

# Let's Talk Politics

August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
Volume 4, Issue 4

Building and Construction Trades Department , Canadian Office, AFL-CIO (613) 236-0653  
Government Relations and Public Affairs  
Christopher Smillie

Send us your feedback  
[csmillie@buildingtrades.ca](mailto:csmillie@buildingtrades.ca)

## In this issue

Another hung chamber

Current Standings(as of  
July 12, 2010

Conservative Party

52

Liberal Party

49

Progressive Conservative

2 (McCoy, Murray)

Independent

2 (Cools, Rivest)

Vacant seat

0

TOTAL 105

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

[www.parl.gc.ca](http://www.parl.gc.ca)



## Government Compass-"your guide to where Canada is headed"



## New Senate reality means de facto majority for Conservatives until Liberals avoid sputtering busses among other things – ELECTION ??

The Senate of Canada is no longer a show stopper for Stephen Harper's minority government. The passage of Bill C-9 (the last remaining implementation legislation of the 2010 Budget) was an important test for all the new Conservative Senators . "Pass the budget and limit debate" seem like reasonable hypothetical instructions from the PMO to newly minted Conservative Senators. C-9 didn't get the public play opposition Senators called for – in fact , the omnibus legislation barely registered with regular Canadians. C-9 was an interesting litmus test for how the Senate will operate in the near-medium future.

Going forward (if the minority situation in the House of Commons persists) the Senate will play a more central role in our day to day governance.

Depending on how four non-affiliated senators choose to act in the next session of Parliament will certainly affect the status of legislation.

So what does this mean for the Building Trades and the affiliates? Get to know Senators from your home province. Did you know legislation can be introduced in the Senate as well? **With the House of Commons locked in minority for the time being (barring a fall election) the "sleepy" Senate just woke up.**

### Election Watch

→As Conservatives MPs and Senators meet at Meech Lake this week surely the plans for the 2010 fall election are being finalized. All signs point to an October vote - the Liberals are testing the election campaign machine with the Liberal Express and a Cabinet Shuffle is expected within days.

→Watch for a number of key announcements regarding Canada's Economic Action Plan – mainly renouncements from the previous two budgets.

→Fundraising watch Quarter end Jun 2010

Liberals **\$1.6MM**  
Conservatives **\$4.1MM**  
NDP **\$712K**

### Building Trades Briefs

[www.buildingtrades.ca](http://www.buildingtrades.ca) is updated with regularity with information you may find useful. Watch for economic data, industry specific reports and affiliate news from across the country. Coming in August see our Top Videos section to review highlights of the 2010 Canadian Policy Conference.

The Construction Sector Council is releasing new datasets which are available at [www.constructionforecasts.ca](http://www.constructionforecasts.ca) . Use these reports to forecast your labour force supply / training needs until 2018.

Highlights from the 2010 Canadian Apprenticeship Forum's conference is available at [www.caf-fca.org](http://www.caf-fca.org)

68<sup>th</sup> Building Trades Convention  
August 16, 2010  
For more information  
<http://www.bctd.org/Live-Stream/Minneapolis-Convention.aspx>