

THE CANADIAN STUDY OF PARLIAMENT GROUP

2001 ANNUAL REPORT

This report provides highlights and an overview of the CSPG's programs and activities for 2000-2001. Thank you to all the Members of the Executive Committee for their many hours of work, and to the CSPG membership for their continued support of our organization.

As the report indicates, in 2000-2001, CSPG partnered with a number of universities and organizations to advance its agenda of promoting knowledge and understanding of the parliamentary system of government. The success of these initiatives may serve as a model for future CSPG activities. This is something the 2001-2002 Executive Committee may wish to consider more fully.

SEMINAR FOR PUBLIC SERVICE PARLIAMENTARY RELATIONS OFFICERS

Since the fall of 1996, CSPG has regularly organized a series of half-day seminars for Parliamentary Relations Officers (PROs) from across the public service. These seminars are designed to provide PROs with opportunities to meet and to share information on a variety of topics related to their work in Parliament.

The sixth seminar in this series, entitled "The Legislative Process in Parliament and You", took place on Thursday, November 16, 2000.

The program included two panel discussions. The first, entitled "Procedural Primer", included panelists: Marie-Andrée Lajoie, Principal Clerk, House Proceedings, House of Commons; and Blair Armitage, Deputy Principal Clerk, Committees and Private Legislation Directorate, The Senate. The second panel focussed on "PRO Preparation for Legislation in Parliament". Panelists included: Pat Barlow, Director, Legislative Initiatives Directorate, Department of Indian and Northern Affairs; and Heather McKenzie, Head, Parliamentary Relations, Department of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

The CSPG hosted its first full-day PRO seminar on Thursday, January 25, 2001. The seventh seminar entitled "The 37th Parliament: Trends and Expectations" included Mr. Robert Marleau, former Clerk of the House of Commons, as keynote speaker. The morning session included Gary O'Brien, Deputy Clerk and Principal Clerk, Legislative Services, The Senate; Oonagh Fitzgerald, Assistant Secretary, House Planning, Privy Council Office; and Marc Bosc, Clerk Assistant, House of Commons. Over lunch, participants had the opportunity to hear Christian Boucher of EKOS Research Associates Inc. speak on Canadians attitudes towards their Parliament and their legislators.

A highlight of the seminar was the afternoon session, which featured house leaders and representatives from all five parties: the Hon. Don Boudria, P.C., M.P., Government House

Leader, Chuck Strahl, M.P., House Leader of the Official Opposition, Caroline St-Hilaire, M.P., Deputy House Leader of the Bloc québécois, Bill Blaikie, M.P., House Leader of the New Democratic Party and Peter MacKay, M.P., House Leader of the Conservative Party. The members of the five parties represented in the House gave us their perspectives on the 37th Parliament.

PARTICIPATION IN THE TEACHERS' INSTITUTE ON PARLIAMENT HILL

Launched by the Speaker of the House of Commons in 1996, the Teachers' Institute is a professional development program that is designed to provide teachers with a sound knowledge and understanding of Canada's parliamentary system.

In past years, CSPG has sponsored in part the Welcome Dinner held at the opening of the Teachers' Institute program. At an Executive Committee meeting held on October 24, 2001, the Executive agreed to a proposal to establish a collaborative arrangement between the Library of Parliament and the CSPG to provide on-going resources for participants at the Teachers Institute on Canadian Parliamentary Democracy by providing a complimentary one-year membership for all educators attending the Institute.

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 2000-2001 Speaking Tour Report.

PARLIAMENTARY PERSPECTIVES

In May 1998, CSPG launched a new series of papers entitled *Parliamentary Perspectives*. The series examines issues related to Canada's legislative institutions and processes. This publication is intended as a vehicle for distributing both studies prepared by academics and the reflections of others that have an interest in these issues. The papers are offered as an additional benefit of membership in the CSPG.

The fourth issue in this series was published in November 2001. The paper, by Dr. Cristine de Clercy, Assistant Professor with the Department of Political Studies and Research Fellow at the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives at the University of Saskatchewan is entitled: "The Requisites of Leadership in the Modern House of Commons".

CONFERENCE ON OFFICERS OF PARLIAMENT

In January 2001, the Department of Political Studies at the University of Saskatchewan conveyed to the CSPG Executive a detailed proposal for a conference to be held in Saskatoon on November 2-3, 2001, on Officers of Parliament. The proposal sought the CSPG's partnership and support

for this event, which was titled: Independence and Responsibility: A Conference on the Officers of Parliament. The Executive Committee approved the partnership request and provided funding of \$2,500. Participation in this event provided CSPG with an opportunity to support a worthwhile conference outside of the National Capital Region. Vice-president, Leslie Seidle, represented the CSPG on the conference program. Other CSPG Executive attendees included university professors: David Docherty (Wilfrid Laurier), Jennifer Smith (Dalhousie), and Louis Massicotte (Montreal).

2001 FALL CONFERENCE

Canada Today: A Democratic Audit

The CSPG's fall conference took place November 30 and December 1, 2001, and was organized in partnership with the Centre for Canadian Studies at Mount Allison University. The conference brought together a number of prominent academics from across Canada who are conducting the 21st century's first, wide-ranging examination of democracy in Canada. In addition to serving as the CSPG's fall conference, this event is part of Mount Allison's Centre for Canadian Studies' ongoing research in this area. The project will lead to a series of volumes to be published by the University of British Columbia Press, each addressing a different aspect of Canadian democracy.

The CSPG wishes to thank Executive Committee Members, William Cross, Centre for Canadian Studies, Mount Allison University and Leslie Seidle, Vice-President of CSPG for their work in organizing and co-chairing the conference. Indeed, this event was made possible by the outstanding efforts of many CSPG members. The Group wishes to thank all participants: David C. Docherty, Department of Political Science, Wilfrid Laurier University; Graham White, Department of Political Science, University of Toronto; George Perlin, Department of Political Science, Queen's University; Peter C. Dobell, Founding Director, Parliamentary Centre; Marie-Andrée Lajoie, Principal Clerk, House Proceedings, House of Commons; André Blais, Department of Political Science, Université de Montréal; Elisabeth Gidengil, Department of Political Science, McGill University; Richard Nadeau, Department of Political Science, Université de Montréal; Neil Nevitte, Department of Political Science, University of Toronto; Lisa Young, Department of Political Science, University of Calgary; Joanna Everitt, Department of Politics, University of New Brunswick, Saint John; Reg Alcock, Member of Parliament; Hon. Pierre Claude Nolin, Senator; Ian Greene, Department of Political Science, York University; Jennifer Smith, Department of Political Science, Dalhousie University; Wayne MacKay, President, Mount Allison University; Nathalie Des Rosiers, President, Law Commission of Canada; John C. Courtney, Department of Political Studies, University of Saskatchewan; Peter Aucoin, Department of Political Science, Dalhousie University; Donald G. Lenihan, Director, Centre for Collaborative Government; Darin Barney, Department of Communication, University of Ottawa; David Cameron, Department of Political Science, University of Toronto; Janice Gross Stein, Director of the Munk Centre for International Studies, University of Toronto; Tim Plumptre, Managing Director and Founding President, Institute on Governance; Alain Noël, Department of Political Science, Université de Montréal; Ken Carty, Department of Political Science, University of British Columbia; Louis Massicotte, Department of Political Science, Université de Montréal; Richard Sigurdson, Department of Political Science, University of New Brunswick; and Miriam Smith, Department of Political Science, Carleton University.

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 (326), the efforts of the Members of the Executive and the Treasurer, Antonine Campbell, the Group continues to operate within budget.

Leo B. Doyle
President
December 6, 2001