

A POSSIBLE ROLE FOR THE SENATE

As Canada's appointed upper Chamber, the Senate is ideally suited to take a longer term perspective on those issues of national concern which are less easily addressed by House of Commons elected representatives who must place priority on the more immediate time frame. Therefore it can be argued, that just as the House of Commons must expend major energy in dealing with the economic and political issues of the day-to-day, the Senate is especially able to address questions of long term societal well-being and ecological survival such as the suggested National Pristine areas Strategy. Especially as issues of environmental sustainability become more apparent, such balancing of the long term with the short between the two Chambers might prove to be an unforeseen and additional benefit of the Canadian parliamentary structure.

Regardless, the Senate could play an important role in facilitating a National Pristine areas Strategy by funding research for some of the issues identified above. The Senate Standing Committee on Energy, Environment and Natural Resources through the commission of this study has already demonstrated interest in the long term ecological well-being of Canada and the completion of its pristine areas system. Hopefully this interest will continue.