

2013 – MHF Comment – Government, Democracy and Civic Engagement
SENATE REFORM

I do not support an elected Senate, but neither would I eliminate it – sober second thought is valuable. We could, however, dramatically change the way Senators are appointed, away from partisan patronage, to a multi-partisan process similar to appointing judges or nominating people to the Order of Canada.

We do not need two separate elected bodies. We already have far too much political gamesmanship and suffer the ugly side of politics just electing MPs. If I had to choose between an elected Senate and none at all, I'd prefer none at all, relying, as do the provinces, on one legislative body. However, I appreciate the idea of a 'sober second thought' – the problem, of course, is that is rarely what one gets from patronage appointments. The people providing it should be chosen in a non-partisan or multi partisan way, based on the respect they have earned from the community at large.