



Your House, Your Time: Orientation for the 2019 newly elected Members of Parliament

January 21-22, 2020





The
Samara Centre
for Democracy

Investing in Canadians' Civic Literacy



Stronger Democracy Platform 2019



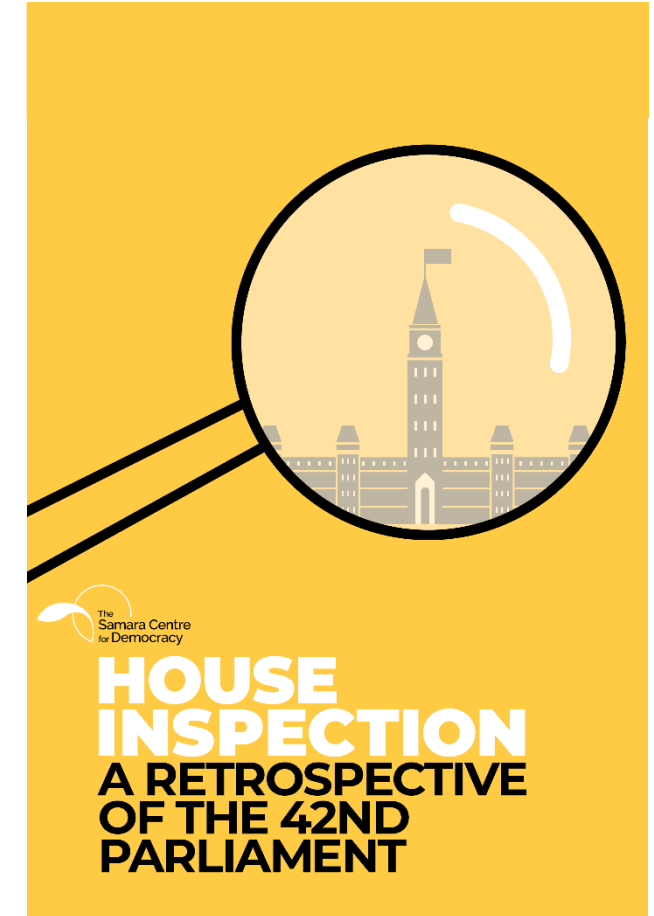
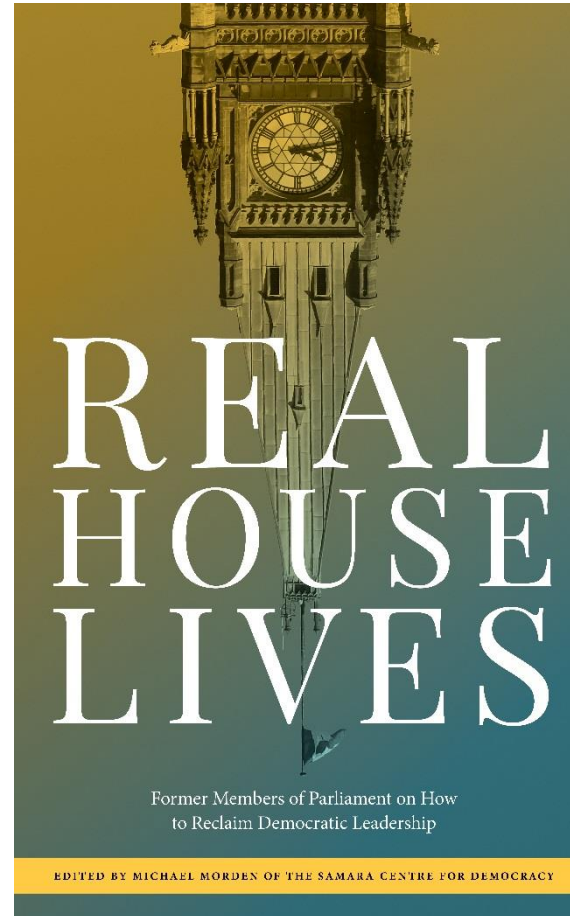
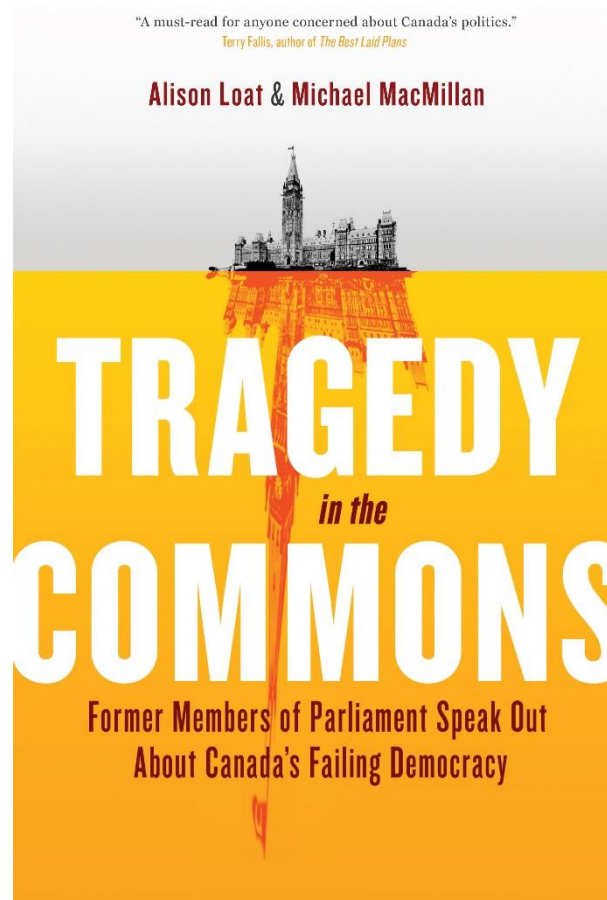
what to expect
when you're

ELECTING

Candidate Profiles Project



MP Exit Interviews & Annual MP Surveys



Your greatest accomplishment as an MP in the 42nd Parliament:

- “Representing my constituents”
- “Mobilized people around the issue of climate change”
- “Influencing two key pieces of legislation”
- “Banning asbestos”
- “Work on committees”
- “Medical assistance in dying legislation”

On the whole, how satisfied are you with the House of Commons as a forum for debate and decision-making?

45% responded “Not very satisfied” or “Not satisfied at all”

Your greatest regret in the 42nd Parliament:

“I didn’t truly figure out what I could actually accomplish and how until three years in.”



“Not starting early and stronger in my work to fundamentally rehabilitate the institution.”

“Partisanship!”



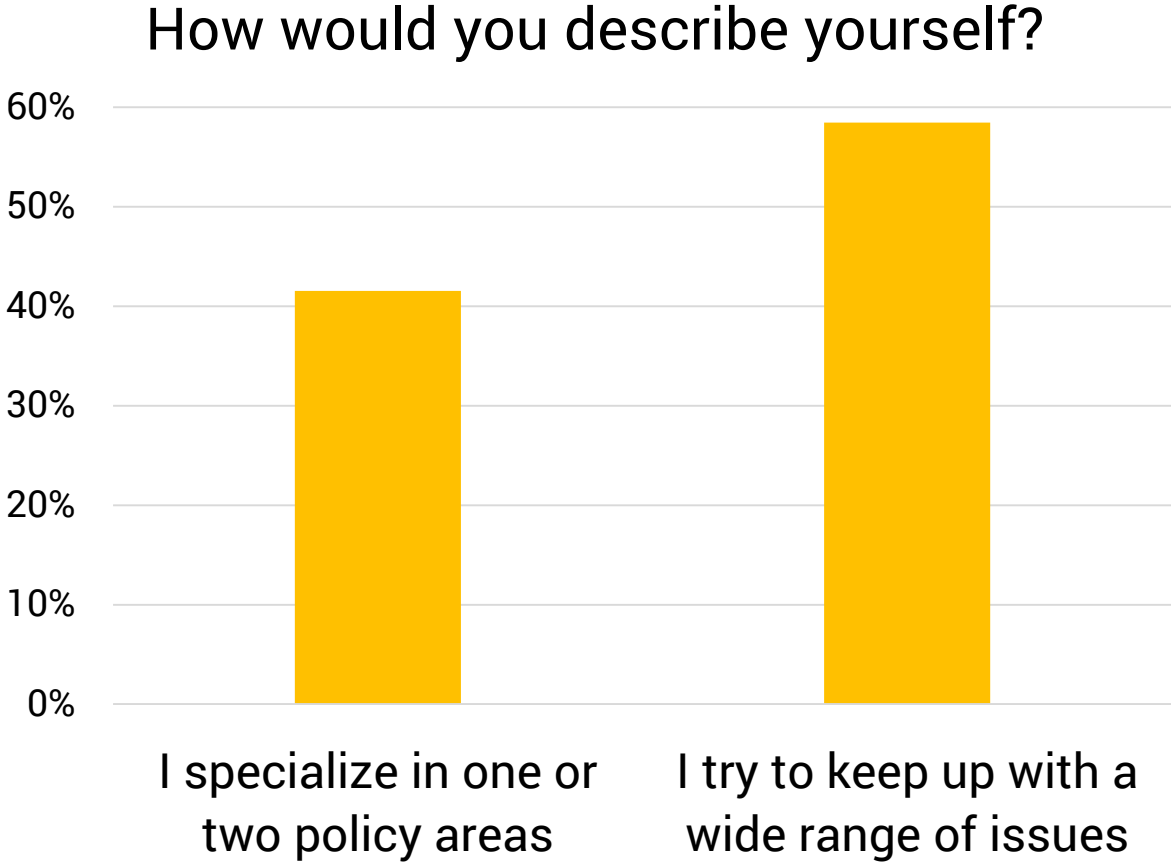
“I didn’t realize until later how influential an individual MP was... so I can do a lot more now than I could in my first couple of years. But it takes time to learn and build confidence.”

TOP FIVE MOST COMMONLY IDENTIFIED OBSTACLES TO THE WORK OF A PARLIAMENTARIAN



Source: Samara Centre 2018 MP Survey (MPs could select up to three obstacles from a menu of options)

1) Specialize



Source: Samara Centre for Democracy's 2019 MP Survey

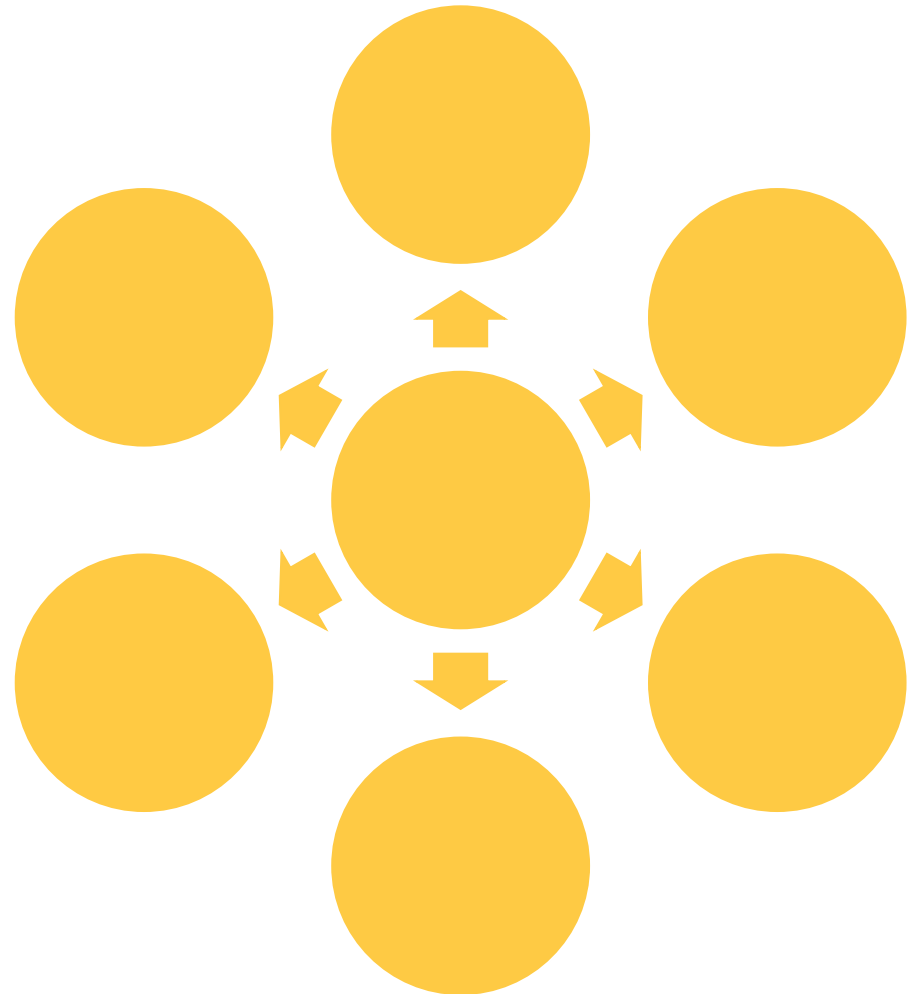
2) Use innovative tools in the Constituency

- Social media outreach
- Newsletters and ten percenters
- Town halls
- Cold-calling
- Door-to-door canvassing
- Local councils (issue- or group-based)
- Polling



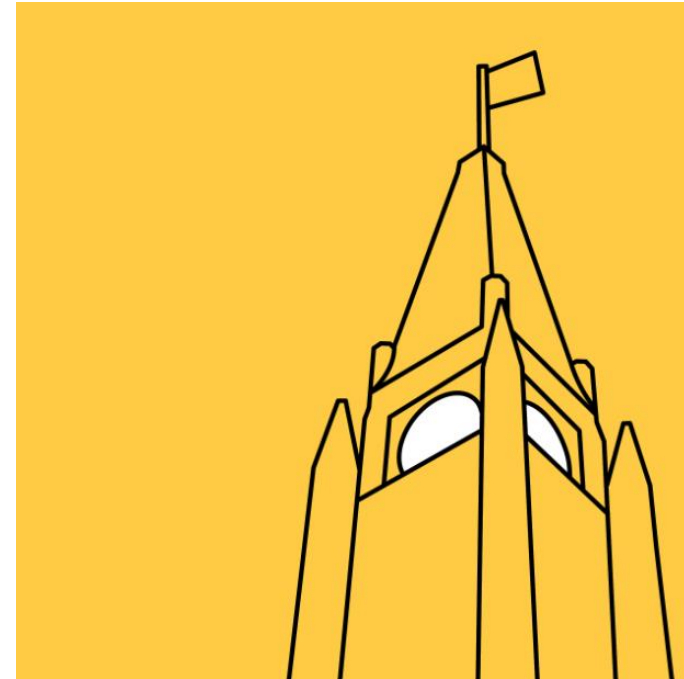
3) Use Supports and ask Questions

- Library of Parliament
- Officers of Parliament
- House of Commons clerks
- External stakeholders
- Media



4) Identify Allies in Parliament

- Fellow caucus members
- MPs from other parties
- Senators



MPs' evaluation of how the 42nd Parliament changed				
	Became less or much less prevalent	Stayed about the same	Became more or much more prevalent	Don't know
Cross-party collaboration	45%	35%	12%	8%
Incivility	5%	33%	55%	8%
Unhealthy partisanship	9%	29%	55%	8%

Source: Samara Centre for Democracy's 2019 MP Survey

“Empty, nihilistic, repetitive partisanship tires everyone out. It’s exhausting. It’s frustrating. It’s humiliating, sometimes, for those taking part. And it’s alienating for citizens.”

5) Be true to yourself

“There is peer pressure that I can’t—you cannot explain it to somebody on the outside.

About how grown men and grown women, educated, experienced in professions or business, can fall into this sort of system where there’s such a need to conform...

The pressure is indescribable.”

Panelists



Susan Delacourt

Ottawa bureau chief,
Toronto Star



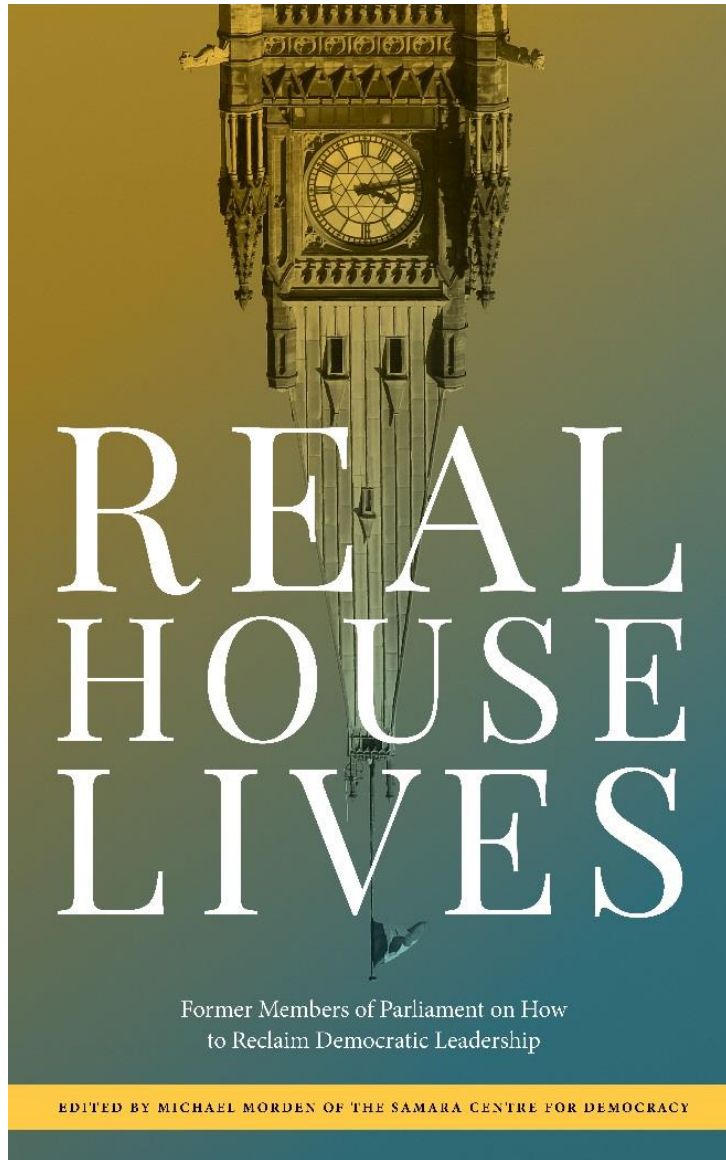
Megan Leslie

Former MP for Halifax
and Deputy Leader of
the NDP



James Rajotte

Former MP for
Edmonton Leduc and
Chair of the Standing
Committee on Finance



Thank you from the Samara Centre for
Democracy

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Your House, Your Time À vous la Chambre



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