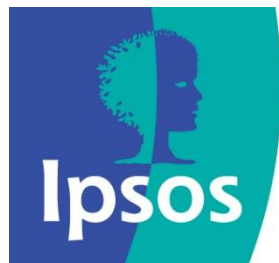


**Most (69%) Canadians Disagree that the Senate of Canada  
Performs a Necessary and Useful Political Function**  
*Just One in Three (31%) Agree the Senate is Useful*

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**Ipsos Reid**

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## **Most (69%) Canadians Disagree that the Senate of Canada Performs a Necessary and Useful Political Function**

*Just One in Three (31%) Agree the Senate is Useful*

**Toronto, ON** – The Senate of Canada has been in the spotlight unlike ever before, thanks to a \$90,000 cheque written by Prime Minister Harper's former Chief of Staff, Nigel Wright, to Senator Mike Duffy to pay back illegitimate expense claims. Senators Wallin and Brazeau were also the subject of a more in-depth audit by Deloitte, and audits threaten to expand to other Senators. The scandal has derailed any positive messages that highlight the accomplishments of the Harper government and cast the Senate under a dark cloud. Since the scandal, a handful of Senators have resigned, and there are rumours that more could vacate their lifetime appointment. Ipsos' media partner, CTV, has declared this the top news story of the year.

According to a new Ipsos Reid poll conducted on behalf of CTV News, most (69%) Canadians 'disagree' (34% strongly/35% somewhat) that 'the Senate of Canada performs a necessary and useful political function', compared to one in three (31%) who 'agree' (5% strongly/26% somewhat) that the Senate performs a useful function. With sentiment towards the Senate so sour, it's likely that the institution will continue to be a millstone around the neck of the Prime Minister.

Belief that the Senate is useful is highest in Ontario at 38% -- still a minority -- followed by those living in Alberta (32%), British Columbia (26%), Quebec (26%), Atlantic Canada (25%) and Saskatchewan and Manitoba (24%).

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Conversely, residents of Saskatchewan and Manitoba (76%) are most likely to disagree that the Senate performs a necessary and useful political function, followed by residents of Atlantic Canada (75%), Quebec (74%), British Columbia (74%), Alberta (68%) and Ontario (62%).

*These are some of the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted between December 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013, on behalf of CTV News. For this survey, a sample of 2,535 Canadians from Ipsos' Canadian online panel was interviewed online. Weighting was then employed to balance demographics to ensure that the sample's composition reflects that of the adult population according to Census data and to provide results intended to approximate the sample universe. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case the poll is accurate to +/- 2.2 percentage points of the entire Canadian adult population. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error, and measurement error.*

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