920, but he found it necessary to resign three years later to shore up his faltering business interests.

As Premier, Foster had attracted the attention of Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King, who appointed him to his Cabinet in 1925; Foster, however, was unable to win a seat in the House of Commons in two attempts. He resigned his Cabinet post, and three years later King nominated him for appointment to the Senate. Shortly after the Liberals regained power in 1935, Foster was appointed Speaker of the Senate. He served in the office for four years before being replaced in 1940.
BORN
St. Martins, New Brunswick, 1873

DIED
Saint John, New Brunswick, 1947

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND
Business

POLITICAL AFFILIATION
Liberal

POLITICAL RECORD
• Appointed to Senate: 1928
• Cabinet Appointment:
  Secretary of State of Canada, 1925
• Appointed to Speakership:
  January 11, 1936

PRIME MINISTER DURING SPEAKERSHIP
• William Lyon Mackenzie King
Hon. Georges Parent

Georges Parent combined a highly successful legal and business career with firm dedication to the Liberal Party. At 25, he was the youngest member of the House of Commons when he was first elected in 1904. At the time, Parent’s father was both Premier of Quebec and long-time Mayor of the City of Quebec; in 1935, his brother Charles would be elected as a Liberal member of the House of Commons. Liberal Prime Minister Sir Wilfrid Laurier honoured Parent in his first session by asking him to second the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne.

Parent was elected five more times by 1926, and defeated once. During his parliamentary terms and his six-year absence from the House, he built up his law practice, corporate directorships and business interests, including asbestos, brickworks, paper, hydroelectric power and Le Soleil newspaper, among others.

Perfectly bilingual, Parent championed the equality of English and French during his time as a member of the House of Commons.

He did not run in the 1930 general election, and Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King appointed him to the Senate before election day. After a decade’s service, he was appointed Speaker in 1940, but died suddenly after less than three years in the chair.
BORN
City of Québec, Quebec, 1879

DIED
Montréal, Quebec, 1942

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND
Law

POLITICAL AFFILIATION
Liberal

POLITICAL RECORD
• First Elected to House of Commons: 1904
• Appointed to Senate: 1930
• Appointed to Speakership: May 9, 1940

PRIME MINISTER DURING SPEAKERSHIP
• William Lyon Mackenzie King
Hon. Thomas Vien
P.C., Q.C., B.A., LL.L. (1943–1945)

Thomas Vien spent over 40 years in the House of Commons and the Senate. Although he was never a Cabinet minister, his skills and temperament were recognized in both chambers, where he was appointed as Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons (1940–1942) and Speaker of the Senate (1943–1945).

Educated at Laval University and the Royal Military College, he was elected to the House of Commons in 1917 and 1921. This period saw him serve after the First World War as an officer in the 6th (Québec and Lévis) Regiment, Canadian Garrison Artillery, a unit that had been formed by his father. After Vien chose not to run for re-election in 1925, he accepted an appointment as Deputy Chief Commissioner of the Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada for six years, and then returned to his private law practice.

In 1935, he again won a seat in the House of Commons, which he retained until 1942. Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King appointed Vien to the Senate in order to free up a seat for a Cabinet appointee. After the sudden death of Senate Speaker Georges Parent in mid-December 1942, Vien’s experience in the House of Commons as Deputy Speaker made him a natural choice to replace Parent.

As Speaker, Vien hosted an unprecedented conference between delegations from the Parliaments of the British Commonwealth and both Houses of the American Congress. The event occurred during the June 1943 Empire Parliamentary Conference, and included delegations from Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and Bermuda. Following three days of private sessions on issues concerning the Second World War and the peace to come, the conference was joined by a delegation from the United States Congress, marking the first time these delegations had ever met in a formal setting. The participants agreed that the off-the-record discussions of problems arising from the pressures and dangers of the war were extremely useful.

Vien was named to the Privy Council a month before he resigned the Speakership in August 1945.
BORN
Lauzon, Quebec, 1881

DIED
Montréal, Quebec, 1972

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND
Law

POLITICAL AFFILIATION
Liberal

POLITICAL RECORD
• First Elected to House of Commons: 1917
• Appointed: Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees of the Whole of the House of Commons, 1940–1942
• Appointed to Senate: 1942
• Appointed to Speakership: January 23, 1943

PRIME MINISTER DURING SPEAKERSHIP
• William Lyon Mackenzie King
Hon. James Horace King

After establishing his medical practice in the interior of British Columbia, Dr. James King turned to Liberal politics when he was 30 years old. He twice won a seat in the provincial Legislative Assembly, in 1903 and 1907, but Richard McBride’s Conservatives formed the government both times. King next ran for Sir Wilfrid Laurier’s federal Liberals in 1911, but was unsuccessful. He returned to win a provincial seat in the 1916 election, and joined the Cabinets of Liberal Premiers Harlan Brewster and John Oliver.

Somewhat unexpectedly, Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King asked King to join his Cabinet. King ran in the first of four elections he would win from 1922 to 1926, and accepted the first of the six Cabinet appointments he would hold from 1922 to 1945. When he first took his seat as a minister, his father George was a senator, an unusual instance of a father and son serving in Parliament at the same time.

One of King’s best-known accomplishments was the War Veterans’ Allowance Act, passed while he was Minister of Soldiers’ Civil Re-establishment. At the time, Prime Minister King was said to have observed that “of all the men I have met I know of no one who possesses the truly humanitarian spirit in greater degree than does Dr. King, and that is why I have asked him to accept this portfolio.”

In June 1930, the Prime Minister nominated King for appointment to the Senate, where he served for the next 25 years. He was Leader of the Government in the Senate from 1942 to 1945, when he was appointed Speaker. King was Speaker for just under four years, the entire term of the 20th Parliament.
BORN
Chipman, New Brunswick, 1873

DIED
Ottawa, Ontario, 1955

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND
Medicine

POLITICAL AFFILIATION
Liberal

POLITICAL RECORD
• First Elected to House of Commons: 1922
• Appointed to Senate: 1930
• Cabinet Appointments: Minister of Public Works, 1922–1926; Minister of Labour (acting), 1925–1926; Minister presiding over the Department of Health, 1926–1928; Minister of Soldiers’ Civil Re-establishment, 1926–1928; Minister of Pensions and National Health, 1928–1930; Minister without Portfolio, 1942–1945; Leader of the Government in the Senate, 1942–1945
• Appointed to Speakership: August 24, 1945

PRIME MINISTERS DURING SPEAKERSHIP
• William Lyon Mackenzie King
• Louis St-Laurent
Hon. Elie Beauregard
P.C., Q.C. (1949–1953)

Elie Beauregard, a lawyer at age 25 and King’s Counsel at age 35, was a prominent Montréal businessman and financier. Holder of several corporate directorships, he was President of the Canadian Industrial Alcohol Company Limited and Vice-President of the Provincial Bank of Canada and of the General Security Insurance Company. Beauregard participated in two royal commissions: one on the Quebec textile industry and the other involving Montréal’s transit system. His only involvement in elective politics was as an alderman for the City of Outremont, now a borough of Montréal.

His influence in the Liberal Party of Quebec was largely behind the scenes, as treasurer of the party, political organizer and trusted advisor on election strategy. He chaired the 1936 provincial Liberal convention that elected Adélard Godbout as party leader and Premier of the province.

Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King nominated Beauregard for appointment to the Senate in February 1940. Nearly 10 years later, Louis St-Laurent appointed him Speaker. Beauregard served as Speaker from 1949 to 1953, the term of the 21st Parliament.

Ross Macdonald, the Liberal Leader of the Government in the Senate and former Speaker of the House of Commons, once noted that it was frequently necessary for the two Speakers to confer: “I found him to be a man of deep understanding and sympathy; and we had no problems which we could not solve amicably.”

Beauregard died in 1954, after 14 years’ service in the Senate.
BORN
La Patrie, Quebec, 1884

DIED
Montréal, Quebec, 1954

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND
Law

POLITICAL AFFILIATION
Liberal

POLITICAL RECORD
• Appointed to Senate: 1940
• Appointed to Speakership: August 3, 1949

PRIME MINISTER DURING SPEAKERSHIP
• Louis St-Laurent
Hon. Wishart McLea Robertson  
P.C. (1953-1957)

Wishart Robertson’s family represents a striking commitment to public service in Nova Scotia and nationally. His grandfather Robert sat in the pre-Confederation House of Assembly for a dozen years and after that in the provincial House of Assembly for another decade. Robert was twice a Cabinet minister. Wishart’s father, Thomas, was a member of the House of Commons for the Nova Scotia riding of Shelburne from 1878 to 1887, and a member of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly from 1894 to 1902, serving as its Speaker for a short period.

During the First World War, Wishart Robertson joined the 219th Highland Battalion (Nova Scotia) of the Canadian Expeditionary Force; while overseas, he transferred to the 85th Overseas Battalion, the Nova Scotia Highlanders. On his return he set up two automobile dealerships in Halifax. In 1928, he was elected to the provincial Shelburne riding once held by both his grandfather and his father.

By 1943, he was President of the National Liberal Federation, when Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King nominated him for appointment to the Senate. Two years later, he was appointed Minister without Portfolio and Leader of the Government in the Senate, until Prime Minister Louis St-Laurent appointed him as Speaker in 1953. His tenure ended with the defeat of the St-Laurent government in 1957.

In addition to his parliamentary career, Robertson was known for his contributions to international affairs. Having originally focused on Canada’s participation in the United Nations, Robertson later concentrated on the political, economic and social elements of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). He was instrumental in the creation of the Canadian NATO Parliamentary Association and the NATO International Parliamentary Association.
BORN
Barrington Passage, Nova Scotia, 1891

DIED
Ottawa, Ontario, 1967

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND
Business, Military

POLITICAL AFFILIATION
Liberal

POLITICAL RECORD
• Appointed to Senate: 1943
• Cabinet Appointments:
  Minister without Portfolio, 1945-1953;
  Leader of the Government in the Senate, 1945-1953
• Appointed to Speakership:
  October 14, 1953

PRIME MINISTER DURING SPEAKERSHIP
• Louis St-Laurent
Hon. Mark Robert Drouin

Mark Drouin, of the City of Québec, was a lawyer, hockey enthusiast and supporter of live theatre. He served as a captain in the Régiment de Québec, which was later absorbed by the Voltigeurs de Québec. In his law practice, he took part in several notorious criminal cases, such as the 1946 trial of McGill professor Raymond Boyer, who was found guilty of espionage. For many years, he was Vice-President of the Senior Hockey League of Quebec. His theatrical interests included the Théâtre du Nouveau Monde, the National Theatre School and the Dominion Drama Festival.

Drouin’s political involvement started in the 1930s, when he began campaigning for the new coalition of Quebec Liberals and the Quebec Conservatives, the Union nationale. As a federal Progressive Conservative, he ran unsuccessfully against Prime Minister Louis St-Laurent in 1949. He acted as treasurer for seven years for the federal Progressive Conservative Party, and was an organizer in eastern Quebec. In 1956, he was the only French-speaking delegate to support John Diefenbaker for the leadership of the party, an action that the future Progressive Conservative Prime Minister never forgot. The next year Diefenbaker appointed him simultaneously to the Senate and as Speaker.

Drouin served as Speaker in two Parliaments.
BORN
City of Québec, Quebec, 1903

DIED
Sillery, Quebec, 1963

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND
Law

POLITICAL AFFILIATION
Conservative

POLITICAL RECORD
• Appointed to Senate: 1957
• Appointed to Speakership: October 4, 1957

PRIME MINISTER DURING SPEAKERSHIP
• John Diefenbaker
Hon. George Stanley White
P.C., Q.C. (1962-1963)

When the First World War broke out in 1914, George White postponed setting up his law practice and enlisted in the 44th Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. He served overseas, and was awarded the Military Medal for bravery. White was part of the Canadian delegation to Belgium and France for the 50th anniversary of the 1918 armistice, and is reported to have said that “Canada could be the best and most united country in the world if Canadians had just a little of ‘that fraternal feeling’ soldiers had in the First World War.”

White began his more than 32 years of nearly continuous parliamentary service in 1940, when he ran successfully for the House of Commons under the Conservative Party’s temporary new name of the National Government Party. Re-elected four more times as a Progressive Conservative, he and other members of the House of Commons championed the Veterans Charter of 1945 for the reintegration into civilian life of members of the Army, Royal Canadian Navy and Royal Canadian Air Force.

In 1957, Prime Minister John Diefenbaker appointed the President of the University of Toronto, Sidney Smith, to his Cabinet as Secretary of State for External Affairs. White resigned his seat to allow Smith to run for the House of Commons in a by-election, and the Prime Minister nominated White for appointment to the Senate. A year later White became Government Whip in the Senate.

Diefenbaker appointed White as Speaker of the Senate in September 1962, but his tenure ended seven months later when the government lost the 1963 general election. Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson later appointed White to the Privy Council.
Born
Madoc, Ontario, 1897

Died
St. Petersburg, Florida, United States, 1977

Professional Background
Law, Military

Political Affiliation
Conservative

Political Record
- First Elected to House of Commons: 1940
- Appointed to Senate: 1957
- Appointed to Speakership: September 24, 1962

Prime Minister During Speakership
- John Diefenbaker
After a short time as a semi-professional baseball player in Lévis, Quebec, Maurice Bourget established himself as a civil engineer. As a teenager he had volunteered to be a Liberal campaign worker, and when he was elected as a member of the House of Commons at 33, he started a parliamentary career that spanned more than 38 years.

After his first electoral win in 1940, Bourget was re-elected five more times until his defeat in 1962. For much of the 1950s, he was the chief Liberal Party organizer for 28 federal ridings in eastern Quebec. He was a parliamentary secretary for four years, as well as a Canadian delegate to the United Nations in 1951 and to the 1961 conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. After more than two decades in the House, it was reported that he had “made few enemies and few headlines.”

Ten months after Bourget’s defeat, Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson nominated him for appointment to the Senate and simultaneously appointed him as Speaker. He was active in the Canada–United States Inter-Parliamentary Group, established in 1959, and was joint chairman of the 54th Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in 1965, the largest parliamentary conference that had ever been held in Ottawa at the time. He was known to his Senate colleagues for his scrupulous review of legislation, his instinctive understanding of the rules and decorum necessary in the chamber, and his deep concern for the future of Canada.
BORN
Lauzon, Quebec, 1907

DIED
Lévis, Quebec, 1979

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND
Engineering

POLITICAL AFFILIATION
Liberal

POLITICAL RECORD
• First Elected to House of Commons: 1940
• Appointed to Senate: 1963
• Appointed to Speakership: April 27, 1963

PRIME MINISTER DURING SPEAKERSHIP
• Lester B. Pearson
Hon. Sydney John Smith
P.C. (1966-1968)

Ottawa-born Sydney Smith moved to Saskatchewan as a young man, where he played football with the Regina Rugby Club, later the Saskatchewan Roughriders, and worked as an automobile salesman. His introduction to elective politics came in Gull Lake, Saskatchewan, as an alderman and then as Mayor. Running as a Liberal, he failed to win a seat in the Saskatchewan provincial election of 1934.

His move to the interior of British Columbia proved to be financially rewarding. He became a farmer, cattle rancher and hop-grower, and expanded his business interests to include mining, automobile sales and heavy equipment. In 1949, he tried provincial politics once more, standing successfully in the Kamloops riding as a Coalition candidate (the Conservative and Liberal parties ran joint candidates to block the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, now the New Democratic Party [NDP]). Although he took nearly 65% of the votes in 1949, he was defeated in 1952 when he ran as a Liberal against a Social Credit candidate.

Increasingly active in Liberal politics, Smith assumed the presidency of the British Columbia Liberal Association from 1953 to 1959. Partway through his tenure, in 1957, Prime Minister Louis St-Laurent appointed him to the Senate, and Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson appointed him as Speaker nine years later.

After only two years in the chair, Smith resigned the Speakership because of his failing health. He was made a member of the Privy Council. Shortly thereafter, he resigned early from the Senate, believing that he “could not make a satisfactory contribution” any longer.

While Smith was Speaker, his wife died of an apparent heart attack in the parliamentary restaurant.
BORN
Ottawa, Ontario, 1892

DIED
Victoria, British Columbia, 1976

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND
Business, Agriculture

POLITICAL AFFILIATION
Liberal

POLITICAL RECORD
- Appointed to Senate: 1957
- Appointed to Speakership: January 7, 1966

PRIME MINISTERS DURING SPEAKERSHIP
- Lester B. Pearson
- Pierre Elliott Trudeau

Source: The Senate of Canada
Jean-Paul Deschatelets received his law degree from the University of Montréal. As a younger student, he had enlisted for Militia training with the Régiment de Châteauguay, an infantry unit. He was 27 years old at the outbreak of the Second World War, but was not eligible for active service for medical reasons. Instead, he joined the Wartime Prices and Trade Board, where he worked until 1951. He then worked with a professional association of Quebec architects and with the RCMP in black market investigations.

Deschatelets entered federal politics in 1953, as a Liberal candidate in the Maisonneuve–Rosemont riding that had become available when longtime MP Sarto Fournier was appointed to the Senate. Deschatelets was elected with 42% of the vote and would be re-elected four more times. In 1963, Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson appointed him to the Cabinet as Minister of Public Works, a portfolio he held for less than two years before resigning from the Cabinet.

In February 1966, Pearson nominated Deschatelets for appointment to the Senate, and nine months later he became Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate. Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau appointed him Speaker in 1968, and he served in this post until 1972. In 1981, he strongly opposed Trudeau’s plans to patriate the Canadian Constitution, on the grounds that Trudeau was proceeding without the consent of all the provinces.
BORN
Montréal, Quebec, 1912

DIED
Montréal, Quebec, 1986

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND
Law

POLITICAL AFFILIATION
Liberal

POLITICAL RECORD
• First Elected to House of Commons: 1953
• Appointed to Senate: 1966
• Cabinet Appointment:
  Minister of Public Works, 1963–1965
• Appointed to Speakership:
  September 5, 1968

PRIME MINISTER DURING SPEAKERSHIP
• Pierre Elliott Trudeau
Hon. Muriel McQueen Fergusson

Muriel Fergusson’s professional and political life was a hard-won series of firsts – the first female Judge of Probate in Victoria County, New Brunswick; the first female alderman and later Deputy Mayor of Fredericton, New Brunswick; and the first female Speaker of the Senate. Educated at Mount Allison University (the first university in Canada and the Empire to grant a Bachelor of Science degree to a woman, in 1875), Fergusson became a lawyer at the age of 26, and later took over her husband’s law practice and judicial duties when his health failed because of injuries he received in the First World War.

One of Fergusson’s first active and public challenges to discrimination against women occurred in 1947, when she successfully lobbied to have a senior federal position opened to women candidates, which she herself won. A lifelong Liberal, in 1953 she was nominated by Prime Minister Louis St-Laurent for appointment to the Senate: the third woman ever to sit in the chamber. In her inaugural speech in the Senate, Fergusson said, “If I can be of help to women in getting justice, I will.” She served on many Senate committees concerned with the rights of women and the welfare of Canadians, and she was honorary head of several social welfare groups and organizations. Among other things, Fergusson was credited with spurring a change to the Criminal Code allowing women to sit on juries in criminal cases.

Nearly two decades after she was appointed to the Senate, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau appointed her as Speaker. She is said to have regretted that she would have to temper her outspokenness while in the chair. Although she served for only 21 months, she championed change in the Senate by bringing in young women as pages, and insisting on equal pay for women and men in the same staff positions.

On Fergusson’s death at the age of 97, the Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick, Margaret McCain, observed that “She was a tiny woman with a soft voice and a gentle manner. She knocked down many barriers without ever being provocative or strident.”
BORN
Shediac, New Brunswick, 1899

DIED
Fredericton, New Brunswick, 1997

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND
Law

POLITICAL AFFILIATION
Liberal

POLITICAL RECORD
• Appointed to Senate: 1953
• Appointed to Speakership: December 14, 1972

PRIME MINISTER DURING SPEAKERSHIP
• Pierre Elliott Trudeau
Renaude Lapointe – the second woman and first French-Canadian woman to be appointed Speaker of the Senate – was a Quebec journalist for more than three decades and a longtime friend of Pierre Trudeau, himself an occasional journalist. As a young woman, she earned a Licentiate in Music from the Collège de musique Dominion, and at the age of 27 began work for a newspaper as a music and drama critic, at a time when Quebec newspapers rarely hired women.

A reporter for newspapers in Montréal and the City of Québec, and a radio and magazine correspondent, she received a Bowater Award and distinction as Journalist of the Year in 1965. A Liberal, she gained a reputation as a federalist during Quebec’s Quiet Revolution of the 1960s and early 1970s.

Unexpectedly, in 1971, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau appointed Lapointe to the Senate, reportedly because she had never asked him for anything. During her tenure in the Senate, Lapointe was an active member of many standing committees and parliamentary associations.

In 1974, Trudeau appointed her as Speaker, although she initially declined. As Speaker, she championed the role of the Senate as the institution “truly preoccupied with the subject before it,” unlike the House of Commons which “is more like a theatre.” She suggested that the Senate should examine legislation to see whether it had an “unhappy impact on a particular region” of the country. At one point during her Speakership, there were three Cabinet ministers in the Senate, prompting her to suggest that the Senate should adopt a fixed time for Question Period right after that of the House of Commons, to raise the chamber’s public profile.
BORN
Disraeli, Quebec, 1912

DIED
Ottawa, Ontario, 2002

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND
Journalism

POLITICAL AFFILIATION
Liberal

POLITICAL RECORD
• Appointed to Senate: 1971
• Appointed to Speakership: September 12, 1974
• Appointed: Speaker pro tempore, 1982–1983

PRIME MINISTER DURING SPEAKERSHIP
• Pierre Elliott Trudeau
Hon. Allister Grosart

Allister Grosart, one of the shrewdest political organizers in 20th-century Canadian politics, was Irish-born, educated in China, and a graduate of the University of Toronto. As a young man he chose journalism as a career, but soon saw the greater possibilities of public relations, a new field in the 1930s. It would be his profession from 1934 to 1957, except for a brief period during the Second World War, when he served with the 2nd Battalion, the Irish Regiment of Canada.

Grosart’s connection with the Progressive Conservative Party began in 1948, when he worked on Ontario Premier George Drew’s election campaign. Grosart consolidated his reputation as a political strategist by running John Diefenbaker’s successful national leadership campaign in 1956. He then managed the Progressive Conservatives’ 1957 general election campaign, which ended 22 years of Liberal governments and made Diefenbaker Prime Minister. He also directed the 1958 general election campaign that won Diefenbaker the largest majority in Canadian history up to that point. He was National Director of the Progressive Conservative Party from 1957 to 1963.

Diefenbaker nominated Grosart for appointment to the Senate in 1962. As a senator, Grosart focused on science policy and Canada–United States relations, especially free trade, which he strongly supported.

In 1979, Prime Minister Joe Clark appointed Grosart as Speaker. Although Grosart’s tenure in the chair lasted only five months before the government was defeated, he was already known as an “expert and sensitive” parliamentarian. In the chair, he often reminded senators of the Rules they themselves had established.
BORN
Dublin, Ireland, 1906

DIED
Toronto, Ontario, 1984

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND
Journalism, Military, Public Relations

POLITICAL AFFILIATION
Conservative

POLITICAL RECORD
• Appointed to Senate: 1962
• Appointed to Speakership:
  October 5, 1979

PRIME MINISTER DURING SPEAKERSHIP
• Joe Clark
Jean Marchand came to the Senate toward the end of his political career. By age 45, he had risen to be the most prominent union leader in Quebec, and was appointed one of 12 commissioners on the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism (1963–1965). Following Marchand’s work with the Royal Commission, Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson recruited him to run as a Liberal in the 1965 general election; Marchand agreed, but only on the condition that two of his oldest friends, Gérard Pelletier and Pierre Trudeau, accept to run at the same time. Three years later, Marchand was seen by many as the best choice to replace Pearson as Prime Minister, but he felt that his English was not strong enough and stepped aside in favour of Trudeau.

Marchand held seven Cabinet portfolios between 1965 and 1976. He then resigned from the Cabinet, believing that the government was too weak in supporting bilingualism in Canada. He later resigned his seat in the House of Commons and ran in the 1976 Quebec provincial election, but was defeated. Prime Minister Trudeau then nominated him for appointment to the Senate, and to the Speakership in 1980.

As Speaker, Marchand uncharacteristically had to remain neutral on the major issues of the day. At his urging, the position of Speaker pro tempore — essentially, acting Speaker — was created: this allowed the Senate to avoid having to choose a senator to act as Speaker whenever the Speaker was unavoidably absent. The new position involved the Committee of Selection nominating a senator at the start of each parliamentary session.

Marchand resigned the Speakership and his Senate seat in 1983.
BORN
Champlain, Quebec, 1918

DIED
St-Augustin, Quebec, 1988

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND
Labour Union

POLITICAL AFFILIATION
Liberal

POLITICAL RECORD
• First Elected to House of Commons: 1965
• Appointed to Senate: 1976
• Cabinet Appointments:
• Appointed to Speakership:
  March 4, 1980

PRIME MINISTER DURING SPEAKERSHIP
• Pierre Elliott Trudeau
A successful international lawyer and businessman, Maurice Riel had been involved with the Liberal Party since his mid-20s, when he became President of the Montréal Young Liberals. He was a personal advisor to the leader of the Quebec Liberal Party from 1950 to 1958, and became the chief fundraiser in Quebec for the national Liberal Party for more than a decade. In a gesture of bipartisanship, Prime Minister John Diefenbaker appointed him as one of 16 directors of the Canadian Corporation for the 1967 World Exhibition (Expo 67). He also served as President of the Montréal Metropolitan Corporation, the regional government for the City of Montréal and adjoining suburban municipalities, from 1965 to 1969.

Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau appointed Riel to the Senate in 1973. While in the Senate, Riel was a member of several standing and special committees, and, as Senator David Angus recalled later, he “had great respect for the Senate as an institution and firmly believed that the upper house was a useful and necessary part of the democratic system in Canada.” Riel believed that if the Senate were to be reformed, it could only be as part of wider constitutional changes.

Trudeau appointed Riel as Speaker in December 1983. Riel held the position for only 11 months, as Trudeau’s successor, John Turner, was defeated in the general election of November 1984.
BORN
St-Constant, Quebec, 1922

DIED
Montréal, Quebec, 2007

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND
Law

POLITICAL AFFILIATION
Liberal

POLITICAL RECORD
• Appointed to Senate: 1973
• Appointed to Speakership: December 16, 1983

PRIME MINISTERS DURING SPEAKERSHIP
• Pierre Elliott Trudeau
• John Turner
Born and educated in Quebec, Charbonneau served overseas during the Second World War in the historic French-language Fusiliers Mont-Royal. After the war, he established himself as an insurance company executive, businessman and political fundraiser, and worked on behalf of the Progressive Conservative Party in Quebec for three decades.

Appointed to the Senate by Prime Minister Joe Clark in 1979, Charbonneau supported Brian Mulroney in the 1983 Progressive Conservative leadership convention. After Mulroney won and became Prime Minister the following year, he appointed Charbonneau as Speaker. Although the Progressive Conservative government held a majority of seats in the House of Commons, it was in a minority in the Senate. As Speaker, Charbonneau presided over many acrimonious debates, including the debate over the proposed Canada–U.S. Free Trade Agreement in 1988.

Matters came to a head in 1990, with the debate over the proposed Goods and Services Tax (GST). After being passed by the House of Commons, the bill ran into difficulties in the Senate, where it was opposed by the Liberal majority. To resolve the deadlock, the Prime Minister, Brian Mulroney, invoked section 26 of the Constitution Act, 1867, which allowed an additional number of senators to be appointed. During the ensuing 11-week filibuster, Charbonneau was the target of insults and threats, but maintained his dignity. The GST legislation was eventually passed by the Senate and, in the aftermath of the acrimonious debate, the Rules of the Senate were significantly amended, the most extensive changes since 1906. Among other things, the new Rules clarified and expanded the Speaker’s authority.
BORN
Trois-Rivières, Quebec, 1922

DIED
Montréal, Quebec, 1998

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND
Insurance, Military

POLITICAL AFFILIATION
Conservative

POLITICAL RECORD
• Appointed to Senate: 1979
• Appointed to Speakership: November 2, 1984

PRIME MINISTERS DURING SPEAKERSHIP
• Brian Mulroney
• Kim Campbell
From a New Brunswick teacher to the Governor General of Canada, Roméo LeBlanc’s career was remarkable. It included more than 10 years in the Senate.

After obtaining arts and education degrees from the University of St. Joseph’s College, followed by two years’ study in Paris, LeBlanc spent nine years as a teacher. In 1960, he decided to change careers, establishing himself as a radio journalist. He later spent four years as a press secretary to Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson and his successor, Pierre Trudeau.

In 1972, at the age of 45, LeBlanc embarked on his fourth career, as a Liberal politician. Elected in a New Brunswick riding and soon promoted to the Cabinet, he was re-elected in three further general elections. Three of his four ministerial appointments concerned fisheries: he was known as “the fisherman’s friend,” and became the longest-serving federal Fisheries minister in Canadian history.

One of Trudeau’s last acts as Prime Minister was to appoint LeBlanc to the Senate. Most of LeBlanc’s Senate committee experience was centred in the Standing Committee on Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration, as member, Vice-Chair and Chair. His colleague Senator Jeremiah Grafstein recalled his trilingualism – French, English and “grassroots Acadian” – and that he was “an excellent and compelling, if modest, speaker in the Churchillian style.”

When Jean Chrétien was elected as Prime Minister in 1993, he appointed LeBlanc to the Speakership. LeBlanc would hold the position for less than a year, as Chrétien put LeBlanc’s name forward to the Queen for appointment as Governor General.
BORN
L’Anse-aux-Cormier, New Brunswick, 1927

DIED
Grand Digue, New Brunswick, 2009

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND
Education, Journalism, Public Relations

POLITICAL AFFILIATION
Liberal

POLITICAL RECORD
• First Elected to House of Commons: 1972
• Appointed to Senate: 1984
• Cabinet Appointments:
  Minister of State (Fisheries), 1974–1976;
  Minister of the Environment (acting), 1975–1976;
  Minister of the Environment, 1976–1979;
  Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, 1979; 1980–1982;
  Minister of Public Works, 1982–1984
• Appointed to Speakership:
  December 7, 1993
• Term as Governor General: 1995–1999

PRIME MINISTER DURING SPEAKERSHIP
• Jean Chrétien
Gildas Molgat’s exposure to military events occurred earlier than for most. When he was 12, his Montréal-bound liner, the Athenia, was torpedoed and sunk by a German Navy submarine less than nine hours after the United Kingdom declared war on Germany on September 3, 1939. He survived, though 117 people did not. At 19, he began two decades of service with the Reserve Force of the Royal Winnipeg Rifles (the Little Black Devils).

Molgat embarked on his political career when he was elected to the Manitoba Legislative Assembly as a Liberal Progressive at the age of 26. He was re-elected in five more general elections, and became both Leader of the Manitoba Liberal Party and Leader of the Opposition.

Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau appointed Molgat to the Senate in 1970. In the Senate, he was closely involved with constitutional issues and Senate reform. He served as Deputy Leader of the Opposition for two years, and as Deputy Leader of the Government for a year.

In 1983 and again in 1988, he was selected as Speaker pro tempore. Molgat was appointed Speaker in 1994 by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien. He came to the post with a sound knowledge of parliamentary rules and procedure, and he was completely bilingual in French, his mother tongue, and English. On his appointment, Molgat expressed the hope that the Senate might be run by consensus rather than by rigid rules.

Molgat died suddenly, only a month after his Speakership ended.
BORN
Ste-Rose-du-Lac, Manitoba, 1927

DIED
Ottawa, Ontario, 2001

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND
Business, Military

POLITICAL AFFILIATION
Liberal

POLITICAL RECORD
• Appointed to Senate: 1970
• Appointed to Speakership: November 22, 1994

PRIME MINISTER DURING SPEAKERSHIP
• Jean Chrétien
Hon. Daniel Hays

Daniel Hays came from an intensely political family in Alberta. His father, Harry, was Mayor of Calgary, a Liberal member of the House of Commons, a Cabinet minister, and a senator. Hays was a lawyer, while also carrying on his father’s farming, ranching and cattle-breeding business, which had resulted in the Hays Converter, the only Canadian-developed pure breed of cattle.

Hays first visited Japan in 1970, and later became very active in promoting Canada–Japan relations. His interest may have been sparked by playing with Japanese children on his family’s farm during the Second World War: their parents were among the thousands of Japanese Canadians forcibly removed from coastal British Columbia and relocated into internment camps or used as farm labour.

Hays was appointed to the Senate by Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau in 1984, two years after his father died in office. He sat on numerous special and standing committees, and held several senior offices in the Liberal Party, including president. After a term as Deputy Leader of the Government, he was appointed to the Speakership in 2001 by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien.

Hays was respected by his colleagues as Speaker for his fair and open approach, his personal warmth, and the international reach of his parliamentary diplomacy. Shortly before retiring early from the Senate, Hays tabled a set of proposals for modernizing the Senate.
BORN
Calgary, Alberta, 1939

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND
Law, Agriculture

POLITICAL AFFILIATION
Liberal

POLITICAL RECORD
- Appointed to Senate: 1984
- Appointed to Speakership:
  January 26, 2001

PRIME MINISTERS DURING SPEAKERSHIP
- Jean Chrétien
- Paul Martin
New Brunswick academic, Noël Kinsella had a distinguished career as a senior public servant, author and senator prior to his appointment as Speaker of the Senate in 2006.

Senator Kinsella was born in Saint John, New Brunswick, where he attended school and graduated from St. Malachy’s High School. He was a member of the 112 Company of the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps, a New Brunswick-based Army Reserve unit. He attended three universities, earning six degrees: University College Dublin (Bachelor of Arts), Pontifical Lateran University, Rome (Bachelor of Sacred Theology, Licentiate of Sacred Theology and Doctor of Sacred Theology), and the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (the Angelicum), Rome (Licentiate in Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy). He joined the faculty of St. Thomas University in New Brunswick, where he taught psychology, philosophy and human rights for 41 years. Kinsella published four books in these fields and many other monographs, booklets and articles.

Fluent in English, French and Italian, he has also given lectures at universities in Spanish and German. He became a Knight of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in 2010 and is also a Knight of the Sovereign Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, Rhodes and Malta.

Kinsella served for 22 years as Chairperson of the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission and a term as President of the Canadian Human Rights Foundation. He was instrumental in Canada’s signing and ratifying several UN human rights instruments, and participated in drafting the Canadian Charter of Human Rights. From 1988 to 1990, he was Associate Under-Secretary of State of the Department of the Secretary of State in Ottawa.

Appointed to the Senate in 1990 on the advice of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, Kinsella took on a number of leadership roles in the Opposition in the Senate, including Whip in 1994, acting Deputy Leader in 1997, Deputy Leader in 1999 and elected Leader in 2004.

Since his appointment as Speaker, Kinsella has delivered important rulings on issues such as questions of privilege and the Royal Recommendation. Kinsella is considered to be fair and impartial in the chair and has rarely been challenged despite the fact that the Opposition formed the largest party in the Senate for much of his tenure. He organized the first “Speakers’ Consultation,” inviting speakers from the upper and unicameral
chambers of the G20 nations to Ottawa to discuss food security and economic issues. Kinsella has promoted a strong sense of the history of the Senate and Parliament and the importance of parliamentary diplomacy.

During the course of leading official parliamentary delegations and diplomatic missions abroad, he has been a strong advocate of Canada’s ports and their advantages, as well as our natural resource industries and international student exchanges. Throughout his tenure, Kinsella has brought great credit both to the Senate and to Canada.

BORN
Saint John, New Brunswick, 1939

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND
Academia, Public Service

POLITICAL AFFILIATION
Conservative

POLITICAL RECORD
• Appointed to Senate: 1990
• Appointed to Speakership: February 8, 2006

PRIME MINISTER DURING SPEAKERSHIP
• Stephen Harper
Selected Further Reading


