

## Call for papers

The Canadian Study of Parliament Group (CSPG) is issuing a call for contributions to be included in an insightful, bilingual book with the working title, “Parliament as a Workplace: Trends and Changes.” This innovative, peer-reviewed publication seeks to analyze the undeniably unique work environment of parliamentarians and parliamentary staff.

Those working in the legislative sphere face an array of challenges, from working unpredictable hours to managing the stress and uncertainty of politics. The book will examine the often difficult reality of parliamentary work and delve into the partisan, multilingual (including official languages), gendered, racialized and hierarchical nature of Parliament as a workplace. It will discuss the written and unwritten rules at play and provide insight about what it means to work in a unique legal environment.

The CSPG is looking for multidisciplinary contributions, based on a variety of methodological approaches (e.g., quantitative, qualitative, descriptive and normative studies) and drawing on different data sources such as archives, interviews and/or case studies. These contributions may also cover topics related to provincial legislatures or the federal Parliament. Here is a non-exhaustive list of topics that could be covered:

- How, from a legal standpoint, do people employed by Parliament deal with whistleblowing, ethical dilemmas, conflicts of interest, confidentiality and parliamentary privilege?
- To what extent have parliamentary institutions been able to fight all types of harassment and discrimination between parliamentarians and staff? Is parliamentary privilege an obstacle to resolving cases of discrimination and harassment?
- Is the parliamentary workforce representative of Canada’s diversity, i.e., does it reflect Canada’s mosaic of Indigenous, multilingual (including official languages), racial and gender identities?
- How do people employed by Parliament and parliamentarians deal with the lack of job security and the fact that legislatures are constantly changing?
- Are the wages and working conditions in Parliament (benefits, maternity leave, family-work balance, severance pay) adequate for all?
- What kinds of written or unwritten rules exist around developing and enforcing disciplinary measures (e.g., firing and censorship)?
- Do legislatures inspire a sense of security, civility, decorum and belonging despite the partisanship and propensity for constant conflict?

Chapter proposals can be written in English or French, must be no more than 300 words long and must be submitted by September 15, 2023, by email to [CSPG-GCEP@parl.gc.ca](mailto:CSPG-GCEP@parl.gc.ca). Selected proposals will be announced in October. Authors will then be invited to provide a draft chapter between 4,000 and 6,000 words by the end of February 2024. They will also have the opportunity to present their work at a conference on the same topic in April. This conference

will take place in Ottawa, and the CSPG will cover travel and accommodation expenses for all participants. Finally, the chapters will be submitted to a publisher in fall 2024. Proposals submitted by both practitioners and people with no institutional affiliation are welcome.

The CSPG is a non-partisan organization dedicated to helping people better understand how legislatures operate by promoting research and dialogue on Canada's legislative systems. Learn more by visiting our website: <http://cspg-gcep.ca/>.

For more information about this project, please contact Emmanuelle Richez at [emmanuelle.richez@uwindsor.ca](mailto:emmanuelle.richez@uwindsor.ca).