

Three-step Senate reform

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FULL TEXT

Re: Senate Reform Can't Come Quick Enough, May 30.

Senate reform is simple. It doesn't require amending the Constitution.

Step one: All senators immediately resign their seat, thereby creating the necessary vacancies. Step two: All provinces conduct democratic elections to fill their allotted Senate seats. Prime Minister Harper has committed to appointing elected person to the red Chamber. Any future prime minister could do likewise. Step three: Those elected to the Senate submit an irrevocable letter-of-resignation to the governor-general - prior to taking office - effective five years hence, thereby setting the stage for a new round of elections. Much of Canada's political system is tied to accepted norms and custom. There is no reason why this system of Senate reform could not be folded into that body of tradition.

But there is one hitch: This requires political integrity from all concerned.

Jack Slibar, Toronto.

Credit: Jack Slibar; National Post

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