

The Lawmaking Process

How a bill becomes a law

1) Cabinet Minister has idea
for new bill



- Idea explained to cabinet
- Cabinet approves idea
- Lawyers draft bill
- Cabinet committee examines bill
- Cabinet and caucus approve bill

2) 1st Reading in House of Commons

- Bill is introduced to HOC
- Minister gives a short statement of what the bill is intended to do



3) 2nd Reading

- Minister gives major speech about bill
- HOC debates and votes on principle of bill



4) Committee work

- Bill is sent to committee for further study
- The bill may be amended



5) 3rd Reading in the HOC

- Rather routine
- Maybe some debate and vote



6) Senate

- Once the bill passes through the HOC it goes through a similar process in the Senate
- 3 readings, committee work, debates, and amendments

Senate cont'd

- The Senate can also introduce bills to the HOC
- They can stall bills
- Send them back to HOC for further review
- Senate rarely rejects bill

7) Royal (Formal) Assent

- The Governor General signs the bill on behalf of the Queen
- The bill is now a law!

**LEGALIZE
CANADA** 