



Canadian Study
of Parliament Group

ANNUAL REPORT

2013

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This report provides an overview of the programs and activities of the Canadian Study of Parliament Group (CSPG) for 2013.

2013 was a transition year for the CSPG, with the election of a new president and the implementation of a new service agreement with House of Commons.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

The Canadian Study of Parliament Group has enjoyed close and fruitful relationships with its 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. For 2013 the CSPG was pleased to sign a new service agreement with the House of Commons, and this agreement was renewed for 2014. Implementation of this agreement would require that the Group be less dependent on the support staff of the House of Commons Table Research Branch and that it get greater support from other Hill partners and outside resources for certain tasks. The Senate has also affirmed its continuing commitment to the Group. We are extremely grateful for the support of the House of Commons and the Senate and for our ongoing relationship with the Library of Parliament.

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

FINANCES

The CSPG ended 2013 with its finances in very good order, with net assets of \$97,630 and a surplus of revenue over expenses. Revenues were somewhat greater than projected due to better than anticipated attendance at some events and a hefty GST rebate; while expenditures were much lower than projected due to lower than anticipated expenses for events. The surplus for the fiscal year is temporary; the Group will be increasingly using outside sub-contractors for a number of functions that were, in the past, performed by support staff from the House of Commons Table Research Branch. Revenues and expenditures should balance out in the short or medium term.

The CSPG engaged an audit for 2013, a copy of which is available on request. The results of the audit confirmed that the CSPG's operations for the year ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for non-for-profit organizations.

Going forward, in light of the new service agreement with the House of Commons, the CSPG has engaged the services of a bookkeeping company to prepare of its financial records. This will

bring the Group more in line with its obligations under the agreement with the House and introduce a further level of accountability to the Group's finances. The Board will continue to assess the need to engage further resources to support its activities.

MEMBERSHIP AND OUTREACH

The Group's membership remained stable at approximately 300 at the end of 2013.

The CSPG continues to recruit new members. We have found word-of-mouth to be the most effective way to recruit new members, and urge existing members to continue to spread the word about CSPG activities and membership.

The Group's activities are also drawing a growing number of Quebec Bar and Law Society of Upper Canada members. Quebec and Ontario lawyers have professional development requirements, and the CSPG's conferences and seminars qualify for these requirements.

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Provincial/Territorial Papers

The CSPG program of commissioning and publishing original research on all 13 provincial and territorial legislatures in Canada continues under the guidance of CSPG board member and University of Toronto Professor Graham White. Previously published papers are available on the CSPG website. We hope to have papers on all legislatures by the end of 2014.

National Student Essay Competition

The CSPG holds an annual essay competition for cegep, college and university students. Students were once again invited to submit an essay addressing Parliament, legislatures or legislators in either English or French. The winner of the 2013 competition was Lisa Cerasuolo from the University of Montreal with her essay *Nunavut: Consensus Government in Canada*. Ms. Cerasuolo received a prize of \$1,000.

The 2014 essay competition is currently underway.

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 research findings of the recipient are available to the public on the CSPG website. The final version of the research paper by the 2011 recipient, Kelly Blidook, will soon be published. In 2013, the James R. Mallory Research Grant was awarded to Jean-François Godbout for his research on voting trends in the Senate since Confederation.

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

The CSPG organized one conference and three seminars in 2013.

Conference: Speakership of the House of Commons

On September 12, 2013, the Group held a conference on the speakership of the two chambers, with a focus on the speakership of the House of Commons. The conference began with a presentation by James R. Robertson, General Counsel for the Library of Parliament, entitled “The Roles, Duties and Functions of the Speaker”. Next, Professor Jonathan Malloy gave a presentation on the highlights of the speakership of former Speaker Peter Milliken. Professor C.E.S. Franks then introduced Mr. Milliken who, as guest speaker, shared with the participants some anecdotes and events that marked his speakership.

Parliamentary Business Seminars

Three parliamentary business seminars were held in 2013. Following a formula that is now well established, each CSPG seminar is usually divided into two main parts. The first part is a technical briefing during which experts from the Hill, the government or other sectors share their knowledge and experience with the audience. During the second half, the Group strives to offer a political or parliamentary perspective of the topic in the form of a discussion panel with current and former parliamentarians.

January 2013

Managing the House of Commons and Senate

Technical Briefing:

Managing the House of Commons and the Senate – The Parliamentary Perspective

Panellists: Till Heyde
 Chamber Operations Clerk
 Chamber Operations and Procedure Office
 Senate of Canada

 Robert Benoit
 Deputy Principal Clerk
 Journals Branch
 House of Commons

Technical Briefing:

Managing the House of Commons and the Senate – the Privy Council Office Perspective

Panellists: Ron Wall
Acting Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet, Legislation and House Planning; and
Director, Parliamentary Affairs Privy Council Office

Shane Wittenburg
Senior Privy Council Officer
Legislation and House Planning Secretariat
Privy Council Office

Discussion Panel:

Challenges in Managing the House of Commons and the Senate – Personal Perspectives

Panellists: Tom Lukiwski
Member of Parliament for Regina–Lumsden–Lake Centre, and
Parliamentary Secretary for the Leader of the Government in the House of
Commons

Hon. Tony Valeri, PC
Former Member of Parliament for Hamilton East–Stoney Creek (1993–2006), and
Leader of the Government in the House of Commons (2004–2006)

May 2013

Committees – How They Work and How to Work with Them

Technical briefing:

Committees – How they Work and How to Work With Them

Panellists: Michel Bédard
Analyst, Constitutional and Parliamentary Affairs
Library of Parliament

Heather Lank
Principal Clerk
Committees Directorate
Senate of Canada

Jeffrey LeBlanc
Principal Clerk
Committees and Legislative Services Directorate
House of Commons

***Supplementary Technical Briefing:
Use of Twitter by Senate committees***

Presenter: Blair Armitage
Principal Clerk
Communications Directorate
Senate of Canada

***Discussion Panel:
Parliament, Committees and the New Social Media***

Panellists: Matthew Dubé
Member of Parliament for Chambly–Borduas

Hon. Monte Solberg, PC
Former Member of Parliament for Medicine Hat (1997-2008)

Tim Naumetz
Reporter
The Hill Times

Mary Francoli
Assistant Professor
School of Journalism and Communication
Carleton University

November 2013

Law-Making – Before and After Parliament

***Technical briefing:
Law-Making – Before and After Parliament***

Panellists: Wendy Gordon
Senior Parliamentary Counsel - Special Advisor (Legislation)
House of Commons

Michel Patrice
Deputy Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel
Senate of Canada

Paul Shuttle
Executive Director and Senior General Counsel
Justice Canada, Public Safety Canada, Legal Services

***Discussion Panel:
The Legislative Process***

Panellists: Hon. Tommy Banks
Former Senator

Lysane Blanchette-Lamothe
Member of Parliament for Pierrefonds–Dollard

Hon. Christian Paradis, PC
Member of Parliament for Mégantic–L'Érable, Minister of International
Development and Minister for La Francophonie

I would like to thank all the Board members who helped organized these seminars and all panelists.

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. Upon request, 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.

THANKS

The CSPG could not operate without the work numerous individuals.

First, I want to thank the Board of Directors. Without these individuals, who give of their time and effort without charge, there would be no CSPG. I am privileged to work with a team that is keen to share its knowledge of our parliamentary institutions. I would especially like to thank Jean-Philippe Brochu, Deputy Principal Clerk, Table Research Branch, for his support and assistance with CSPG activities. I would also like to thank to outgoing Board members Janice Hilchie and Graham White for their contributions over the past few years.

I would also like to thank the CSPG Secretariat. This year, we were able to count on Jolaine Cousineau and Dany Lamarque together, and then on Dany alone for administrative and logistical support during events. The Group also had occasional support from House of Commons staff during CSPG events. I especially want to thank Dany Lamarque, who is now the Group's permanent resource person.

Additionally, I would like to thank the presenters and panellists who generously agreed to share their knowledge and experience, thus ensuring the success of our events. In fact, thanks are due to all CSPG members and to everyone who attended the various CSPG activities—their participation is the reason the Group exists.

Finally, I would like to thank Jonathan Malloy, our past President. Since I began my term as President, Jonathan has always been there to offer advice and encouragement and to ensure a smooth transition in the Group's leadership.

Michel Bédard
President

Ottawa, March 21, 2014