



The Canada-Europe Transatlantic Dialogue cordially invites you to attend our seminar

Who is in Charge?

Parliament, the Prime Minister or, the provinces?

European and Canadian Experience with Parliaments in Multi-level (Federal) Systems

4 June 2010, 10am – Noon, Lord Elgin Hotel, Ottawa

In a democracy we vote for our members of parliament, but in multi-level systems of government such as those found in Canada and in the European Union, how much power do parliaments really have? With the emergence of what some have called ‘executive federalism’, are the more dominant executive branches of government making deals that exclude parliaments? Do federal structures complicate the ability of parliaments to act effectively as representatives of the people? With so many layers of government how can the public hold parliaments to account?

This event will discuss ways in which parliaments could be more effective democratic institutions and whether governments are accountable and reflect the wishes of the people who elected them in the first place. Leading experts will debate reforms being undertaken in Europe. The panel will also consider what parliamentarians at all levels of government are doing to ensure that they have a voice.

Moderator: Don Newman, Political Commentator

Speakers:

John Erik Fossum, University of Oslo
Representation in the EU and Canada Compared

Arthur Benz, Fern Universität in Hagen, Germany
Inter-parliamentary relations – a strategy against executive federalism

Sabine Kropp, German University of Administrative Sciences, Speyer, Germany
Strategies of national MPs in the EU multilevel system

Comments reflecting on relevance to the Canadian context by:

William Cross, Bell Chair for the Study of Canadian Parliamentary Democracy, Carleton University

Jonathan Malloy, Carleton University and President of the Canadian Study of Parliament Group

Friday, 4 June 2010, 10am – Noon

Quebec Room, Lord Elgin Hotel

100 Elgin Street, Ottawa

RSVP by June 1, 2010 to 4JuneParliament@carleton.ca