



Canadian Study of  
Parliament Group

## **Annual Report**

**2017**

## Annual Report 2017

This report provides an overview of the activities and programs of the Canadian Study of Parliament Group (CSPG) for 2017.

### **INTERNAL AFFAIRS**

CSPG maintains close and fruitful relationships with its partners on Parliament Hill – the Senate, the House of Commons and the Library of Parliament – and in particular with the Research Branch of the House of Commons Office, which has generously agreed to house the CSPG Secretariat for many years. In 2017, the service agreement with the House of Commons, first introduced in 2013, was renewed again for a one-year period. CSPG is also supported by the Senate of Canada and the Library of Parliament, which contributes as well to the activities of the Group. We are extremely grateful for the support of the House of Commons, the Senate and the Library of Parliament.

CSPG continues to have a very good relationship with the *Canadian Parliamentary Review*.

### **FINANCES**

The Group completed the 2017 fiscal year in very good financial shape, again with a surplus of revenues over expenditures.

An audit firm has again been retained by CSPG for 2017. A copy of the report is available upon request. The results of the audit confirm that CSPG operations for 2017 are compliant with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. As in other years, an audit is also planned for 2018.

## **MEMBERS AND OUTREACH**

The Group had approximately 400 members at the end of 2017.

The CSPG continues to recruit new members. We find that word of mouth is the best way to recruit new members. We encourage all members to invite those interested in parliamentary affairs to participate in and join the CSPG activities.

In addition, the Group's events continue to attract members of the Bureau du Québec and the Law Society of Ontario. Quebec and Ontario lawyers are subject to continuing education requirements and the Group's seminars and conferences qualify for that purpose.

## **RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS**

### ***National Student Essay Competition***

CSPG organizes an annual essay competition open to CEGEP, college and university students. Once again, students were invited to submit an essay, in either English or French, on Parliament, legislatures or legislators. The winner of the 2017 competition is Mr. Rob Currie Wood for his essay "National Growth of a Regional Party". Mr. Currie-Wood received a \$1000 prize for his essay.

The 2018 essay competition is currently underway.

### ***James R. Mallory Research Fellowship***

The James R. Mallory Fellowship was established in 2006 in honour of a distinguished member of the Group. The research papers of the Fellowship recipients are available to the public on the Group's website.

### **Doctoral Fellowship**

In 2015, the Canadian Study of Parliament Group established the CSPG Doctoral Scholarship for PhD students whose thesis is intended to study, delve into and discuss Canada's parliamentary process and institutions. In 2017, Louise Cockram, a political science student at Carleton University, received the \$8,000 award.

### **CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA**

CSPG organized a conference and three symposia in 2017.

#### Conference

The New Senate (September 15, 2017)

On September 15, 2017, the Canadian Study of Parliament Group hosted a conference on the theme "The New Senate". The conference consisted of four focus groups with topics and panellists as follows:

#### The Evolution of the Senate – Historical Perspective

Jean-François Godbout  
Associate Professor, Department of Political Science  
Université de Montréal

David Smith  
Visiting Fellow, Ryerson University and  
Professor Emeritus, Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of  
Public Policy, University of Regina

Jack Stilborn  
Retired, Library of Parliament

#### The Machinery of the New Senate

Blair Armitage  
Principal Clerk, Committees Directorate

Senate of Canada

Michel Bédard  
Parliamentary Counsel  
Office of the Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel  
Senate of Canada

Heather Lank  
Principal Clerk, Chamber Operations and Procedure Office  
Senate of Canada

The *New* Senate in the News

Kady O'Malley  
Journalist, *iPolitics*

Dale Smith  
Independent journalist

## The New Senate in Action

The Hon. Renée Dupuis,  
Senator  
Senate of Canada

The Hon. Peter Harder  
Senator, Government Representative in the Senate  
Senate of Canada

The Hon. Paul J. Massicotte  
Senator  
Senate of Canada

The Hon. David Tkachuk  
Senator  
Senate of Canada

### *Parliamentary Proceedings Seminars*

There were three seminars on parliamentary business in 2017. Following a formula that is now well established, each of the Group's symposia is generally divided into two parts. The first part is a technical briefing where experts from the Hill, government, or other sectors share their knowledge and experience with the audience. Then, in the second part, we try to present a more political or parliamentary perspective on the subject matter of the symposium with a panel of current and former parliamentarians.

#### Running Out the Clock: The Strategic Use of Parliamentary Time (January 20, 2017)

Technical Briefing: Tools and Processes for Time Management in the House of Commons and Senate

Jeffrey LeBlanc  
Principal Clerk, Committees and Legislative Services Directorate  
House of Commons

Till Heyde  
Deputy Principal Clerk, Chamber Operations and Procedure

Office  
Senate of Canada

Expert Panel: Changing Approaches to the Use of Time by the Government and Opposition

Christopher Kam  
Associate Professor, Department of Political Science  
University of British Columbia

Kady O'Malley  
Ottawa Citizen

Paul Wilson  
Associate Professor, Clayton H. Riddell Graduate Program in Policy Management  
Carleton University

Practitioners Panel: Strategic Considerations and Prospects for Reform

Joe Comartin  
Adjunct Professor and Sessional Lecturer, Political Science Department, University of Windsor and former Windsor MP – Tecumseh

The Hon. James Cowan  
Senator  
Senate of Canada

The Relationship between Parliament and the Agents of Parliament (March 31, 2017)

Servants? Masters? Guardians? How Agents of Parliament View Their Role

Mary Dawson  
Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner

Michael Ferguson  
Auditor General of Canada

Suzanne Legault  
Information Commissioner

Relationship Status? It's Complicated: Past Challenges and Future Perspectives on Parliament and its Agents

Élise Hurtubise-Loranger

Chief, Constitutional and Parliamentary Affairs  
Library of Parliament

Jack Stilborn  
Retired  
Library of Parliament

Geneviève Tellier  
Professor, School of Political Studies  
University of Ottawa

Anna L. Esselment (Moderator)  
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science  
University of Waterloo

#### Agents' Feet on MPs' Toes? Working with Agents of Parliament

The Hon. Percy E. Downe  
Senator  
Senate of Canada

The Hon. Elaine McCoy  
Senator  
Senate of Canada

John G. Williams  
Former Member of the House of Commons (1993-2008)  
Edmonton-St. Albert

#### Current State of Lobbying in Canada (November 10, 2017)

##### Regulation of Lobbying in Canada

François Bertrand  
Director, Registration and Client Services  
Office of the Commissioner of Lobbying of Canada

Jean-François Godbout  
Lobbyists Commissioner for Quebec

##### Effectiveness of Current System

Guy Giorno  
Partner, Practice Lead for Government Ethics, Transparency and Political Law



Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP

Sean Moore  
Founder and Director  
Advocacy School

#### Evolution of Lobbying Strategy

Alayne Crawford  
Director, Corporate Affairs, Shaw Communications  
Vice-President, Government Relations Institute of Canada

Michele Austin  
Senior Advisor  
Summa Strategies Canada

Lauren Dobson-Hughes  
Strategic Advocacy and Government Relations Consultant

## **REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES**

### ***Conference Tour***

Established in 1988, the conference tour program is a joint initiative of the CSPG and the Association of Clerks at-the-Table in Canada. The CSPG shall, upon request, arrange to send experienced procedural clerks to Canadian universities to present certain aspects of the Canadian parliamentary system.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The success of CSPG is based on the work of several people without which the Group simply could not function.

I would like to begin by thanking all the members of the Board of Directors. Without their volunteer work there would simply be no CSPG. I feel privileged to work with such a learned team of our parliamentary institutions that is committed to sharing knowledge about our democratic institutions. My sincere thanks to the outgoing board members: Catherine Piccinin, Andre Barnes and Nicholas Macdonald, for their contributions in recent years.

Thank you to the CSPG Secretariat staff. In 2017, we received assistance and goodwill from Chantal Gilliland for administrative support and logistical support at events. In addition, the Group also benefits from the ad hoc assistance of House of Commons staff at events.

I would like to thank all the presenters and panellists who so generously agreed to share their knowledge and experiences to make all of our events a success. I would also like to thank all the members of the Group and those who participated in our various activities – their participation is the *raison d'être* of the Group.

Michel Bédard  
President

Ottawa, March 3, 2018