



Canadian Study
of Parliament Group

Groupe canadien
d'étude des parlements

Parliamentary Business Seminars

2017-2018

The Canadian Study of Parliament Group (CSPG) is pleased to offer a series of seminars on parliamentary procedure and current issues relevant to parliamentary and government relations specialists. They will appeal both to persons new to the fields of parliamentary and government relations, and to those with more experience in the area. The seminars include a healthy breakfast and buffet lunch.

Friday, November 10, 2017

Lobbying and Advocacy

What is the current state of lobbying in Canada? While the term can invoke skepticism, the interaction between external stakeholders and parliamentarians and ministers can be essential to the development of good public policy. Canada possesses one of the world's most robust systems of lobbyist registration and reporting to ensure such interactions take place in a transparent fashion. However, some contend that the current rules are overly restrictive, and serve to hinder the free flow of ideas. At the same time, the increasing professionalization of Canada's public affairs industry has led to the use of an increasingly diverse set of tactics and advocacy strategies to shape both government decisions and public opinion. This seminar will bring together leading Federal and Provincial regulators, practitioners, and academic experts to explore how the practice of lobbying and the rules that govern lobbying have evolved in recent years. It will also explore new trends in lobbying techniques and strategies, and how tactics vary across policy sectors.

Friday, January 19, 2018

Social Media and Parliament

Savvy parliamentarians boast hundreds of thousands if not millions of followers on their social media accounts and communicate instantly in a public forum. Ministers and their departments utilize social media for announcements or to promote programs. Parliamentary institutions push public information about their work using social media platforms. How do social media play a role in the daily cut and thrust of Parliament and how does it affect the way parliamentarians engage with each other, with their constituents and the public in general? This seminar will bring together technical, parliamentary and academic experts to explore the ubiquitous presence of social media in the parliamentary milieu and how the presence of various social media platforms has changed the way parliamentarians interact and perform their respective function.

Friday, March 16, 2018

Members and their Constituency

Every Canadian Member of the House of Commons is elected within a constituency. Yet scarce attention is usually given to the Member-constituency relationship despite it being a fundamental component of the democratic system. Members typically remain closely connected to their constituencies, spending much time and effort to understand concerns, aid constituents, and provide feedback from Ottawa. Distance and other duties such as being a Cabinet Minister can increase the challenge of fostering connections. Constituency interests also underlie tensions within party caucuses and can sometimes shape policy decisions or

opposition to those decisions. Members themselves often mediate these tensions, and also perform a range of policy-related and symbolic tasks, creating and maintaining relationships within the constituency, and acting on its behalf on the national stage. This seminar will bring together parliamentarians, academics, parliamentary staff and journalists who will look into the nature of constituency representation and engagement, while also exploring competing ideas about what the “constituency” is and how it may differ for some Members.

*Registration Fees

	CSPG Member	Non-Member
**Series of 3 seminars	\$400	\$500
November 10, 2017	\$150	\$200
January 19, 2018	\$150	\$200
March 16, 2018	\$150	\$200

For students and retirees the cost is \$25 per seminar.

***Registration fees are transferable to another person the day of the seminar and are not refundable. You must advise CSPG’s Secretariat 48 hours prior to the event of any changes to your registration.**

**** The Series must be paid in one payment prior to the first seminar and is not refundable. You will be automatically registered to all 3 seminars.**