

Canadian Senate grapples with citizenship

by UPI

OTTAWA -- The Canadian Senate is debating reform of the country's 61-year-old citizenship law that stripped some 170,000 people known as "Lost Canadians" of their rights. Prime Minister Stephen Harper's minority Conservative government introduced Bill C-37 to amend the Citizenship Act in December, and it was approved by the House of Commons, the Ottawa Citizen reported. The Lost Canadians include about 30,000 war brides and their children who came to the country after World War II, as well as about 100,000 others stripped of their citizenship after moving to the United States with their parents. As the law now stands, children born to Canadian parents outside the country are automatically granted citizenship, but must formally affirm it before the age of 28 to maintain it. The Conservative amendment would scrap the affirmation requirement, but would deny automatic citizenship to subsequent generations born outside the country. Children of government workers or the military would be exempted from the rule, the report said.

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