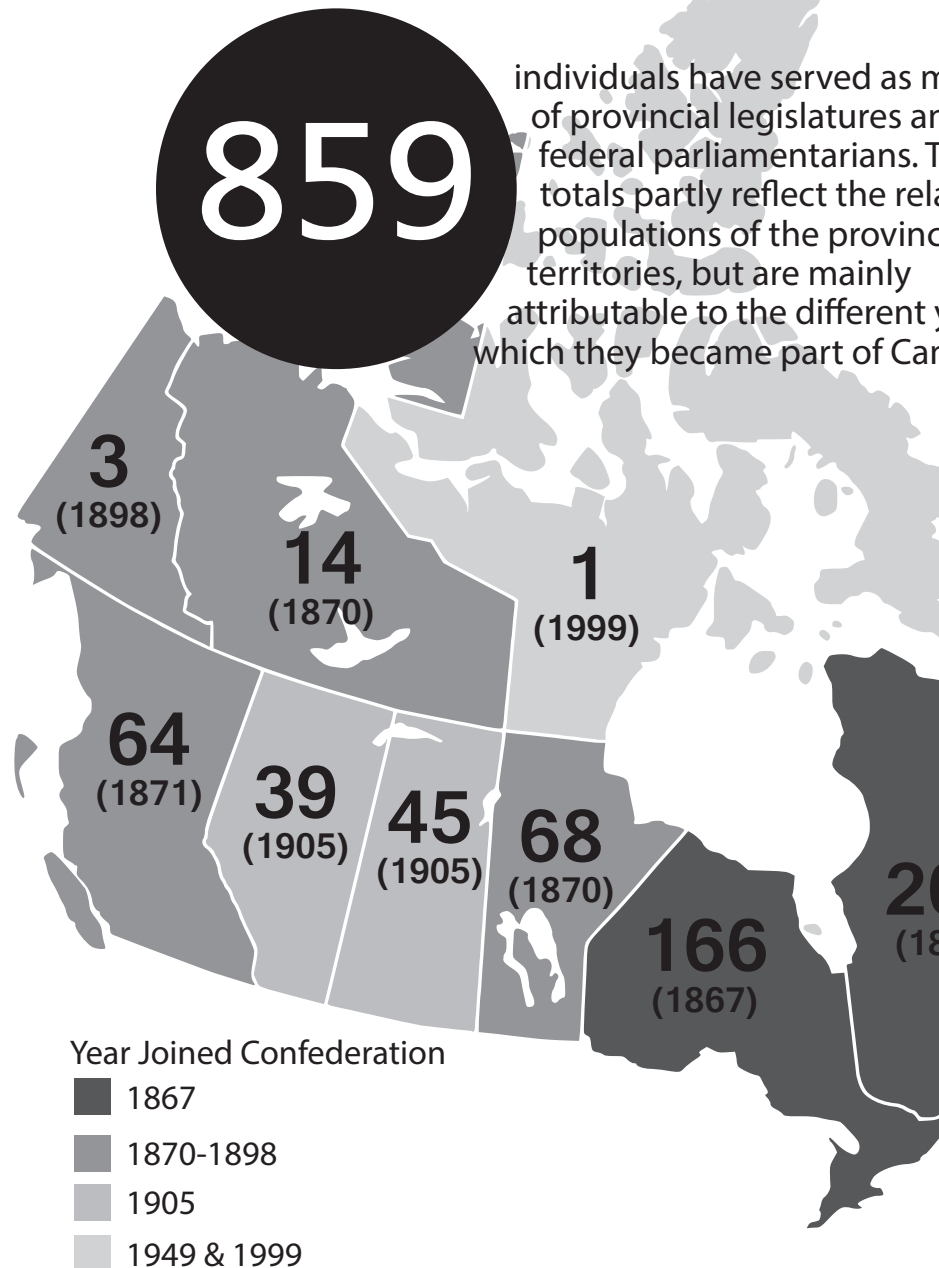


One House Leads to Another: By the Numbers

Text by Jacques P. Gagnon, Graphic Design by Julie Anderson

The Parliament of Canada's PARLINFO database provides biographical information on each of the **4,214** MPs elected to the House of Commons and **925** senators appointed to the Senate from 1867 to the time of writing (late September 2014).ⁱ In addition to the politicians' federal political experience, the biographies include their provincial or territorial political experience, if any. This material inspired this research note on their overall parliamentary experience.ⁱⁱ At the individual level, these moves from one chamber to another help explain many parliamentarians' political longevity. At the collective level, this accounting reveals a certain upward, rather than downward, mobility: many more provincial legislators have become MPs and senators than the other way around.

Serving as both federal and provincial parliamentarians



individuals have served as members of provincial legislatures and federal parliamentarians. These totals partly reflect the relative populations of the provinces and territories, but are mainly attributable to the different years in which they became part of Canada.

Footnotes:

ⁱ Sincere thanks to David Tessier, PARLINFO Coordinator, and Nicolas Moncion, who is responsible for the listing necessary for this analysis.

ⁱⁱ Note, however, that these data do not include legislative councillors from New Brunswick (1867–1892), Nova Scotia (1867–1928), Quebec (1867–1968), Manitoba (1870–1876) and Prince Edward Island (1873–1893).

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Hat Trick

provincial legislators have become MPs and then senators. The most unusual case is that of Fabian Manning. A Progressive Conservative member of the Newfoundland and Labrador House of Assembly from 1993 to 2005, Manning resigned to be elected as a Conservative MP in 2006. After his defeat in the 2008 election, Manning was appointed as a senator in 2009. He then resigned from the Senate in 2011 to again run federally. But Manning was once more defeated in the May 2 election, only to be reappointed to the Senate 23 days later.

From Provincial Legislator to MP / Senator

27

started their political career before 1867, in the parliaments of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, British Columbia and the United Province of Canada (Quebec portion). Surprisingly, not one was a legislator from the future province of Ontario.

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MPs were first provincial legislators

15

individuals were simultaneously provincial and federal legislators, a privilege that would end with the 1874 election.

141

senators have been provincial legislators before sitting in the Upper House.

22 (1949)

60 (1873)

85 (1867)

90 (1867)

From MP to Provincial Legislator

167

MPs have successfully switched to provincial politics.