

Notes Prepared by Miriam Katawazi

John Osborne, Dean of Faculty of Arts and Social Science

- At Carleton we take pride in our connections to the larger world. Depending on the year, 12-13% of our population is international students
- We also have sons and daughters of the diplomatic community.
- The cultural life on our campus has a distinctive global flavor. It's rare when we don't have at least one ambassador on campus to speak.
- Our international connections go beyond that. We have 100 university partners around the globe for our exchange program.
- We have African studies courses, including courses taught in Africa
- This may be your first visit to the campus. We hope that you will come often. At Carleton we bring Canada to the world and the world to Canada.

Paul Dewar, M.P. for Ottawa Centre and Official Opposition Critic for Foreign Affairs

- Paul was first elected MP for Ottawa center in 2006
- Pressed the government to meet its responsibility in climate change and aid
- Former chair of the all party group for the Prevention of Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity
- Ottawa is a great city for diplomats and family
- We welcome people here from all over the world. Part of the fabric of the city is its diversity and lively culture. We really want you to become a part of this community. Your presences enriches our community and therefore our country

- Our system of government is a system we inherited but we have made it our own
- Canadian system of government is based on the notion that we hand the power of government to the governing elected cabinet
- It's very important for our political culture and democracy that we have a very vibrant Parliamentary system through system of standing committees and through our engagement with citizens
- Cabinet makes decisions but committee work in the House of Commons is very important – real work gets done in committees
- Personal relationships important to diplomacy and we very much want to get to know you
- We encourage you to be engaged in our community
- We are trying to make this a better world collectively
- I welcome you and look forward to meeting you

Jean-Paul Ruszkowski, CEO Parliamentary Centre

- About the Parliamentary Centre: We are a NGO celebrating our 45th anniversary. We have worked in about 60 countries.
- Parliamentary Center has a strong relationship with Carleton, partnering with creating capacity building projects for Carleton University
- About Canada's parliamentary system: Canada is a federation based on and inspired by the Westminster system of parliament
- First constitution in 1867 was British North American Act
- The main principles our forefathers had in mind were how to govern a country that is as vast as Canada with first nations and French populations

- With ten provinces and three territories, we are the second largest country in the world with people representing all nations and all cultures
- We have two levels of government – with both provincial and federal responsibilities
- Our head of state is the queen who is represented by governor general
- Prime minister is (traditionally) the party leader with the most seats in the government
- We have responsibility to oversee the territories, under supervision of the federal government
- We have municipalities that are under the jurisdiction of the provinces
- Federal responsibilities include monetary policy, communications, banking, criminal law, international relations and defence
- Provincial responsibilities include natural resources, education,
- The party that wins the most seats forms the government (usually) and the leader of the party becomes the prime minister
- Our most important principle is the concept of responsible government
- Government rules with the confidence of the House of Commons. Parliament can be dissolved if the House of Commons defeats the government on a non-confidence motion (usually involving a money bill)
- We give the chance to the government to govern

Audrey O' Brien, Clerk of the House of Commons

- Parliament consists of Upper and Lower Houses. House of Commons is the elected chamber. Senate is an appointed upper house.
- House of Commons consists of 308 Members of Parliament. Each represents a constituency in Canada. Members of Parliament win their seat in a first past the post system, so whoever wins the most votes is elected
- 30 more constituencies will be added to create a 338 member House in 2015
- The government sits to the right of the speaker and to the left is the opposition.
- The balance of a parliamentary government has to do with the strength of the opposition and the strength of government
- Odd situations occur, ie. Territories are represented by only one MP who has to cover a vast territory. So the demands of the member changes depending on the geography of the country
- 25 standing committees are a very important part of the House of Commons and government system – committees usually have 17-18 members and their membership mirrors the proportion in the house
- Detailed work of parliament takes place in the standing committees and members develop expertise in the subject matter.
- The chair is usually a government member. But 4 committees are chaired by opposition members

Jean Paul Ruszkowski on the Senate

- The Senate is not elected
- The appointments are made by the governor general on the recommendation of the prime minister

- Senators have more independence and no pressure to be reelected so theoretically can bring a deeper perspective to issues
- Senate appointments have been used to increase the presence of women, minorities and first nations
- Senators serve until their 75th birthday
- The legislative process in Canadian parliamentary system
 - Most bills originate from the executive
 - Goes to house of commons for first reading which only tables the bill
 - Second reading gives approval to discuss the bill
 - Bill goes to committee for study, hearing from witnesses and possible amendments
 - From committee passage, the bill goes to the House of Commons for third reading and a vote.
 - Bills need also to be passed by the Senate and then the governor general gives consent (automatic)
 - Bill becomes law and its implementation is the full responsibility of the government

Audrey O'Brien on the House of Commons

- Constitutional monarchy
- The senate is often called the chamber of second sober thought

- House of commons. The speaker is the presiding officer elected by secret ballots. They used to be appointed
- Speaker Scheer is the youngest speaker ever elected
- Two assistant deputy speakers preside over the chamber to ensure that deliberations take place in a fair and civilized manner
- It's part of a tradition to hold the government to account
- The beginning of question period is reserved for leaders
- Questions in Question Period are controlled by party whips
- Each party holds a strategy meeting
- Question period mostly belongs to the opposition
- Time is the most important thing the house has at its disposal
- Everyday a hansard is produced to record what happens at the house
- The notice paper is where future business is described
- The front is the order paper which lays out the business of the day
- It's important to understand that the business of the House is controlled by the government
- There are 21 days that are called supply day belonging to the opposition divided between the NDP and Liberals.

- The house sits 135 days a year and the calendar provides for one week breaks
- Senate sits 80 days a year
- Routine proceedings is the house keeping, i.e. tabling of bills, presenting reports from committees
- Question period is preceded by one minute speeches that are often MPs speaking about their constituency
- Congressional system gives Members of Congress the ability to introduce bills but bills in our parliamentary system are almost always introduced by the government party
- Canada does not have a tradition of forming coalition government but there are improvised and informal coalitions
- There are three main functions of parliament
 - Legislative function
 - Financial function – approving taxes and the business of supply
 - Holding the government to account – votes, debates and question period are mechanisms to hold the government to account

Andrew Scheer, Speaker of the House of Commons

- Role of speaker can be broken into 3 areas
 - Presiding over the House of Commons and making decisions on the points of order and points of privilege

- Claim a point of order to get a clarification of what someone said
- Points of order- when a person can speak or when a bill could be introduced
- Points of privilege is when a person believes one of their privileges were undermined
- Making sure that members treat each other with respect
- Administrative
 - Working together to effectively manage the House of Sommons
 - Administering services, ie. Postal and printing service
 - Finding a balance of efficiency and transparency
- Parliamentary diplomacy
 - Not just foreign affairs of executives but members of each party can attend
 - Canadian views through their elected representatives
 - We also do a lot of receptions

In Answer to Questions

- Any criteria for the appointments of senators
 - You have to be 30 years old

- Maintain residence
- 2000 dollars of property
- Different legal requirements and political requirements you will see prime ministers trying to balance minority groups and provinces
- 36% are women
- Speaker of the House of Commons and Speaker of the Senate divide their times and roles with the diplomatic community and visiting foreign dignitaries
- Role of the government in international affairs.
 - Most treaties have to go through an implementation act that is a bill that goes through the House of Commons

Notes Prepared by Krista Daviault

Session Two: Canadian Business

Perrin Beatty, President and CEO of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce

Direction of the Canadian economy and challenges/opportunities for the coming year

Advice for new diplomats coming to Ottawa: "Look out the window and you will see a beautiful place, but do not confuse Ottawa for Canada. It is a wonderful city, but a capital city - continuous feedback loop of diplomats who talk to officials who talk to lobbyists who talk to journalists who talk to diplomats, etc. Spend time outside of Ottawa and get a sense of the whole country. Enormously vast country, very regionalized."

Canadian economy, and where the Chamber of Commerce sees it going:

- Canadian Chamber 101: It is Canada's largest business network, through 450 boards of trade and chambers of commerce across the country, represents ~200,000 businesses. Focus on policy - any element of economic policy affecting Canadian

business at federal or international level (does not facilitate trade missions, but does provide feedback on negotiations)

- How to make Canada competitive: Canadian economy is mirroring many of the changes occurring in the global economy (barriers falling, for any business in Canada, the starting assumption is that your partner, customer, competitor and supplier can be anywhere, but as close as a mouse click.) Benchmark yourself against the best anywhere in the world.
- Canada's success in any area (diplomacy, military, culture, economics, etc.) is to be found on the global stage. Do not turn inwards - it builds barriers to the rest of the world.
- Period of slow growth we're in is the new normal - not expecting significant rapid growth, but rather steady low to medium growth. Canada is still recovering from the recession. Economic growth went from 2.2% to Q1 2013 to 1.7% in Q2 2013. Consumer spending and housing is more resilient, but reduced global growth is dampening demand.
- Facetiously, Canada has two relationships: one with the US, and the other with the rest of the world. Canadian trade with the US is down to 70%. What pulled Canada out of the recession faster was growth in emerging markets (i.e. China, where demand for commodities drove the Canadian resource sector), not the US.
- Strongly in Canada's interest to diversify trading relationships. Canada is not doing well enough with its emerging economy relationships.
- Expectations: growth of 1.7% of GDP for 2013 (matching 2012). Expecting rotation of growth drivers from consumer and government spending to exports (trade and investment) in 2014, to 2.3%.
- Consumer debt is a concern to governments, as interest rates are low right now, but can't stay there. Government spending also has to reduce spending to balance books.
- Canadian dollar is no longer at par with the U.S. dollar, is below par now (expected throughout 2013), making exports more competitive in the short-term.
- Expect easing in pace of growth of Canadian homes, but do not expect a major correction in housing prices.
- Risks of outlook (mostly external) - potential for global conflict (ie Middle East, oil price spike), issue of Europe being able to recover from the recession and EU strain, US debt ceiling, possible pull-back in Canadian housing market (interest rate jump or labour market reduction), elevated levels of household indebtedness
- US economy may end up stronger than projected, which could help Canadian economy too.
- Focus of the Chamber: focus more sharply on issues of competitiveness. Top ten barriers identified are: skills mismatch! (skills needed are not where they need to be, and potential labour mismatch as well with baby boomer generation moving). All net growth is coming from immigration right now. May need to replace 30% of workforce in next five years with retirees.
- Innovation, tax policy, infrastructure, skills, etc.
- Canadians sit on a resource the size of Saudi Arabia (energy!) debating whether or not to bring them to market. Losing lots of money since Canada's only market is US

right now. Need to access world markets, especially since US is now having a shale gas revolution, and will soon become our competitor, not even our consumer. Competitors are signing long-term contracts now for LNG (liquid natural gas).

Advice to trade commissioners on how to approach Canadian businesses: wide-range of sectoral associations and how to build relationships with other countries. Plan trade missions with a specific focus. Canada is too big to target all of it at once. Target a region and a sector, then the local Chamber of Commerce and the community will be interested in that case.

Session Three: Effective Diplomacy in Ottawa – Best Practices

Moderator: Colin Robertson, Vice President, Canadian Defence and Foreign Affairs Institute

Panelists:

- James Baxter, Publisher, Ipolitics
- Mauril Bélanger, M.P. for Ottawa Vanier and Director, Parliamentary Centre
- Anne McGrath, former Chief of Staff to Official Opposition NDP leaders Layton, Turmel and Mulcair

Practical advice:

- How to get access to MP (call his or her office and ask to meet with him) and Minister (Ministers have more 'defence mechanisms' so go through staff or the department itself (best) unless a political matter (go through staff or parliamentary secretary). Lots of associations to go through, including Parliamentary Spouses Association. Many extra-Parliamentary events (travels, fundraisers, events, etc.). Diaspora is a great natural entry point.
- Official opposition (aka 'government in waiting'). Access them by getting to know the critics in particular areas (ie, Paul Dewar - foreign affairs critic, Hélène Laverdière - international cooperation critic and former diplomat), take advantage of diasporas in different areas (strong Polish, Korean, etc. community), many different connections. At the staff level, the liberal or NDP opposition both have departments that work on issues important to Canadians/diplomats, particularly in the policy/research sectors.
- Check out iPolitics morning and night!
- Subscribe to the Ottawa Citizen, the "chat line" (iPolitics morning brief, Globe & Mail, Toronto Star, Canadian Press etc), follow CBC radio news, aggregators (National News Watch, Huffington Post Canada, iPolitics,) the At Issue panel on Thursday's CBC National News. In Quebec, Tout Le Monde En Parle, R.D.I., Radio Canada, La Presse et Le Devoir are important. Watch CBC - Power & Politics and CTV

- Power Play with Don Martin, Google Alerts, CPAC (unfiltered version of politics), Graham Thompson (based in Alberta legislature) Bloomberg covers energy well

- Talk to people in general; have a life. Don't just do politics all the time!
- AUCC gives an idea of the post-secondary picture. Check out professional associations too (Medical Association of Canada, etc.) - they often lobby. Careful - associations have an agenda, so keep it in mind.
- Quorum, Library of Parliament - good for research!
- Polling companies have had a lot of issues in current periods (Quebec in particular is a challenge to predict), so take it with a grain of salt. That's being reviewed at the moment.
- Check out the think tanks - CD Howe, Canadian Defence and Foreign Affairs Institute, IRPP (Institute for Research and Public Policy), Conference Board and Public Policy Forum in Ottawa, CIC on Foreign Affairs, CCPA (Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives)
- Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday are the best evenings to hold events - that's when the MPs are in town and people are busy.
- Official way to get press release out is to send the release to Terry Guillon at the Press Gallery on Parliament Hill); unofficial way which is often more effective is to give it directly to a journalist in each newsroom (invite them to lunch or coffee), so you can phone them up and get things out!

Prepared by Nichole Ekkert-Vine

Notes Prepared by Session Four: *Social and Family Integration*

His Excellency Frantz Liataud, Ambassador of Haiti and Vice-President of the Ottawa Diplomatic Association

Membership in the Ottawa Diplomatic Association is \$60 for the whole family and is valid for your entire posting

Typical diplomatic calendar year: December - January is a dead zone in Ottawa. Activities will start around the third week in January. You are invited to the Haitian Reception during that week! It gets very busy until the second week in July. The summer is fairly slow but the pace picks back up around the beginning of October until Christmas.

Ottawa is full of cultural activities. There are festivals, museums and we encourage you to participate in social events.

The government of Canada website – www.gc.ca - allows you to search for any government employee to find out where they work and to search within departments and agencies to find out who serves in what government positions. It is called GEDS – Government Employee Directory Service.

Volunteering and the Diplomatic Community by Claire Marshall

Volunteering by the numbers:

- 47% of people in Canada volunteer.
- Canada is second in the world for the number of people involved in volunteering.
- Volunteering allows you to meet a huge number of Canadians and to get involved in your community.

Volunteering as a Canadian value: cf. Citizenship study guide; Welcome to Canada.

- The rights and responsibilities of being a Canadian citizen include “helping others in your community.”

Volunteering by high school children in Ontario: a requirement

- Students must volunteer a total of 40 hours of community service in order to graduate

Value of volunteering to diplomatic spouses:

- Allows a spouse to use his/her native language
- Helps with the transition to English if needed
- Keeps professional skills up to date
- Offers opportunity to connect with an organization from back home or to continue skills
- Helps establish friends and networks

Volunteer Ottawa

- On-line link to 200+ organizations and 800+ opportunities at www.volunteerottawa.ca

Orientation Closing Remarks:

Mayor Jim Watson, City of Ottawa

Elected Mayor in 2010.

Between 2003-2010 he was a Member of Provincial Parliament for Ottawa West/Nepean.

He also served on boards of many community initiatives and has been recognized for his support for tourism.

Remarks by Jim Watson

Ottawa is larger in square kilometers than many other cities combined with 2700 square feet of land mass, mostly rural.

Pre-1867, Ottawa was called ByTown named after Colonel By.

Queen Victoria was the one who chose Ottawa as the capital of Canada. We were a small lumber town at this time. Population now more than 900,000.

The Rideau Canal was originally used to protect Canada from the US - now a world heritage site.

High Tech has transformed former lumber town - now the second largest sector in Ottawa after the federal government.

Tourism is an economic lever (museums, art galleries, art centre and many more).

Ottawa activities include downhill skiing in the Gatineau Hills, hiking in a forest, exploring a cranberry farm, working flour mill or maple syrup farm.

City services - 24-hour telephone line for city services -- dial 311. If there is something unsafe in a playground or something is broken, you need to know hours of operation, maintenance problems, or any other problems you can call this number.

Ottawa.ca is another great resource for information about Ottawa.