

THE CANADIAN STUDY OF PARLIAMENT GROUP

1999 Annual Report

These are the highlights of the 1999 programs and activities of the Canadian Study of Parliament Group (CSPG). Thank you to all the Members of the Executive Committee for their hard work and to the CSPG membership for their continued support of our organization.

1998 FALL CONFERENCE

Taking Stock of 150 Years of Responsible Government in Canada

As part of its 20th anniversary celebrations, the Group's 1998 Fall Conference commemorated the *150th anniversary of the achievement of responsible government in British North America in 1848*.

The Group wishes to thank all those who took part in the conference including: Desmond Morton, one of Canada's leading historians and the Director of the McGill University Institute for the Study of Canada; Janet Ajzenstat (McMaster University); Jacques Monet, President of the University of Sudbury; Jennifer Smith (Dalhousie University); Réjean Pelletier (Laval University); Peter Aucoin (Dalhousie University); Lisa Young (University of Calgary); Christopher Moore, author; Michael Cassidy, Former M.P. and President of The Ginger Group Consultants; Peter Milliken, M.P. and Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons; David Docherty (Wilfrid Laurier University); James Mallory, Formerly Professor of Political Science at McGill University; David Daubney, Former M.P. and General Counsel with the Department of Justice; and Don Newman,

Senior Parliamentary Editor with CBC Television.

Thanks for the success of the conference are extended to all the participants, the Conference Co-Chairs – Leo Doyle and Don Eldon - and members of the Organizing Committee.

The Group is very pleased to announce that today marks the launch date for our book based on the collection of papers presented at the conference. A complimentary copy of the publication will be offered to all members of the Canadian Study of Parliament. Copies of the book will also be available for \$20.

The Group wishes to express its gratitude to Leslie Seidle, for making the publication of this book possible and for all the hard work he did in conjunction with its co-editor Louis Massicotte.

SEMINAR FOR PUBLIC SERVICE PARLIAMENTARY RELATIONS OFFICERS

In the Fall of 1996 the Canadian Study of Parliament Group began organizing half-day seminars for Parliamentary Relations Officers (PROs) from across the public service. The purpose of the seminars was to offer people with similar work experiences the opportunity to meet, share information and listen to speakers on a variety of topics of interest to all.

The fourth seminar in this series was held on Wednesday, April 7, 1999, and featured keynote speaker David Docherty, Assistant Professor at Wilfrid Laurier University and author of *Mr. Smith Goes to Ottawa: Life in the House of Commons*.

The program included two panel discussions. The first was on *Private Members' Business in the Senate and the House of Commons*. The panellists included Audrey O'Brien, Clerk Assistant (House of Commons); Gary O'Brien, Principal Clerk (Senate of Canada) and James Robertson, Research Officer (Library of Parliament). The second panel was on *How to use the Parliamentary Publications to get the best possible information*. The panellists included Charles Robert, Deputy Principal Clerk in the Senate and Marc Bosc, Deputy Principal Clerk in the House of Commons.

Also assisting were moderators, François Morissette, Chief, Parliamentary Affairs, Human Resources Development Canada; and Jeff Heynen, Research Coordinator at the Institute on Governance.

CSPG wishes to thank all the participants who have helped make this continuing collaboration with the PRO community such a success. A fifth seminar is planned for the early part of the year 2000.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A CSPG WEBSITE

The Group was very pleased this year to have the opportunity to establish its own Internet Website.

A special word of thanks to Executive Member Leo Doyle for taking the lead on this project and for getting the site up and running.

You can find us on the Internet at: www.studyparliament.ca

PARTICIPATION IN THE TEACHERS' INSTITUTE ON PARLIAMENT HILL

The Teachers' Institute is a program that was launched three years ago by the Hon. Gilbert Parent, Speaker of the House of Commons, to involve educators from across the country in a professional development opportunity that would promote effective teaching about Canadian parliamentary democracy.

As a means of supporting this worthwhile endeavour and in order to promote the work done by the Canadian Study of Parliament Group, we have for the past two years sponsored the opening night dinner for the teachers.

SPEAKING TOUR

The Canadian Study of Parliament Group in conjunction with the Association of Clerks-at-the-Table in Canada continues each year to organize speaking tours at Canadian universities on the role of Parliament.

We are also presenting today the 1998-99 Speaking Tour Report.

PARLIAMENTARY PERSPECTIVES

The Canadian Study of Parliament Group launched in May of 1998 a new series of papers on Canada's legislative institutions, processes and related issues. This publication is intended as a vehicle for distributing both studies prepared by academics and the reflections of others who have a particular interest in these issues. The papers are offered as an additional benefit of membership in the Group.

Issues were published in May and October 1998. Discussions are presently taking place with respect to the publication of a third issue.

FINANCES

Financial statements for the Group are presented with this report. Thanks to the generous support of the House of Commons, our strong membership numbers (300), the efforts of the Members of the Executive and the vigilance of our Treasurer, Mark Hill, the Group continues to operate well within budget.

PEOPLE

CSPG remains an energized organization due to its members and because people who share an interest in the institution of Parliament are prepared to volunteer their time and talents on the Executive and in many other ways.

Thank you to Members of the 1998/99 Executive Committee : Judy Cedar-Wilson, President; Leslie Seidle, Vice-president; François Houle, Past President; Mark Hill, Treasurer; Counsellors – François Cadieux, David Docherty, Leo Doyle, Geneviève Giroux, Jeff Heynen, Louis Massicotte, Charles Robert, Jennifer Smith; and Secretary, Carmen DePape.

Administrative Assistant, Danielle Gougeon, and Executive Members François Houle and Geneviève Giroux will be sorely missed as they leave the Group. We thank them for their contribution and wish them good luck in their future endeavours.