

# THE SENATE OF CANADA

A Chamber of Thought and Action

***Advocating for Agriculture and Rural in the Senate***

**Rotary Club of Stratford**

**September 7, 2023**

# How did I get here?



Learn To Do By Doing



Queen's  
UNIVERSITY

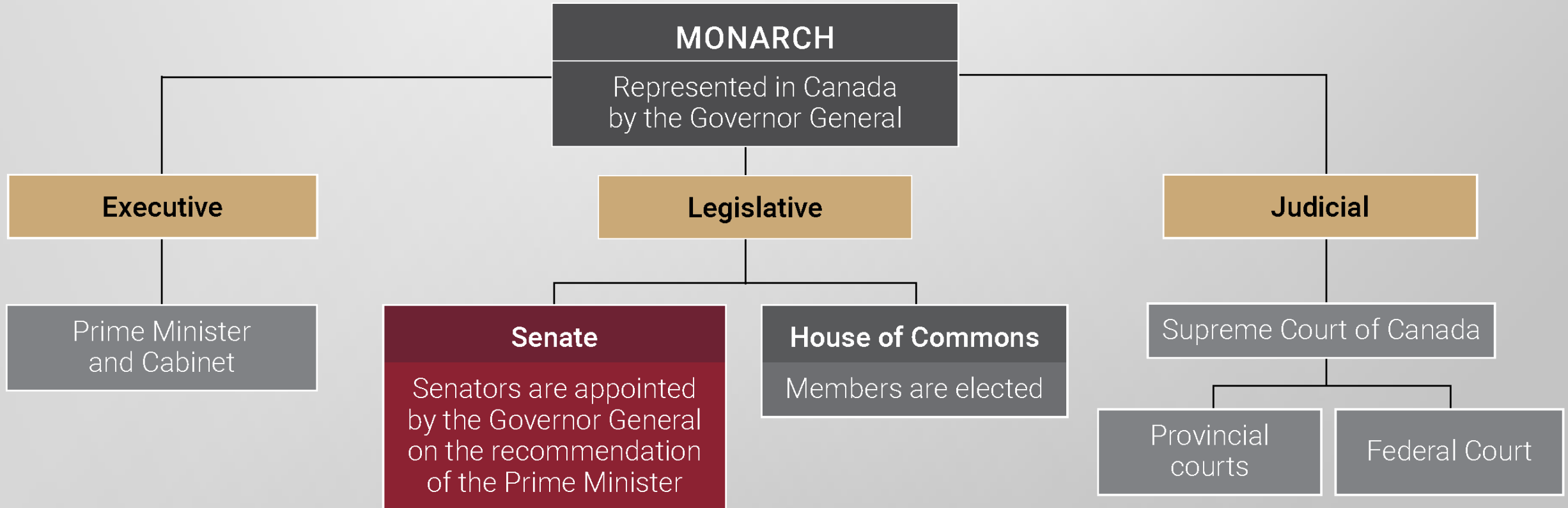




# How did the “Senate thing” happen?



# Canada's system of government



SENATE  
BASICS

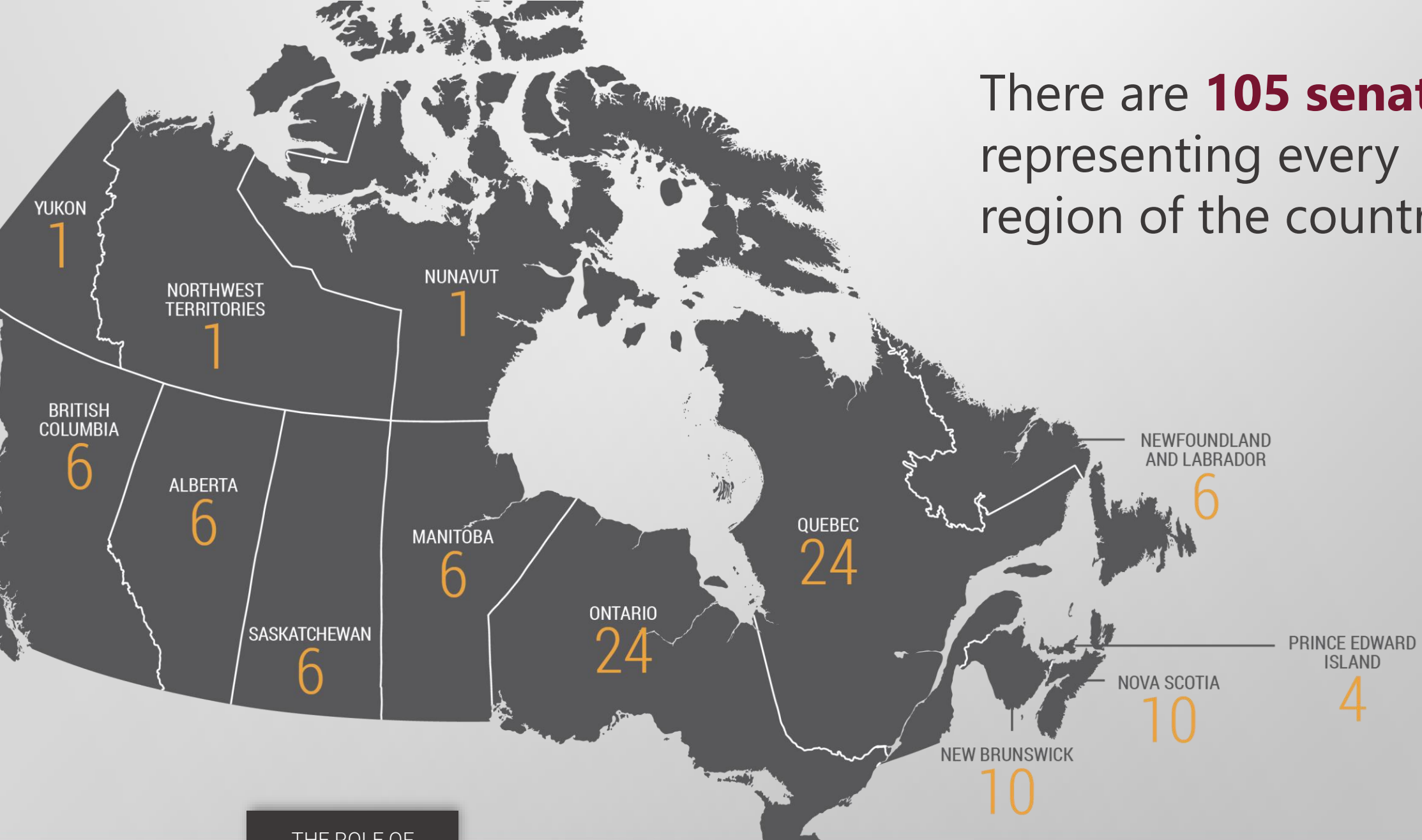
THE ROLE OF  
THE SENATE

SENATORS  
REPRESENT

SENATORS  
INVESTIGATE

SENATORS  
LEGISLATE

There are **105 senators** representing every region of the country.



# The Role of the Senate



Represent



Legislate



Investigate



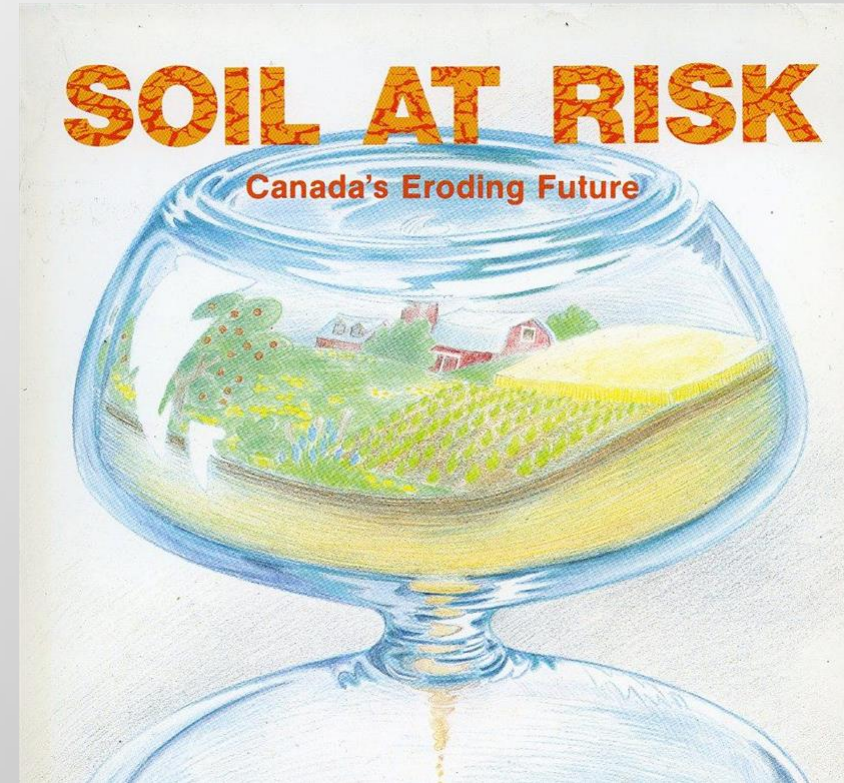
# Committees

- Study legislation and conduct their own special studies
- Hear from Canadians from all walks of life
- Conduct fact-finding missions across Canada to gather new facts, ideas, and opinions for their studies
- Publish reports that make recommendations to the government



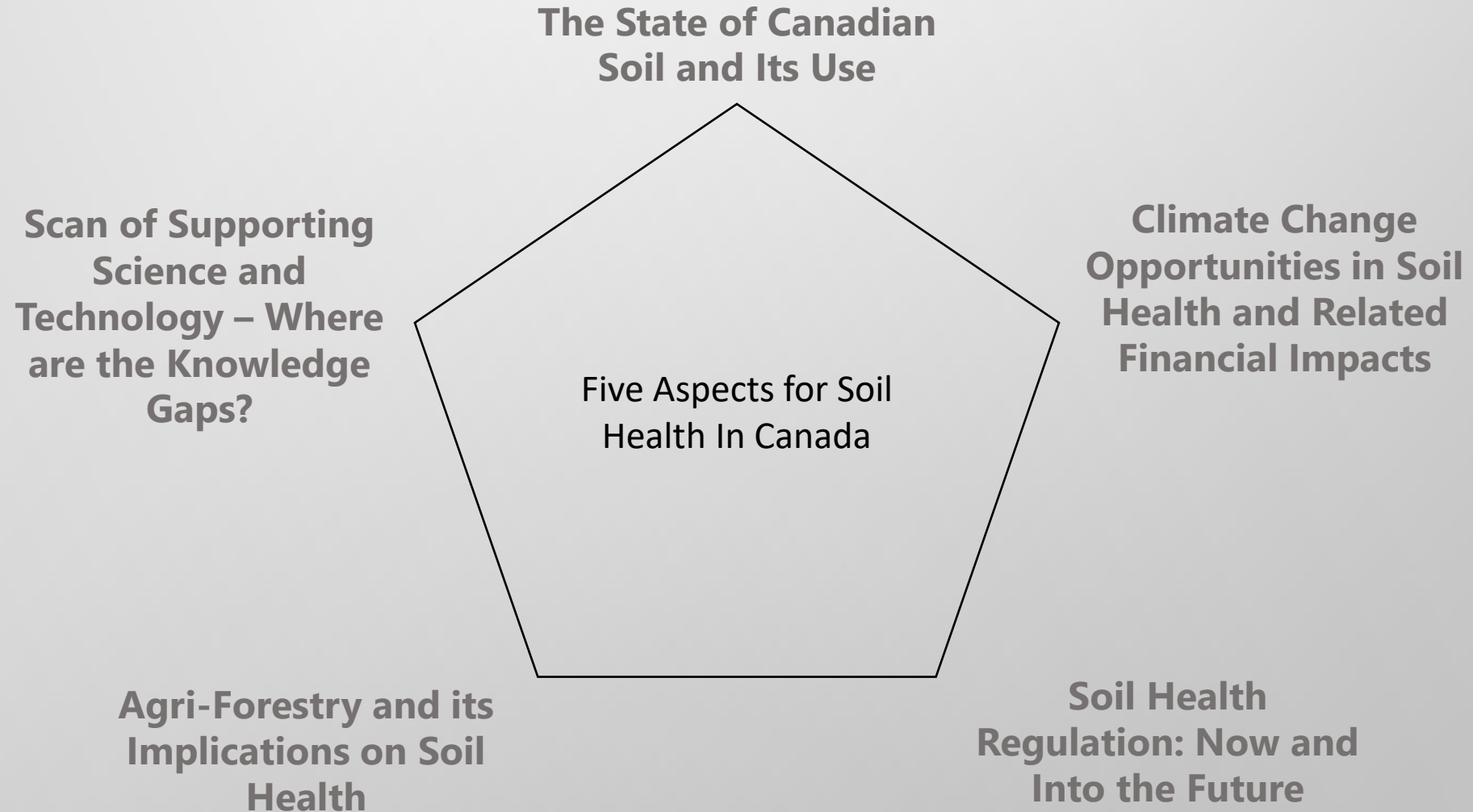
# Soil Study- What do we Know?

- Previous 1984 Senate Study on Soil Health, Chaired by Senator Herbert Sparrow
- One of the most requested documents in the Library of Parliament





# Soil Study- What do we hope to learn?



# What are we learning?

- Issues being raised:
  - Erosion, salinization, loss of carbon in soils
  - Farmers facing economic barriers
  - Lack of data about soils
  - Lost revenue due to lost crop yields
  - Lack of data sharing
- Fact finding missions:
  - Agriculture Museum
  - Guelph



# Future of the Study

## Trips and fact-finding missions

- Agriculture and Food Museum of Canada
  - Guelph, April 2023
  - Nova Scotia, June 2023
  - Rome, July 2023
  - Western Canada, August 2023
  - ... and maybe more!
- 
- Producing comprehensive, accessible information
    - Reports
    - Media references
    - Public awareness



**This is a long-term, in-depth study that will serve for generations to come!**



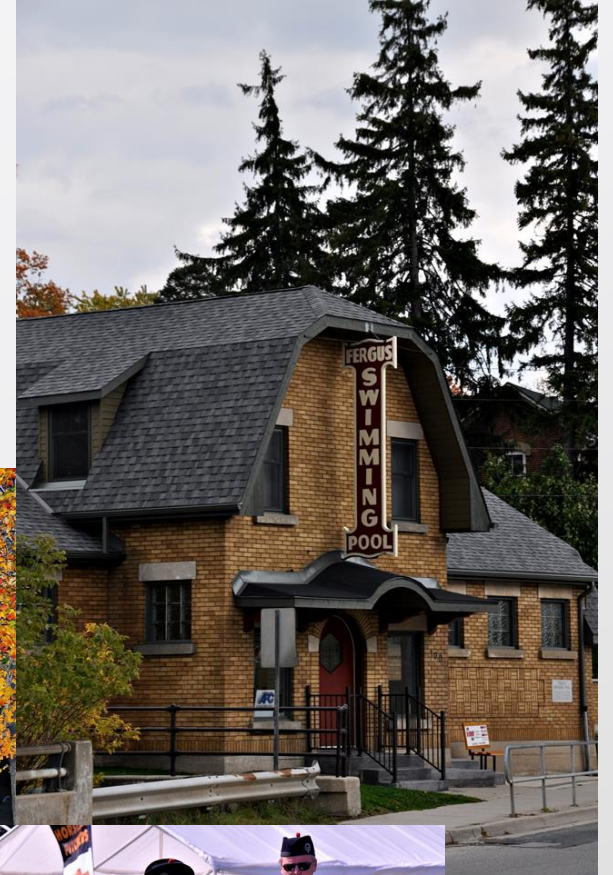
# What can you do to help?

- Follow along with our study!
  - <https://sencanada.ca/en/committees/agfo/>
- Connect with us to find witnesses
  - Farmers
  - Stakeholders
  - Researchers
- Contact here:  
**[AGFO@sen.parl.gc.ca](mailto:AGFO@sen.parl.gc.ca)**  
**Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture  
and Forestry**  
**The Senate of Canada**  
**Ottawa, Ontario**  
**Canada, K1A 0A4**



# Supporting Rural Communities

- Access to Reliable, High-Speed Broadband Internet
- Support for local businesses
- Protecting Farmland



# Stay connected



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@SenatorRobBlack



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## Thank you for the opportunity!





**Questions?**