

## How Laws are Made

*\*This is for the federal government. In the provincial government, there is no Senate and instead of the Governor General, it's the Lieutenant Governor.*

### What is a bill?

- ▶ \_\_\_\_\_ - a written proposal for a law. It is introduced in parliament and if passed becomes an *act*.
- ▶ \_\_\_\_\_ - a bill passed by parliament

### Types of bills:

- ▶ \_\_\_\_\_ – are introduced by the governing party
- ▶ \_\_\_\_\_ Bills – are introduced by individual MPs without government support
  - ▶ Private member's bills are less likely to pass into law

## STEPS

### 1. Pre-Parliamentary Stage

- ▶ An idea is proposed by a cabinet minister, private member or other source
- ▶ \_\_\_\_\_:
  - ▶ Civil servants investigate and lawyers help to draft the bill
  - ▶ Cabinet and caucus approve bill

### 2. First Reading: The bill is introduced into the House of Commons

- ▶ No vote takes place, but \_\_\_\_\_ begin to discuss their position on the bill

### 3. Second Reading

- ▶ MPs \_\_\_\_\_ the bill in the House of Commons
- ▶ Following the debate, a vote is taken; If passed, the bill is approved \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. Committee Stage

- ▶ A legislative committee involving representatives from each party is set up to debate the bill in depth; \_\_\_\_\_ input is heard
- ▶ \_\_\_\_\_ are proposed as long as they do not alter the core of the bill

### 5. Reporting Stage

- ▶ The \_\_\_\_\_ reports to the House of Commons the amendments proposed to the bill

### 6. Third Reading

- ▶ The bill with all of its amendments is read and a \_\_\_\_\_ is held

### 7. Senate

- ▶ The same procedures are held in the Senate (first & second reading, committee, reporting, third reading)
- ▶ Bills usually move through the Senate \_\_\_\_\_
- ▶ Senators look for ways to improve the bill, but almost always pass it

### 8. Royal Assent

- ▶ The Governor General recognizes the bill as a \_\_\_\_\_