



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

# Public Engagement at the House of Commons

Presentation to ParlAmericas  
Study Visit

October 17, 2017



# PARTICIPATE

The House of Commons is committed to fostering the Canadians' participation in the democratic process and to providing access to the work of Members, both in the Chamber and in committees.



## Create or Sign an E-petition

Petitions are an easy way for you to participate in Canada's democracy.



## Current Committee Consultations

Committees may seek input from the public on an ongoing study.



## Attend Live Chamber Debates

The gallery facing the Speaker's Chair is open to the public.



## Attend Committee Meetings

Most committee meetings are open to the public.

# COMMITTEE CONSULTATIONS

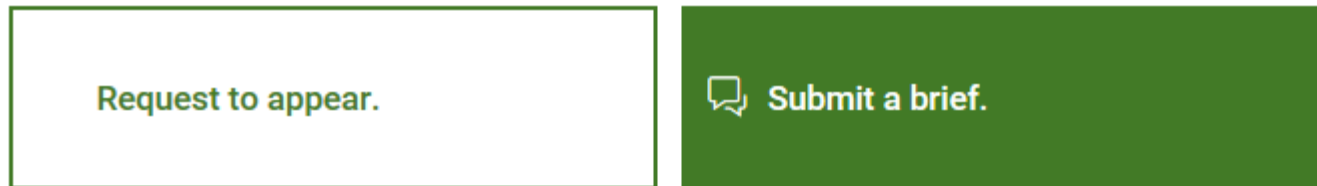
- **Gathering evidence is traditionally done by hearing from witnesses and receiving briefs**
- **Political parties usually suggest witnesses to hear from**
- **Library of Parliament researchers may suggest possible witnesses**
- **Any citizen may ask to appear before a committee or submit a written brief to share their views with committee members.**
- **Until recently this was usually done by contacting the clerk via email.**
- **Committee discusses and agrees upon a final list of witnesses**



# WEBSITE – FACILITATING PARTICIPATION

- Recent committee website enhancements include a new *Participate* section that:
  - Allows committees to inform the public on studies for which they are seeking input, as well as the deadlines and conditions to participate during a study
  - Streamlines the process by which the public can submit a brief or request to appear directly via the website
- Buttons launch online forms for submitting briefs and requesting to appear

## Participate



# ONLINE FORMS

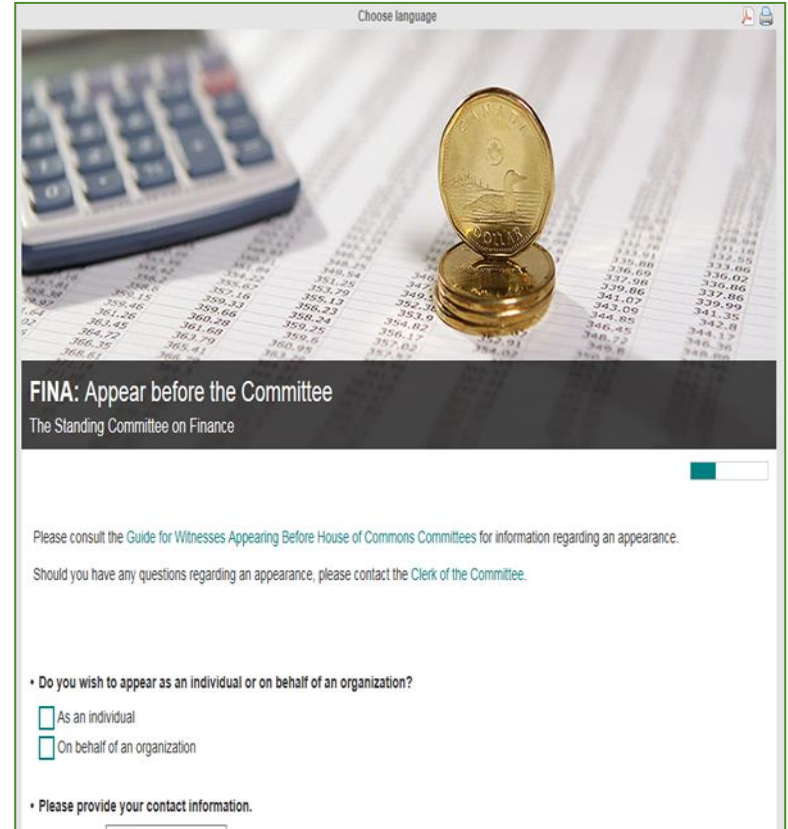
## SUBMITTING A BRIEF



The image shows a screenshot of the ACVA (The Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs) online form for submitting a brief. The background features a wreath of red poppies and a pink ribbon with the word "CANADA" written on it. The form title is "ACVA: Submit a Brief" and the subtitle is "The Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs". There is a progress indicator at the top right. The form contains the following questions:

- Are you submitting a brief as an individual or on behalf of an organization?
  - As an individual
  - On behalf of an organization
- Please provide your contact information.

## REQUESTING TO APPEAR



The image shows a screenshot of the FINA (The Standing Committee on Finance) online form for requesting to appear. The background features a calculator, a stack of gold coins, and a document with numbers. The form title is "FINA: Appear before the Committee" and the subtitle is "The Standing Committee on Finance". There is a "Choose language" dropdown at the top right. The form contains the following text and questions:

Please consult the [Guide for Witnesses Appearing Before House of Commons Committees](#) for information regarding an appearance.

Should you have any questions regarding an appearance, please contact the Clerk of the Committee.

- Do you wish to appear as an individual or on behalf of an organization?
  - As an individual
  - On behalf of an organization
- Please provide your contact information.

# MAKING BRIEFS AVAILABLE ONLINE

- Briefs (written submissions) are now published to the committee's website
  - Personal contact information of the person submitting the brief is removed prior to publication

## Information

Order of Reference

Briefs (16)

Search Briefs by Name



Sort Chronologically ▼

United Airlines, Inc. 

 Brief (PDF)

Published on: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 to 1:31 p.m. (EDT)

Western Canadian Shippers Coalition 

 Brief (PDF)

Published on: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 to 1:29 p.m. (EDT)

# WITNESS APPEARANCES – BY VIDEOCONFERENCE

- **Videoconferencing available since 1994**
  - Does not require special permission of the House
  - Has the same value, scope and protection as an in-person appearance
  - Cost-effective and convenient



# BROADCASTING SERVICES

- **Television**
  - **Concept of “electronic Hansard”**
  - **House proceedings televised since 1977; committees initially required permission of the House to have proceedings televised**
  - **In 1989, a consortium of cable television companies proposed a specialty cable channel to broadcast House proceedings (CPAC)**
  - **In 1992, one committee room was equipped for televising; now three**
  - **Electronic media granted permission to record all public meetings of committees within the Parliamentary Precinct in 2001**



# WEBCASTING

- **Webcasting**

- **ParIVU service, launched in 2003, provides online access to live and on demand proceedings from the Chamber and committees**
- **All televised broadcasts, as well as the audio from all non televised public committee meetings may be accessed**
- **May be reproduced by other media by permission of the Speaker**

The screenshot displays the ParIVU webcasting interface. On the left is a navigation sidebar with options for 'view' (Calendar-Day/Month, Calendar-Year), 'filter' (No Filter), and a list of sessions from the 37th to 42nd Parliament. The main content area features a 'Welcome to ParIVU' message, a 'Now Playing' section, and a 'Today' schedule. The 'Today' section lists several meetings with their status: 'In Progress' (HoC Sitting No. 200) and 'Not Started' (CHPC Meeting No. 71, CIIT Meeting No. 75, ETHI Meeting No. 66, and JUST Meeting No. 62). Each entry includes a small icon (television for video, speaker for audio) and the meeting details.

view

Now Playing

Calendar-Day/Month

Calendar-Year

filter

No Filter

- ▶ 42nd Parliament, 1st Session
- ▶ 41st Parliament, 2nd Session
- ▶ 41st Parliament, 1st Session
- ▶ 40th Parliament, 3rd Session
- ▶ 40th Parliament, 2nd Session
- ▶ 40th Parliament, 1st Session
- ▶ 39th Parliament, 2nd Session
- ▶ 39th Parliament, 1st Session
- ▶ 37th Parliament, 2nd Session






Welcome to ParIVU

ParIVU offers live streaming of the House of Commons proceedings and public committees (live and on-demand) to a variety of mobile and desktop clients. From the desktop, ParIVU also offers the ability to prepare and download video and audio clips of the archived content (max. 75 minutes). Please refer to the [Speaker's Permission](#) for terms of use.

We are interested in your experience with the site! Please send us [feedback](#).

Now Playing

Today

	<b>HoC Sitting No. 200 [Centre Block - Chamber]</b> <span>In Progress</span>
	Sitting No. 200 House of Commons 11:00 AM-7:00 PM Mon, Sep 18, 2017
	<b>CHPC Meeting No. 71 [Centre Block - 237-C]</b> <span>Not Started</span>
	Meeting No. 71 CHPC - Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage 3:30 PM-6:30 PM Mon, Sep 18, 2017
	<b>CIIT Meeting No. 75 [Wellington Building - 415]</b> <span>Not Started</span>
	Meeting No. 75 CIIT - Standing Committee on International Trade 3:30 PM-5:30 PM Mon, Sep 18, 2017
	<b>ETHI Meeting No. 66 [Wellington Building - 410]</b> <span>Not Started</span>
	Meeting No. 66 ETHI - Standing Committee on Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics 3:30 PM-5:30 PM Mon, Sep 18, 2017
	<b>JUST Meeting No. 62 [Wellington Building - 420]</b> <span>Not Started</span>
	Meeting No. 62 JUST - Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights 3:30 PM-7:30 PM Mon, Sep 18, 2017

# COMMITTEE TRAVEL

- **Committees also regularly travel outside the Precinct, holding public meetings and conducting site visits**
  - They retain the powers accorded by the Standing Orders and the protection of parliamentary privilege when in Canada
- **Committee travel during the 2016-2017 fiscal year totalled \$2,115,769**
  - Committees heard from numerous witnesses who might not have otherwise had the opportunity to appear
  - For example, ERRE heard from witnesses in 17 cities during a cross-Canada tour.
    - Open mic: the Special Committee also heard from 567 individuals during open-mic sessions in each city it visited.

# WHEN COMMITTEES CONSULT

- **Significant flexibility in their consultations**

## **Examples include:**

- **Formal vs. informal meetings**
- **Providing additional translation services for languages other than English and French**
  - Recent examples include simultaneous interpretation of Inuktitut and Cree
- **Modifying the room set up to suit a particular situation**
  - ERRE in Victoria modified its set up to allow more room for audience members to attend and participate
- **May also use other means of consultation to engage the public**
  - FINA's pre-budget consultations often invite Canadians to submit recommendations according to agreed upon themes
  - INAN specifically targeted "health professionals" for an e-consultation as part of its study of suicide among indigenous peoples and communities

# E-CONSULTATIONS

- **Committee e-Consultations**
  - Recent development of a new tool
  - Public-facing
  - May be used for a broad or targeted audience (depending on requirements of each individual committee)
  - Allows for a variety of approaches:
    - Anonymous, semi-anonymous, and registration
- **Types**
  - Survey/Issue Poll
  - Stories/Comment/Opinions
  - Consultation Workbook
  - Formal Submission (i.e. submission of a brief)

# E-CONSULTATIONS

## SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ELECTORAL REFORM LAUNCHES ELECTRONIC CONSULTATION

Ottawa, August 23, 2016 -

The Special Committee on Electoral Reform is inviting Canadians to take part in the electronic consultation it has recently made available on its website.

The Committee's mandate is to "identify and conduct a study of viable alternate voting systems to replace the first-past-the-post system, as well as to examine mandatory voting and online voting." This mandate was set out in a **motion** adopted by the House of Commons on Tuesday, June 7, 2016. The Committee must present its report to the House no later than December 1, 2016.

The questionnaire developed by the Committee provides an introduction to various electoral systems in use around the world and seeks Canadians' input on voting and the electoral process. The questionnaire asks about the goals of a voting system, current and alternative voting systems, electronic voting, mandatory voting, and how to move forward with electoral system reform. It will take approximately thirty (30) minutes to complete. The deadline for completing the E-Consultation is Friday, October 7, 2016, at 11:59 p.m. (EDT). The report the Committee presents to the House of Commons will incorporate the results of this consultation.

- **e-consultation on Electoral Reform**

- To provide as many Canadians as possible with the opportunity to engage with the committee in a meaningful and efficient manner.
- 36 substantive multiple-choice questions and three opportunities to provide short text responses. Canadians from every province and territory responded.
- From August 19 to October 7, 2016, 22,247 Canadians completed the consultation.

# SOCIAL MEDIA



HON. GEOFF REGAN, P.C., M.P.  
@geoffregan

@HoCSpeaker

Media Advisories/Crisis Communications  
Recruitment  
Art/Heritage/Architecture  
General Procedural Information

## HOUSE OF COMMONS CHAMBER

Daily Agenda  
Live Updates on House Business  
Bills/Motions/Decisions of the House  
Publication of Hansard  
Chamber Procedure Information

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMITTEES

Upcoming Committee Meetings  
Committee Studies  
Committee Reports  
Opportunities to Participate  
Committee Procedure Information

## INTERNATIONAL AND INTERPARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

Incoming/Outgoing Activities  
Reports by Interparliamentary Delegations  
Protocol Events  
Information about Associations and Exchanges



## HOUSE OF COMMONS

Art/Heritage  
Architecture  
Behind-the-scenes of the House

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

Page Program



## HOUSE OF COMMONS

Page Program



## HOUSE OF COMMONS

Recruitment

# SOCIAL MEDIA



**In the Chamber** @HoCChamber · Jun 21

Today's sitting starts at 2 pm. Full details of the #HoC's projected schedule at [ow.ly/ap7Z30cM2Ev](https://ow.ly/ap7Z30cM2Ev)

## HOUSE AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 2017. SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

2:00 p.m. **Statements by Members**

2:15 p.m. **Oral Questions**

3:00 p.m. **Deferred Recorded Divisions**

Private Members' Business

*C-311 (third reading)*

*An Act to amend the Holidays Act (Remembrance Day)*

Government Bills (Senate)

*S-3 (report stage - motions in Group No. 1)*

*An Act to amend the Indian Act (elimination of sex-based inequities in registration)*

Government Bills (Commons)

*C-25 (report stage - motions in Group No. 1)*

*An Act to amend the Canada Business Corporations Act, the Canada Cooperatives Act, the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act, and the Competition Act*

Routine Proceedings



**House of Commons** @OurCommons · Sep 7

#TBT Before the 1960s, the Commonwealth Room was known as the House of Commons Smoking Room [ow.ly/nnxR30dTxs](https://ow.ly/nnxR30dTxs)



HOUSE OF COMMONS



**In Committee** @HoCCommittees · 40m

#TRAN 9:30 a.m.: Bill #C49, Transportation Modernization Act [ow.ly/Ah0u30f13IJ](https://ow.ly/Ah0u30f13IJ) #cdnpoli



**#TRAN** Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure and Communities





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# E-PETITIONS

CREATE  
an e-petition



If you wish to put forward an e-petition related to an issue which is not already the subject of an open e-petition, start a new one.

CREATE A PETITION

- **Another means by which citizens may engage with Parliament**
- **E-petition system in place since 2015**
- **Required changes to the Standing Orders in relation to the existing petition system**





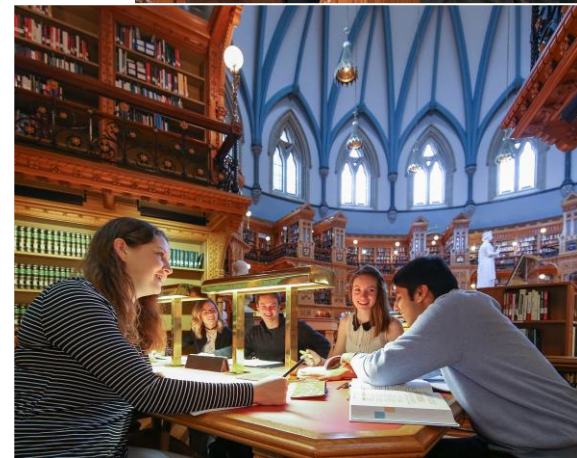
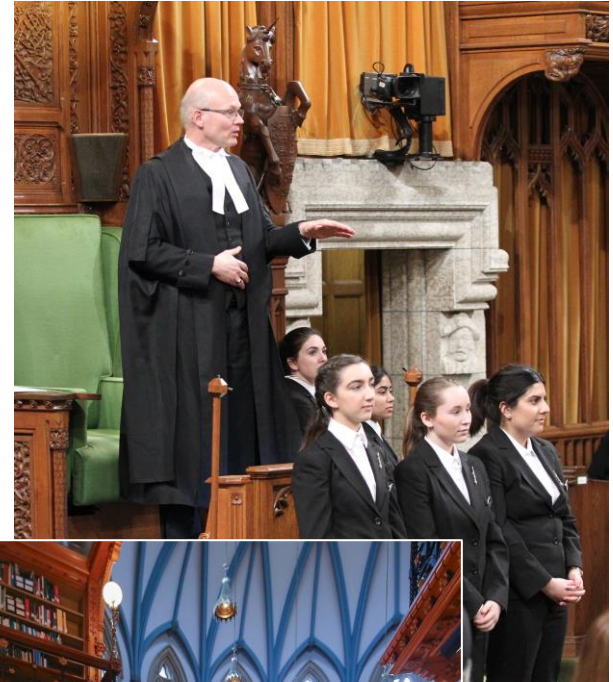
# THE HOUSE OF COMMONS PAGE PROGRAM

- Pages first began working in the House in the early years of Confederation, but their role has evolved significantly since then.
- Each year since 1978, 40 students graduating from high schools and CEGEPs are selected from across Canada to participate in the Page Program. They work part-time as Pages during their first year of undergraduate university studies in the National Capital Region.
- Pages provide various services to Members of Parliament, the Speaker and Chair Occupants, and Table Officers. For example, they collect and distribute official documents, deliver messages to Members, answer telephone calls, and make photocopies.



# THE HOUSE OF COMMONS PAGE PROGRAM

- Pages witness firsthand the history and action of one of Canada's oldest political institutions. They also acquire life skills and develop competencies which will serve them throughout their lives.
- This year's group of Pages is the 40th group – there have now been 1,600 Pages!
- Alumni have gone on to great careers and taken the knowledge and experience gained through the Page Program with them:
  - Procedural Clerks and Table Officers
  - Members of Parliament (for example, current MP Greg Fergus and current Minister Jean-Yves Duclos)
  - Ambassadors
  - Journalists
  - Teachers





## Parliamentary Tour Program

- Welcomes and provides tours to over 375,000 visitors to Parliament annually
- Hires university students from across the country
- Offers tours of Centre Block and East Block in both French and English, including curriculum-based school tours
- Provides guides with extensive training on the process, history and art and architecture of Parliament, as well as how to present this information in an interesting and engaging way





## Teachers Institute on Canadian Parliamentary Democracy

The Teachers Institute is an intensive professional development opportunity in which teachers from across the country:

- Meet parliamentarians, including the Speakers of the Senate and the House of Commons
- Hear from parliamentary experts, senior parliamentary officials, journalists and lobbyists
- See Parliament in action
- Obtain important resource materials that support teaching about Parliament, governance, and democracy
- Join an alumni community of over 1400 former *Teachers Institute* participants





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# Questions?

