

Absence of
Speaker

(3) In the absence of the Speaker, or where the office of Speaker is vacant, the Clerk of the Senate may act for the purposes of this rule.

Decorum and
points of order

15. The Speaker shall preserve order and decorum, and shall decide points of order, subject to an appeal to the Senate. In explaining a point of order or practice the Speaker shall state the rule or authority applicable to the case. When the Speaker rises, all other senators shall remain seated or shall resume their seats.

Demeanour of
senators in
chamber

16. When the Senate is sitting,

- (a) senators shall not pass between the Chair and the Table;
- (b) when entering, leaving or crossing the Senate chamber, senators shall bow to the Chair;
- (c) if senators have occasion to speak together, they shall go below the Bar, otherwise the Speaker shall stop the business under discussion.

Ordering
withdrawal of
strangers

17. If at any sitting of the Senate, or in Committee of the Whole, any senator shall take notice that strangers are present, the Speaker or the chairman (as the case may be) shall forthwith put the question, "That strangers be ordered to withdraw", without permitting any debate or amendment: Provided that the Speaker or the chairman may, whenever he may think fit, order the withdrawal of strangers from any part of the Senate.

Participation of
minister in
debate

18. When a bill or other matter relating to any subject administered by a department of the Government of Canada is being considered by the Senate or in Committee of the Whole, a minister, not being a member of the Senate, may on invitation from the Senate enter the Senate Chamber and, subject to the rules, orders, usages, forms and proceedings of the Senate, may take part in the debate.