



Canadian Study
of Parliament Group

ANNUAL REPORT

2014

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This report provides an overview of the programs and activities of the Canadian Study of Parliament Group (CSPG) for 2014.

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. In 2014, the service agreement with the House of Commons, first established in 2013, was renewed as it had been recently for 2015. The CSPG continues to work toward reducing its dependence on the support staff of the House of Commons Table Research Branch. The CSPG also asked the Library of Parliament to redesign its website to give it a modern look. The Senate has also affirmed its continuing commitment to the Group; two members of the Group’s executive are Senate employees. We are extremely grateful for the support of the House of Commons, the Senate and 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 2014 with its finances in very good order, with net assets of \$129,077 and a surplus of revenue over expenses. The surplus is lower than last year as expected as the Group engaged the services of a bookkeeping company to prepare its financial records. The use of a bookkeeper brings the Group more in line with its obligations under the service agreement with the House of Commons and introduces 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.

The CSPG once again engaged an audit for 2014, 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 not-for-profit organizations. The Board welcomes and will address the auditor’s recommendations for improving internal controls. An audit for 2015 is also planned.

MEMBERSHIP AND OUTREACH

The Group's membership remained stable at approximately 300 at the end of 2014.

The CSPG continues to recruit new members. We have found word-of-mouth to be the most effective way to recruit new members, and we 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 satisfy these requirements. However, the use of email to advertise Group events to bar association members who are not CSPG members has been made more difficult by the coming into force of Canada's anti-spam legislation.

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 former CSPG board member and University of Toronto Professor Graham White. Previously published papers are available on the CSPG website. Only two research papers have yet to be published on the website.

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 2014 competition was Julien Beaulieu from the University of Quebec at Montreal for his essay *Explaining the Political Failure of the Senate Reform Bill*. Mr. Beaulieu received a prize of \$1,000.

The 2015 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. In 2014, the final version of recipient Munroe Eagles' research paper *Organized Interests and MPs in Canada's House of Commons: Constituency and Committee Factors in Lobbyist Targeting* was published on the website.

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

The CSPG organized one conference and three seminars in 2014.

Conference: The Crown and Parliament

On May 23, 2014, the spotlight was on the Crown at the Group conference "The Crown and Parliament." During the conference, four expert panels focussed on various aspects of the relationship between the Crown and Parliament. The panel titles and panellists are listed below. In 2015, the CSPG will publish a book containing the presentations given at the conference along with additional related articles.

Historical Evolution of the Relationship between the Crown and Parliament

André Émond, Professor
Laurentian University

David E. Smith, Distinguished Visiting Professor
Ryerson University

The Crown and the Legislative Process: Royal Assent, Royal Recommendation, Royal Consent

John Mark Keyes, Professor
Faculty of law (Common Law Section)
University of Ottawa

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

Rob Walsh, former Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel
House of Commons

Consulting Parliament before exercising a Prerogative

Carissima Mathen, Associate Professor
Faculty of law (Common Law Section)
University of Ottawa

LCol Alexander Bolt, Director
Directorate of International and Operational Law
Office of the Judge Advocate General

Paul Benoit, Vice-Chairman
Canadian Royal Heritage Trust

The Crown and Canada's Constitution – Contemporary Issues

Christopher McCreery, Private Secretary and Executive Director
Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia

Philippe Lagassé, Associate Professor
Graduate School of Public and International Affairs
University of Ottawa

Mark D. Walters, Professor
Faculty of Law
Queen's University

Parliamentary Business Seminars

Three parliamentary business seminars were held in 2014. Following a formula that is now well established, each CSPG seminar is usually divided into two 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 22, 2014

Parliament's Right to Know

Technical Briefing:
Parliament's Right to Know, and the Procedures for
Getting Government Information

Isa Gros-Louis
Director, Parliamentary Returns
Privy Council Office

Till Heyde
Clerk, Chamber Operations
Senate of Canada

Jeremy Leblanc
Deputy Principal Clerk, Journals
House of Commons

Discussion Panel:
Meeting the Information Needs of Parliamentarians:
How Well Does Canada Do?

Hon. Herb Breau
Former M.P. (Gloucester) and Minister of Fisheries and Oceans

Martha Hall Findlay
Chief Legal Officer, EnStream LP, and Former M.P.

Don Newman
Senior Strategic Advisor, Bluesky Strategy Group and
Former Senior Parliamentary Editor of CBC Television News

March 21, 2014

How Parliament Controls the Money

Technical Briefing: The Operations of the House of Commons
Standing Committee on Public Accounts and the Standing
Senate Committee on National Finance

Joann Garbig
Committee Clerk, House of Commons

Alex Smith
Analyst, Library of Parliament

Jodi Turner
Procedural Clerk, Senate of Canada

Panel: Perspectives on the Auditor General and Parliament

Wendy Loschiuk
Assistant Auditor General, Office of the Auditor General of Canada

David Good
Professor, University of Victoria

Bill Curry
Parliamentary Reporter, *The Globe and Mail*

Panel: How Parliament Controls the Money

John Williams
Former MP, Edmonton—St. Albert

Hon. Marlene Jennings
Former MP, Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine

Senator JoAnne Buth

October 17, 2014

Inside the Party Caucuses: Trends and Developments

Technical Briefing: Recent Research

Paul Thomas
PhD Candidate in Political Science, University of Toronto

John Nater
PhD Candidate in Political Science, Western University

Jane Hilderman
Acting Director and Research Manager, Samara Canada

Paul Wilson
Associate Professor, Clayton Riddell Graduate Program in Political
Management, Carleton University

Discussion Panel: Parliamentarians' Perspectives

Hon. Lowell Murray
Former Senator

Françoise Boivin
M.P. for Gatineau

Francis Scarpaleggia
M.P. for Lac-Saint-Louis and Chair of the Liberal Party Caucus

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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The CSPG's success relies on the work of numerous individuals, without whom it simply could not operate.

First, I want to thank the Board of Directors. Without these individuals, who freely give of their time and effort, there would be no CSPG. I am privileged to work with a team that is so knowledgeable about our parliamentary institutions and that is keen to share its knowledge of our democratic institutions. I would like to thank outgoing Board members Blair Armitage, Jean-Philippe Brochu, Stephen Knowles and Lucile McGregor for their contributions over the past few years.

I would also like to thank the CSPG Secretariat. In 2014, we benefited from the support and dedication of Dany Lamarque for administrative and logistical support during events. The Group also had occasional support from House of Commons staff during CSPG events.

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.

Michel Bédard
President

Ottawa, March 20, 2015