



Canadian Study of Parliament Group

2011 ANNUAL REPORT

Ottawa, March 23, 2012



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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 2011 and February 2012.

2011 HIGHLIGHTS

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

- a successful Spring conference on “Inside the Prime Minister’s Office” continuing success with our new Parliamentary Business Seminar format, which maximize learning opportunities and participant interaction
- the publication of two further papers in our series of provincial/territorial legislatures series, on the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick and the National Assembly of Quebec
- completion of Professor Kelly Blidook’s J.R. Mallory Research Grant study “Symbol vs. Substance: Theatre, Political Career Paths, and Parliamentary Behaviour in Canada”
- awarding of the new 2011 Mallory Research Grant to Professor Munroe Eagles for his study on “Organized Interests and MPs in Canada’s House of Commons: Who Gets Lobbied by Whom (and Why)”

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

The CSPG is thankful for the strong support it receives from its members and partners, and especially the House of Commons and the Senate of Canada. The Table Research Branch continues to play an especially critical role in supporting the work of the Group. Marie-Danielle Vachon has been instrumental in offering advice and furthering CSPG projects in her roles as Deputy Principal Clerk for the Table Research Branch.

The CSPG also enjoys a strong relationship with the *Canadian Parliamentary Review* and its editor, Gary Levy. Copies of the *Review* are sent to all paid CSPG members, and the *Review* regularly features CSPG papers and proceedings.

Finances

The CSPG ended the year with its finances in good order. For the first time in several years, the Group's net assets at the end of 2011 were greater than at the beginning of the year. Continued efforts to reduce operational expenses and realize further economies have contributed to this result, along with a healthy attendance at CSPG events.

The CSPG initiated an annual audit for 2011 in accordance with good governance practices. The investment policy statement adopted by the Board in 2009 is ensuring continuity in the CSPG's GIC investments and we continue to realize modest returns.

Going forward, we anticipate to continue a path of deficit budgeting, albeit at a level lower than forecast in previous years. The Board will continue to ensure that the Group's finances do not fall below a level required in order for it to carry out its work.

Membership and Outreach

The Group's membership is presently at 366, as of February 2012.

The Group website (studyparliament.ca) is a key resource for promotion, event registration and an archive of all recent publications. The CSPG continues to recruit new members through provision of complimentary one-year memberships to parliamentary and legislative interns and participants in the annual Teachers' Institute upon request.

The CSPG continues to promote awareness of its work and benefits of membership. We have found word-of-mouth by existing members to be the most effective way to recruit new members, and urge all members to continue to spread the word about CSPG events and membership.

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Provincial/Territorial Papers

The CSPG program of commissioning and publishing original research on all thirteen provincial and territorial legislatures in Canada continues under the guidance of CSPG board member and University of Toronto Professor Graham White. 2011 saw the publication of two additional studies, one on the National Assembly of Quebec by Magali Paquin of Laval University, and the other on the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick, by Professors Stewart Hyson (University of New Brunswick at Saint John) and Donald Desserud (now of the University of Prince Edward Island). This marks the completion of six papers, including all the Atlantic Provinces, and a seventh on the Legislative Assembly of Alberta is

forthcoming soon. In 2012 the Group will advertise a call for proposals for the remaining provincial and territorial assemblies.

Academic Conferences

In October 2011, the CSPG sponsored a roundtable discussion at the Atlantic Provinces Political Science Association annual meetings at Mount Allison University in Sackville, NB on the new book *Democratizing the Constitution* by Peter Aucoin, Mark Jarvis and CSPG board member Lori Turnbull (Dalhousie University). Professor Don Desserud (UPEI) and CSPG president Jonathan Malloy participated in a lively debate on this important new book. *Democratizing the Constitution* (Emond Montgomery Press) argues that the unwritten conventions regarding the Canadian parliamentary system are too ambiguous, and suggests a number of new written guidelines similar to those found in New Zealand and elsewhere. This book, newly published in July 2011 following the 41st general election, will be of great interest to CSPG members. However, on a sad note, one of the co-authors, Professor Peter Aucoin of Dalhousie University, passed away in the same month of the book's publication. Professor Aucoin and his work were well-known to the CSPG and we mourn his passing.

National Student Essay Competition

The essay competition, for undergraduate and graduate students across Canada, entered its ninth annual competition in 2011. Students were once again invited to submit an essay addressing Parliament, legislatures or legislators in either English or French, and the deadline was moved from January to February 1 to ensure more entries. We were pleased to receive 26 entries. The selection committee was headed by Dr. Lori Turnbull (Dalhousie University) and comprised Ms. Marie-Danielle Vachon, Dr. Patti Tamara Lenard (University of Ottawa), Dr. Jonathan Rose (Queen's University) and Dr. Jonathan Malloy (Carleton University).

The winner was Jonathan Lang. Mr. Lang will receive a prize of \$1000, and be honoured at the luncheon coinciding with the CSPG's Annual General Meeting. The 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 \$8,000.00.

2011 saw the release of the latest Mallory Grant study by Professor Kelly Blidook of Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador. Dr. Blidook's study, "Symbol vs. Substance: Theatre, Political Career Paths, and Parliamentary Behaviour in Canada," argues that members of the House of Commons pursue "attention-getting behavior" over more substantive work because they feel this will advance their careers. Dr. Blidook argues that media coverage is particularly pivotal here. This provocative study will be the focus of the CSPG Spring conference to be held along with the Annual general meeting.

Additionally, the CSPG was pleased to award the new 2011-2012 grant to Professor D. Munroe Eagles of the State University of New York – Buffalo. Dr. Eagles, a Canadian expatriate, will study “Organized Interests and MPs in Canada’s House of Commons: Who Gets Lobbied by Whom (and Why)”. The CSPG looks forward to the completion of Dr. Eagles’ work later in 2012. The 2011-12 competition received strong submissions from 12 applicants, and the adjudication committee (Dr. Jonathan Rose from Queen’s University, Dr. Heather MacIvor from the University of Windsor, Dr. Donald Desserud of the University of Prince Edward Island and CSPG president Jonathan Malloy) regretted that it could not support all of the many worthy proposals.

CONFERENCE AND SEMINARS

The CSPG organized four events in 2011. Events continue to be consistently well-attended, and always superbly organized thanks to the CSPG staff and other members of the parliamentary precinct staff. We particularly thank all of our speakers and panelists who give of their time and effort without charge.

Parliamentary Business Seminars

Three Parliamentary Business Seminars were held in 2011:

January 2011: The Legislative Process

First Panel:

- Jeffrey LeBlanc, Principal Clerk, Journals Branch, House of Commons
- Catherine Piccinin, Deputy Principal Clerk, Committees, the Senate of Canada

Second Panel:

- Jack Layton, MP for Toronto-Danforth
- Senator Grant Mitchell, Alberta
- Senator Nicole Eaton, Ontario

May 2011: Private Member’s Business

First Panel:

- Olivier Champagne, Procedural Clerk, Journals Branch, House of Commons
- Till Heyde, Chamber Operations Clerk, Chamber Operations and Procedure Office, Senate
- Jean Cintrat, Director, Parliamentary Affairs Division, Public Safety Canada

Second Panel:

- Hon. Marlene Jennings, former MP Notre-Dame-de-Grâce – Lachine
- Inky Mark, retired MP Dauphin - Swan River – Marquette

October 2011: Committees: The Democratic Reform Agenda

First Panel:

- Heather Lank, Principal Clerk, Committees Directorate, Senate of Canada
André Gagnon, Clerk Assistant, Committees and Legislative Services
Directorate, House of Commons
- Jean-Rodrigue Paré, Analyst, International Affairs and Defence, Library of
Parliament

Second Panel:

- Paul Dewar, Member of Parliament for Ottawa Centre
- The Honourable Stéphane Dion, Member of Parliament for Saint-Laurent—
Cartierville
- Emmanuelle Latraverse, Ottawa Bureau Chief, CBC
- Benoît Pelletier, Full Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Ottawa

In late 2010, the CSPG instituted a number of new improvements to the already successful PBS format, led by CSPG board member Jack Stilborn, and these have made for a very successful series of 2011 seminars. The PBSs now feature a clear two-panel format that focuses first on learning about the parliamentary process from procedural staff (the “technical briefing”) and second on hearing from parliamentarians and other speakers about current and upcoming issues. Breakout sessions and other innovations have also been instituted to further encourage discussion and mutual exchange.

As president, I particularly want to thank CSPG board members Jack Stilborn, Stephen Knowles, Jean-Rodrigue Paré and Jean Cintrat for their efforts on the parliamentary business seminars.

Panels and Conferences

The March 2011 Spring conference featured a provocative and compelling discussion on “Inside the Prime Minister’s Office.” Jodi White, Edward Goldenberg and Keith Beardsley all shared insights from their time in the offices of the Rt. Hon. Kim Campbell, Jean Chrétien and Stephen Harper. The discussion was very interesting and was captured in a subsequent April 4, 2011 *Hill Times* article. The panel was chaired by Professor Christopher Dornan of Carleton University, who has been instrumental in Carleton’s new Political Management degree program that trains students to act as senior ministerial and political staff.

Unfortunately, no Fall conference was held in 2011, as the 41st general election on May 2 and the normal subsequent disruptions of beginning a new parliament made it difficult to organize an event with sufficient lead time.

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. Requests were received from 4 universities and included multiple presentation requests. In total 4 presentations were provided, which were all fulfilled by Table Officers from the Senate and the House of Commons.

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 CSPG also has a table at the annual Resource Fair where we have been able to communicate with dozens of teachers every year and learn about their needs as well as further promoting the CSPG. All participants are invited to sign up for a complimentary one-year membership in the CSPG. In 2011, 21 individuals did so.

SPECIAL THANKS

The CSPG could not operate without the work of a number of important people.

We particularly wish to recognize the contributions of the CSPG Executive Secretaries and Administrative Officers. Erica Pereira served as the CSPG Executive Secretary until June 2011 and was replaced by Julie Geoffrion, who herself was replaced in February 2012 by Catherine Cuerrier. Both Erica and Julie left for maternity leaves. The Group was pleased for their personal joy but very sad to see both of them go. Dany Lamarque has ably served as Administrative Officer for the CSPG and has become a very valuable member of the team.

On behalf of the Group, thanks are expressed to departing Board members – Dr. Jean-Rodrigue Paré, Dr. Heather MacIvor, Mr. Howard Yeung, and Ms. Dianne Brydon. The CSPG particularly thanks Dianne, a former CSPG president and the longest-serving member on the Board, for her many years of service to the Group. The contributions of all will be missed, but we know they will continue to be friends of the CSPG.

Special thanks are also expressed to the Board and Executive of CSPG who work tirelessly to fulfill the objectives of the Group while raising the profile of an interest in parliamentary institutions. 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, Jean Cintrat, Janice Hilchie, Stephen Knowles, Patti Lenard, Jonathan Rose, Jack Stilborn, Lori Turnbull and

Graham White. As I complete my third year as president, I again want to particularly thank Past President Patricia Chaychuk for her continuing assistance and counsel, as she serves in the one executive position that cannot be given up until the next president leaves! It has been a privilege to serve as CSPG President and to work with such great and dedicated people.

2011 has been another successful year for the Canadian Study of Parliament Group. We continue to advance our mission of fostering discussion and enhancing knowledge of parliamentary government, working with our various partners and stakeholders and serving the needs and interests of our members. We look forward to another great year in 2012.

Jonathan Malloy
President



NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT 2012-2013

The Canadian Study of Parliament Group (CSPG) Nominating Committee composed of Jonathan Malloy, Janice Hilchie, and Jack Stilborn, has the honour to present its report. The committee proposes the following nominations for 2012-2013:

- PRESIDENT:** **JONATHAN MALLOY**
Associate Professor
Department of Political Science
Carleton University
- VICE-PRESIDENT:** **MICHEL BEDARD**
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

JONATHAN ROSE

Associate Professor
Department of Political Studies
Queen's University

STEPHEN KNOWLES

Retired (House of Commons)

LORI TURNBULL

Associate Professor
Department of Political Science
Dalhousie University

PATTI TAMARA LENARD

Assistant Professor
Graduate School of Public and International
Affairs
University of Ottawa

DEPARTING BOARD MEMBERS :

DIANNE BRYDON

Director General
Learning and Access Services
Library of Parliament

HEATHER MACIVOR

Associate Professor
Department of Political Science
University of Windsor

**CURRENT DIRECTORS TO BE ELECTED
TO NEW TERMS :**
(term expires this year)

JACK STILBORN

Retired (Library of Parliament)

GRAHAM WHITE

Professor
Department of Political Science
University of Toronto

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

CATHERINE PICCININ

Deputy Principal Clerk
Senate of Canada

ALEX SMITH

Analyst
Library of Parliament

MARIE- DANIELLE VACHON

Deputy Principal Clerk
House of Commons

DEPARTING BOARD MEMBERS (
continued) :

JEAN-RODRIGUE PARE

Analyst
Library of Parliament

HOWARD YEUNG

Manager
Consulting, Strategy & Operations
Deloitte Inc.

