

## REFORM PARTY OF ONTARIO's "PURPLE BOOK"

### November 2009 **SENATE & PARLIAMENTARY REFORM** ***Our Values:***

1. The will of the majority must prevail, within the bounds of the Canadian Constitution.
2. Government exists only to do those things that individuals or groups of individuals cannot do as efficiently.
3. Government services should be provided at the level closest to the user of that service, with that level of government being held accountable to voters.
4. Taxation should occur only to fund government services authorized by the people's representatives.
6. We believe that Ontarians are overtaxed and that our tax system must be simplified, reorganized, and taxes reduced.
9. We believe that all three levels of government in Canada must have unique and non-overlapping responsibilities.

### **Senate & Parliamentary Reform is needed for Ontario:**

Ontario - as one of 10 equal provinces in our Confederation - needs to be properly represented in the federal legislature. At present we do not have enough members of the federal parliament - based on our population - as do other provinces. As the most populous of Canada's provinces, Ontario needs - at the least - one MP for each 90,000 people, as the other provinces have.

Furthermore, the federal Senate does not have its members (senators) chosen by Ontario or its voters, but rather, by the federal government, purely as appointments. This ancient system serves the interests of federal patronage rather than the legitimate needs of representing Ontario and her interests at the federal level.

### **To that end, we propose the following remedies:**

1. Immediately redraw Ontario's federal riding boundaries to allow for one MP per 90,000 population. This sees our 107 MPs replaced by 144, thereby giving Ontario's voice the true weight in federal decision making that it deserves in the House of Commons.
2. Until changes can be made to the Canadian Constitution, allow Ontarians to directly select their federal Senators. This additional ballot would occur at the same time as the provincial election, and would provide a prioritized list of those Ontarians whom their fellow Ontarians would like to see appointed to fill the next Ontario vacancies in the federal Senate. This matches what other provinces, like Alberta, already do.
3. In the future, promote a Triple-E Senate.