

their legislation. We believe that the rules should allow parliamentary secretaries and departmental officials to appear as well.

Witnesses have suggested that regional caucuses should be created, grouping senators from a given region regardless of their party affiliation, in order to emphasize their role as regional representatives. Such a practice would correspond with the spirit and general intent of our report. It goes without saying that participation in such caucuses should not prevent senators from attending the traditional party caucuses that are an essential part of the parliamentary process. It is there that elected senators would have a significant opportunity to contribute to the formation of party policy. Being elected, senators should have a stronger voice than they have now.