

6th Annual Orientation for Newly Arrived Diplomats

Welcoming Remarks

HONOURABLE GEOFF REGAN, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

- As Speaker, often participates in parliamentary exchanges and receives delegations, which strengthens relationships between Canada and many of the countries here today.
- Also is part of international delegations and attends official meetings with MPs and government officials when abroad.
- Receives ambassadors and high commissioners for courtesy calls. These meetings are brief and so very effective given their intimate and confidential nature. They are a regular and productive part of his schedule.
- Parliamentary Officers' Study Program- for senior officials from Canadian jurisdictions, as well as representatives from the Commonwealth, la Francophonie, and other parliaments around the world.
 - Participants are given a chance to meet and exchange views with senior Canadian parliamentary officials on procedural, administrative, and research services provided to parliamentarians.
- When a new government is formed, everyone's name is put forward for Speaker and those not wishing to be Speaker must withdraw their name. There is then a vote.
- Speaker does not go to partisan events (caucus meetings, etc.) except for all their Christmas parties, anecdote on riding mechanical bull at Rona Ambrose's residence
- Question: are diplomats allowed to attend committees etc? There is a diplomatic gallery in Question Period, meetings are generally open, except on private matters such as future studies and personnel matters.

Introduction and Welcome on behalf of Carleton University

DR. ANDRE PLOURDE, DEAN, FACULTY OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

- Carleton would be pleased and interested to know about any connections you or your country may have to something or someone here at Carleton.

- Carleton invites all diplomats to attend all Carleton's public events, School of Journalism, Economics, Public Affairs, etc

Session One: Understanding Canada's Parliamentary System

BEVERLY ISLES, ASSISTANT 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 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

- Currently in 42nd parliament, 1st session
- Sessions are designed to 'hit the refresh button', so there is a new Speech from the Throne at the beginning of each session that outlines the government's priorities and plan going forward.
- Calendar: determines what days the House will sit.
 - The House sits 5 days a week in sessions: Sept. to Dec., Jan. to Easter, and Easter to June. In each session, typically sit 2-4 weeks, and MPs have a week of constituency work in between.
 - Daily program: open the day with a parade, prayer is said. Each day has the same program. For example, all Tuesday programs are like all other Tuesdays. The weeks are about 40 hours.
 - Senate sits 3 days a week, 3-4 hours per day.
 - The House or Senate sitting includes:
 - (1) Routine business, ex. statements by Ministers
 - (2) Government business (The largest amount of time)
 - (3) Private members' bills, this is one hour of the allotted time.

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
- Journals: Record of decision that the House has made (published daily).

SLIDE 5 - PICTORIAL REPRESENTATION OF ARRANGEMENTS IN THE CHAMBER

SLIDE 6 - KEY PLAYERS

- Party Leaders: three officially recognized parties: Liberal (current government), Conservative (Official Opposition), NDP (Third Party Opposition).
 - Must have more than 12 elected members to be considered a party. BLOC sits together and act as a party but only have 10 seats. Also Elizabeth May is the leader of the Green Party.
- 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: 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.

SLIDE 7 - WHAT IS A COMMITTEE?

- Each committee has Chair and Vice Chair (determined by standing orders), of the committees, most are to be chaired by government member, therefore Vice Chairs are from other two parties. Others are chaired by official opposition.
- 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.

SEE MORE:

http://www.lop.parl.gc.ca/About/Parliament/Education/ourcountryourparliament/html_booklet/process-passing-bill-e.html

VOICES FROM PARLIAMENT:

MODERATOR: MAUREEN BOYD, DIRECTOR, CARLETON INITIATIVE FOR PARLIAMENTARY AND DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENT

- **ANDREW LESLIE, MP FOR ORLEANS AND CHIEF GOVERNMENT WHIP,**
 - The Senate has been working well, even better than before
 - Our government is focused on the economy and helping the middle class. One of the simplest things that we have done to maintain transparency is to have all the ministerial mandate letters available online for everyone to track progress.
 - Everything is a discussion, as the whip, it's his job to wheel and deal with the other party to win votes.
- **HELENE LAVERDIERE, MP FOR LAURIER--SAINTE-MARIE AND NDP CRITIC FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS,**
 - Role is to represent her people in her riding and also hold the government to account on the issues they ran on
 - Voice of the riding she represents, but also the voice of social democrats.
 - Emphasizes moral pressure and how that prevents a dictatorial situation in a majority government.
- **RANDY HOBACK MP FOR PRINCE ALBERT AND VICE CHAIR OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE.**

- Wants to give advice on how to interact with MPs:
 - can make a formal request to meet PM/MP etc,
 - can join a friendship group where MPs may have some sort of tie to the country or ambassador (not funded but MPs join for interest reasons)
 - talk to MPs on a personal level: that's where the frank conversations happen and you can really find out what's going on in Canada
 - when you are invited places, attend, it will be very useful for both parties
- QUESTION: when the feelings of your constituents don't align with your party, where is the line? How strict is party discipline?
 - Hélène: party discipline is quite strict, but on issues that may be a bit less important there can be a free vote. On an important issue, say criminalization of abortion, if a member has a contrary view the party will say, "you must have this position or go independent."
 - Randy: Our party has a policy of free vote on matters of conscience (social issues, controversial) and sometimes I have voted against my own conscience in an effort to stay true to my constituents.

Welcome from Ottawa Diplomatic Association

HIS EXCELLENCY NAIF BIN BANDIT ALSUDAIRY, AMBASSADOR OF THE ROYAL KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA AND PRESIDENT OF THE OTTAWA DIPLOMATIC ASSOCIATION.

- ODA consists of diplomatic agents of foreign countries and international organizations accredited to Canada
- Focuses on international diplomatic agencies and organizations, with a hope of promoting and developing strong social and networking opportunities
- Also provides opportunities to increase members knowledge of Canadian politics, economy, and culture
- Encourages the exchange of information and ideas to improve multilateral relations

Session Two: Effective Diplomacy in Ottawa- Best Practices

PANELISTS:

- **JAMES BAXTER, PUBLISHER, IPOLITICS,**
- **SUSAN DELACOURT, AUTHOR, JOURNALIST AND INSTRUCTOR AT CARLETON SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND COMMUNICATIONS,**

- KRISTIN SHANE, MANAGING EDITOR, THE HILL TIMES.

MODERATOR:

- COLIN ROBERTSON, VICE PRESIDENT, CANADIAN GLOBAL AFFAIRS INSTITUTE.
- SUBJECTS: DIPLOMATIC ACCESS POINTS, MEDIA, LOBBYISTS, ASSOCIATIONS AND OTHER SOURCES OF INFLUENCE, INFORMATION RESOURCES AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY GOALS

Colin: We just had a morning focused on Parliament and Parliament Hill. Who are the reporters that the diplomats should follow to understand what's going on?

Susan: iPolitics and the Hill Times are the best! To be more generous, the Toronto Star and the Globe and Mail. There's a lot of change in journalism at the moment, bureaus are shrinking. CBC: Neil Macdonald, Erin Weary. National Post, John Ivison. La Presse had amazing success with their iPad version, widely read in QC. Also Le Devoir. Power and Politics on CBC (2 Hours), Power and Play on CTV (1 hour) at 5. Both regularly have cabinet ministers. News makers are usually on there.

Kristin: Aside from columnists, nationalnews.com, newsaggregator.com is a good source (they have all our stuff and keep an eye on Question Period and the Hill).

Columnists: Campbell Clarke, Murray Brewster, Canadian Press has a lot of good people.

James: I think we've listed the entire press gallery! A plug for iPolitics, Michael Harris is kind of out there... I'm a bit wary of news aggregating because they all have their own agendas so as long as one is aware of that. I start with the Globe and the Star and end with the Citizen. If there's time I head out to read western based newspapers.

Colin: What is the best way to get press attention to a visiting VIP?

James: the old days of putting out a press conference notice are over. we just don't have the bodies. The best way is to lay the groundwork ahead of time for when a person is visiting.

Things to note that YOU MUST CLARIFY:

- "On the record"- they can credit your name and your position
- "Not for attribution"- they can use the information you give them but cannot credit your name or position
- "Off the record" (this is a red light for journalists, many will not talk to you at all if you say this)- You tell a journalist something but they cannot use the information or credit your name or position

Kristin: rather than using complicated terms, just make sure things are totally clear before you start speaking. Also, make sure you call, don't email because they can get lost. We're also very competitive, a journalist's ideal is a one-on-one interview where everything is on the record

Susan: we don't honour an embargo unless it's been negotiated beforehand. It's our job to tell people things and so we don't take orders on when to tell people things. Also, when you want press coverage, reporters don't benefit from just giving you publicity. Try and tie things to current events and news, outline why giving publicity is good for them.

Colin: what makes a good diplomat, from your perspective?

Susan: A USA ambassador was my favourite because of the way that he briefed journalists and the media. Be intentional when speaking to media.

Kristin: You're more of a lobbyist for your country than an ambassador. Keep that in mind, that you're pitching your country to the media, to the Canadian people, to the politicians on the Hill.

James: relationships are very important, make sure you understand the different between being friendly and being friends. Many people in Ottawa are friendly but if someone slips up, it can be confusing to a young MP like "How could you write this? well, how could you tell me that??"

Notes from Questions:

- Canadian journalism is a niche market because we are so small. Everyone knows each other. You can't burn bridges because of that and that extends to the political spectrum. Canadian political journalism is unique because everyone knows each other and so there's a camaraderie that may not be there in other countries.
- In Ottawa, most people think about politics, but the rest of the country does not. Rookie MPs really feel like most of the good work was done out in their communities and so it is important to understand that the Ottawa bubble is very different from the rest of Canada.
- You should send in op-eds as a way to engage with the public, as long as it's newsworthy and not just for the sake of publicity.

- Advice: if you have a problem with the reporter, go to the reporter, NOT their boss. Usually, editors and newsrooms feel it a success of sorts if someone has been angered or moved by a piece and won't do much about it.

Session Three: Engaging with Canadian Business

PERRIN BEATTY, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

- Canada is de-centralized and you should experience that because Ottawa is a bubble
- There is a specialized expert for everything here in Canada, all who are lobbying to the government and all provide excellent connections to different sectors that you can connect with for your country.
- Canadian Chamber of Commerce- we're a policy shop: we do trade policy instead of promotion. However, if there's a trade mission, they may be interested in introducing local businesses around Canada. CCC will be happy to help make those connections, but its main focus is policy.
- The government is in a great position for you and your country to build ties with Canada, there's three years left in the mandate and so it's a good time to build ties.

Session Four: Engaging with the National Capital Region

ROSEMARY THOMPSON, DIRECTOR, COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC AFFAIRS, NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE

- Many artists from around the world come to NAC, there are many opportunities for governments to collaborate with Canada
- 2017 is a very special year, Canada's 150th birthday! NAC encourages you to get involved.
- June 15- July 31 2017 is the main time of the 2017 festivities and Canada Scene.

HIS WORSHIP MAXIME PEDNEAUD-JOBIN, MAYOR OF GATINEAU

- Gatineau is a flourishing city, most bi-lingual city in Canada. Second highest immigration rate after Montreal in QC, and ranks highly as an educated city. Many refugees are settling in Gatineau. Few cities can compete with the high level of outdoor activity in Gatineau.
- Gatineau wants to diversify economy and so if you have anything to offer, make an appointment with the business department.

HIS WORSHIP JIM WATSON, MAYOR OF OTTAWA

- Often have national days and cultural festivals at City Hall, enjoys Courtesy Calls from High Commissioners and Ambassadors.
- Much of Ottawa is rural and forests, encourage to get out and explore all that Ottawa has to offer (also Gatineau!)
- Canada and the World: all diplomats have the opportunity to use the Horticultural Building at Landsdowne to host a cultural day, National Day, holiday. Contact Ottawa 2017 for more info.
- Check the website often for tickets and events, they usually go fast.

Orientation Closing Remarks

DR. ROSEANN O'REILLY RUNTE, PRESIDENT AND VICE CHANCELLOR, CARLETON UNIVERSITY

- Carleton is a special place, symbolizing many things: a bridge over the road, sculptures made of blended wood bringing ideas together.
- Come back often to campus and bring your contribution and ideas, you will receive many invitations to different events, come and learn and enjoy.
- It is common for universities to boast these days about their successes, but Carleton doesn't need to because you've already heard of our successes. Some credit to that is to our program Born Global.
- Carleton has created 28 unique programs that don't exist anywhere else, Human Interface, Not-for-Profit Leadership, etc and Carleton is a great place to encourage your future students to consider attending.