

Preliminary Agenda

Study Visit on Legislative Openness
Ottawa, Canada | October 16-17, 2017



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Day 1: October 16, 2017

- 08:00 – 09:00 **Breakfast Meet and Greet**
ALT Hotel, Room TBC, 185 Slater St, Ottawa
- 09:00 – 09:15 **Walk from the Alt Hotel to the Wellington Building**
Room 430, 180 Wellington Street, Ottawa
- 09:15 – 9:45 **Welcome**
- Member of Parliament the Hon. Robert Nault (Canada), Vice-President of ParlAmericas
 - Senator Hernán Larraín (Chile), President of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network
 - Alisha Todd, Director General of ParlAmericas
- 09:45 – 10:00 **Official photo**
Lobby, 180 Wellington Street, Ottawa
- 10:00 – 10:15 **Coffee Break**
- 10:15 – 12:15 **Session 1: Modernizing Access to Information & Opening Public Institutions by Default**
- Moderator: Jean Noé Landry, Executive Director, Open North
 - Mélanie Robert, Executive Director, Information Management and Open Government, Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat
 - Nancy Bélanger, Deputy Commissioner, Legal Services and Public Affairs, Office of the Information Commissioner of Canada
 - Pierre Rodrigue, Senior Principal Clerk, House of Commons

Standards for transparency and openness, and digital tools have transformed government and parliamentary practices triggering a need to modernize access to information legislation. This session will explore the Government of Canada's efforts to make information public by default and its leadership role within the Open Government Partnership. It will then look at reforms being considered to modernize the Canadian Access to Information Act, and look at how the Parliament of Canada

has modernized its information sharing practices.

12:15 – 14:00

Lunch

Room 325, 180 Wellington Street, Ottawa

14:00 – 16:00

Session 2: Promoting Accountability through Open Data

- Moderator: Jean Noé Landry, Executive Director, Open North
- Jean-Denis Fréchette, Parliamentary Budget Officer, Parliament of Canada
- Madeleine Blais-Morin, Parliamentary Correspondent, Radio-Canada
- Mark Coffin, Executive Director & Founder, Springtide

Making the Government and Parliament's information open by default means presenting up-to-date information, especially raw data, in a standardized machine-readable and free format. This can be useful to create tools to facilitate information-sharing and to improve accountability. This session will explore the use of this data by the Parliamentary Budget Office to promote accountability and create visualization tools both for the public and parliament. It will then look at how information presented in this format can facilitate the accuracy of media reporting, and how civil society has applied it to disseminate parliamentary information in a modern and easy to understand format for citizens.

16:00 – 16:15

Walk to the Alt Hotel

185 Slater St, Ottawa

17:45 – 18:00

Walk to the Parliament of Canada from the Alt Hotel

Parliament of Canada, Wellington Street, Ottawa

18:00 – 20:00

Reception hosted by the Canadian Section of ParlAmericas

Room TBD, Parliament of Canada, Wellington Street, Ottawa

20:00 – 20:15

Walk to the Alt Hotel

185 Slater St, Ottawa

Day 2: October 17, 2017

08:45 – 09:00

Walk from the Alt Hotel to the Wellington Building

Room 430, 180 Wellington Street, Ottawa

09:00 – 10:30

Session 3: Enforcing Conflict of Interest, Ethical Standards and Lobbying Regimes

- Moderator: Member of Parliament Hon. Peter Kent (Canada), Member of the Standing Committee on Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics
- Mary Dawson, Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner
- Pierre Legault, Interim Senate Ethics Officer
- Karen E. Shepherd, Commissioner of Lobbying

Ethics and probity are essential values that instill legitimacy, credibility, and confidence in the parliament as well as legislators. This session will explore the role of the Standing Committee on Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics, and the enforcement of relevant legislation and regulation by the Office of the Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner of Canada, and the Office of the Commissioner of Lobbying.

10:30 – 10:45

Coffee Break

- 10:45 – 12:15 **Session 4: Promoting Citizen Participation for Inclusive Legislative Decision-Making**
- Moderator: Senator Pierrette Ringuette (Canada)
 - Eric Janse, Clerk Assistant, Committees and Legislative Services, House of Commons
 - Méliisa Leclerc, Director of Communications, Senate of Canada
 - Gwen Phillips, Director of Corporate Services and Governance Transition, First Nations Health Council
 - Dr. William Young, Member of the Board of Directors, Samara
- Citizens across the world are asking for opportunities to exercise their democratic rights to participate in the governance decisions that affect them. This has been further reinforced by the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goal 16 which aims for more participative and inclusive decision-making at all levels of governance. This session will explore the mechanisms currently available for citizen to participate in the legislative process in Canada, strategies for further integration of traditionally marginalized groups such as First Nations, Metis and Inuit Peoples, and the role that civil society organizations play in this process.*
- 12:15 – 12:30 **Transfer from the Wellington Building to the Residence of the Ambassador of Chile**
151 Mariposa Avenue, Rockcliffe Park
- 12:30 – 14:15 **Lunch offered by H.E. Alejandro Marisio, Ambassador of Chile to Canada and Senator Hernán Larraín (Chile), President of the Open Parliament Network of ParlAmericas (by invitation)**
- 14:15 – 14:30 **Transfer from the Embassy of Chile to the Wellington Building**
Room 430, 180 Wellington Street, Ottawa
- 14:30 – 15:45 **Session 5: Moving Forward with Open Parliament Action Plans**
- Moderator: Member of Parliament Anthony Rota (Canada), Assistant Deputy Speaker, House of Commons
 - Senator Hernán Larraín (Chile), President of the Open Parliament Network
 - Senator Blanca Ovelar (Paraguay)
 - Patricio Vallespin (Chile), Member of the Chamber of Deputies
- Legislative Openness Action Plans have been co-created and implemented by parliamentarians and civil society across the hemisphere to progress on all the areas of parliamentary work discussed during this study visit. This session will provide an overview of the new Open Government Partnership's legislative policy and invite participating delegations to present their recently adopted action plans or initiatives.*
- 15:45 – 16:00 **Evaluations and Closing Remarks**
- Senator Hernán Larraín (Chile), President of the Open Parliament Network
 - Member of Parliament the Hon. Robert Nault (Canada), Vice-President of ParlAmericas