

THE CANADIAN STUDY OF PARLIAMENT GROUP

2002 ANNUAL REPORT

This report provides highlights and an overview of the CSPG's programs and activities for 2001-2002. Thank you to all the Members of the Executive Committee for their many hours of work, and to the CSPG membership for their continued support of our organization.

STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

Earlier this year, the CSPG embarked on a strategic planning process to take stock of our accomplishments, decide on where we should be heading (our priorities) and determine how we will get there. The draft Strategic Plan, which will be submitted for adoption at the Annual General Meeting, reflects the insights, wisdom and contribution of members gathered through a membership survey conducted in April and a strategic planning session held on May 10, 2002. Survey results and other workshop documents are available on the Group's web site (www.studyparliament.ca).

The CSPG would like to thank all those members who participated in the exercise. Ideas generated will be used to develop future activities of the group. We would also like to thank Executive member Tranquillo Marrocco who coordinated, and continues to oversee, the strategic planning process.

Participants strongly recommended updating the constitution which has been completed and circulated for approval at the Annual General Meeting.

PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS SEMINARS

The Canadian Study of Parliament Group is pleased to announce the establishment of a new series of seminars on the Canadian Parliament and on parliamentary procedure and issues. Designed to provide an overview of topical issues of particular relevance to parliamentary relations officers and government relations specialists, they will appeal both to persons new to the fields of parliamentary and government relations, and to more experienced practitioners. The seminars include two panel discussions.

The first seminar of the 2002-2003 series took place on Thursday, November 14, 2002 when the topics of "Business of Supply" and "Private Members' Business" were discussed. The CSPG would like to thank Michael Lukyniuk, Deputy Principal Clerk, Legislative Services, House of Commons, Brian O'Neal, Researcher with the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and the Catterall-Williams Sub-committee, Library of Parliament, James Robertson, Principal, Law and Government Division, Library of Parliament, Marie-Andrée Lajoie, Principal Clerk, House

Proceedings, House of Commons and Tranquillo Marrocco, Deputy Principal Clerk, Journals Branch, House of Commons for their participation.

The CSPG would also like to thank Pat Barlow, Judy Cedar-Wilson, Peggy Morgan and Charles Robert, for their help in organizing the 2002-2003 Seminar Series.

PARTICIPATION IN THE TEACHERS' INSTITUTE ON PARLIAMENT HILL

Launched by the Speaker of the House of Commons in 1996, the Teachers' Institute is a professional development program that is designed to provide teachers with a sound knowledge and understanding of Canada's parliamentary system. The Group provided a complimentary one-year membership for all educators attending this year's Teacher's Institute.

SPEAKING TOUR

The Canadian Study of Parliament Group, in conjunction with the Association of Clerks-at-the-Table in Canada, continues each year to organize speaking tours at Canadian universities on the role of Parliament.

We are also presenting today the 2001-2002 Speaking Tour Report.

PARLIAMENTARY PERSPECTIVES

In May 1998, CSPG launched a new series of papers entitled *Parliamentary Perspectives*. The series examines issues related to Canada's legislative institutions and processes. This publication is intended as a vehicle for distributing both studies prepared by academics and the reflections of others that have an interest in these issues. The papers are offered as an additional benefit of membership in the CSPG.

The fifth issue in this series was published in November 2002. The paper, by Jonathan Malloy, Professor with the Department of Political Science at Carleton University is entitled: "The Responsible Government Approach and its Effect on Canadian Legislative Studies".

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

On Tuesday, November 19, 2002, the Law Commission of Canada in partnership with CSPG held a public consultation on the Law Commission of Canada's electoral reform project.

2002 FALL CONFERENCE

Political Parties in Leadership Transition

The CSPG's fall conference will take place December 6, 2002 and tackle the timely and important subject of political parties in leadership transition. The first session addresses the

problems and opportunities facing parliamentary parties when the leader has announced his or her retirement but a replacement has not yet been chosen. The second session focuses on the increasing “democratization” of leadership contests and the final session of the day focuses on the “nuts and bolts” of party leadership contests. The keynote luncheon speech will be given by John Duffy, public affairs consultant, political organizer and author of the book “Fights of Our Lives: Elections, Leadership and the Making of Canada”.

The CSPG wishes to thank Executive Committee Members, David Docherty, Department of Political Science, Wilfrid Laurier University and Conference Chair, William Cross, Centre for Canadian Studies, Mount Allison University, Jeff Heynen, Senior Research Analyst, Research and Strategic Planning, Canadian Centre for Management Development, and Leslie Seidle, Senior Director, National and International Research and Policy Development, Elections Canada and Vice-President of CSPG for their work in organizing the conference. The Group wishes to thank all participants: John Reynolds, Member of Parliament; Barry Turner, Chairman, Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians; Jennifer Smith, Department of Political Science, Dalhousie University; R. Kenneth Carty, Department of Political Science, University of British Columbia; David Stewart, Department of Political Science, University of Manitoba; John Duffy, Public Affairs Consultant; Jonathan Malloy, Department of Political Science, Carleton University; the Honourable Norman K. Atkins, Senator; Michael Cassidy, President, Ginger Group Consultants; Tom Flanagan, Office of the Leader of the Official Opposition; and André Turcotte, School of Journalism and Communication, Carleton University.

THE CSPG’S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

2003 will be the 25th anniversary of the CSPG. The Executive has considered several ways to commemorate the event and will be communicating them to the membership. Members might be interested in a history of the origins of the CSPG, prepared by Executive member James Robertson for the planning session in May.

FINANCES

Financial statements for the Group are presented with this report. Thanks to the generous support of the House of Commons, our strong membership numbers (368), the efforts of the Members of the Executive and the Treasurer, Antonine Campbell, the Group continues to operate within budget.

Dianne Brydon
President
November 27, 2002