



Canadian Study of
Parliament Group

Annual Report

2016

Annual Report 2016

This report provides an overview of the activities and programs of the Canadian Study of Parliament Group (CSPG) for 2016.

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 2016, 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 2016 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 2016. A copy of the report is available upon request. The results of the audit confirm that CSPG operations for 2016 are compliant with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. As in other years, an audit is also planned for 2017.

MEMBERS AND OUTREACH

The Group had approximately 400 members at the end of 2016.

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 Barreau 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. No prizes were awarded for the 2016 competition due to the small number of essays submitted.

The 2017 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 Parliamentary Study Group established the CPSG Doctoral Scholarship for PhD students whose thesis is intended to study, delve into and discuss Canada's parliamentary process and institutions. In the first year, in 2015, the \$3,000 scholarship was awarded to Andrée-Anne Bolduc, a doctoral law student at the Université de Montréal. In 2016, the scholarship, increased to \$5,000, was awarded to Kenny William Ie, a political science student at the University of Western Ontario.

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

CSGP organized a conference and three symposia in 2016.

Conference

Electoral Reform (May 27, 2016)

On May 27, 2016, the Canadian Study of Parliament Group hosted a conference on electoral reform. The conference consisted of four focus groups with topics and panellists as follows:

History of the Canadian Electoral System and Reform

Laura Stephenson, Associate Professor
Department of Political Science
Western University

Harold Jansen, Professor and Director
Department of Political Science
University of Lethbridge

Dennis Pilon, Associate Professor
Department of Political Science
York University

Electoral Reform: The Different Models

Jean-Pierre Derriennic, Professor
Department of Political Science

Université Laval

Louis Massicotte, Professor
Department of Political Science
Université Laval

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

Melanee Thomas, Senior Teaching Fellow
Department of Political Science

Electoral Reform: Lessons and Experiences from Elsewhere

Lawrence Leduc, Professor Emeritus
Department of Political Science
University of Toronto

William Cross, Professor
Department of Political Science
Carleton University

Path to Electoral Reform, Referendum and Constitutional Amendment

Craig Martin Scott, Professor of Law, Osgoode Hall Law School and former Member
of Parliament
Toronto—Danforth
New Democratic Party

Emmett Macfarlane, Senior Teaching Fellow
Department of Political Science
University of Waterloo

Benoît Pelletier, Professor
Faculty of Law, Civil Law Section
University of Ottawa

Dennis Pilon, Associate Professor
Department of Political Science
York University

Parliamentary Work Seminars

There were three seminars on parliamentary work in 2016. 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.

Implications of Fixed Election Dates (January 22, 2016)

First Discussion Group

Mr. James Bowden

Mr. Alex Marland
Associate Professor, Political Science
Memorial University

Mr. Louis Massicotte
Professor, Department of Political Science
Université Laval

Second Discussion Group

Mr. Michel Roussel
Deputy Chief Electoral Officer, Elections
Elections Canada

Third Discussion Group

Ms. Michele Austin
Principal consultant
Summa Strategies Canada

Mr. Karl Bélanger
Senior Secretary
Leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada

Political Staff in Parliamentary Government (March 18, 2016)

Political Staff in Parliamentary Government

Mr. David Zussman
Professor
University of Ottawa

Ms. Liane Benoit
Founder and Director
Benoit and Associates

Ms. Lynn Morrison
Former Integrity Commissioner of Ontario

Political Staff in Parliamentary Government

Mr. John Milloy
Former Member of Provincial Parliament for Kitchener Centre
Assistant Professor of Public Ethics
Waterloo Lutheran Seminary

Mr. Paul Wilson
Professor, Clayton Riddell School of Political Management,
Carleton University

Ms. Theresa Kavanagh
Logistics Officer
Office of the New Democratic Party Whip

Bill C-14 – A Case Study of the Relationships Between the Two Houses of Parliament and the Supreme Court (November 18, 2016)

Case Study of Bill C-14: Technical Briefing

Till Heyde
Deputy Principal Clerk, Chamber Operations and Procedure Office
Senate of Canada

Jeremy LeBlanc
Principal Clerk (Acting)
Chamber Business and Parliamentary Publications
House of Commons

Maxime Charron-Tousignant
Analyst, Legal Affairs and National Security Section Library of Parliament

Bill C-14 Case Study: Parliamentary Panel

The Honourable Serge Joyal
Senator
Senate of Canada

Michael Cooper
Member of Parliament for St. Albert – Edmonton, Alberta
House of Commons

Andrew Johnson
Parliamentary Assistant to Murray Rankin, MP
House of Commons

Carter v. Canada and Bill C-14: A Case Study of the Relationship Between the Supreme Court and Parliament

Mr. Dennis Baker
Associate Professor
Department of Political Science
University of Guelph

Mr. Charles Feldman
Legislative Counsel
Office of the Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel
House of Commons

Mr. James Kelly
Professor
Department of Political Science
Concordia University

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, upon request, arranges 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: Patricia Chaychuk and Isa Gros-Louis, for their contributions in recent years.

Thank you to the CSPG Secretariat staff. In 2016, 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 31, 2017