

We therefore concluded that, while providing for substantial over-representation of the less populous provinces and territories, we should propose a distribution that reflects the Canadian reality more accurately than simple numerical equality can do. In so doing we drew upon the example of the second chambers of the West German and Indian federations, where the equality principle has been weighted on the basis of the population of each state.

For this reason, most members of the Committee favoured the following distribution: Ontario and Quebec would retain the same number of seats that they have now (24), and the other provinces would be given 12 seats each, with the exception of Prince Edward Island, which would be given 6. Yukon and the Northwest Territories would both have increased representation. This formula would produce a Senate with 144 members. The stronger role envisaged for the Senate both in regional representation and in committee work warrants a significant increase in the number of senators. In some cases our formula would give provinces and territories more senators than MPs. This troubled some members of the Committee, because they believe it could undermine the authority of MPs from those areas. However, most of us believe that an equitable division of Senate seats among provinces and territories is more important.

If our proposed distribution is adopted, it would be necessary to amend section 51A of the *Constitution Act, 1867*, which now provides that a province is always entitled to a number of MPs that is not less than its number of senators. The section should probably be amended to say that the wording should apply only to the number of senators that a province had in 1982. Thus, Prince Edward Island would be guaranteed at least four MPs, but the number would not rise to six when the number of its senators is increased from four to six under our proposed distribution. The accompanying table compares the existing distribution of seats with the proposed distribution.

	Existing Senate	Proposed Senate
Newfoundland	6	12
Prince Edward Island	4	6
Nova Scotia	10	12
New Brunswick	10	12
Quebec	24	24
Ontario	24	24
Manitoba	6	12
Saskatchewan	6	12
Alberta	6	12
British Columbia	6	12
Yukon	1	2
Northwest Territories	1	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>144</b>

### The Senate's powers

Almost all the witnesses who spoke in favour of an elected Senate recommended that the Senate not be able to overturn a government. We agree fully. In a parliamentary system, a government cannot serve two masters, whose wills might on occasion be diametrically opposed.