

Hon. Michael Chong, M.P.
Wellington-Halton Hills



CANADA

L'hon. Michael Chong, député
Wellington-Halton Hills

May 15, 2015

Dear CARP Members,

This letter is a call to action. The *Reform Act* is stalled in the unelected Senate. Senators need to hear from Canadians that this is unacceptable.

As you are aware from the CARP newsletter of February 2014, the *Reform Act* was introduced in the House of Commons just over a year ago.

On February 25th, 2015, the *Reform Act* was passed by an overwhelming majority of MPs in the House of Commons, 260-17. It was immediately sent to the Senate for passage into law. But since then, it has been stalled in the Senate.

Time is running out. If the *Reform Act* is not passed by the Senate before June 26th, 2015, it will die.

The *Reform Act* is a democratic reform bill that proposes to re-balance power between party leaders (including the Prime Minister) and elected MPs in the House of Commons. It is no secret that over the last number of decades, power has become increasingly concentrated in party leaders and the PMO. As a result, it is more and more difficult for MPs to represent their constituents and vote against the party line and the party leader. The *Reform Act* will change that by allowing MPs to vote more freely. It will allow MPs to break rank with their party to represent their constituents, without facing the consequence of expulsion from the caucus and removal as a party candidate by the leader.

An overwhelming number of MPs voted in favour of the *Reform Act* because tens of thousands of Canadians, many of them CARP members, contacted their MP to voice their support for the bill. CARP members are some of the most thoughtful, engaged and informed voters in Canada. In your survey of CARP members in February 2014, fully three quarters of your members who were aware of the *Reform Act* gave it their approval and the same proportion thought it would lead to real reforms in Parliament. Two thirds of your membership thought it would make Parliament more accountable.

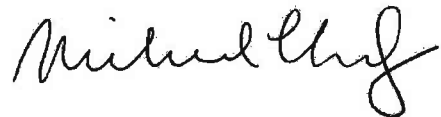
It is unacceptable for the unelected and unaccountable Senate to block a democratic reform bill of the elected House of Commons.

Senators need to hear from Canadians that the Senate must pass the Reform Act without delay. A list of Senators can be found at www.reformact.ca

Democracy is Canada's most precious resource. Generations of Canadians fought and died for our democracy. The Senate needs to respect these democratic ideals and pass the *Reform Act*.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Chong". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent 'M' and 'C'.

Michael Chong