



Canadian Study  
of Parliament Group

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## **2012 ANNUAL REPORT**

Ottawa, March 22, 2013



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This report provides an overview of the programs and activities of the Canadian Study of Parliament Group (CSPG) for the year 2012.

2012 was a year of continuing accomplishments for the CSPG as well as some important changes. We successfully hosted a series of important learning events along with continued progress on several long-term research and publications projects. In addition, a new service agreement was signed with the House of Commons that affirms and renews the longstanding relationship between the House and the CSPG, along with our other longtime formal partner, the Senate of Canada.

### **INTERNAL AFFAIRS**

The Canadian Study of Parliament Group has long enjoyed close and fruitful relationships with our partners in the Parliament of Canada – the Senate, House of Commons and the Library of Parliament – and especially the Table Research Branch of the House of Commons, which has generously housed the CSPG secretariat for many years. In 2012 the CSPG was pleased to sign a new service agreement with the House of Commons, and the new agreement includes some significant changes that should benefit the Group. Previously, the Group paid a fixed sum of money toward staff support, and this financial obligation was becoming increasingly burdensome. Under the new agreement the financial obligation has been lifted while the Group retains sufficient staff support for its activities, as well as other generous in-kind support. The Senate has also affirmed its continuing commitment to the Group, and we are extremely grateful for its support, as well as our ongoing relationship with the Library of Parliament. Marie - Danielle Vachon and Jean-Philippe Brochu have been instrumental in offering advice and furthering CSPG projects in their roles as Deputy Principal Clerk and acting Deputy Principal Clerk respectively for the Table Research Branch, and I want to personally thank them both for their valuable help.

The CSPG also continues to enjoy a strong relationship with the *Canadian Parliamentary Review* and its editor, Dr. Gary Levy. Copies of the *Review* are sent to all paid CSPG members, and the *Review* regularly features CSPG papers and proceedings.

### ***Finances***

The CSPG ended the year with its finances in good order, with net assets of about \$57,000 and a modest spending deficit for 2012. Lower expenditures and greater than expected attendance

at the popular Parliamentary Business Seminars allowed the Group to finish the year in a better financial situation than was forecast at the outset of the year.

The CSPG initiated an annual audit for 2012 in accordance with good governance practices. A copy of the audit is available on request. The investment policy statement adopted by the Board in 2009 continues to ensure continuity in the CSPG's GIC investments which have generated modest returns.

Going forward, in light of the new service agreement arrangement with the House of Commons, we anticipate a decrease in expenditures for staff support in the short term. However, this may be offset by the possible need to engage further resources. The Board will monitor and assess the impact of the new arrangement over the coming year.

### ***Membership and Outreach***

The Group's membership is presently at 337, as of February 2013.

The CSPG continues to recruit new members through provision of complimentary one-year memberships to parliamentary and legislative interns and participants in the annual Teachers' Institute upon request. We have found word-of-mouth by existing members to be the most effective way to recruit new members, and urge all members to continue to spread the word about CSPG events and membership.

## **RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS**

### ***Provincial/Territorial Papers***

The CSPG program of commissioning and publishing original research on all thirteen provincial and territorial legislatures in Canada continues under the guidance of CSPG board member and University of Toronto Professor Graham White. Six papers have now been published (for Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Quebec) and the Group expects to publish studies on the legislatures of Alberta and Ontario later in 2013. Studies of the Northwest Territories and Yukon have also been commissioned and the Group is advertising for authors for the remaining jurisdictions. I want to thank Dr. White for his commitment and service to this longstanding project.

### ***National Student Essay Competition***

The eleventh annual CSPG essay competition for CEGEP, college and university students was held in 2013. Students were once again invited to submit an essay addressing Parliament, legislatures or legislators in either English or French. We were pleased to receive 18 entries. The selection committee was headed by Dr. Lori Turnbull (Dalhousie University) and comprised Mr. Jean-Philippe Brochu (House of Commons), Dr. Jonathan Rose (Queen's University) and Dr. Jonathan Malloy (Carleton University).

The winner was Lisa Cerasuolo from Université de Montréal with her essay "Nunavut : Consensus Government In Canada". Ms. Cerasuolo will receive a prize of \$1000, and be

honoured at the CSPG's Annual General Meeting. The essay will also appear on the CSPG Web site.

### ***James R. Mallory Research Grant***

The James R. Mallory Research Grant was established in 2006 to honour one of the Group's most distinguished members. The 2009 recipient, Dr. Kelly Blidook, shared his research findings at the March 2012 spring conference, as discussed further below. In addition, the 2011 recipient, Dr. Munroe Eagles, submitted his initial draft study, *Organized Interests and MPs in Canada's House of Commons: Constituency and Committee Factors in Lobbyist Targeting* in late 2012 and the final version will be published later in 2013.

## **CONFERENCE AND SEMINARS**

The CSPG organized five events in 2012. Events continue to be consistently well-attended, and always superbly organized thanks to the CSPG staff and other members of the parliamentary precinct staff. We particularly thank all of our speakers and panelists who give of their time and effort without charge.

### ***Parliamentary Business Seminars***

Three Parliamentary Business Seminars were held in 2012:

#### January 2012: The Financial Cycle

First Panel:

Wayne Cole, Legislative Clerk, Committees and Legislative Services Directorate, House of Commons

Sahir Khan, Director General, Expenditure and Revenue Analysis, Office of the Parliamentary Budget Officer

Charles Robert, Principal Clerk, Chamber Operations and Procedure Office, Senate of Canada

Second Panel:

The Honourable John McCallum, Member of Parliament for Markham—Unionville

Mike Wallace, Member of Parliament for Burlington

#### May 2012: The Legislative Process

First Panel:

Ian McDonald, Principal Clerk, Committees and Legislative Services Directorate, House of Commons

Charles Robert, Principal Clerk, Chamber Operations and Procedure Office, Senate of Canada

Second Panel:

Charles Walker, Procedural Clerk, Journals Branch, Senate  
Denise Ledoux, PARLINFO Coordinator, Knowledge Management and Preservation,  
Library of Parliament  
Scott Lemoine, Procedura  
I Clerk, Journals Branch, House of Commons

Third Panel

Paul Dewar, Member of Parliament for Ottawa-Centre  
Hon. John Mercer Reid, P.C., Former Member of Parliament for Kenora--Rainy River,  
Ontario  
Hon. Robert William Runciman, Senator, Ontario

October 2012: Bill C-38: A Case Study In Legislative Proceedings And Practice

First Panel:

Michel Bédard, Analyst, Library of Parliament and Board Member, Canadian Study of  
Parliament Group  
Stephen Knowles, Board Member, Canadian Study of Parliament Group

Guest Speaker:

Louis Massicotte, Professor, Department of Political Science, Université Laval

Second Panel:

Hon. Don Boudria, P.C., Former Member of Parliament for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell  
and Former Leader of the Government in the House of Commons  
Hon. Jack Murta, P.C., Former Member of Parliament for Lisgar

Nycole Turmel, Member of Parliament for Hull-Aylmer and Chief Opposition Whip

The parliamentary business seminars continue to be highly successful and a key product of the CSPG, as they bring together parliamentary staff, public servants, academics and others to build knowledge and further networks. As president, I particularly want to thank CSPG board members Jack Stilborn, Stephen Knowles, Michél Bedard and Alex Smith among others for their efforts on the parliamentary business seminars.

***Panels and Conferences***

***Academic Conferences***

The March 2012 spring conference featured Dr. Kelly Blidook presenting the findings from his Mallory Grant study, especially his arguments that Question Period is increasingly driven by the quest for media coverage. This was followed by a further panel discussion on “The Media and Parliament” with Mr. Dennis Bevington, MP, Mr. Bill Curry of the *Globe and Mail*, and veteran broadcaster and longtime friend of the CSPG, Mr. Don Newman.

In November 2012 the CSPG partnered with Dr. Bill Cross of Carleton University and holder of the Bell Chair for the Study of Canadian Parliamentary Democracy for a fall conference on “xxx”

This event featured both political practitioners and academics, including former Alberta Minister of Finance and leadership candidate Dr. F.L. (Ted) Morton, Ontario Liberal Party president and Ottawa Centre MPP Yasir Naqvi, and Ms. Anne McGrath, former chief of staff to the leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada, along with Dr. Tim Bale from Queen Mary University in London and Dr. Ken Carty (UBC), Dr. David Stewart (University of Calgary) and Dr. Ian Stewart (Acadia University). Participants shared their real-life experience and academic analyses of the selection of political party leaders. This marks the second partnered event with the Bell Chair and we look forward to future mutual endeavors.

## **PARTNERSHIPS AND REGIONAL ACTIVITIES**

### ***Speaking Tour***

The Speaking Tour program, which was established in 1988, is a joint initiative of the CSPG and the Association of Clerks-at-the-Table in Canada. The CSPG fulfils the role of arranging for senior Procedural Clerks to speak to classes at Canadian universities about aspects of the Canadian parliamentary system.

Letters to universities were sent in the spring, with a follow up reminder in the fall. A request was received from University of Ottawa which was provided with a presentation given by a House of Commons Table Officer. This is an unusually low number and we hope to see an increase again next year.

### ***Teacher's Institute on Canadian Parliamentary Democracy***

The Teachers' Institute (TI) is a professional development program that brings 70 teachers from across Canada to Parliament Hill for a one week "behind the scenes" seminar designed to provide teachers with a sound understanding of Canada's parliamentary system. The CSPG also has a table at the annual Resource Fair where we have been able to communicate with dozens of teachers every year and learn about their needs as well as further promoting the CSPG. All participants are invited to sign up for a complimentary one-year membership in the CSPG. In 2012, 22 individuals did so.

## **SPECIAL THANKS**

The CSPG could not operate without the work of a number of important people.

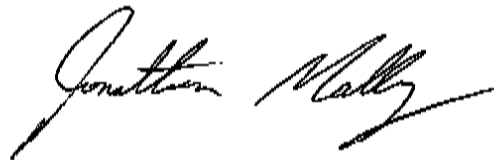
We particularly wish to recognize the contributions of the CSPG Secretariat. The Group has long depended on its staff to carry out its many functions. Julie Geoffrion served as the CSPG Executive Secretary until February 2012, after which her duties were assumed by Catherine Cuerrier. Additionally, Dany Lamarque ably served as Administrative Officer for the CSPG until October 2012, at which time Sophie LeBlanc, our longtime administrative officer, returned from leave and reassumed her duties. Most recently, Jolaine Cousineau and Dany Lamarque have stepped in to assist the Group as Sophie prepares for a further leave. I want to thank everyone for their invaluable service. Under the new service agreement with the House of Commons, the CSPG will have a single staff person in the administrative officer and we look forward to their ongoing support.

On behalf of the Group, thanks are expressed to departing Board members – Dr. Patti Tamara Lenard, Dr. Jonathan Rose, and Dr. Lori Turnbull. Their contributions will be missed, but we know they will continue to be friends of the CSPG. I also want to express thanks to the Board and Executive of CSPG who continue to give tremendous effort on behalf of the Group: Blair Armitage, Jean-Philippe Brochu, Patricia Chaychuk, Jean Cintrat, Janice Hilchie, Stephen Knowles, Catherine Piccinin, Alex Smith, Jack Stilborn, and Graham White.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr. Michel Bédard, Vice-President of the Group, for agreeing to stand for the position of CSPG President. The full report of the Nominating Committee is attached to this document for approval at the annual general meeting.

As President of the CSPG since 2009, and a board member since 2006 and member since 1993, it has been a great honour to serve such a distinguished organization. I want to thank our partners and the many individuals who do so much to further the study of parliamentary government and especially to link the parliamentary, practitioner and academic communities together. I look forward to continuing my own relationship with the Group for many years to come.

In conclusion, 2012 has been a year of change but also continuing success for the Canadian Study of Parliament Group. We continue to advance our mission of fostering discussion and enhancing knowledge of parliamentary government, working with our various partners and stakeholders and serving the needs and interests of our members. We look forward to another great year in 2013.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jonathan Malloy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Jonathan Malloy  
President