



Canadian Study
of Parliament Group

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

Ottawa, March 26, 2010



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This report provides an overview of the programs and activities of the Canadian Study of Parliament Group (CSPG) for the period between January 2009 and February 2010.

2009 HIGHLIGHTS

There are many highlights in what proved to be yet another successful year for the CSPG. The highlights include:

- ❖ two exciting seminars in March and December on the Parliamentary Budget Officer and the Federal Accountability Act;
- ❖ the organization of three successful Parliamentary Business Seminars;
- ❖ the commissioning of five new research papers as part of our series of papers on Provincial and Territorial Legislatures;
- ❖ the conducting of the seventh annual National Student Essay competition;
- ❖ the final completion of Dr. David Pond's 2006-2008 Mallory Research Grant project and the progress of Dr. Kelly Blidook's 2008-2010 project;
- ❖ a new "Green initiative" that will promote an electronic-based notification system and move away from our existing paper-based one; and,
- ❖ continued streamlining of CSPG finances to ensure its sustainable fiscal health.

The CSPG is thankful for the strong support it receives from its members and partners, whose contributions are noted below.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

The Senate

The CSPG would like to express thanks for the continued ongoing support received from the Senate. The CSPG is in the process of establishing a written agreement with the Senate concerning the financial contribution, modeled in part on the written arrangement in place with the House of Commons.

The House of Commons

The CSPG and the House of Commons were pleased to renew their service agreement at the beginning of 2010 for another three years. The Table Research Branch continues to play a critical role in supporting the work of the CSPG through the provision of an annual financial contribution, in kind-support and – most importantly – staff assistance. I wish to recognize in particular Chloé O’Shaughnessy and Samy Agha, both Procedural Clerks with the House of Commons. Chloé served as the CSPG Executive Secretary until June 2009, after which her duties passed to Samy. We are grateful to both for their invaluable work. Sophie Descary, the CSPG’s Administrative Officer for the past several years, accepted a new one-year assignment in November 2009, and was replaced briefly by Julie Levesque and now by Anne Jarbough. We thank all of them for their dedication and professionalism on behalf of the CSPG. Marie-Danielle Vachon and José Cadorette have also been instrumental in offering advice and furthering CSPG projects in their roles as Deputy Principal Clerk and Acting Deputy Principal Clerk, respectively, for the Table Research Branch.

Finances

Overall, the financial situation of the CSPG remains healthy and the CSPG is well-positioned to fulfill its mandate. Although revenues for the past year were somewhat lower than expected, the Group continues to hold a significant reserve which is used to offset budgeted deficits. In 2009, the Board adopted a new Investment Policy Statement that will permit a return on CSPG’s deposits without incurring risk or compromising liquidity to meet its operational requirements. Any investments have been undertaken in conformance with the policy statement.

Financial controls are performing to expectations; however, an audit for recent years remains outstanding. Efforts were made to secure audit services on a *pro bono* basis or for a modest honorarium, but by year-end, were not successful. As a consequence, funds budgeted for an audit will be renewed in order to commission an audit in the coming fiscal year. Expenditures were also lower than expected; and economies were actively pursued to make the best use of resources.

In the past year, modest increases were applied to event fees; with the exception of retirees, who will now be charged for events at the same rate as students.

The CSPG would like to sincerely thank Sophie Descary for her exceptional work in managing the finances and financial records for the CSPG for many years, as well as for her efforts in facilitating the transition to new support staff. Her dedication and experience are very much appreciated.

Membership and Outreach

A new Outreach Committee and the CSPG Secretariat carried out a number of activities over the past year designed to boost CSPG’s membership figures, enhance benefits to members, increase event participation and promote awareness of the group’s existence and activities.

The Group prepared customized mail outs to Hill staff and parliamentary relations officers in all departments to promote membership and participation in CSPG events. The CSPG is also pleased to have offered free one year memberships to participants in the legislative internship programs of Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia; as well as interns with the Parliamentary Internship Program and the Library of Parliament. To date,

interns in the Parliamentary Internship Program and the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program have accepted the complimentary memberships.

The CSPG brochure and website have been updated, with greater emphasis on membership benefits. Website enhancements including online registration for all activities, e-mail notification subscription options, online event agendas and a new section for student essays, provincial and territorial papers and Mallory Grant winners. We have also enhanced event promotion including e-mail notices to past participants, press releases and increased use of related websites and listservs.

The Committee also recommended new event pricing to generate additional revenue and bring CSPG in line with other groups offering comparable activities. The proposal was approved and implemented by the Board.

Finally, the Committee approved a recommendation from the Secretariat to “green” CSPG activities by moving to e-mail as the default distribution method for all materials except the *Canadian Parliamentary Review*. Members received written notification of the change and were asked to provide current contact information. As a result, printing has been greatly reduced, staff time has been saved and CSPG’s mailing list has been updated.

The Committee would like to thank Samy Agha and Sophie Descary for their support throughout the year and the initiative they have consistently shown in pursuing ways to increase the visibility and success of the CSPG.

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

In 2007 CSPG launched a major project aiming eventually to commission and publish original papers on all thirteen provincial and territorial legislatures in Canada. The project is designed to fill an important gap in the literature in that little up-to-date, authoritative material is available on many of Canada’s parliamentary institutions for students, journalists or the public. The paper on the Nova Scotia House of Assembly has been published and a final version of the Manitoba paper will be published in the next few months.

In 2008 a request for proposals was widely circulated in the academic community for papers on other legislatures. After many expressions of interest, in 2009 the Research and Publications Committee was pleased to commission five new papers on the legislatures of Alberta, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, and Quebec. Two authors have already submitted drafts and all the studies should be ready for publication by 2011.

The CSPG was also pleased to co-sponsor a panel on “Crisis in Canadian Federal Parliamentary Government” and several other papers at the Atlantic Provinces Political Science Association meetings at Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia in October 2009. The panel discussion included Professors Jennifer Smith and Lori Turnbull (both from Dalhousie University) and Professor Thomas Urbaniuk (Cape Breton University). Professor Alex Marland (Memorial University of Newfoundland) also presented his research on the Newfoundland and Labrador House of Assembly as part of the provincial/territorial research paper series. CSPG board member Professor Tamara Small (Mount Allison University) presented a paper on “Politics in 140 Characters: Why Canadian Politicians Twitter” and CSPG president Jonathan Malloy (Carleton University) delivered a paper on “Parliament and the War on Terror”.

National Student Essay Competition

The essay competition, for undergraduate and graduate students across Canada, entered its seventh annual competition in 2009. Students were once again invited to submit an essay addressing Parliament, legislatures or legislators in either English or French. After some years of low entries, the selection committee was delighted to receive thirty-six entries. The selection committee was headed by Professor Tamara A. Small (Mount Allison University) and comprised Professors David Docherty (Wilfrid Laurier University), Jonathan Rose (Queen's University) and Jonathan Malloy (Carleton University).

The winner was Melissa Bonga from the University of Ottawa for her paper on "Leadership and the Coalition Crisis: An Analysis of the November 2008 Attempt to Form a Coalition Government". Ms. Bonga will receive a prize of \$1000, and be honoured at the luncheon coinciding with the Group's Annual General Meeting. The prize winning essay will also appear on the CSPG Web site.

James R. Mallory Research Grant

The James R. Mallory Research Grant was established in 2006 to honour one of the Group's most distinguished members. The James R. Mallory Research Grant is offered bi-annually and currently is worth \$8,000. It is awarded in April, and the recipient's research paper is due in September the following year. The current members of the Mallory Grant committee are Graham White, Leslie Seidle, Tamara Small, Charles Mallory and Jennifer Smith.

The second winner of the grant, Professor David Pond, University of Toronto, presented his preliminary findings at the CSPG annual general meeting in March 2009. His study, titled "The Impact of Parliamentary Officers on Canadian Parliamentary Democracy: A study of the Commissioner of the Environment and the Sustainable Development and the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario" will be published by the CSPG in spring 2010.

The third winner of the grant (2008-2010) is Kelly Blidook, Memorial University. His proposal is entitled "Governed by Actors? The Importance of Performance in Canadian Parliament". It is due in September 2010. Blidook submitted his progress report to the CSPG in December 2009, as required by the terms of the grant.

The CSPG would like to particularly thank Professor Jennifer Smith for her work chairing the Mallory Grant committee since its inception, as well as all members of the committee for their sterling work in adjudicating these grants. Thus far, each of the research papers has been excellent. The CSPG would like to offer a special note of thanks to Charles Mallory for his ongoing interest in the award and his service on the committee.

CONFERENCE AND SEMINARS

“Mini-Conference” Seminars

For the last two years, the Group has sponsored successful “mini-conference” seminars in the fall and spring. The March 2009 seminar, held alongside the annual general meeting, was on the office of the Parliamentary Budget Officer. Speakers included Allan Darling, Paul Wells of *Maclean’s* and Graham White of the University of Toronto. The panel and audience discussion was lively, befitting this particular topic.

The December 2009 seminar was on “The Federal Accountability Act Three Years On” and featured a number of notable speakers, including Commissioner of Lobbying Karen Shepherd, John Williams, former member of the House of Commons and chair of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, Campbell Clark of the Globe and Mail, Kim Doran of the Tactix consulting firm and Laura Tupper of Hill and Knowlton. The speakers debated whether the FAA has created a new climate of accountability in Canadian politics and government, whether it has gone too far and created unnecessary new restrictions, and the particular challenges facing lobbying registration.

Parliamentary Business Seminars

The CSPG continues to organize its very successful Parliamentary Business Seminars, which are held on topical issues relating to the Canadian Parliament for parliamentary relations specialists and others. Three half-day seminars are held every year and typically involve presentations by experienced parliamentarians, journalists, officials from the Hill and public service, or academics with relevant expertise. They also include time for questions and dialogue from the audience, as well as a concluding lunch and further networking opportunities. Attendance at the seminars remains strong, averaging 85 participants per seminar in 2009. The CSPG takes pride in keeping the seminars very affordable, compared with other similar events, and regularly compares its registration fees to ensure they remain competitive and well below what other organizations charge. The CSPG would particularly like to thank panel participants who give their time and expertise without charge. Session topics, and the presenters who made the 2009-2010 seminar program possible, are:

May 2009: “Political Parties and Parliament”

First Panel:

- The Hon. Paul Wyatt Dick, Former Member of Parliament for Lanark--Renfrew—Carleton
- Michael Eizenga, Senior Partner, Siskinds LLP
- Leslie MacKinnon, Reporter, Parliamentary Bureau, CBC Television, *The National*

Second Panel:

- The Hon. Don Boudria, Former Member of Parliament for Glengarry--Prescott—Russell
- Jennifer Ditchburn, Journalist, The Canadian Press
- William J. Pristanski, Principal, Prospectus Associates

October 2009: “Parliamentary Procedure 101: What you need to know about how Parliament works”

First Panel: The Senate

- Blair Armitage, Principal Clerk, Legislative Systems and Broadcasting, Senate
- Catherine Piccinin, Deputy Principal Clerk, International and Interparliamentary Affairs

Second Panel: The House of Commons

- Marc Bosc, Deputy Clerk, House of Commons
- Karen Redman, Former Member of Parliament for Kitchener Centre

January 2010: “Follow the Money: Understanding the federal budgetary cycle”

First Panel: Implementation and Scrutiny of the Estimates

- Marlene Catterall, Former Liberal Party Member for Ottawa--West Nepean
- Brian Pagan, Executive Director, Expenditure Operations and Estimates Division
Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat
- Alex Smith, Analyst, Government Finance, Library of Parliament

Second Panel: Policy Development and Pre-Budget Consultations

- David Dewar, Director, Expenditure Analysis, Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat
- Massimo Pacetti, Liberal Party Member of Parliament for Saint-Léonard—Saint Michel
- Neil Saravanamuttoo, Coordinator, Expenditure and Revenue Analysis and Forecasting,
Finance Canada

The people listed above, along with session moderators and our seminar organizers, made the 2009 seminar program a resounding success. Their willingness to contribute their time is greatly appreciated. The Parliamentary Business Seminars continue to provide a stimulating and informative experience, helping to foster learning and discussion about Parliament. Sincere thanks are expressed to the Events Committee for creating yet another year of informative and stimulating seminars.

PARTNERSHIPS AND REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Speaking Tour

The Speaking Tour program, which was established in 1988, is a joint initiative of the CSPG and the Association of Clerks-at-the-Table in Canada. The CSPG fulfils the role of arranging for senior Procedural Clerks to speak to classes at Canadian universities about aspects of the Canadian parliamentary system.

Letters to universities were sent in the spring, with a follow up reminder in the fall. Fifteen requests were received from 11 universities. In total, 11 presentations were provided, which were all fulfilled by Table Officers and Senior Clerks from the House of Commons and the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba.

Teacher's Institute on Canadian Parliamentary Democracy

The Teachers' Institute (TI) is a professional development program that brings 70 teachers from across Canada to Parliament Hill for a one week "behind the scenes" seminar designed to provide teachers with a sound understanding of Canada's parliamentary system. The TI celebrated its 12th anniversary this year. For the 9th year in a row, the Group has provided a complimentary one-year membership to all educators attending the Teacher's Institute in November 2009. CSPG President Jonathan Malloy was also invited to chair a panel discussion of current and former parliamentarians as part of the TI programme. The TI recognizes this contribution in their brochures, on their Web site and in participant's manuals.

SPECIAL THANKS

The CSPG continues to owe a debt of gratitude to the outstanding support it receives from staff in the Table Research Branch of the House of Commons, particularly in 2009 as several individuals moved on to new positions. The following individuals have played invaluable roles in supporting the Group's activities over the past year: Sophie Descary, Julie Levesque and Anne Jarbough (Administrative Officer), Chloé O'Shaughnessy and Samy Agha (CSPG Executive Secretary) and Marie-Danielle Vachon, Deputy Principal Clerk and José Cadorette, Acting Deputy Principal Clerk of the Table Research Branch. Thanks are expressed for the superlative assistance.

On behalf of the CSPG, thanks are expressed to departing Board members – Luc Juillet, Peggy Morgan, and Jennifer Smith - for the unflagging energy and creativity which they have brought to the organization for many years. Their contributions will be missed. Special thanks are also expressed to the Board and Executive of CPSG who work tirelessly to fulfill the objectives of the Group while raising the profile of and interest in public institutions such as Parliament and the provincial/territorial legislatures. We must note the dedication of these volunteers who have many other responsibilities but have given their time and energy to work on behalf of the Group and its members: Blair Armitage, Dianne Brydon, Jean Cintrat, David Docherty, Janice Hilchie, Jean-Rodrigue Paré, Jonathan Rose, Tamara A. Small, Christine Trauttmansdorff and Graham White.

I want to particularly thank Past President Patricia Chaychuk for her continuing dedication and commitment to the Group and particularly for assisting the current President in many tasks large and small.

It has been a privilege to serve as CSPG President and to work with such talented people. 2009 has been another successful year of advancing our mission and I am confident the future remains bright for the Canadian Study of Parliament Group.

Jonathan Malloy
President



NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT 2010-2011

The Canadian Study of Parliament Group (CSPG) Nominating Committee, composed of Jonathan Malloy, Patricia Chaychuck, and Peggy Morgan, has the honour to present its report. The committee proposes the following nominations for 2010-2011:

- PRESIDENT: JONATHAN MALLOY**
Associate Professor
Department of Political Science
Carleton University
- VICE-PRESIDENT: JEAN-RODRIGUE PARÉ**
Analyst
Library of Parliament
- TREASURER: JANICE HILCHIE**
Vice-President
Legislative Relations
Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association
- SECRETARY: JEAN CINTRAT**
Director
Parliamentary Affairs Division
Public Safety Canada
- PAST-PRESIDENT: PATRICIA CHAYCHUCK**
Clerk
Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

CONTINUING DIRECTORS :
(second year of two year terms)

BLAIR ARMITAGE

Principal Clerk
Communications Directorate
Senate of Canada

DAVID DOCHERTY

Dean of Arts
Wilfred Laurier University

JONATHAN ROSE

Associate Professor
Department of Political Studies
Queen's University

TAMARA SMALL

Assistant Professor
Department of Political Science
Mount Allison University

CHRISTINE TRAUTTMANSDORFF

Director
Policy, Planning, and International Affairs
Social Sciences and Humanities Research
Council of Canada

DEPARTING DIRECTORS :

LUC JUILLET

Director
Graduate School of Public and International
Affairs, University of Ottawa

PEGGY MORGAN

Advisor, Government Relations
Corporate Affairs, RBC Financial Group

JENNIFER SMITH

Professor
Department of Political Science
Dalhousie University

DIRECTORS TO BE ELECTED :
(term expires this year)

DIANNE BRYDON

Director
Parliamentary Public Programs
Library of Parliament

GRAHAM WHITE

Professor
Department of Political Science
University of Toronto

NEW DIRECTORS TO BE ELECTED :
(for two year terms)

HEATHER MACIVOR

Associate Professor
Department of Political Science
University of Windsor

JACK STILBORN

Retired (Library of Parliament)

HOWARD YEUNG

Consultant
Deloitte