

New and Notable Titles

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A selection of recent publications relating to parliamentary studies prepared with the assistance of the Library of Parliament (May 2017-July 2017)

Bowden, James W.J. "Reforming prorogation." *The Dorchester Review*, 7 (1): 64-8, Spring/Summer 2017.

The House of Commons has no authority to regulate prorogation. Proposed amendments to the Standing Orders would either be ineffectual or unconstitutional as a means of regulating the Prime Minister's prerogative over prorogation.

Hazell, Robert. "Pre-appointment scrutiny hearings: parliament's bark delivers a stronger bite than MPs realise." *The Constitution Unit Blog*, 3p, July 20, 2017.

For the past decade House of Commons select committees have held pre-appointment scrutiny hearings with preferred candidates for some of the most senior public appointments. Many select committee chairs and members consider these to be a waste of time because there is no power of veto. However, new research suggests that they have much more influence than committees realise.

Ihimaera-Smiler, Jessica. "Members's bills." *New Zealand Parliamentary Library*, 2017/01, 15p, February 2017.

This paper contains a description of members' bills, their purpose, and the process by which they are created and pass through Parliament. It examines the number of members' bills passed since 1984 and also looks at other ways in which members' bills can have an impact on legislation, such as through adoption by the Government.

Klinck, Jennifer. "Modernizing judicial review of prerogative powers." *Alberta Law Review* 54 (4): 997-1037, 2017.

Despite judicial pronouncements that the source of government power, whether statutory or prerogative, should not affect judicial review, Canadian courts respond much more tentatively when asked to review exercises of prerogative

powers than exercises of statutory powers. This article proposes that courts reform judicial review of the exercise of prerogative powers.

Ling, Justin. "Is there a duty to consult in the legislative process?" *National Magazine Blog*, 3p, May 25, 2017.

...what if Parliament were required to consult Indigenous peoples on legislation it plans on adopting?



A Message To My Younger Self

**Pam Parsons, MHA
for Harbour Grace-Port de
Grave (Newfoundland and
Labrador)**

You took an interest in politics at an early age. Remember when you were in Grade Three and there was a provincial election taking place? A family friend had secured a nomination and was going to be a candidate for the district of Harbour Grace. Many years later, after completing a degree in Political Science, you decided that you would put yourself forward for public office someday. Little did you then that you would become the first female Member of the House of Assembly to represent the District of Harbour Grace-Port de Grave.

Always keep in mind one of your favorite quotes: "only those who attempt the absurd, achieve the impossible"...

McCormick, John (Chair). "Report on Scottish Parliament—Your Parliament, your voice." Commission on Parliamentary Reform, 106p, 20 June 2017.

The report's recommendations are aimed at increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of the Scottish Parliament as a single chamber, elected body keeping faith with its founding principles. Taken together they reinforce the crucial role of the committees and the chamber in scrutinising legislation and holding government to account and seek to improve the participation of people across the country.

Moore, Christopher. "A very, very modest proposal [book review]: Can a microscopically small-ball approach accomplish political reform?" *Literary Review of Canada* 25 (5): 11-12, June 2017.

Review of *Turning Parliament Inside Out: Practical Ideas for Reforming Canada's Democracy* and *The Unbroken Machine: Canada's Democracy in Action*. The MPs writing in *Turning Parliament Inside Out* mostly accept it would be impossible, even illegal, for them to do what is needed: wield control over their parliamentary leaders.

Purser, Pleasance. "Overseas Parliamentary News – May 2017." New Zealand Parliamentary Library, 6p.

New South Wales - Former office space has been converted into a parents' room for members and staff. The room, which cost \$15,000 to fit out, is equipped with cots, change tables, armchairs for breastfeeding, a TV and toys. Currently three women MPs have children under one year old. The Speaker said the room might be a small step for more women coming into Parliament.

Strickland, Pat, Joanna Dawson and Samantha Godec. "The Wilson Doctrine." UK House of Commons Library, 4258, 18p, June 12, 2017.

The Wilson Doctrine is a convention that UK MPs' communications should not be intercepted by the intelligence services. There have been a number of controversies concerning the doctrine in recent years. The most recent one centres on the Snowden leaks concerning the way in which GCHQ has been collecting metadata – the 'who, when, where and how' of a communication.

A Message To My Younger Self

Marilyn Gladu
MP for Sarnia-Lambton
(Ontario)



Make a difference in the world. Don't be afraid to follow your passions. Don't let intimidation, stereotypes or societal norms determine who you are and what you do. Get interested in science and math, excel in the arts, thrive in social sciences; do what makes you happy and create your own path.

Love. Be truthful. See the positive in every situation.

Be yourself, every day, and never back down. Live every moment with purpose, passion and power, and don't forget to have fun. Savour every moment. You are unique. Make a difference.

A Message To My Younger Self

Kim Schreiner
MLA for Red Deer North
(Alberta)



Follow your dreams and don't ever let anyone tell you, you can't do something. Only you know yourself. Trust your inner voice; it speaks to you with the wisdom that you have accumulated throughout every situation you have endured. Your inner voice strengthens your outer voice and it is worth being heard. Don't forget to take care of yourself; it will help you take care of others. Remember humour; it will help you endure when you are unsure. Enjoy the moments that define your new self. And always say thank you.

