



## OPENING PARLIAMENT

**Friday, February 20, 2026**

**8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

**West Block, 111 Wellington Street, Room 035B, Ottawa, Ontario**

(Entry via the [Visitors Welcome Center](#), located to the right of the building)

Legislative assemblies play an essential role in democratic life. However, citizen involvement within them can be limited by a number of factors. On the one hand, the mechanisms that enable members of the public to participate actively in parliamentary institutions remain largely unknown. On the other hand, difficulties accessing institutions and parliamentarians limit the development of an in-depth understanding of their inner workings. This seminar will therefore examine these issues and look at how institutions can facilitate both citizen engagement within them and the study of how they operate.

### ARRIVAL

**8:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.**

### KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**8:45 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.**

- Sarah Childs, Professor, University of Edinburgh

### PRODUCING AND GATHERING PARLIAMENTARY DATA

**9:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.**

Moderator: Elizabeth McCallion, board member, CSPG

- Jennifer Beaufile, Senior Director, Library of Parliament
- Christopher Cochrane, Associate Professor, University of Toronto
- Elizabeth Goodyear-Grant, Professor, Queen's University
- Erin Tolley, Associate Professor, Carleton University

### BREAK

**10:45 a.m. to 11 a.m.**

### CITIZEN'S ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION

**11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.**

Moderator: Alison Zinni, board member, CSPG

- Laura Blackmore, Analyst, Library of Parliament
- Dominic Garant, Team Lead, Assemblée nationale du Québec
- Alexie Labelle, Legislative Clerk, House of Commons

- Cristina Leston Bandeira, Professor, University of Leeds

## **LUNCH**

**12:15 p.m. to 1 p.m.**

### **Registration**

To register to this event, [click here](#). The deadline is Monday, February 16, 2026.

### **Fees\***

- General admission: \$175
- Students, retirees and university professors: \$35 (contact us for a discount)
- Groups of 10 or more: a group rate is available upon request

### **Other Information**

- Hybrid event with online participation available
- Bilingual event with simultaneous interpretation available in English and French
- Coffee and lunch offered to in-person participants

We strive to make our events as accessible as possible. Please contact us for further information.

\* Registration is transferable but not refundable. You must advise the CSPG by the registration deadline (Monday, February 16, 2026) of any changes to your registration.

**The Canadian Study of Parliament Group** is dedicated to enhancing the understanding of parliamentary government and institutions by promoting research and dialogue on legislative systems in Canada. To that end, we are pleased to offer a series of non-partisan seminars on parliamentary and legislative topics with presentations from experts in the field. The seminars are bilingual – simultaneous interpretation is provided – and open to all.

### **For more information**

Visit our [website](#), follow us on [Bluesky](#) and [LinkedIn](#) or contact us at [info@cspg-gcep.ca](mailto:info@cspg-gcep.ca).

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