

the royal assent before becoming law. In practice, most public bills originate in the House of Commons, although there has been a marked increase recently in the introduction of public bills in the Senate. Private bills usually originate in the Senate.

Under Section 91 of the British North America Acts, 1867 - 1960, the legislative authority of the Parliament of Canada extends to the following matters: the amendment of the Constitution of Canada subject to certain exceptions; the public debt and property; the regulation of trade and commerce; unemployment insurance; the raising of money by any mode or system of taxation; the borrowing of money on the public credit; postal service; the census and statistics; militia, military and naval service, and defence; the fixing and providing for the salaries and allowances of civil and other officers of the Government of Canada; beacons, buoys, lighthouses, and Sable Island; navigation and shipping; quarantine and the establishment and maintenance of marine hospitals; sea coast and inland fisheries; ferries between a province and any British or foreign country or between two provinces; currency and coinage; banking, incorporation of banks, and the issue of paper money; savings banks; weights and measures; bills of exchange and promissory notes; interest; legal tender; bankruptcy and insolvency; patents of invention and discovery; copyrights; Indians and lands reserved for the Indians; naturalization and aliens; marriage and divorce; the criminal law, except the constitution of courts of criminal jurisdiction, but including the procedure in criminal matters; the establishment, maintenance, and management of penitentiaries; such classes of subjects as are expressly excepted in the enumeration of the classes of subjects by this Act assigned exclusively to the legislatures of the provinces.

In addition, under Section 95 the Parliament of Canada may make laws in relation to agriculture and immigration concurrently with provincial legislatures, although in the event of conflict federal legislation is paramount. By the British North America Act 1951 (14-15 Geo. VI, c.32), it was declared that the Parliament of Canada might make laws in relation to old-age pensions in Canada, but that no such law should affect the operation of any provincial laws in relation to old-age pensions.

The Senate

From an original membership of 72 at Confederation, the Senate, through the addition of new provinces and the general growth of population, now has 102 members, the latest change in representation having been made on the admission of Newfoundland to Confederation in 1949.

The House of Commons

In Section 37 of the British North America Act of 1867, it was provided that: "The House of Commons shall, subject to the provisions of this Act, consist of 181 members, of whom 82 shall be elected for Ontario, 65 for Quebec, 19 for Nova Scotia, and 15 for New Brunswick." Further, under Section 51, it was enacted that, after the completion of the census of 1871 and of each subsequent decennial census, the representation of the four provinces should be readjusted by such authority, in such manner, and from such time, as the Parliament of Canada provided, subject to and according to certain rules set out in the original Act. Membership in the House of Commons was accordingly increased from time to time until it reached 255.

In 1949, as a result of the union of Newfoundland with Canada, provision was made for the Province of Newfoundland to be represented by seven members in the House of Commons (the British North America Act, 1949). This increased the number of Members of Parliament to 262. By Chapter 15 of the Statutes of 1952, the Parliament of Canada, acting under the authority conferred by the British North America Act of 1949, amended Section 51 of the British North America Act, providing for a new method of re-adjustment of representation in the House of Commons. Pursuant to this amendment a new Representation Act was passed (R.S.C. 1952, c.334 as amended), providing for a total of 265 members of the House of Commons.