

## **5th Annual Welcome to Ottawa Orientation for Newly Arrived Diplomats**

*Presented by the Carleton Initiative for Parliamentary and Diplomatic Engagement  
in association with the Ottawa Diplomatic Association and the Parliamentary Centre.*

**Thursday November 12, 2015**

**Location: River Building, Carleton University**

**Notes: Veronica Green, M.A. Candidate, Carleton School of Journalism**

**8:00 Registration and Coffee with the Deans of Carleton University**

**8:45 Introduction and Welcome on behalf of Carleton University**

**Dr. Catherine Khordoc, Interim Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences**

Welcome on behalf of Carleton University, opening remarks.

- It is important to me to foster ties between Carleton and the diplomatic community.
- There is a brand new program to highlight at Carleton, the Bachelor of Global and International Studies. In it, students must have an international experience and study a language.
- Carleton works with over 100 universities in the world in bilateral exchange partnerships and has an increasing number of faculty working abroad. There is a diverse student body at Carleton, including sons and daughters of the diplomatic community.
- It is important to work together and encourage students in our increasingly globalized world. To the diplomatic community, we are resource for you, as you are a resource for us.

**Introduces Maureen Boyd, organizer and host today.**

**Maureen Boyd, Director, Carleton Initiative for Parliamentary and Diplomatic Engagement**

Opening remarks

- More than 100 newly arrived diplomats serving cultural, political, military and economic roles, representing 50 countries.
- I hope you get the chance to meet each other as well as the participants. (Anecdote about a Zimbabwean diplomat who met and remained friends with people she met here, 5 years ago.)
- Welcome to spouses in the room, who have an important role in making the posting a positive professional and personal experience.
- Acknowledgement of partners: the Ottawa Diplomatic Association and the Parliamentary Centre.

- The newly named Global Affairs Canada, will hold a separate orientation on Dec. 1st.

**Introduction of Mauril Belanger:** Franco-Ontarian, he is now celebrating his 20th year in House of Commons. He has served in government and in opposition. He co-founded and Chairs the Canada-Africa Parliamentary Association.

### **Mauril Bélanger, M.P. for Ottawa Vanier and Director, Parliamentary Centre**

- I'm sorry to not have participated today, my doctor said not to talk today to recover my voice. I am deeply sorry, and I hope you enjoy the day.
- Do not hesitate to contact me at [Mauril@mauril.ca](mailto:Mauril@mauril.ca)

### **Maureen Boyd**

- Introduction of Marc Bosc. He served in the House of Commons for more than 20 years, he knows everything there is to know about the House, he is the President of the Association of Secretaries General of Parliament.
- *Presentation available online.*

## **9:00 Canada's Governance System: Transitioning to the 42nd Parliament**

### **Presentations:**

#### **Marc Bosc, Acting Clerk of the House of Commons**

#### **SLIDE 1 - Overview**

#### **SLIDE 2 - Pictorial representation of the Canadian Parliamentary System**

- Three main branches of Parliament: (1) Executive branch (part of legislative branch); (2) Sovereign; and, and (3) Judicial Branch.
  - There are three component parts: (1) Senate - appointed body of 105 Senators; (2) House of Commons - elected body of 338 members (it used to be 308); and, (3) Sovereign (Queen).
- These make up Parliament. They all must agree on legislation to be law. That's why Royal Assent is the last step. Similar to the Westminster system, the executive branch is also part of the legislative branch.

#### **Slide 3 - Parliamentary Cycle**

- After the election on Oct. 19 there has been much **turnover**.
  - There are 214 new members; of these, 17 are returning members (either left and came back). 214 new members is a large number, the last time we had such a great number of new members was in 1993.
- It is a challenge to induct new members, we hold orientation sessions. We had one last week on administrative matters, we'll have another before Dec. 3 on procedural matters.
- **Calendar**: determines what days the House will sit.

- The House sits 5 day a week in trimesters.
  - Sept. - Dec., late Jan. - Easter, and after Easter - June. In each trimester, we typically sit 2-4 weeks, and MPs have a week of constituency work in between.
- **Daily program:** we open the day with a parade, prayer is said, and each day has the same program. *For example, all Tuesday programs are like all other Tuesdays.* The weeks are about 40 hours, Fridays we end around 2:30pm.
- **Senate** sits 3 days a week, 3-4 hours per day. Very rarely does the Senate sit on a Monday. This has been the pattern in recent years.
- This includes a variety of **programs** including:
  - (1) Routine business, *ex. statements by Ministers;*
  - The largest amount of time we use is for (2) Government business;
  - (3) Private members' bills, this is one hour of the allotted time. This is done by way of lottery.

#### **Slide 4 - Parliamentary Papers**

- **Debates:** Transcription of what was said;
- **Order paper - Notice Paper:** Agenda for the house;
  - **Projected order of business** (short version of order paper): We know what business will be taken up the next day; and,
- **Journals:** Record of decision that the House has made (published daily).
- All documents available online overnight in Eng. and French. *ex. Wednesday night you want to know what happened today and what will happen tomorrow.*

#### **SLIDE 5 - Pictorial Representation of the Chamber**

*Photograph of arrangements in Chamber*

#### **SLIDE 6 - Key Players**

- **Party Leaders**
- **House Leaders** - These are individuals responsible for their party in the House. House leaders meet every week to discuss upcoming business (2 week window) and typically advises the other parties to let them know what business to expect.
- **Whips** - Are responsible for party discipline. Make sure members are present to vote, on time for duty in house, determine committee memberships, each party is different in that regard. Some seek out party preferences but in some cases they do not do this. Each party has their own approach.
- **25 Standing Committees**
  - Each committee has Chair and Vice Chair (determined by standing orders), of the 25 committees, 21 are to be chaired by government member, therefore Vice Chairs are from other two parties. Others are chaired by official opposition.
- **Cabinet Ministers**

#### **SLIDE 7 - WHAT IS A COMMITTEE?**

- There are different types.

- **Standing orders** are like legal text, written in codification manner. We augment that knowledge with a book *House of Commons Procedure and Practice* (**available online**)
- **Membership** of these (11 or 12 people). At the beginning of a Parliament these numbers are adjusted to represent the composition of the House. We don't know how this will play out yet. There should be some slight change.
- **Meetings** are 2 - 3 a week, some meet more, *ex. Finance might meet 4 in pre-budget consultation.*
- Committees are run freely by committee Chair. They determine business of committee, how often they meet and what studies to undertake.
- Committees **produce reports**. They review legislation in detail, undertake subject matter studies. These engage and generate long-term results and this can take two years to complete.

### **SLIDE 8 - FUNCTIONS OF PARLIAMENT**

- (1) **Legislative** - The study and passage of bills
- (2) **Financial** - Committees review spending estimates of government and must approve all takes and supply.
- (3) **Scrutiny of government action** - This is what you see when you see Question Period, it's an active 'Wild West' time of the day. Opposition parties ask questions of government. The questions are not known to the Government in advance. The parties and opposition determine in strategy questions; what questions to ask, who will ask them? Question Period is where contentious issues of the day are aired.

### **SLIDE 9 - Legislative process**

- **Government bills** are drafted by the governing individuals who work in both languages independently, to bring ideas of government into form.
- **Private members bills** are drafted by in house counsel in the House of Commons. These are subject to restrictions (*ex. they cannot propose spending of money*). They have a wide scope, many things they can propose.

### **SLIDE 10 - Stages of legislative process**

- (1) Notice, (2) Introduction + first reading, (3) Second reading - Where the bulk of debate occurs, (4) Committee stage - Study and amend bill, bring it to the House of Commons, (5) Report stage, (6) Third reading and passage - last time to see it presented in the house, (7) Senate, (8) Royal assent, (9) Coming into force - not all bills come into force upon royal assent, some bills have a coming into force date that is later.

### **SLIDE 11 - Question period.**

- You can watch a 'no holds barred' event.

**9:30 Subjects: Transition to the 42nd Parliament, tracking legislation and parliamentary business; parliamentary committees, using LEGISinfo, PARLINFO and other sources of information**

## **Maureen Boyd: introduces**

- **David Mitchell**, David will speak to what the transition means. He is a public policy consultant with experience in private, public and education sectors. He is most recently the past President of the Public Policy Forum. He was an elected official and you will often hear him providing commentary on public affairs.
- **Jean-Paul Ruskowski**, is the President and CEO of the Parliamentary Centre, a not-for-profit, non-partisan organization that supports parliamentary around the world. He has more than 30 years experience building alliances between Canadian and international organizations. He has served as a Chief of Staff, Senior Policy Advisor to Ministers. He is also the Secretary of the Canadian Group of the Trilateral Commission.
- **Marc Bosc** (see above)

## **David Mitchell, public policy consultant and past President of the Public Policy Forum**

- Thanks to Marc for outlining our Westminster model.
- You're here at the most interesting time possible. We don't have a change of government very often, last one was almost a decade ago.
- This recent election on so many levels represents a real sea change in not only politics but also policy, governance, tone, approach. New governing party was elected on broad mandate for reform for policy initiatives. One thing Trudeau has committed to is to address some of the issues of trust in public institutions, to restore trust in public institutions. It's not easy, not a problem just to Canada.
- There are three things I would like to stimulate your own thinking in terms of Canada and our model of government, and how the Westminster has evolved:

(1) There are challenges: short termism, (thinking only about front burner issues). If government is preoccupied with the immediate, who's looking at medium and longer term perspectives that citizens are counting on? Where in parliament are these being effectively addressed.

(2) Collegial governance, where is that occurring in our government? Where is the discussion that we imagine in our Westminster model? Is cabinet working? Collegiality lends to good checks and balances - this is very US. The Westminster Model is subtler, but there are countervailing pressures that would make it impossible for unrestricted executive authority. How are the Canadian checks and balances doing in recent years?

(3) Centralization of authority. There is a central concentration of power - Trudeau thinks it may have started with his father. But it's increased in recent years, centralization of authority that has become so extreme that it seems the PM's office is doing everyone else's job.

- Can these changes be reversed? Can principles of Westminster be restored? This is the expectation of our new government. It's an optimistic time in our new country.

There are three modest proposals to look for indicators of actual change:

(1) **Cabinet Government** - Are we actually going to see the return to cabinet government?

- **INDICATOR OF CHANGE**: will cabinet Ministers appoint their own staff? In recent years, there has been a growing number of staff who have been appointed outside of the public service and have been reporting to the Prime Minister's Office.

(2) **Restoring the relevance of Parliament** - The work in Parliament can be found in parliamentary committees. Will committee chairs have an ability to take charge of agenda of a committee and public policy beyond the short term of the day - they can look to the long term.

- **INDICATOR**: Will committee chairs positions be almost as coveted as cabinet positions? That's how it works in UK. Some MPs refuse cabinet positions because they can have greater power as a committee chair.

(3) **Public Service** - It was once a competitive choice for young people wishing a relevant career, now it is demoralized. The role of the public service has become smaller and more administrative. How to restore public service as great public institution, along with cabinet, committees, Parliament?

- **INDICATOR**: Can the public service restore to a point where it is seen as the employer of choice for emerging leaders in Canada?

**Maureen** asks Jean-Paul Ruskowski and then Marc Bosc to respond.

**Jean-Paul Ruskowski, CEO, Parliamentary Centre**

- We are already seeing some changes - congratulates Marc Bosc for his openness as it is only rarely that the Clerk speaks to the media. He has had good coverage on the House of Commons orientation program and establishing a dialogue with press.
- There is a change in the Parliament but for example, not much change in term of gender balance. The age of rookie parliamentarians: 77% of them are below 41. Average age of parliamentarian today is 50 years old, same age as cabinet. New cabinet has shown that it wants to reflect Canada.
- We must also keep the parties accountable. If we want a greater democracy, parties must be more open on the methodology for nomination process, how they run, who gets what position in the party. Having a Minister of Democratic Institutions is a very important step forward.

**Maureen** - *Marc Bosc, you have been in the House of Commons for more than 25 years, how do you react?*

**Marc Bosc, Acting Clerk of the House of Commons**

- There have already been numerous pronouncements to openness to government to accept amendments to legislation. When a government has a majority in both houses there is often a 'baked cake approach' ex. once legislation is introduced, it's PERFECT and does not need to be changed. Government is under the pressure of time. BUT the PM said he is open to amendments, this is really important. To amend is to improve, this is positive.
- One issue to watch, is the Senate. It's an incredibly important factor now for the government - It'll need extensive management.

**David Mitchell**

- In terms of the reform promised, i.e. electoral reform and senate reform ... If Trudeau can succeed where all others have failed.. Democratic reform has been a theme but it's not easy to reform key part of parliament. A new Minister has been appointed for this.

**Maureen**- *Invites guests to the mic to ask questions.*

**Questions from the floor:**

- (1) - What is the role that the private sector is ready to play in Canada at this time? I'm asking because Liberal leaning parties tend not to go toward the power of money in certain countries.
- (2) - India and Canada share Westminster model. When I look at newspapers, I was intrigued to see civil service of Canada taking political positions. If a public service could criticize a government in power, what will stop it from criticizing next? I stand to be corrected if my impressions are not correct.

**Response**

**David Mitchell**

- Issue of private sector is a good question. Glad to share thoughts on this separately, this is not an ideological issue in Canada, we want the private sector to be more engaged, we wish we had a stronger private sector to work with Canada, not always the case. It's not a partisan issue.

- Public service - I don't believe you would have seen public service as an institution being critical. Non-partisanship wouldn't have allowed that. You would have seen unions taking positions, and they certainly do.

**Maureen** - Thanks the panel for a great presentation. Regrets that Catherine McKenna, newly elected MP for Ottawa Centre and Minister of Environment and Climate Change, could not attend. Introduction of two new panelists:

- **Anita Vandenberg**, MP for Ottawa West-Nepean is an international expert on democracy and human rights. Has worked as a senior advisor to the United Nations on a range of issues from women's political participation to anti-corruption. She was awarded the Canadian Peacekeeping Medal for her work in Kosovo. She also has worked in governments as a policy analyst and the Director of Parliamentary Affairs.
- Retired Lieutenant-General **Andrew Leslie**, MP for Orleans, has worked for 35 years in the Canadian Armed Forces, from 2006-2010 he was Chief of the Land/ Army Commander - responsible for 57,000 military and public service personnel. He has worked with the UN and NATO. He is a Commander of the Military Merit and was awarded the Meritorious Service Cross.

## 10:00 New Voices in Parliament

### **Anita Vandenberg, M.P., Ottawa West-Nepean**

- Pleasure to be here, welcome you to Parliament of Canada.
- I think you will find, particularly right now, Cabinet is reflective of faces of Canada, and 50 percent women.
- This is a special time. In some ways we need to look at that in global context. What we're seeing right now is that politics is globally changing because of communication technology. The way we do politics and what citizens expect has changed so much. We can tweet the PM and the feedback is instant. ex. This changed how I campaigned, I went to my local Tim Horton's every day because I learnt in Africa that women would go to the local market every weekend to meet people. We need to learn from international examples.
- I have worked to find new ways of doing democracy. Sometimes that's easier in other places than in an established democracy. I look forward to using my international experience here, to apply it to Canadian parliament.
- What you see in Canada is tremendous change. You'll see a renewed effort to work with multinational institutions and to be a country to bring people together. Nature of power

and influence is changing. It's about networks and relationships - true in personal lives and true in federal politics. *Welcome to Canada.*

### **Andrew Leslie, M.P., Orleans**

- Comment on perception on the lack of objectivity in public service. Like any organization they need freedom and encouragement.
- Re-engagement re-balance, re-focus, without abandoning friends, shifting to new opportunities, reinvesting tax dollars, that sense of Liberal compassion, Canadian compassion will reinsert itself. Needs to be done with balance to ensure safety and security to all citizens.
- PM came to speak to newly elected MPs and he encouraged opposition to do their job, because creative tensions with different points of view is a good thing - carries on with the Liberal mandate.
- Re-engagement, we need to do more with UN, we need to contribute, we need to do more to reach out with a helping hand. There's a cabinet sub-committee who are going to figure out how to bring 25 000 victims of war to our shore.
- Defense policy - there are placemarks or holding activities until we figure out what to do with our armed forces.

### **Question from the floor:**

1) These things cost money, I'm curious how you balance desire to re-engage while running limited deficits.

### **MP Andrew Leslie**

- We know the cost of such missions, they're geographically dependent and dependent on a host of variables. Much akin to knowing what we need to spend to rebuild bridges. Where do you find the resources? We have to borrow, when the cost of borrowing is at a low. If we didn't borrow in the short term, we wouldn't be able to do very much.

### **MP Anita Vandenbeld**

- We were perceived as being obstructionist. This is about how to engage, not lecturing but making sure we are at the table and we are productive. There are many treaties we have neglected. When we talk about-re engaging it's about the approach. We're going to engage in multilateral institutions.

2) I do get the sense the media builds you up and breaks you down. Now it's a euphoric state. What will happen - what's the pattern that will happen in Canada?

## **MP Andrew Leslie**

- Media do their job and they ask increasingly harder questions. It's natural for a government to go through cycles, especially after a decade in power. It is good news that the very precise policy aspiration goals have been issues so the public can hold us to account.
- The PM writes mandate letters, says what you need to do in time. These are highly classified, in my experience. PM Trudeau is going to make these public. It's a simple thing to do. Media can then see vision and philosophy and be able to hold us to account. If we produce within reason, which I am confident we can. We encourage public service to give us fearless advice, no muzzling. If not, the media can let us know.

**3) MPs have been limited in the past, what would both of you be contributing? How will you go about being an individual in parliament?**

## **MP Anita Vandenbeld**

- I talked about this in my election campaign, we need to engage across the floor. With my background I would like to work with other parties to see if we can change the process in parliament.

## **MP Andrew Leslie**

- Many people who ran in this election did so for the first time, they have extraordinary skills. They are not political "hacks", therefore there is a certain amount of confidence. I hope it's cheerful, creative friction where many of us contribute.

## **Maureen Boyd: *Thanks to sponsors***

- From Bombardier, Pierre Pyun and Nadège Adam
- From Canadian Gas Association, Paula Dunlop
- From GlaxoSmithKline, Jeff Morrison
- From Insurance Bureau of Canada, Craig Stewart
- From Shaw, Alayne Crawford and Jim Patrick
- From Suncor, Michael Southern
- Thank our sponsors and other sponsors – CAE, Cenovus, TD, and Toyota - who couldn't be here today for generous support. It's what helps us to pay the cost for putting on these events.
- Also, thanks to student volunteers.

## **10:30 Coffee Break**

## **11:00 Effective Diplomacy in Ottawa – Best Practices**

**Subjects: diplomatic access points; media, lobbyists, associations and other sources of influence; information resources; and public diplomacy goals.**

**Maureen** - Introduction of Dane Rowlands the Director of the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs (NPSIA)

**Dane Rowlands, Director of NPSIA**

- All of Maureen's sessions are useful and resourceful.
- Introduction of Colin Robertson, a famous alumni of NPSIA. He is a former diplomat in NYC, Hong Kong, and Consul General in Los Angeles. He is a frequent commentator in the media on international affairs, and a senior advisor at Dentons.

**Moderator: Colin Robertson, Vice-President, Canadian Global Affairs Institute** - Thanks to Dane, acknowledgement that he is a 'proud' grad, as is his son. Introduction of panel:

- **Anne McGrath**, Anne has served as Chief of Staff to successive NDP leaders and is National Director of NDP.
- **Jim Patrick** works with Shaw, he's here because he is one of Canada's experts on lobbying. Engage him on lobbying. There are things you must know in how to approach the Hill.
- **James Baxter** an Ottawa native, journalist by profession, who studied in the U.S. and now is publisher of iPolitics, the Canadian equivalent of Politico.

**Colin Robertson:** *If you want to get access to a leader, how do you do it?*

**Anne McGrath, National Director, New Democratic Party**

- The signals coming from the new government is that it will be much more open and accessible. The Conservative party is also going through changes and it may too become more open.
- The best way to get access is through the staff, the executive assistant because they are close to the leader's schedule.
- Sometimes parties also send people to round tables, *ex. an industry association*, I suggest, to get the MPs to book a room and invite the critics and the staff.

**Colin Robertson:** *Can only the ambassador get access?*

**Anne McGrath**

- No, not in our party.

**Colin Robertson:** *For diplomats who want to get access, where are the best places to get to know people?*

**Anne McGrath**

- Committees are a good place. The other place is by reading the Hill Times, our “campus newspaper”, as it reports on who’s being hired and leaving that’s a good way to track of people.

**James Baxter, Publisher, iPolitics**

- Don’t forget bar (Laughter)

**Anne McGrath**

- Where you can find people of different parties (bars/restaurants): NDP (Brixton’s), Conservatives (D’arcy McGee’s), Liberals (they may need to find a new place - they do go to D’arcy McGee’s), and the Metropolitan.

**Colin Robertson:** *There are many rules that apply to lobbying, can you speak to the changes that new diplomats should be aware of?*

**Jim Patrick, Past-President of the Government Relations Institute of Canada and Vice-President Government Relations, Shaw**

- There are many landmines, some of them are legal and with penalties. This is not legal advice, but there are three key things that people should know:
- **Lobbying Act** - it is a guidebook that says lobbying is a legitimate activity, it highlights the ban on contingency fees, ex. you cannot in Canada say to a lobbyist - ‘get this contract and you get a bonus’. This violates the act.
  - There are requirements, you must register and you must report all lobbying activity. Ex. if you are a lobbyist and you meet a public official, anyone who works for someone elected, you must report this meeting. ex. *if this person met this person on this date*. No detailed information. This is supported by integrity framework.
- **Elections Act** prohibits donations to parties.
- **Conflict of Interest Act** also has rules for gifts and what has to be disclosed.
- The customs, norms and rules can be different in Canada and people trip up on that.

**Colin Robertson:** *Many foreign companies come to Canada and go to their Embassy for professional help. Is there any advice on how they can choose the right lobbyist to get the right service they need?*

**Jim Patrick**

- Most lobbying firms have a very senior former politician on staff. Don't be guided by that. You can't buy access in Canada. Lobbyist are translators. They explain business to government. Because of that you need the best arguments. It's about what you know, not who you know. Look for someone with a good track record.

**Colin Robertson:** *now we turn to James Baxter of iPolitics.*

**James Baxter**

- iPolitics began 5 years ago, born out of despair and due to the changes in the US, the decay of daily newspapers and regulated broadcasters. We created something that is not regulated and is not beholden to large printing presses.
- Ottawa is going to see an upheaval in change in media, the Press Gallery. We've had a period where senior journalists in this town haven't changed in 25-30 years. All of the major news organizations in Toronto have been talking openly about renewal and changing out their bureaus. Now, and in the next 6 months, you'll see new players in the field.

**Colin Robertson:** *If an Embassy has leadership coming to Ottawa and they want attention for their leader, how do you access the media?*

**James Baxter**

- On my staff I have 3 kinds of foreign affairs writers. Call me, and I will direct you.
- Cultural events organized around the visit are a good opportunity to talk beyond what is constructed by the PMO and what we're often forced to cover.

**Colin Robertson:** *Sometimes you want to have a conversation with a journalist to have a background discussion. How do you do that and not end up in the paper?*

**James Baxter**

- This is very important. You have to know who you are talking to. From there, there are 3 or 4 levels of discussion you can have:
  - (1) What I say can be recorded, there will be a name attached to it. Journalists like this. It's easily handled;

(2) Chatham House - IF you have a discussion *ex. at a lunch*, you can use the material, but you can't refer to who was at the table. All information shared is useable;

(3) On background, not for attribution - "Senior official said", "Someone familiar with trade negotiations said".. It cannot come back to you. But they can use the words; and,

(4) Off the record.

- This needs to be established BY YOU. YOU must say this *BEFORE* the conversation begins. I would suggest 'this is not for attribution'.

**Colin Robertson** - *Who do you read, listen and/ or watch?*

**Jim Patrick**

- I only watch Global News - which is top rated in Western Canada. (laughter as Shaw owns Global News) Seriously, there are daily CBC, CTV, Global over the air channels with national programs. CPAC delivers unedited coverage, gavel to gavel, it is channel 24 in Ottawa.
- French language there is RDI, LCN privately owned channel from MTL, regional channels as well.

**Anne McGrath**

- The first place I would look is at National Newswatch because it's an aggregator. It might be an opinion piece, or hard news from the Globe and Mail or CBC website. It gives a sense of all the different things happening in one day. I read the morning brief and evening brief on iPolitics.
- There are shows: *West Block*, *Power and Politics* and *CTV Power Play*. If it's politics you're looking for those are the best sources.
- Think tanks, they often put out more in depth information.

**James Baxter**

- Quite often I get approached by diplomatic missions, who would like to send a journalist on your dime, to your country. That generally is not done. Unless you are hiring that journalist to come speak at a conference; however, you can hire a journalist through a university or if there is something going on.

**Colin Robertson:** *What if a leader is coming and the Embassy submits material for you to be published?*

**James Baxter**

- We argue 'if it raises an interesting point' we will publish it. It needs to be provocative. Not to poke the bear, but it needs to make people think about something you may not

have thought about before, *ex. refugee situation*. If it raises an issue not talked about before or an issue that Canadians are ignorant of, I think that is the key. We also will only publish something if it is exclusive to us.

### **Questions**

**Maureen Boyd:** Someone not on the panel this year is Perrin Beatty, CEO of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. Perrin would always tell new diplomats to 'remember you're living in an Ottawa bubble, you must get out of Ottawa'. If you're here in Ottawa, how do you know what's going on in the rest of the country?

### **Anne McGrath**

- Look to provincial news sources like the Calgary Herald, Edmonton Journal and Global News out west.

**Next Note Taker takes over: Patrick Burchat, MA candidate, the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs**

### **12:00pm Session on Canadian Business**

**Introduction by Dr. Jerry Tomberlin, Dean of the Sprott School of Business:**

- The Sprott School emphasizes professional strengths, innovation, and entrepreneurship.
- They also offer a Bachelor of international business, which is unique in North America because of its language acquisition requirement: Sends students abroad to study business in foreign language. International business requires flexibility and adaptability

**Presentation by Warren Everson, Senior Vice President of Policy, for Canadian Chamber of Commerce (Leads and makes policy to communicate business views and interests to governments):**

- Chamber of Commerce is the largest business association with more than 500 local chambers across the country;
- Good business connectivity for foreign governments
- Lots of business associations that are useful to diplomats;
- Increasing its international focus;
- Cited involvement with CETA and the G8.
- Current Trends and Challenges:
  - Canadian provinces are concerned about debt;
  - Canadians turned away from austerity in elections;
  - Low dollar;
  - Manufacturing responding to US demand;
  - Chamber believes that new taxes and new pension demands, along with measures about climate change, will put pressure on business interests;
  - Harper government prioritized trade, debt, and tax reductions;

- Preoccupation with small business;
  - Israel was very important ally in politics and trade/business;
  - Relations with China are frequently up and down – they are unpredictable;
  - New deals with Europe and Asia were very big achievements.
- Changes with new government.
- Canadian economy is increasingly made up of small business, and it's beginning to “dip its toes” in international markets.
  - Climate change;
  - More funding for public sector;
  - Possibly less military funding;
  - Possibly more funding of foreign aid;
  - How to engage with Canadian business:
    - o Chamber sees and welcomes trade delegations;
    - o A lot of Canadian Chambers are trying to run their own trade delegations to other countries.
    - o Canadian business is interested in supporting iconic and well known cultural events;
      - i.e. 4<sup>th</sup> of July, celebrating the Japanese Emperor's birthday;
    - o Exchanges involving high level business executives increasing as well;
    - o Largest Canadian sectors:
      - Services (Engineers, consulting, finance, tourism etc.);
      - Agriculture;
      - Energy, mining and forests;
      - Infrastructure;
        - Large pools of new capital investing in Canadian infrastructure
      - Manufacturing – supply chain participants
        - Sector has been hard hit in past, but is becoming much more competitive;
        - Lots of small manufacturers producing partial products to sell in supply chains;
        - U.S. buy 60 – 70% of Canadian product

*Email: weverson@chamber.ca*

**Questions:**

What are the major trade associations and influence in Canada?

- Agro industry is starkly divided between western grain based are free markets, and eastern industry which is dairy and poultry and is supply managed (i.e. quotas etc.)
- Commodity types have significant and well-financed organizations that are valuable sources of connectivity.
- Specialty interests like Services (intellectual property, engineering);

Will there be major opposition to the TPP or quick acceptance?

- Despite subsidies, there is opposition to even the smallest open market access.
- Canada has a different deal than the U.S. with respect to Japanese auto-imports – this angered Ontario auto workers.
- Auto industry is in profound change, traditional automakers have left Canada: The new generation is all in design and prototype (upstream);
- However, TPP will be ratified in Canada eventually;

How to engage businesses through Provinces?

- Contact Provincial chambers when going for specific interests, the provincial offices are heavily involved with federal office.

### **Professional, social, and family integration of diplomats:**

**Introduction: Dr. André Plourde, Dean of the Faculty of Public Affairs**

**His Excellency Ambassador Alexander Latsabidze, Republic of Georgia to Canada, and  
and President, Ottawa Diplomatic Association:**

- Ottawa Diplomatic Organization is emerging as prominent org.
  - o Organizes events and parties (i.e. Skyday, Annual Gala)
- 2016 Events:
  - o Ski day at Fortune
  - o Tennis tournament
  - o Soccer
  - o Museum tours
- ODA is open to all diplomatically accredited members and those with ties to diplomatic community
  
- ODA is comprised of volunteer diplomats;

### **Volunteer Ottawa:**

- Volunteering can benefit diplomats in numerous ways, it can help keep their spouses' credentials current and high school students need volunteer hours in order to graduate.
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\*Mayor could not make it due to Council going on for too long\*

### **The National Capital Commission:**

**Dr. Mark Kristmanson, Chief Executive of NCC:**

- He's open to learning about how other capitals are managed (sharing ideas);
- A lot of cooperation with different municipalities (i.e. talking about Ottawa's rapid transit project, on track to open in 2018)
- Work with other partners such as Carleton.
- Invites diplomats to celebrate multicultural community of Ottawa (i.e. EU film festival)

- Ottawa is proximate to Northern wilderness;
  - A unique position for such a metropolitan city;
  - Provides such amenities as Gatineau park.
- Gatineau Park is second only to Banff in visitation (200 km of pathways)
  - Ecological conservation is also important;
  - NCC is the steward of the capital;
  - Regulatory authority to approve federal works for any land use decisions (important for embassies if they want to change property or renovate)
  - Ottawa has the largest outdoor skating rink in the world (Rideau Canal);
  - Very opportune time to be in Ottawa (150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Canada in 2017)
    - o Lots of activities
    - o Plan of Ottawa 2017 – 2077
      - Capital illumination plan
      - Create a night atmosphere for Ottawa’s night appearance
        - Modeled after Lyon
      - Series of Pavilions opened from unused buildings
        - Exposition pavilion for things like diplomatic exhibits and activities

## **Closing Remarks**

### **President and Vice Chancellor of Carleton University, Dr. Roseann Runte:**

- Laurier said that Ottawa should be capital of ideas for the world;
  - Diplomats are essential to that community of ideas;
  - Carleton offers short courses and full courses for those who want to get a certificate or degree
    - First Chinese student who took courses at Carleton became ambassador to Canada and State Secretary
    - Ambassador speaker series;
    - Events organized on current issues in Canada to educated audience on Canadian affairs
    - Ambassadors can teach courses
    - Research is also a big focus, ambassadors are invited to help build educational connections with Carleton and their home-country institutions;
    - There are many cultural events at Carleton that would love participation from embassies;
- Canada has a cold climate, but this is compensated above and beyond by the warmth of Canadian hearts.