

Canadian
Parliamentary
Review



100 Years
of Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians

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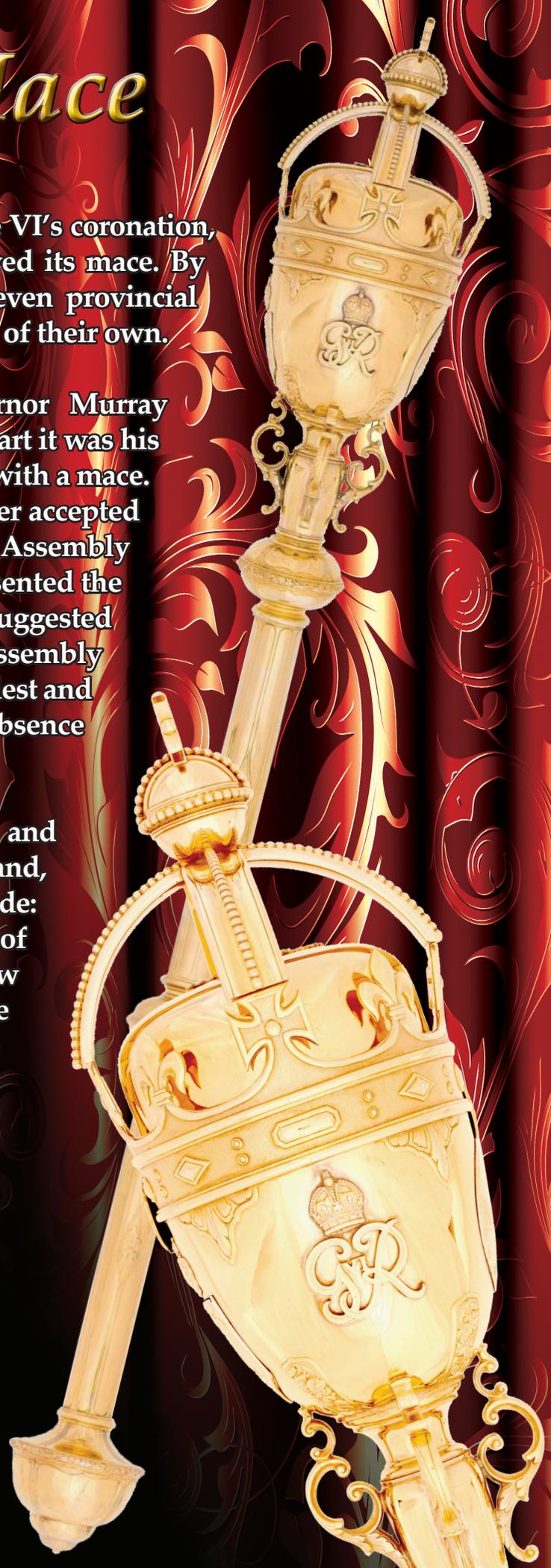
Know Your Mace

It wasn't until 1937, the year of King George VI's coronation, that the Province of New Brunswick received its mace. By this time, the Parliament in Ottawa and seven provincial legislatures had long since possessed a mace of their own.

On February 15, 1937, Lieutenant Governor Murray MacLaren wrote to inform Premier A.A. Dysart it was his honour to present the Legislative Assembly with a mace. According to the synoptic reports, the Premier accepted the gift on February 18, 1937 in the Legislative Assembly Chamber after the Lieutenant Governor presented the Throne Speech. The Premier initially had suggested that the mace precede His Honour to the Assembly Chamber; however, His Honour was too modest and preferred that the gift be presented in his absence after the speech.

Made of sterling silver by the Goldsmiths and Silversmiths Co., Ltd. of London, England, symbolic and decorative elements include: the Royal Arms on the top of the cushion of the crown, the Arms of the Province of New Brunswick and the first seal of the Province on either side of the head of the mace, the Royal Monogram G.R. VI on both sides of the head, and purple violets (the Provincial floral emblem), red spruce (the chief product of the Province) and maple leaves (showing the connection between the Province and the Dominion of Canada) on the staff.

Kenda Clark-Gorey
Legislative Librarian,
Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick



The *Canadian Parliamentary Review* was founded in 1978 to inform Canadian legislators about activities of the federal, provincial and territorial branches of the Canadian Region of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and to promote the study of and interest in Canadian parliamentary institutions. Contributions from legislators, former members, staff and all other persons interested in the objectives of the Review are welcome.

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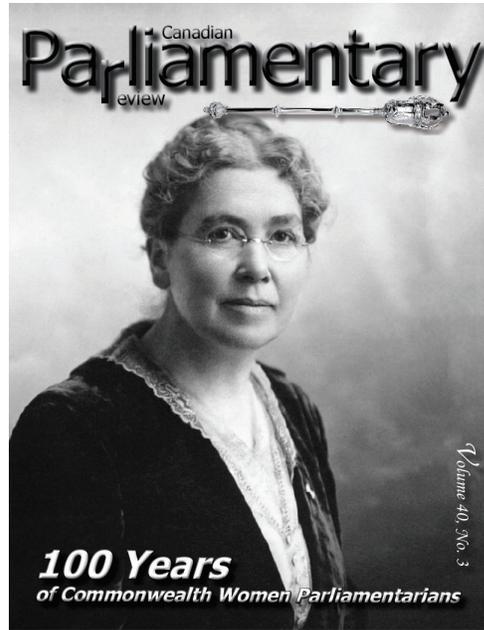
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A Focus on Women Parliamentarians

One hundred years ago, on June 7, 1917, voters in Alberta elected Louise McKinney to the provincial legislature. McKinney, who was sworn in the following year, was not only recognized as the first woman elected to a Canadian legislature, but also the first woman elected as a parliamentarian anywhere in the British Empire.

To mark this anniversary, the Canadian Parliamentary Review is pleased to present a theme issue focusing on the women who have followed (and hope to follow) in her footsteps.

In this issue, Manitoba Speaker Myrna Driedger writes about the early suffrage campaigns that paved the way for women like McKinney to vote in provincial, territorial and federal elections and stand for elected public office. She explains how her province – the first to extend the franchise to some women – honoured suffragist Nellie McClung (a member of the Famous Five, alongside McKinney) on the legislature’s grounds.

Elsewhere, Equal Voice Canada’s Grace Lore surveys the current state of women’s representation in elected office across Canada. Amanda Bittner and Melanee Thomas explore current research into issues women face in political workplaces with a particular focus on mothers (and fathers) who face unique challenges balancing work and family responsibilities in a job like no other. Amanda LeBlanc recounts the interesting history of gendered honorifics, naming women in legislatures, and the trend towards gender neutral address.

We also present an interview and two roundtables with past, present, and potentially future women parliamentarians. Kim Campbell reflects on her career and the state of women in politics as she approaches the 25th anniversary of her time as Canada’s first, and so far only, woman prime minister. MHA Cathy Bennett, MLA Rochelle Squires, and former MLA Joanne Bernard share their experiences as targets of vicious, hateful and misogynistic social media harassment. And, on an optimistic note, several delegates from the Daughters of the Vote

express how this event has inspired them, and how they have inspired each other, to continue the work of breaking down barriers that women face when engaging in formal and informal politics.

Finally, our recurring “Sketches” feature, tells the story of Bettie Duff, the first woman to serve as Clerk of a legislature in Canada and one of the trailblazing women working within parliamentary institutions who support all parliamentarians to fulfill democratic responsibilities.

Throughout this issue you will also see many women parliamentarians offering a message with words of advice, warning, and encouragement to their younger selves based on what they have learned in their political careers. We had a tremendous response to our call for these submissions, and any messages we could not fit into the print edition of the magazine will appear on our new website: <http://www.revparlcan.ca/>

On behalf of the editorial board, I hope you agree that this theme issue is as strong and compelling as the women we profile in its pages.

Will Stos, Editor



An Interview with Canada's First Female Prime Minister: Kim Campbell

It took more than 75 years from the election of the first woman parliamentarian to the date when a woman parliamentarian became prime minister. Kim Campbell, who had brief tenure in the position in 1993, is also the only woman to hold the position so far. In this interview she reflects on her achievement, examines progress women have made since that time, and offers some ideas of what type of work is left to do as Canadians move towards gender equality in politics.

Interview with Rt. Hon. Kim Campbell



CPR: It's been almost 25 years since you served as prime minister, a historic moment for all Canadians, but especially for women parliamentarians. Can you take us back to what you were feeling at that time? And what were your colleagues and Canadians telling you about what this landmark moment meant to them?

KC: As you may remember, it was the end of a tumultuous second mandate for the Mulroney government with the failure of the Meech Lake Accord and the defection of Lucien Bouchard, the failure of the Charlottetown Accord...the implementation of the GST was a big constitutional battle. It was a tumultuous time and the prime minister decided very late in the second mandate that he was not going to continue.

At that time, more than half the caucus gathered around me, and I didn't feel I had an option but to run. Even as far back as when I was Minister of State of Indian Affairs, I would be out travelling the country and people would tell me: "When Mulroney goes, you're going to be our next leader." This was rather awkward as there was no leadership race and I certainly wasn't trying to create one.

When I decided to run for the leadership I knew that we had a fairly difficult challenge. Canadians do alternate their governments, we had been in power for two mandates, and we didn't have an issue to fend off the Reform Party as we had with free trade in '88. We also didn't know what to expect with the Bloc Québécois, though I had colleagues from Quebec who came into caucus saying: "The BQ just nominated a complete unknown to stand against me and they're already running ahead of me." The other thing was that we were all very tired. In the previous 12 months we had gone through a referendum campaign, a leadership campaign, and now we were entering a general election campaign. It was not an optimal time to run.

I suppose what kept us somewhat hopeful was the idea that Canadians may not support a regional party such as Reform (which wasn't running a full slate of candidates outside the West) or the Bloc Québécois (which only ran candidates in Quebec). Also, Gallup published a poll that summer in which I had the highest approval rating of any prime minister in 30 years. That caused a bit of a scare among some Liberals and others who thought, maybe Kim can pull the rabbit out of the hat.

There was also very little time. When I was sworn in on June 25 we were near the tail end of our mandate. As you know, if you don't hold an election within five years of the previous one the constitutional hook comes to pull you off the stage. It was clear I was going to have to call an election early in the fall.

But we weren't yet in election mode. And in terms of being a female candidate, that was also very significant. I think, around the world, people do like women when they are governing. However, campaign mode exaggerates traits that some people are less comfortable seeing in women – being forceful, being argumentative, being adversarial.

My concern was, being a woman, if we lost would that be a giant setback for other women? On the other

hand, there was an enormous amount of excitement in the summer of 1993. People were excited to have a woman prime minister. There was a sense among some people that we had beaten the Americans, that we had gotten there first. I still meet people – especially those who were young women at the time – who say that's what got them interested in politics. But it wasn't only women who were excited. I met a man on the day that I won the leadership who told me, with tears in his eyes, that this day was for his daughter. Parents could now say to their daughters, "you could be prime minister." It wasn't one of those things you'd sit around the dinner table and discuss anymore, like "Will we put a man on the moon?" You do it and then you don't wonder about it anymore. You change the conversation. To be the instrument of that is very rewarding and very exciting.

It was also interesting, running as a woman prime minister, to confront some things that were perplexing. And I was fortunate in my political retirement to have time to take up some of those issues by getting into this whole body of literature of cognitive and social psychology about gender barriers and implicit attitudes and why when people put words in your mouth you don't get the benefit of the doubt.

A Message To My Younger Self

Leela Aheer
MLA for Chestermere-Rocky View (Alberta)

Dear little one:

I am writing you this letter to help prepare you as you grow and find your place in this world. You are so lucky that you have food on the table, a comfortable house to live in and parents who have taught you the value of a dollar, and more importantly, the value of people. You are privileged. Did you know that? You do not want for anything, you are being educated, you live in a country where you can walk outside at night time, and play basketball in your front yard safely. You are a minority where you live, so you need to be kind, compassionate, thoughtful, and tough as nails.

You need to be fierce! Why? Because you are important. People will call you weak because you are kind. They will ask you to stop smiling because it makes them feel uncomfortable. Men will misunderstand that you hug people because you truly love them as family, not because you are seeking a sexual encounter. You will have to stand up for yourself to stay authentic, and more importantly to stand up for others who do not have your grit, or your strength. You will be a voice that will be heard, and that will represent so many who came before you and many who will come afterward.

This will be your path, and I am so proud of you!



People were and are uncomfortable with the idea of a woman prime minister. I think the press were some of the most uncomfortable – the people with the greatest cognitive dissonance – of having someone in a position who doesn't look or sound like anyone who had done it before.

It was interesting to experience this and then to spend time trying to understand it and sharing it with others.

CPR: Had you ever encountered those kinds of things before in your previous runs? I imagine as the first woman prime minister they would be magnified, but the barriers and assumptions you mentioned – were those things you had pick up on before?

KC: Not really. The first time I ran for school board I topped the polls for my party, and the next time out I topped them overall. I was the youngest person to be school board chair, but I wasn't the first woman to be school board chair. That was not something I think people had a gender bias against. And then, when I ran for a seat in the legislature, I was the top vote-getter in a two-member constituency, but the other person who was elected was also a woman. Although there weren't a lot of women in the legislature, I think in the city of Vancouver I didn't feel sexism in the same way. My main competitor in the federal riding was another woman, Johanna den Hertog, the NDP candidate.

When I was in cabinet, I occasionally noticed some pushback from male colleagues. But mostly not. I was the first woman minister of justice. I don't recall instances where people objected to that – there may have been, but I don't recall any. There may have been people who muttered that I only got the job because I was a woman, you always have some people who think that, but I didn't hear that. I was also the first woman defence minister. That was an interesting experience. But I think because the prime minister leads in the election, it is perhaps a greater contrast to be the first woman leader compared to some of the people who had done it in the past. You don't look or sound like anybody who has done that job before.

And as I said, I found the biggest challenge was the Ottawa Press Gallery. The people who cover politics all the time were the worst. Regional journalists were not so much of a problem. They weren't covering politics all the time, but they might want to know my views on rural depopulation, or the Wheat Board, or soft wood lumber. But the Ottawa Press Gallery really feels like they own the politics.

CPR: As the first woman prime minister you did get past these barriers. Yet in the almost 25 years that have passed, Canada has not had another woman prime minister. Why do you think this has been the case? Have we really broken through the barrier?

KC: I don't think we have. I put a dent in it. First of all, you have to become leader of a party that can form government. The Liberals have had several changes of leadership but no woman has really come close to it yet. I mean, they went out of the country to get Michael Ignatieff rather than trying to recruit a woman who might have done it. Justin Trudeau had the advantage of a famous name and an identifiable persona. In the most recent Conservative leadership race none of the women did all that well. I think you have to cultivate it. In fairness, Brian Mulroney gave me an opportunity to shine. I think the reason I had so much caucus support was from the work I'd done as justice minister on difficult issues where I had built good relationships with my colleagues. They trusted me even if they didn't agree with me.

Leaders have to create the farm team and cultivate that next group. We've never had a woman finance

A Message To My Younger Self

Maria Fitzpatrick
MLA for Lethbridge East
(Alberta)

On May 5, 2015 you will be elected to represent Lethbridge East in the NDP Government. You will speak out on domestic violence on Nov 16, 2015. It will be a turning point for women and, for some men. Thousands of affected persons will reach out to you.

All of the obstacles you have encountered will begin to be removed for women, albeit slowly. Demand to be treated with respect, demand to be valued for who you are and what you give back to society. Keep speaking out and fighting for women's equality. This will change the world!



minister. Of course, finance minister is not always the easiest path to the prime ministership because some very tough decisions have to be made, but it does create a certain gravitas. We've had three women foreign affairs ministers now and we've had women ministers of trade and transport. You need those kinds of heavy duty ministries to establish women as powerful and competent ministers. There needs to be a process. If the leader does not make that possible then it's hard for a woman to come totally from the outside and be a contender.

If leadership is gendered masculine, men are assumed to be leaders. Think of a female Kevin O'Leary. Would such a person be taken seriously? This notion that you could fly in from the outside would be very difficult I think. It's disappointing. But I think it demonstrates becoming leader of a governing party is harder than it looks and that women need the experience to show what they can do. Having a gender-balanced cabinet will help. It gives women the opportunity to develop that track record of competence and also to build that network of relationships with their colleagues to establish caucus support.

CPR: Numerous women have served as provincial or territorial premiers. At one point almost half the jurisdictions in Canada, including the three largest provinces, had women parliamentarians at the helm. Some commentators saw this as another breakthrough, yet currently only two of 13 Canadian jurisdictions have a woman premier. How would you characterize this kind of progression? And how far away do you believe we are from achieving gender balance among government leaders and parliamentarians in general?

KC: There are a couple of factors that play into that. The ability to fundraise is one factor. We don't have quite the money-intensive system that the Americans have, but that is sometimes a challenge. Then there's geography – it can be easier for women to serve locally or provincially if they have family connections and their husbands are not mobile. It had been that families went where the husband worked. That's changing. And when I was in cabinet, at least three of us women ministers didn't have husbands. I started out with a husband when in cabinet, but the marriage ended when I was there. But my husband had been willing to move to Ottawa. That's a challenge. Men are expected to go where the job is and their spouses are expected to either trail along or hold the fort at home. The geography is part of it.

But I think it's slowly changing. We don't have a tradition of premiers becoming prime minister in Canada. But seeing women on TV leading their provincial governments changes the landscape. It changes people's implicit idea of who gets to do that job. At first they may find it odd that a premier looks and sounds different from what they are used to, but eventually once they are used to it, it creates a greater acceptance. Even if these women aren't likely to make the move to federal politics, it creates the space for other women. It's the same with people like Angela Merkel; she has been leading Germany for so long and in many ways she is defying what a female leader needs to be. That's part of changing the landscape from which people derive their understanding of the way the world works. It's slow, but I think it's happening; there's no question about



Elizabeth May
MP for Saanich—Gulf Islands (British Columbia)

A Message To My Younger Self

I have aged, but I haven't changed. In my head, I am still my younger self. Not thinking of myself as having or wanting a career, I have always been committed to a better world. So, what would I say to my younger self?

Keep doing what your heart says is the right thing. Don't let the bullying of the powerful intimidate you. Stay strong and keep smiling. Do not focus on what you earn, but on how much you can accomplish. Try to be kind and remember that the people who annoy you today may be able to help you tomorrow. If you make your life "all about you," you offer nothing worth sharing. If you can surrender self to the greater good, your life will be enriched as you enrich the lives of all around you. Having more can never replace being more.

it. And, certainly, there are many conscious efforts of improving the number of women in parliament. For instance, we had that Daughters of the Vote event in Ottawa. It was interesting to look at those 338 women, some of whom were absolutely stoked to go on to a career in politics. I think we created a few monsters – in a nice way – there. *(Laughs)* The vision of seeing the House full of these women was quite something.

CPR: In this issue of the *Canadian Parliamentary Review* we have a roundtable discussion with Daughters of the Vote delegates. We also have a roundtable with several current and former women parliamentarians who have experienced intense social media bullying, harassment and threats based largely on their gender. Reading these discussions back to back gives you a sense of great hope for the future and also great despair for the current state of political discourse in our country. Based on your experience, how can parliamentarians and the Canadian public work towards ensuring future generations of women parliamentarians will not have to deal with this kind of misogyny to such an extent?

KC: We didn't have social media when I was in parliament. There may have been people gnashing their teeth, and we did get some letters. The problem with social media is that people can be anonymous. A lot of people will say things anonymously that may be a more vicious version of their actual attitude. We have seen that in Alberta, from where I'm speaking to you. Rachel Notley has received some threats. A woman running for the leadership of the provincial Tories dropped out because of sexism and taunting, etc.

But I think what we have to do is to develop strategies – and this does not only apply to women – to ignore those things. They should understand that these are cowardly people who hide behind anonymity. I never pay attention to people who Tweet or show up on my notifications if I can't identify them. People will sometimes say the anonymity is key for people in countries that may be targeted for their politics – well, yes, but those aren't the people Tweeting out vicious messages and things here.

I go through and clear out the bots in my account and I don't pay attention to the people who do not have the fortitude to identify themselves. I'm identified. If you want to say something to me, then identify yourself. I think those are the strategies people need to find. Unfortunately, young people on social media may not have those defence mechanisms.

CPR: Finally, reflecting on your career, I'd like you to think back to your 16-year old self running for student council president. Knowing what you know now about a life in politics that you didn't know then, what kind of words of advice, warning or encouragement would you give to your younger self to prepare her for what was to come?

KC: I've been asked that question before and I don't think it's possible to imagine your life where you don't make mistakes or do stupid things. Whatever I'd advise myself to do, if I didn't make those mistakes I'd make different ones. You have to make mistakes. You have to put your foot in your mouth. You have to learn from that. But, the two bits of advice I might give myself as I got older would be to pay attention to keeping my weight down and my languages up. *(Laughs)*

CPR: Is there anything I might have missed in this interview that you'd like to add?

KC: I think we are in a different time. Perhaps one of the reasons I didn't encounter so much sexism during my time in politics was that there were not so many of us. Sometimes people react more if they believe their world is changing than if there are just a few people

A Message To My Younger Self

Caroline Cochrane
MLA for Range Lake
(Northwest Territories)

You are stronger than you know. Persevere through all the trials and tribulations you will experience; you will come out better than okay in the end. Learn all that you can along the way and understand the priorities and mandates of the organizations and governments that you are working for and with. Forge strong relationships with your peers as they will be some of your greatest political supporters. One day, you will be a leader for women and provide a voice for them so work hard and never let anything stop you from achieving your dreams - you can do this!



who they are willing to accept as an exception. For instance, Margaret Thatcher. If she had run as the thin edge of a wedge of talented women, she probably wouldn't have gotten as far as she did. She regarded herself as exceptional, and as long as other people regarded her as exceptional, she wasn't threatening to the whole social order. It was just her, and people could then pat themselves on the back with how broad-minded they were for having a woman leader. Once you start getting different numbers, you start getting a different kind of reaction.

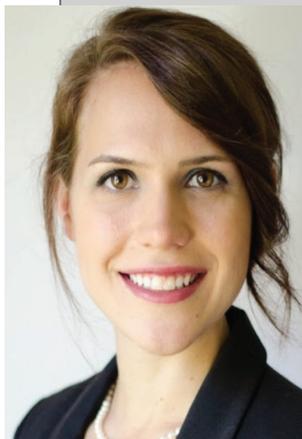
I think with respect to the misogyny, one of the many troubling things I find about Donald Trump is how he's part of a phenomenon that's breaking down standards of civil discourse and giving people permission to express themselves in the most hateful

ways, whether it's about gender or race or whatever. It's framed as this attack on political correctness. But I think political correctness is really the notion that you can't make hateful comments towards people. Those comments can become the basis for real discrimination and real exclusion. I mean, the idea you can make sexist comments and not undermine the ability of a woman to be taken seriously is preposterous. Casual racism in humour. Casual sexism in humour. Casual anti-Semitism in humour. We recognize that these are hateful and harmful. It's not just that they're rude or politically incorrect, they actually undermine people's ability to be fully-fledged citizens. It worries me to see a reversion to standards that I thought we had abandoned. I think, as with everything we gain in society, that the cost of liberty is eternal vigilance.

On one hand, this pushback may be a reflection of the fact that more women are there. It's unquestionable that women have made some great gains. But the combination of social media and bad leaders willing to break the social norms, means we can't take those achievements for granted. They have to be protected.

On the other hand, and I really mean this sincerely, a very important part of the advancement of women and the gains that women have made over the past decades has been the role played by enlightened men. A lot of men really do get it. They get it when they see their daughters, whom they may consider clever and able, start encountering barriers. They see it with people they work with. And even thinking to a prime minister appointing women to cabinet... at one level it may be good politics. But on another level, as you do it and as you work with capable women, you develop a much stronger confidence. Most women who have accomplished a lot can point to men who they've worked with who have been willing to share their power, to use their power to advance them and to give them an opportunity. By doing that, by increasing the number of women who have been able to gain stature, it allows these women to help other women. At a time, when women were only admitted on sufferance, and only when they were seen as individual exceptions, it was hard for women to help other women. If you have tokenism, then women are all competing with one another. I think you have a much greater solidarity among women now. As we really make these gains, it allows women the opportunity to share their individual gains with others and to encourage them.

I always say it's not men against women. It's men and women who get it, working together to persuade men and women who don't.



A Message To My Younger Self

Cindy Lamoureux
MLA for Burrows
(Manitoba)

Dear former Cindy from future Cindy,

You can do this. Every day remind yourself that people are inherently good and in this job you have the opportunity to change lives for the better. Don't be discouraged by negativity, bad articles and feeling pushed outside of your comfort zone. Stay determined, remain honest, and always fight for your constituents.

Politics has many highs and lows, but as long as you surround yourself with good people, you take care of yourself and you don't take anything for granted, you will be okay.

Don't ever let people make you feel small because of your age or marital status.

Be determined.

"Though she may be but little, she is fierce." – Shakespeare

Manitoba Women Get The Vote: A Centennial Celebration

Manitobans are immensely proud that their province holds the distinction of being the first to give some women the right to vote. In this article, the author recounts how early suffragists waged a successful campaign to extend the franchise and profiles famous suffragette Nellie McClung’s role in the battle. She concludes by outlining some of the celebrations held in honour of the centenary in 2016 and by calling for everyone to ensure we continue the work of these pioneer women by striving for full equality for women in our democracy.

Hon. Myrna Driedger

On January 28, 1916, Manitoba was the first province to grant some women the right to vote. One hundred years later Manitoba celebrated this centennial in a grand way. I was very honoured to be part of these celebrations in 2016. It was extra special for me because 2016 was also the year I became only the fourth female Speaker of the Manitoba Legislature.

Charleswood MLA Myrna Driedger serves as Speaker of the Manitoba Legislature.

Getting the vote for women was a human rights milestone – a step towards women’s equality. This enfranchisement of some Manitoba women can be regarded today as the first in a series of sweeping changes that ultimately allowed women to take their rightful place in our democratic society. Other provinces and the country soon followed in Manitoba’s footsteps.

Not all women were given the right to vote in Manitoba in 1916. Indigenous women in Manitoba didn’t receive the vote until 1958 and it wasn’t until 1960 that indigenous women were able to vote in Canada. There were many others that had to wait years to get the vote.



A Message To My Younger Self

Lisa MacLeod
MPP for Nepean—Carleton (Ontario)

Right now you don’t know this but you will have courage—both of your conviction and also as a self-starter. Your confidence and self-esteem will take hits at different times in life, but trust me, you’ll get back up stronger every time. You will learn who would go to the end of the earth for you but most of all you will learn that there is no greater love than for your daughter – she will test you and impress you. And no matter what life throws at you, know you got this!

Women’s Right To Vote in Canada

Manitoba	January 28, 1916
Saskatchewan	March 14, 1916
Alberta	April 19, 1916
British Columbia	April 5, 1917
Ontario	April 12, 1917
Nova Scotia	April 26, 1918
Canada	May 24, 1918
New Brunswick	April 17, 1919
Yukon	May 20, 1919
Prince Edward Island	May 3, 1922
Newfoundland & Labrador	April 3, 1925
Quebec	April 25, 1940
Northwest Territories	June 12, 1951

MANITOBA WOMEN GET THE VOTE

A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION



UNE CÉLÉBRATION DU CENTENAIRE

LES FEMMES DU MANITOBA PRENDENT LE VOTE

Provided

Manitoba's suffrage movement was waged over 30 years, involving hundreds, perhaps thousands of Manitobans, mostly women. It began with the Women's Christian Temperance Union who believed that alcohol was destroying families and leaving women and children abused and penniless. Prior to that, in the early 1880's, a mother and daughter team of physicians (the Yeomans) brought to the attention of the temperance movement the horrible plight of poor women and those in jail. By 1910, the movement was in high gear.

The Earlier Efforts

Although we think mostly of Nellie McClung when we talk about women getting the vote, there were many groups who helped Manitoba to get there:

- Icelandic women's suffrage groups
- Women's Christian Temperance Union
- Manitoba Equal Franchise Association
- Canadian Women's Press Club
- Grain Growers Association
- Trades and Labour Council
- University Women's Club
- Young Women's Christian Association
- Many other men's and women's groups

The Suffrage Struggle

One of the groups that played a large role in the

historic Manitoba decision was the Political Equality League of Manitoba. The League had a brief existence – from 1912 to early 1916. These early feminists believed that if women were able to vote it would solve many of society's ills. Although the League's most famous member was Nellie McClung, an earlier suffragist named Margaret Benedictsson made a significant contribution. An immigrant of Icelandic descent, Benedictsson led the fight in Manitoba's Icelandic community, the largest of its kind in Canada. In 1908, she founded the Icelandic Women's Suffrage Society.

Journalists dominated the core group of members of the Political Equality League. Although there were also many men involved, the majority of members were professional women with good education. They strictly forbade the use of any violent or unlawful acts, unlike what was occurring with the British and American suffragettes. They believed in maintaining society's laws and norms while at the same time trying to reform the status quo.

The League used satire, suffrage literature and speeches as its main weapons. The most famous example of their satirical tactics is the highly successful mock parliament, staged in 1914. In the play Nellie McClung played the role of the Premier of the day, Sir Rodmond Roblin, who is famous for saying *nice women don't want the vote* during a heated debate with McClung. He felt that suffrage *would*

break up homes and throw children into the arms of servant girls. Unfortunately, it was a belief held by many men across Canada at that time.

The Mock Parliament

The Mock Parliament was held at the Walker Theatre in Winnipeg. It was a satirical depiction of women having all the power and men having to come and petition to get the vote. McLung, playing the role of Premier, said about men, *it's hard enough to keep them at home now... Politics unsettles men and unsettled men means unsettled bills, broken furniture, broken vows, and divorce... There is no use giving men the vote... Man has a higher destiny than politics.* The play was a howling success and it was a major factor in turning the tables and helping women get the vote.

Pink Teas

How could women plot their strategies when they were forbidden by their husbands or fathers to attend those *dangerous* meetings? Pink Teas were developed as a way for women to gather and discuss issues of importance, including suffrage. Only women were invited, and frilly decorations and many pink doilies festooned the tea tables. If opponents appeared, the women simply changed the subject to the bland pleasantries one might expect at a regular tea gathering.

The Petition

The Political Equality League gathered signatures on a petition in 1913. 20,000 signatures were presented to the leader of one of the political parties. Nothing happened. Then in 1915, 40,000 signatures were gathered on a petition by 60 men and women. One of the women, 94-year-old Sturgeon Creek resident Amelia Burrett, collected 4,250 signatures herself. As the story goes, they were wheeled into the Legislature in a wheelbarrow.

Celebrating Nellie

Despite the significant role Nellie played in getting Manitoba women the vote she was largely ignored in a tangible way in Manitoba. She had been named the fifth most important Manitoban and eighth most important Canadian, yet she was still unknown to many people. No buildings in the provincial capital were named after her, no roads or parks were named in her honour, and there were no monuments to celebrate this important figure.



Provided

Myrna Driedger poses beside Nellie McClung at the Famous Five monument on the grounds of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly.

In 2002, when I was critic for the Status of Women, I looked for a way to celebrate Nellie's legacy. Working with policy analyst, Trishia Chestnut, we came up with an idea to build a monument of Nellie on the grounds of the Manitoba Legislature. We felt there was no better site to honour her legacy. My Private Members Bill created the Nellie McClung Foundation which led the charge, and the fundraising effort, to make this dream a reality. Research led us to honour Nellie in a way which was typical of pioneer women: the monument depicts her and her Famous Five colleagues, working together to get something done. Nellie's granddaughter, Marcia McClung, said she felt her grandmother would fully approve of this dynamic depiction of her work.

Centennial Celebrations

So why celebrate? Why is this anniversary important?

Quite simply, this successful suffrage campaign was a human rights milestone. Nellie McClung's fight to get the vote for women was nothing short of heroic. It shaped the landscape of our province.

With the Nellie McClung Foundation becoming the driving force in the celebrations, we recreated the Mock Parliament. This itself was very interesting because the play had never been a written document.

We hired a playwright to write the play 100 years after it happened. The play is now available for use all over Canada through the foundation website, www.ournellie.com.

We also held a black-tie Centennial Gala in partnership with the Canadian Museum of Human Rights exactly 100 years to the day that some Manitoba women got the vote. At the gala, which 1,000 people attended, we gave out Nellie awards in recognition of modern day Nellies who have followed in her footsteps through their work in social justice and women's and human rights.

And there was so much more going on in honour of the anniversary. The federal government introduced a stamp and a coin. The Manitoba Museum put together a special exhibit. The Governor General of Canada gave out the Person's Day Awards in our Legislature – only the second time this event has been held outside of Ottawa. A large plaque to recognize the 100th anniversary of some Manitoba women getting the right to vote was hung in the legislature on the day I hosted the Manitoba delegation of Equal Voice's Daughters of the Vote.

A stunning mural was painted on a wall of a downtown building. The Canadian Museum of Human Rights brought students to the museum for a special program as well as hosted the Honourable

Kim Campbell for a public presentation. The *Winnipeg Free Press* ran a series called "The Democracy Project" and many other organizations held events. Manitoba celebrated this historic occasion in grand style – with pride and passion.

Women in Politics

Not only did the legislation give some women the right to vote, it also allowed women to run as candidates for political office. Sadly, in the first 100 years after some women got the vote, there have been only 51 female MLAs in Manitoba as compared to over 850 men. In Canada, there were only 315 female MPs elected in those 100 years.

Does it matter? YES! It matters! Women make up 52 per cent of the world's population but remain underrepresented in elected office – a true democratic deficit. When women's voices and ideas are at the table it strengthens and enriches the debate and makes government policies and programs stronger for everyone.

Is the Battle for Equality Won?

Sadly, there is still a long way to go for full equality, even 100 years after women fought and won the battle for the right to vote. Let Nellie's legacy inspire you to make a difference!



A Message To My Younger Self

Geraldine Van Bibber
MLA for Porter Creek North (Yukon)

July 3, 2017: My birthday is today. I reflect on where I have been and where I have yet to go. Many birthdays can have that effect!

When a chance to explore interesting opportunities come one's way, jump and become involved. You learn, meet others and grow in character and spirit.

A very, very young version of me was shy, awkward and afraid. A very young version of me was starting to blossom and be aware of possibilities. A young version of me worked, started a family and became involved in community.

Commissioner of Yukon, Chancellor of Yukon College, Order of Canada, Yukon MLA – – To my younger self, you can achieve anything you set out to do. I hope to inspire and encourage other women in their journey!

One Hundred Years and Counting: The State of Women in Politics in Canada

In the 100 years since voters in Alberta elected the first woman parliamentarian in the country – and the entire Commonwealth – women have made great strides in building their ranks in assemblies across the country. Progress has been slow and uneven, however, and there are risks of backsliding. In this article, the author surveys the recent history and current state of women elected to parliaments in Canada and urges Canadians to continue work towards full equality in our representation.

Grace Alexandra Lore

One hundred years ago Louise McKinney was elected to the Alberta provincial Legislature; the start of a long journey towards women's full political equality. It's been less than 30 years since the first First Nations (Ethel Blondin-Andrew, 1988) and black woman (Jean Augustine, 1993) took a seat in the House of Commons, and less than 20 years since the first openly gay woman (Libby Davis, 1997), the first South Asian women (Yasmin Ratansi, Nina Grewal, and Ruby Dhalla in 2004), and the first woman to serve at all three levels of government (Elinor Caplan, 1997) were elected to Parliament.

The journey towards full equality is ongoing – women comprise just more than one-in-four elected officials, from city councillors, to mayors, to provincial, territorial, and federal legislators.¹ One hundred years later, it is worth taking stock of where we are.

Women in Legislatures – Provincial, Territorial, and Federal

The journey towards equality in political representation and participation has been long, slow and uneven in its progression. At the federal level, Canada ranks 62nd internationally with women making up just 27 per cent of Members of Parliament.² Just five years ago, after the 2011 election, Canada ranked 41st internationally and ahead of countries like France, the United Kingdom, and Australia; now it lags behind them.

Grace Alexandra Lore is a researcher with Equal Voice Canada. She holds a PhD in political science from UBC.

There is significant variation in representation across the provinces and territories. In British Columbia, 39 per cent of MLAs elected in the 2017 election are women. Although this represents a new all-time high in a legislature in Canada, the representation of women increased by just one per cent over the previous legislature.

British Columbia is followed closely by the Yukon (37 per cent), Ontario (35 per cent), and Alberta, (33 per cent). It's not a coincidence that the top three provinces

A Message To My Younger Self

Janet Routledge
MLA for Burnaby North
(British Columbia)

Women tend to wait to be invited into positions of power and influence.

Don't do that.

You will miss out on many opportunities to make the world a better place and the world will miss out on what you have to contribute.

Speak up. Let them know you are there.



in terms of women's representation all have women premiers at the helm (at least at the time of writing, in the case of British Columbia). In the most recent election, Nova Scotia also made strides by increasing its percentage of women parliamentarians by four points. At 29 per cent, nearly one-third of the province's MLAs are now women.

Women are the least well represented in Nunavut (nine per cent) and the Northwest Territories (11 per cent), but some of the Atlantic provinces are not doing that much better – just 19 per cent of MLAs in Prince Edward Island and only 16 per cent of MLAs in New Brunswick are women.

Women in the Executive – First Ministers and Cabinet

In 2013, six women served as leader of their respective province or territory. From Eva Aariak to Kathleen Wynne, women in Nunavut, British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, and Newfoundland and Labrador rose to the post of First Minister. Four of them, Wynne, Christy Clark, Allison Redford, and Kathy Dunderdale in Newfoundland and Labrador, like women before them (think Rita Johnson, Catherine Callbeck, and Kim Campbell), became premier by winning a leadership race, not a general election. At the time, some observers thought the rise of these women was evidence of the progress made towards gender equality in Canadian

politics. Others were less optimistic and raised concerns about the 'glass cliff' – the idea that it is only when governments and parties are in trouble that unconventional candidates, particularly women, are likely to ascend to power.

Both narratives are too simplistic. Wynne, Redford, and Clark all led their parties to surprising victories. But before the middle of 2014 all but Wynne and Clark had resigned, been pushed out, or lost a re-election bid. With the election of Premier Rachel Notley in Alberta in 2015 and the defeat of Christy Clark in BC by a vote of non-confidence, the number of women premiers currently sits at two.

Optimistically, however, women do hold a higher proportion of cabinet positions across the country (36 per cent) than seats in Canada's federal, provincial and territorial legislatures. Perhaps this is not so surprising given the intentional efforts of the NDP government in Alberta and British Columbia and the federal Liberal government to appoint gender balanced executives, despite no legislature in the country having 50 per cent women members. At the same time, there are six jurisdictions where women make up more than four-in-ten around the cabinet table (Ontario, Yukon, and Quebec). Although well below the 40 per cent mark, women in Manitoba are better represented in cabinet (31 per cent) than they are in the Legislative Assembly

A Message To My Younger Self



Candice Bergen
MP for Portage-Lisgar (Manitoba)

Don't doubt that your thoughts and opinions are important and valuable. That still small voice inside of you is actually bang on most of the time. Trust yourself. The fact that you think differently than a lot of your peers is a strength to be embraced, and not a reason to hold yourself back.

At the same time, don't be hard on yourself for being a little hesitant. A lot of your concerns are reasonable ones, and you shouldn't be embarrassed for having them. Caution is a good thing, and counting the cost of the decisions you make is going to serve you well.

Most importantly, don't measure your ability to lead by your grades, your popularity, or accolades. Your leadership is evident by your loyalty to your friends, family and community, your courage to do what is right, and your willingness to stand up to people more powerful than you.

Oh, and one more thing... your curiosity is a really good part of who you are. Being genuinely interested in people; who they are, their lives and their stories, will serve you very well as you go on to become a Member of Parliament, serving your constituents and Canadians.

(23 per cent). In Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut women do about as well, or slightly worse, in cabinet as they do in the Legislature.

Notably, many individual women hold important, high profile posts including MP Chrystia Freeland, who serves as Foreign Affairs Minister, and provincial MLA Cathy Rogers in New Brunswick and MLA Carole James in British Columbia, both of whom serve as Ministers of Finance. Several women hold the Justice portfolio, including Heather Stefanson (Manitoba), Stéphanie Vallée (Quebec), and Jody-Wilson Raybold (federal government).

Diversity among Women

At least in the House of Commons, women in politics are a more diverse group than their male colleagues. Nearly 23 per cent of women in the current Parliament are visible minorities, while the same is true of only 16 per cent of men. Moreover, women are better represented among Indigenous MPs than they are among non-Indigenous MPs (30 per cent are women). But both minority women and Indigenous women are underrepresented. After doubling from four per cent to eight per cent between 1993 and 2004,³ minority women's representation now sits at about 6 per cent,⁴ and Indigenous women make up less than one percent of all MPs.

The road since the election of McKinney has been long and exciting, but it has been far too slow. In March of this year, Equal Voice embarked upon a historic and ambitious initiative, Daughters of the Vote. Through this initiative, Equal Voice brought 338 young, dynamic, and diverse women to Ottawa to fill the House of Commons on International Women's Day. There were more women taking their seats in the House on that day than have been elected federally in the entirety of Canada's democratic history.

At the current pace, it will be more than 90 years before women are represented in equal numbers as men in the House of Commons. It will be sooner in some provinces if progress is maintained, but it will be much longer in others. The proportion of women in Prince Edward Island has been decreasing over the last three elections and if this continues, women's representation will be closer to zero than 50 percent in the next 20 years.

On the occasion of this centennial, there is much to celebrate in terms of women's participation in and

contribution to politics. But there remains much to be done so that equality of representation is a dream for the Daughters of the Vote and not just for their great granddaughters.

Notes

- 1 This does not include school boards, park boards, or band councils.
- 2 All international statistics are from the Interparliamentary Union - <http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/arc/classif011216.htm>
- 3 Young (2013) in *Stalled: The Representation of Women in Canadian Governments*.
- 4 Statistics Canada (2016) <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/2011/as-sa/99-010-x/2011001/tbl/tbl2-eng.cfm>. Note that the representation of visible minorities was determined by a visual assessment of pictures from the House of Commons website. MPs who self-described as First Nations, Inuit, or Metis were counted as indigenous.

A Message To My Younger Self

Linda Lapointe
MP for Rivière-des-Mille-Îles (Quebec)

Patience, patience, patience. Even if life is always moving at 100 km/h, take time to reflect on things on a regular basis. Things don't always happen as quickly as we would like, but good work does bring rewards.

Stay true to yourself, be persistent and strong, and still be feminine. Being a woman in politics can be difficult sometimes, but remember that the effort you put in and the pitfalls you overcome are giant leaps forward for the next generation of young, ambitious women. You will be a successful role model for them. Also, remember that we have two ears and one mouth. Use them well and in that ratio! The old adage is true: speech is silver, but silence is golden.

In short, abilities are one thing, but attitude is what sets people apart. Be positive, smile, have fun and work hard. That's the key!



Moms in Politics: Work is Work

The growing number of women parliamentarians in this country, among others, has prompted scholars to explore political workplaces through a gendered lens. Are legislatures meeting the needs of these parliamentarians and are there barriers to participation? The authors of this article examine these questions with a particular focus on work-life balance and parenthood. While questions of work-life balance affect all parliamentarians, parents raising young children – for whom women have historically assumed greater responsibility – have particular demands on their time. The authors survey recent scholarly research on women and the political workplace and find that while state support for working families appears to be valued around the world, changes to institutions and policies that would facilitate women’s and mothers’ political work, and especially their political careers, have not kept pace. The authors conclude we must rethink the way we “do” politics in order to ensure that this unique workplace is accessible for individuals across all walks of life, and at all stages of family life.

Amanda Bittner and Melanee Thomas

Political moms have always captured our attention. From Margaret Thatcher’s assertion after her maiden speech that she could not take on more responsibility until her children were older,¹ to public interest in Julia Gillard’s decision not to have

children,² women in politics’ parental status easily makes the news. Even though she was not elected herself, Michelle Obama’s role as a mother was raised in relation to Sasha Obama’s absence from her father’s farewell speech in January 2017. Sasha had an exam the next morning, stayed home to study, and this was seen by some as proof of Michelle’s focus on parenting. Twitter was full of comments like that seen here:

Amanda Bittner is an associate professor in the Department of Political Science at Memorial University. Melanee Thomas is an associate professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Calgary.



K
@KadijahChloee

Y'all asking "Where is Sasha" like it's not a school night and Michelle ain't a black mama.

2017-01-10, 11:44 PM

5,898 RETWEETS 9,312 LIKES



While the role of the First Lady (or Prime Minister’s wife, in the case of Sophie Grégoire) is not the same as the role of, say Secretary of State or Minister of the Environment (in the Canadian context), a similar focus on the compatibility of motherhood and political jobs can be seen globally. Anne Marie Slaughter infamously quit her highly demanding job in politics for another demanding job in academia, citing the former’s inflexible work schedule as not conducive to being both a parent and a Director of Policy Planning at the State



A Message To My Younger Self

Linda Reid
MLA for Richmond South Centre (British Columbia)

The world belongs to those who show up. Make sure you do! Go forward with no regrets. It sure beats “snap out of it.” If you want a stronger community it will be because

you effectively resourced young parents and their children. You do want to strengthen community. Continue to believe that public service is the rent we pay for our time on this earth and you will be fine.

Department.³ In Canada, Minister of the Environment Catherine McKenna made waves when she stated she intended to turn her phone off every evening so she could spend time with her family during supper time.⁴

This issue of “balancing” work and family responsibilities is not new. Indeed, if you enter “work-life balance” into a search engine, you get nearly 10 million hits. There is good reason for this. According to Statistics Canada, the proportion of mothers with partners who work full-time is about 58 per cent. Among single-parent mothers, this number increases further to nearly 78 per cent.⁵ These numbers are on par with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) average, recently placed at about 70 per cent.⁶ Put simply, moms around the world work, often both in the home and outside of it, and they have been working for quite some time.

What **is** a more recent phenomenon is that of moms doing *political* work in legislatures: the current average number of *women* in parliaments is at about 23 per cent globally.⁷ Of these, we do not know the number of mothers versus non-mothers, but we can safely assume that the proportion of mothers to women is not 1:1. That women are a small but growing population in elected politics, and that mothers are a proportion of that small but growing population, suggests that there is an increasing need to look at the *political* workplace to determine whether it is meeting the needs of its employees (including both mothers and fathers), and

in particular, whether there are (gendered) barriers to parents’ participation. This article argues that despite some progress, considerable work still needs to be done to ensure that electoral politics a) are conducive to work-life balance for parents; and b) do not present additional barriers to the participation of some parts of the population, notably mothers, over others.

Accommodating/Facilitating Parenthood? The Demands of the Political Job

Recent research⁸ suggests that parenthood and political careers are difficult to balance, and especially so for women. Legislative rules and norms often throw up barriers that surpass those in a “normal” work place.

Barbara Arneil⁹ assesses legislative rules across three countries (Canada, Britain, and Australia), and finds that there are a number of factors making the legislative job particularly difficult for mothers with infants while in office. She points to the challenging choices political mothers face that other working mothers in Canada do not experience. Being elected for only a few years at a time, for example, leaves legislators unwilling to take a maternity leave in the way that they might if they were working in other job sectors. Given that re-election (if desired) will be based partially on performance while in office, it is difficult to take a year (or even a few months) off to take care of an infant. Indeed, if the controversy surrounding Catherine McKenna’s desire to turn her phone off for a few hours each evening tells



Diane Lamarre
MNA for Taillon (Quebec)

A Message To My Younger Self

Diane, what convinced you to take the leap into politics? Are you happy?

The telephone rang, and Pauline Marois, the first woman premier of Quebec, asked to speak with me. I had a lot to lose if I ran for office. I thought again about the women who inspired me: first, my mother, who taught me about the value of hard work and integrity. I thought of Zahida, my colleague in humanitarian assistance in Bosnia and Herzegovina, where we worked on health care reform after the war. I thought of Janine Matte, the first woman president of the Quebec college of pharmacists. I was the second woman president in 140 years. I had never dreamed of a political career, but I had always wanted to serve Quebec and my fellow citizens. The lack of access to health care made me angry.

All of a sudden, everything fell into place, and I was led to this ultimate commitment. I would have enemies, which was not something I was used to, but I would have a voice—one of 125—to bring my constituents’ needs to the highest levels. And that privilege is priceless. I would be a respectful combatant in the political arena. And yes, I’m happy!

us anything, it is that Canadians have expectations of politicians being “always on, always available” in a way that is certainly not the case in so-called “normal” jobs. This is certainly challenging for fathers too, and for non-parents, but it presents a particular set of challenges for new mothers, and mothers with preschool aged children (who demand a lot of time compared to their school-aged counterparts).

In addition to the re-election pressures faced by legislators, Arneil points to the potential difficulties for lactating and breastfeeding mothers in particular, given the challenge of working in a legislative context. Legislatures are formal, loaded with rituals, and also rigid in their schedules. Elected representatives often have little control over their daily schedules, and need to respond to division bells and unpredictable votes on short notice. This is in stark contrast to more common and informal workplaces. Indeed, Arneil finds that some legislatures have archaic rules that prohibit infants from the Chamber by defining those infants as “strangers” because they are not duly elected or appointed representatives. When this rule fails to convince, other arguments are used to prohibit feeding infants from a bottle or a breast; in some cases, because “refreshments” are prohibited for all in the chamber. These challenges are evident in recent experiences in some Canadian legislatures: in Alberta, when two Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) were pregnant, it became clear that neither pregnancy

nor childbirth were listed as “approved” reasons for absences from the legislature, in part because no one had thought about this possibility prior to 2016.¹⁰ While we might want to chuckle at this omission, these are real challenges that prevent parents of young children from engaging in some forms of political work that are their democratic and constitutional right. If the goal is to widen the pool of potential political representatives, institutional changes designed to accommodate caregiving responsibilities are a crucial step.

Rosie Campbell and Sarah Childs¹¹ make a similar set of arguments in the UK context, suggesting that political institutions appear to be at odds with “care” in general; the demands of the political job are such that attempts to combine legislative responsibilities with family caregiving responsibilities are especially challenging for women with political careers. These caregiving roles include childcare, but also increasingly include eldercare, or care for an ill family member, regardless of their age. Women disproportionately cover this care work, and the legislative workplace makes this particularly difficult. They make several interesting proposals, including job-sharing among political representatives (for example, two part-time legislators both serving a given riding or district) that would allow elected representatives to fulfil their dual public and private roles. Particularly notable, their argument suggests that by incorporating an ethic of care into political institutions, women, parents, and men



A Message To My Younger Self

Lisa Thompson
MPP for Huron-Bruce (Ontario)

First of all, I would like to say - follow your dreams because with hard work and staying true to yourself - your dreams will come true!

It is also so important to never forget your roots! Always be proud of growing up on a farm. The reality is, in the future, fewer and fewer people will have a chance to have that amazing experience.

And guess what - those 4 Hs you totally embraced will set you up perfectly for your career path! By pledging your head to clearer thinking, your heart to greater loyalty, your hands to larger service, and your health to better living - you will embark on a journey that will present to you many opportunities. Remember to give thanks to those who help you along the way - and always take time to pay those opportunities forward.

Never stop whistling. Always be humble and kind. Cherish your family, friends and time at home. Always strive to be your best self.

(who have increasing care responsibilities in society as well) will all benefit and thus open up opportunities for increased political participation among larger segments of the population.

Parenthood on the Campaign Trail

The nature of political work does not only affect mothers in a legislature. In addition to navigating the formal institutional challenges presented by legislatures, candidates and elected officials also make important choices in relation to their strategic actions, communications, and interactions with constituents and the media. Arneil¹² raises these issues in relation to breastfeeding. She suggests that women might feel pressure to be breastfeeding advocates, but the pressures facing parents and the choices they must make are much broader than this.

Melanee Thomas and Lisa Lambert¹³ assess the communications of Members of Parliament (MPs) in the 41st Parliament, to determine whether there are differences in the way MPs present their families and/or talk about their parental status with constituents both online and in the mail. By analyzing official political communiqués, Thomas and Lambert find MPs who are men are both more likely to be parents and more likely to promote their family lives to their constituents than women MPs. Furthermore, their interviews with MPs suggest that some women actively avoid mentioning their parental status in their campaigns and communications to constituents out of fear of the safety of their children. As is becoming increasingly clear on social media, the type of scrutiny and personal threat faced by female politicians is different from that faced by their male peers, and many mothers fear for the safety of both themselves and their children.

In the province of Newfoundland and Labrador, MHA and former Finance Minister Cathy Bennett has publicly admitted that she has been on the receiving end of substantial online bullying, harassment, and threats; her case illustrates the type of fear and concern we are talking about here.¹⁴ This is not to say that bullying or harassment of men and fathers does not also take place, but that the type of attention given to female politicians is particularly heightened. None of the men (both MPs and staff) interviewed by Thomas and Lambert mentioned security concerns as a factor in deciding whether or not to present their families, and in particular, their children, to the public. The security implications and related strategic choices faced by mothers in politics is something that, though perhaps ignored in the past, may be a growing concern in the future.

Politicians only have so much control over the information the public is given. This is particularly true given the role of the media in covering political campaigns, and its part in framing and analyzing women and their mothering roles. Past research suggests that news media coverage of female politicians is mixed: sometimes when the media chooses to cover a woman's private life the focus is entirely on her children,¹⁵ but at other times, the focus on a woman's children is replaced by a focus on her marital status and sexuality.¹⁶ Recent research¹⁷ by Melissa Miller, which assesses media coverage of Hillary Clinton and Sarah Palin in the 2008 presidential primary and election campaigns in the United States, finds that media stereotyping of women and mothers during campaigns might be decreasing. Moreover, her research suggests that voters perceive motherhood and other "feminine" traits positively. This bolsters the argument that women in politics are strategic, savvy actors - who make sensible choices about how to present themselves to the public. It suggests there

A Message To My Younger Self

Tina Mundy
MLA for Summerside -
St. Eleanors (Prince
Edward Island)



Your start in life has no bearing on where you will end up, as it is not how you start the race but how you finish. Live life like it's a marathon, not a sprint. Remember that taking a step backward after taking a step forward is not a disaster but a CHA CHA. So no matter what life throws at you keep dancing. :)

Have the courage to be imperfect and embrace vulnerability. The original definition of courage was to tell your story with your whole heart. So tell your story – the good the bad and the ugly – you never know who is listening and who you might inspire. And, above all, have the compassion to be kind to yourself first, because you can't have compassion for others if you can't treat yourself kindly.

might be benefits to highlighting or suppressing this private information in different contexts. Research in this area shows that gender and parental status affect how women and mothers campaign for political office. With this in mind, there is good reason to believe that safety concerns, perceptions of heightened “trolling” and unfair campaign coverage might be dissuading women (and mothers) from engaging with and participating in politics.

Parenthood, Political Attitudes, and Participation

The data suggest that parenthood affects political careers and the choices made by politicians, and there is evidence that parenthood affects individual attitudes and political participation within the public. This is an area of research which has received less attention in the scholarly literature to date. The focus has tended

to centre on the differences between women and men, or the gender gap, in attitudes and preferences rather than the differences between parents and nonparents, or mothers and fathers. While the literature is nascent, there is evidence to suggest that parenthood is a formative experience that has an important influence on the attitudes and actions of every day citizens.

Recent research by Goodyear-Grant and Bittner¹⁸ suggests that parents tend to be more conservative on issues related to both culture, and crime and security, but they also find that there are very few consistent differences between mothers and fathers. So, while mothers and fathers do not differ much from one another, they do consistently differ from non-parents. O’Neill and Gidengil¹⁹ examine women’s political participation, and assess differences between parents and non-parents. With the exception of lone parents, their results show that the mere presence of children in the home is not enough to decrease some forms of women’s political participation. Instead, the age of children is important: women with children aged five to 12 are more likely to participate in some activities than are other women. There appears to be something about having school-aged children that actually *increases* women’s likelihood to do both volunteer work and sign petitions. This is an important discovery, and it offers a key counterpoint to the findings discussed above that suggest that children might suppress mothers’ desire to seek elected office.

Of course, political activism does not only take the form of petitions and volunteer work. Research by Micheletti and Stolle²⁰ examines the mobilizing effects of children on their parents in the realm of political consumerism. They find that parents of older children are more aware of environmental sustainability issues in relation to food and toys. This is gendered, as mothers are more concerned about these issues than are fathers. En masse, these studies point to the complex relationship between gender, parenthood, and citizen engagement. Being a parent can influence and mobilize citizens, but these effects are not consistent in all circumstances, nor are they equal for mothers and fathers. More research is required to probe the nuanced effects of parenthood on politics.

Conclusions: A Role for Government? Programming to Support Families

Our goal in this article was to describe the current state of politics for mothers in political careers, and as voting, engaged citizens. We found that politics is certainly structured by gendered patterns of

A Message To My Younger Self

Lisa Harris
MLA for Miramichi Bay-Neguac (New Brunswick)

It’s important to believe in yourself. You need to trust your instincts, but understand where you have room to improve.

You should never be afraid to ask questions. Asking questions is the only way you, and those around you, will learn. Uncertainty is just an opportunity to learn something new, so you should never fear admitting you don’t know everything.

Don’t be afraid to lean into every conversation, in any boardroom, no matter who is in the room!

Do your homework, check the facts and ask the important questions. Use this knowledge to guide your decision-making.

Finally, it’s crucial to work with intention. It’s not enough to merely have a target. You need to commit to a specific goal, plan the road ahead, and always be willing to work hard to achieve that goal.



parenthood. From the outset, we argued that while some gains have been made to bring women and mothers more fully into politics, more work needs to be done. We certainly accept many of the patterns present today will change in the future, particularly as women and mothers become more prevalent in politics. This may cause norms to change, and with them, the gendered strategies we noted above. We hope that the online harassment women politicians are subject to will subside as the public becomes accustomed to women in leadership roles in politics. Furthermore, expectations of parents have changed substantially over the last few decades: fathers are generally much more active in the family, through caregiving and household upkeep, and tend to be more equal partners than they had been in the past.²¹ This suggests that stereotypes and norms surrounding motherhood and fatherhood are evolving; it also suggests that issues facing contemporary mothers are likely also to be faced by contemporary fathers in greater frequency than in the past.

These patterns raise some important questions about the causal relationships between gender, parenting, politics, and family life. Are the changes we see sparked because more women are involved in politics now than in the past, and, presumably, they have changed policies and politics through their presence? Or, are more women involved in politics now than they were in the past because attitudes are shifting, making it more socially acceptable for mothers to engage in politics and seek elected office? We suspect it is a bit of both, but we also think the state and government have an important role to play in facilitating the political participation of all parts of society, including both women, mothers, and other traditionally marginalized groups, including racialized minorities, linguistic minorities, immigrants, and the like.

Studies show that there is a relationship between state support for family-friendly policies and the participation of women (and mothers) in politics. Our comparative research on state policies surrounding women and work suggests that most OECD countries appear to agree that paid work and private care responsibilities (i.e. parenting) must be balanced with one another, and that the state has a large role to play in facilitating that work-life balance. Indeed, a number of policy changes and innovations enacted after full suffrage rights were granted to all women have both reflected and facilitated women's increased presence in the paid workforce. For example, maternity, paternity, and parental leave, flexible working arrangements, state-sponsored and regulated childcare, and early

childhood education programs are all policies that have emerged over the past few decades, albeit to varying degrees around the world; all these policies are designed to help working parents balance their public and private responsibilities.

And yet, while state support for working families appears to be valued around the world, changes to institutions and policies that would facilitate women's and mothers' political work, and especially their political careers have not kept pace. We believe we must have a conversation about the role of parents – and mothers in particular – in politics. Do we want parents to be able to fully participate, as is their right as citizens, in politics? If so, this means that we need to be able to accommodate parents in our legislatures, as elected representatives. The implication is that we must rethink the way we “do” politics in order to ensure that this unique workplace is accessible for individuals across all walks of life, and at all stages of family life.

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A Message To My Younger Self



Patricia Arab
 MLA for Fairview-Clayton Park (Nova Scotia)

Be patient. Stop wishing time away, waiting for life to start, and enjoy every minute of what is happening around you in the moment, for this is life.

Take criticism to your head and not to heart. Hearing your critics will show you the ways to grow and will help you figure out the person you want to become, being hurt by criticism only paralyzes you and stops you from moving forward – and there is still so much ahead.

Finally, look at your gender as your greatest strength, not as something that will hold you back. There will be times that other may make you feel that you are less than, but that is only their fear speaking, be kind and be strong, the most "womanly" parts of your personality will be the keys to your success.

Miss, Mrs., Ms., or None of the Above: Gendered Address for Women in the Legislature

When it comes to titles used in the official setting of the legislative Chamber or the slightly less formal committee room, women are in the unique position of having several conventional options for identification purposes: Miss, Mrs., or Ms.¹ Each term specifies a different though similarly gendered status, whether one is single, married, or, for lack of a better term, indeterminate and thus independent of the matrimonial framework. The following article explores ways of naming women in the Legislature and is underscored by the history of general usage for women's titles since the turn of the 20th century. Furthermore, this discussion looks toward re-evaluating aspects of current parliamentary language, with the topic of gender-neutral address.

Amanda LeBlanc

A Short History of Ms.

At the 2016 Hansard Association of Canada² conference in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, a panel dialogue suggested that Ms. was the most popular title for women parliamentarians in Canada. It seems logical, then, to begin here, with Ms., which represents a relatively recent change in how the English language classifies women. While the examples noted below are exclusively American (as are the origins of the term) using Ms. is a widespread, accepted way of acknowledging women in Anglophone cultures. In 2009 American linguist Ben Zimmer traced Ms. back to a 1901 edition of the *Sunday Republican*, a newspaper in Springfield, Massachusetts. A brief, anonymous entry proposed the title as an elegant solution to not knowing a woman's marital status, for "to call a maiden Mrs. is only a shade worse than to insult a matron with the inferior title Miss." The writer deemed the title respectful, "easy to write" and pronounce as well as a merging of Miss and Mrs. (which both evolved from older terms for female master, the Middle English "Mistress" and the Middle French "maistresse").³

There are prior historical examples of Ms. being used, but none argue its merits in the same way as the *Republican* excerpt. The first documented case is

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A Message To My Younger Self

Karen Vecchio
Member of Parliament Elgin-Middlesex-London (Ontario)

First of all, you are going to marry your friend and Grade 13 Biology Partner, Mike Vecchio and have five children together. (I am sure you are already shaking your head...you

were thinking two, maybe three). Although you are the baby of the family and you feel like no one takes you seriously, your family will rally behind you and you will become the first female Member of Parliament for Elgin-Middlesex-London and your mom and dad will be "so proud" of you.

All of the little bumps in the road are going to make you what you are today so don't feel discouraged. Take each obstacle and learn something important from it.



the 250-year-old gravestone of Sarah Spooner from Massachusetts, and it may more so highlight the term's brevity for "a stonemason trying to save space on an already crowded slab" by simply abbreviating Mistress or Miss rather than inventing a new form of address.⁴ Another instance occurred in 1898, when the *Milwaukee Sentinel* used Ms., in this case presumably as a shortened form of Mrs.,⁵ for a headline regarding silent film star Caroline Dudley Carter, known professionally as Mrs. Leslie Carter. It would not be a stretch to spot inadvertent commentary in the editor's choice to alter Mrs. here, bearing in mind Carter's very public divorce from a wealthy Chicago businessman nine years earlier and her well-known persistence in keeping her married name throughout her career.⁶

The popularity of Ms. picked up steam in the 1950s, and it eventually became emblematic of the 1970s feminist movement, with the founding of *Ms. Magazine* in 1971. Today Ms. denotes respect through ambiguity, bypassing the issue of marital status. But instead of avoiding the "embarrassing position"⁷ of having incorrectly addressed a woman, which would signify a loss of stature according to the *Republican's* early twentieth-century contributor, the impetus now is more about questioning the relevance of domestic and gender norms in how people are identified along

with the values often assigned to those identifications. To go a step further, assuming that any gendered title must be used becomes problematic if the options given do not satisfy a person's needs. I will expand on this later, when discussing gender-neutral language in the Legislature.

Ms. and Mrs. in the Legislature

In February 2010 Glen McGregor of the *Ottawa Citizen* drew attention to the fact that out of the 69 women then in the House of Commons, more Conservative government MPs preferred the "traditional honorific" of Mrs. (comparing two-thirds of Conservatives to one quarter of Liberals, for example).⁸ Female representation in the House of Commons reached a record high following the 2015 election, and out of the 92 women currently serving, 24 go by Mrs. But the title is statistically waning; in 2010 it had a usage rate of 39 per cent overall,⁹ and that rate has dropped 13 per cent. Liberals, not surprisingly, with a majority of the House, have taken the lead with 13 women using the title compared to 9 Conservatives, 1 New Democrat, and 1 Bloc Québécois. Interestingly, Conservative usage has decreased from two-thirds in 2010 to one-half in 2017 (9 out of 18), and Liberal usage has held at 25 per cent. The fact that the demographics of Mrs. continue to show a multipartisan mix suggests that linking particular titles with particular parties, relying on stereotypes of what is conservative or progressive,¹⁰ fails to accurately describe or foretell who will be called what in the Legislature. As McGregor conceded, "there's no predicting who will take which title in any party."¹¹

Reasons for using either term vary. That being said, Ms. is bolstered by feminist arguments against defining a woman's name through the institution of marriage, which is historically rooted in patriarchy. (There is no male equivalent for Mrs.; men are named Mr. by default, with no thought of matrimonial circumstance.) In 2009 the European Parliament went so far as to ban the titles of Miss, Mrs., Madame, Mademoiselle, Frau, Fraulein, Senora, and Senorita, and their High-level Group on Gender Equality and Diversity "adopted guidelines on the use of gender-neutral language in parliamentary documents and for the purposes of communication and information."¹² In Canadian Legislatures Miss has basically fallen out of use,¹³ which is to be expected. As recent as 2004 it was defined by the *Canadian Oxford Dictionary* firstly as "the title of an unmarried woman or girl without a higher, honorific, or professional title" and secondly as "the title of a married woman retaining her maiden name for professional purposes."¹⁴ Though



A Message To My Younger Self

Julie Green
MLA for Yellowknife
Centre (Northwest
Territories)

You are on your own journey – and it's okay if you don't know to where. The place you want to be at 20 isn't where you want to be at 30 or 50 or 70. Be confident in

what you believe and humble about what you don't know. Live a life that is meaningful by contributing to a better world. Work hard and don't take no for an answer. Take risks by challenging yourself to do things differently and better. Don't be afraid to ask for help or to show your humanity. Be true to yourself and loyal to your family and friends. Always be proud of who you are.

no official stance is taken on Ms. versus Mrs., the former is more common.¹⁵ The government of Canada style guide recommends how to use each term in official documents but cites Ms. as the default: “Use Ms. when referring to a woman unless a preference for Mrs. has been indicated . . . Do not use Mr., Mrs., Ms., Dr. or Esq. with any other abbreviated title or with an abbreviation denoting an academic degree or honour.”¹⁶ It is intriguing that this style guide precludes Miss from the list of titles to avoid pairing with an academic degree or honour, thus alluding to its character as a less professional or more “junior” title.¹⁷

On the other side of the debate, reasons for choosing Mrs. include wanting to affirm one’s relationship choices and providing an opportunity for female politicians to self-define vis-à-vis the different worlds and roles they occupy. In 2010 Canadian MP Kelly Block, who continues to choose Mrs. today, stated that using that form of address “provides people with a really good understanding of the fact that I am married, without having to explain it . . . I think of myself as a wife and a mother, and then a member of parliament.”¹⁸

Since marriage equality was won Canada-wide in 2005 and the legal union no longer solely exists between men and women, we’d be remiss to cast the choice of Mrs. as necessarily conservative, patriarchal, and sexist because it exists within a matrimonial framework. Conversely, as Ms. becomes the cultural norm for younger and older women alike, its use may not always represent a statement of liberation.

Second-wave feminism taught us that “the personal is the political,”¹⁹ and the act of naming women indeed resonates at both the societal and individual level, as does how a woman communicates information about herself to the world or chooses to explain nothing at all. But we cannot stop there; the discussion of how women are gendered by language opens up to how we are all gendered by language. For example, Mr. has a proverbially neutral privilege when it comes to marital status, yet it is still a socially constructed neutrality that treats men differently, that makes it impossible for a man to indicate to others definitively that he is married. It’s a minor point but one worth noting if we are to examine the naturalness of the language we use to identify and relate with others.

This analysis also extends beyond choosing Ms. or Mrs. to exploring gender-neutral titles as a way of meeting the needs of those who do not identify within a normative gender framework.

Gender-neutral Address in the Legislature: Alberta as an Example

The Alberta Legislature can be seen as a case study for the use of gender-neutral language. In Alberta’s *Hansard* members are identified by titles, followed by their last names, for example, Ms. Brown. In 2015 the *Alberta Hansard* team received a member request for a nonidentifying honorific. We carefully weighed our options and shortly thereafter adopted the by-request policy of not using titles to identify members when they

A Message To My Younger Self



Annie McKittrick
MLA for Sherwood Park (Alberta)

When I reflect on my life’s experiences, I realize that everything I have done – every volunteer role, position of employment, travel and educational opportunity – has guided and informed me in my current role as an MLA. I was fortunate to have exposure to public service early in my life; I had the privilege to attend a United Nations affiliated high school. I met and befriended people from all over the world with diverse worldviews. I grew up discussing such subjects as democracy, human rights, and the role of government. As an adult, I continued to travel, to study and to develop a deep commitment to social justice. All of these elements led me to seek elected office.

My advice to my younger self is this: grab onto all the experiences you can. Be mindful of how these experiences influence your views of community, government, and public service. Your right to vote is an honour – treasure it always. Foster a culture of learning about your candidates and your elected officials. See yourself reflected in them, and believe you too can seek elected office.

speak. Five members are now identified in transcripts solely by their last names and are not assigned the titles of Ms., Mrs., Miss, or Mr. when they go on record. Also, when referred to by table officers reading division vote tallies, these and six additional MLAs are called “Member” or “Minister,” followed by their surnames.

Strathcona-Sherwood Park MLA Estefania Cortes-Vargas was Alberta’s first member to request a move toward more nongendered language. On the morning of December 1, 2015, Cortes-Vargas addressed the Assembly, sharing perspectives from the trans and gender-variant communities on naming and questioning the relevance of gender-specific titles to the debate transcript: “You know, I’m being called Member Cortes-Vargas because I don’t think it is relevant to know in the transcripts whether I’m a woman or a man . . . What if I don’t know whether I’m a woman or a man? It doesn’t matter. I’m a person, and Cortes-Vargas is my name, and that’s all you really need to know.”²⁰ Editors at *Alberta Hansard* were given the new challenge and opportunity to review practices concerning gendered language, and with the accommodation afforded members, we are able to support greater inclusivity in the way that legislative information is presented.

Accommodating someone’s preferred form of address could be seen as the baseline of good behaviour, elementary to the rules of Legislature decorum so that proceedings may occur in a respectful, orderly fashion. This standard could also be equated with existing protocol outlining how members are to be identified

in the Assembly, for example, by their constituencies or, in the case of ministers, by their portfolios, not their actual names. If an error in address is made (if a gender-assigning title is used but not desired), the *Hansard* editor would weigh the extent of that error and the possibility that if not corrected, it may indicate a lapse in parliamentary civility, a gaffe.

Conclusion

Whether one assumes Ms. over Mrs. to denounce perceptions of sexism or Mrs. over Ms. to declare marital status, discounts Miss in pursuit of what is considered a more professional title, or refuses gendered address to promote neutrality, at the core of these decisions is a growing societal understanding of language and its everyday implications for citizens. With each title comes the potential loss of power felt by being labelled inappropriately by others or being pressured by convention instead of finding a suitable way of self-identifying in the world. What is paramount is that one’s choice is respected. There is no place where this is truer than in the Legislature, where we uphold democratic ideals of dignity, decorum, and equality. To cite Alberta MLA Cortes-Vargas: “It’s how we show that we are willing to educate ourselves and we are willing to accept differences amongst everyone.”²¹

Notes

- 1 In Canada though female Premiers, ministers, Leaders of the Official Opposition, leaders of other opposition parties, House leaders and whips are called by their portfolio titles or House roles, it is not uncommon for

A Message To My Younger Self

Nadine Wilson
MLA for Saskatchewan Rivers (Saskatchewan)

In my parliamentary lifetime, I have strived for 10 years to be an invigorating and optimistic legislator with a purpose in life and someone who is choosing to leave a positive footprint in my community and province.

I have been fortunate to have achieved a balance of work and family. My life is not only fulfilled by helping others through politics, but also rich in private happiness and support. I have been married to the same man for close to 40 years and we share parental pride in our four children and their families.

The skill I developed that has gotten me this far is listening – both active and passive. My younger self had to learn this over time, but it has brought me much success in life. My advice is to listen to your inner self as well as others – doing so will guide you well.



- them also to be identified in the transcript by one of these honorifics, typically Ms. or Mrs.
- 2 *Hansard* is the official record of parliamentary debate in Canada and other Commonwealth countries.
 - 3 The *Republican* entry is reproduced and commented on in Ben Zimmer's "Hunting the Elusive First 'Ms.'," *Visual Thesaurus.com*, June 23, 2009. <https://www.visualthesaurus.com/cm/wordroutes/hunting-the-elusive-first-ms/>
 - 4 Dennis Baron, "Is it 'Miss' or 'Ms'? A newly-discovered 1885 cite suggests it's Miss," *The Web of Language*, July 27, 2010. <https://illinois.edu/blog/view/25/30864>. See also Baron's *Grammar and Gender*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1986.
 - 5 *Ibid.*
 - 6 See Edward T. James et al., *Notable American Women, 1607-1950: A Biographical Dictionary, Volume III: 1607-1950, A-F*. s.v. Caroline Louise Dudley Carter (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1971) page 294.
 - 7 Ben Zimmer, "Hunting the Elusive First 'Ms.'," *Visual Thesaurus.com*, June 23, 2009. <https://www.visualthesaurus.com/cm/wordroutes/hunting-the-elusive-first-ms/>
 - 8 Glen McGregor, "Is That Ms. or Mrs. MP?," *Ottawa Citizen*, February 8, 2010. Accessed online via Pressreader, <http://www.pressreader.com/canada/ottawa-citizen/20100208/282415575430288>
 - 9 This percentage includes six women from the Bloc Québécois who, at the time, preferred Mrs. However, McGregor noted that "this is a technicality and never used in the House. In French, all women are called Madame." *Ibid.*
 - 10 I mean these terms in the adjectival, general sense, not in the partisan sense.
 - 11 McGregor.
 - 12 European Parliament – Equality and Diversity Unit Directorate – General for Personnel, *Women in the European Parliament*, page 8. [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/publications/2016/0001/P8_PUB\(2016\)0001_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/publications/2016/0001/P8_PUB(2016)0001_EN.pdf)
 - 13 After searching debate records of the current Legislatures for all Canadian provinces and territories, I found only one instance of Miss being used to identify a speaker, Miss Monique Taylor from Ontario.
 - 14 *Canadian Oxford English Dictionary*, 2nd ed., s.v. "Miss."
 - 15 The style guide for the *Globe and Mail*, a major national newspaper, echoes the primacy of Ms. for women: "The standard honorific is Ms., unless we know that a particular woman prefers and uses Mrs. or Miss. The honorific Miss is used occasionally if a long-established stage name appears in the news pages, such as Miss Hepburn, Miss Taylor. This is a judgment call." http://v1.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/STYLEBOOK.20041110.style_1615/Stylebook/National
 - 16 Public Works and Government Services Canada, *Termium Plus – The Canadian Style*, accessed online at <http://www.btb.termiumplus.gc.ca/tcdnstyl-chap?lang=eng&lettr=chapsect1&info0=1>
 - 17 *The Concise Oxford English Dictionary*, 12th Edition (2011), similarly defines Miss in terms of youth and inexperience: "1. A title prefixed to the name of an unmarried woman or girl. 2. A girl or young woman, especially one regarded as silly." When it comes to professional associations, they offer the rare job of "beauty queen: Miss World," along the same lines as the famous actress, and the more common "female shop assistant [and] teacher."
 - 18 Cited in McGregor.
 - 19 See Carol Hanisch, "The Personal is the Political: The Women's Liberation Movement Classic with a New Explanatory Introduction." <http://www.carolhanisch.org/CHwritings/PIP.html>
 - 20 *Alberta Hansard*, December 1, 2015, morning, pp. 701-702. http://www.assembly.ab.ca/ISYS/LADDAR_files/docs/hansards/han/legislature_29/session_1/20151201_0900_01_han.pdf
 - 21 *Ibid.*, p. 701.

A Message To My Younger Self

Colleen Mayer
MLA for St. Vital
(Manitoba)



Although your journey started in the small town of Fisher Branch, it is your strong work ethic, the relationships you build, and your drive that will take you places even you couldn't predict.

One of your greatest assets is your voice and after being elected as a School Trustee and Member of the Legislative Assembly to represent St. Vital, you will use that voice to advocate on behalf of residents in a community close to your heart.

Remember that life isn't always about the destination, it's about the journey. There will be days when the path isn't clear, but if you continue to write your own story, you will create a life of purpose, connection and success.

See, you can do it.

Social Media Harassment of Women Politicians

For politicians, shaking hands, kissing babies, cutting ribbons and being on the receiving end of angry diatribes from unhappy members of the public, all come with the territory. But women parliamentarians have been speaking up and speaking out about a particularly gendered form of social media bullying, harassment and threats that appear to have become more prevalent. In this roundtable three current or former women parliamentarians discuss the abuse they've encountered, how they've responded to it, and what they believe needs to be done to combat it.

Hon. Cathy Bennett, MHA, Hon. Joanne Bernard, MLA, Hon. Rochelle Squires, MLA

Editor's note: This roundtable contains unparliamentary language and, in particular, a derogatory slur. Prior to publication, the editorial board had a fulsome discussion and debate about whether to run this slur uncensored. Proponents of running the term uncensored noted that Hansard policy is to run slurs in an unedited form. Moreover, as women parliamentarians have had to hear or read these terms while serving the public, there was a sense that it would be hypocritical to censor the words for other readers in an article of this type. Alternatively, some members of the board felt running the slur unedited would revictimize women by perpetuating it and that it was beneath the dignity of the magazine to do it. And, in a very practical matter, it was noted that publishing these terms unedited could influence Web search engines to lower the Canadian Parliamentary Review's ranking on these pages. By way of compromise, we have opted to run the terms with an asterisk in place of a vowel to clearly indicate the slur or language being used, but to blunt its impact and eliminate search engine concerns. However, we include this note to explain that our decision to censor was not done without careful consideration and it is a decision we do not take lightly. We invite anyone who disagrees with the decision to send a letter to the editor, and have given all participants in this roundtable the opportunity to write a response which we will print alongside this article if they disagree with our decision.

Cathy Bennett is MHA for Windsor Lake. She is Newfoundland and Labrador's Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board. Joanne Bernard served as MLA for Dartmouth North, Nova Scotia from 2013-2017. At the time this roundtable was held she was Minister of Community Services. Rochelle Squires is MLA for Riel. She is Manitoba's Minister of Minister of Sport, Culture and Heritage.

CPR: I've always assumed that partisan politics and elected office is not for the faint of heart – that if you are working in this environment you'll need to be prepared to face people and constituents who may strongly disagree with what you're doing. But all of you have spoken out about a particular form of social media bullying, harassment or threats that goes well beyond what most people would deem to be fair and respectful dialogue with their political representatives. Is this really a new phenomenon that has come about

A Message To My Younger Self

Carole Poirier
MNA for Hochelaga-Maisonneuve (Quebec)

What every woman should know before going into politics" is the title you would expect for this kind of article. I would tell my younger self to think bigger. Why should women go into politics? Because we're 50 per cent of the population but have less than 30 per cent of the seats in our democratic institutions. Because we need to take our rightful place. Going into politics shouldn't be the goal; the goal should be to change things! Our collective challenge is to advance our values and aspirations and those of the society we want to create.





Cathy Bennett

with social media, or is social media simply a new way to express this kind of hateful speech?

JB: I think what goes hand in hand with this online bullying, which seems to have really increased over the past five to 10 years, is the anonymity that goes with it. The anonymity, combined with the different forms of social media, has escalated this abuse particularly against female politicians. It's made it easy and there is little to no accountability. The perpetrators do what they do, get up and walk away. They don't think about the impact of their words, or their trolling, or their abuse has on the people they're directing it to. I've had these experiences on everything from Twitter, to Facebook, to YouTube. I don't think directing this kind of language towards female politicians is a new phenomenon but I think it's become far more sophisticated.

RS: I know when I first was elected in 2016 I think I had on some rose-coloured glasses that were quickly ripped off my face. I had recently seen some news coverage about Sheila Copps's time in Parliament and how things had evolved since some of these pioneering women were first elected. When I was elected I had this notion that the way had been paved for me – and indeed it has been in many ways. But, although we still had a way to go before achieving parity and full



Joanne Bernard

equality, I thought we would still be treated the same as our male counterparts were once we actually go into office.

Within two weeks there was a nasty outrage on Facebook, Twitter and anonymous comments on news sites about me. There was a very legitimate concern being expressed. I was appointed the Francophone Affairs Minister and I was not bilingual. I said I was going to enroll in classes and strive to achieve bilingualism, but at the time of my appointment I was not fluently bilingual. There was a discourse that followed that was legitimate and worthwhile. That's what makes our democracy so strong – when a person holds public office people have the right to give the thumbs up or the thumbs down.

But it quickly devolved to this nasty form of sexual bullying and degradation. I knew I was going to be in for a long haul when I read a comment on CBC's Facebook page that said I had obviously performed a lot of sexual acts to get to where I was because there was no way a woman who looked like me, and talked like me and had my limited abilities could have achieved office on my own. Then there was just this dog-piling on from others about what kind of sexual acts I may or may not have done to get my job.



Rochelle Squires

I slammed my computer shut and my heart was in throat. I was just devastated and mortified. I thought, “Maybe I’m the only one seeing this?” But two minutes later my son walks into the room and says, “Mom, are you seeing what they’re saying about you?” That was my induction into being a woman who holds public office. It was only about five per cent of the comments that had degraded me and devolved to this level, but those are the ones I remember.

CB: I was not prepared for how, as Joanne said, social media provided such a specific anonymous outlet for people to do or say things that they would never say in the context of a non-social media life. I don’t believe anyone would come up to me in person, no matter how angry they were about a certain policy or decision that was made, and say some of the things that were said in social media, such as, “You should kill yourself.” I think social media is a new element, but in talking to my colleagues across the country and at an event at the United Nations earlier this year, criticism about women over their competency and abilities in a sexual or gendered way is certainly not new.

CPR: I want to touch on the anonymity. You’re facing this venom from largely anonymous sources on social media which is quite unlike what a person might ever

say to you in person. But when this kind of anonymous veil is available, these kinds of comments come out. Do you often think about the idea that these views and this hatred is present in people talking to you face to face who simply aren’t brave enough to vocalize it if there might be repercussions?

RS: I wholeheartedly agree that people use the anonymous platform to say things they would never say to my face. In the last year on the campaign trail and then getting appointed to my cabinet position, I met some 14,000-15,000 people and heard many diverse voices. Going back further to 2011, when I ran previously, my party was not as popular then. There was a lot of sentiment against my party, and even some anger over past decisions, was expressed at the door. But never did a single person say anything to me like what I’ve read online. People are taking advantage of an anonymous platform. They’re cowards who are using this as an easy way to score their own points and make themselves feel better. I’m sure I could go face to face with every one of the people who said nasty and disgusting things about me online and they would not dare to say it to my face.

JB: I’m openly gay, so I not only had to face the misogynistic slurs against me but homophobic ones, too. One moron who uploaded a YouTube video where he was talking about my sexual preferences and saying disgusting, vile things was stupid enough to attach his name to it. I could actually go to the police about that. But for the most part, these men – most are men – feel some sort of ownership over politicians, and particularly female politicians. They take it upon themselves to target us very intimately. And, even with my recent defeat [in the 2017 Nova Scotia general election], they are still kicking me on the way out. They’re saying things like, “Don’t let the door hit your fat *ss hit on the way out.” And you just think to yourself, “Oh my God, I’m not going to miss this.” It’s very difficult for accomplished women, regardless of their party, to talk to the generation behind us. We want to encourage them to run but also to warn them they need to go in with their eyes wide open about this kind of abuse.

CB: Like Joanne, I’ve had the privilege to serve as the Status of Women Minister in cabinet. It’s clear in the discussions I’ve had while serving in that position that the sexist and misogynistic words chosen to attack women in these ways are all part of what contributes to a society where there is violence against women. As women serving in public office, the more we are able to speak out about these issues, the more we’re going to help change the language and choice of words used

when people criticize women. We're going to expose it for what it is: language that creates a culture that allows violence to happen.

About 10 days after I spoke out publicly in December [2016], about the kinds of messages I was receiving, I had a really profound conversation with my Premier. Both of us had been focal points for some significant criticism coming out of a very difficult budget in our province. He said to me, "You know, Cathy, I didn't get any of the kind of abuse you got." I thought it was very interesting that he noted the difference, because it is a very different experience for women in politics as opposed to men. All kinds of viewpoints are filtered through a lens of misogyny. The idea that gender parity is here to stay is something that some men are quite resistant to. We have to continue to challenge that paradigm.

CPR: It's interesting to hear what you've said about the gendered paradigm at work here. I wanted to quickly go back to something Joanne had said about receiving homophobic abuse in addition to sexist and misogynistic remarks. Because you've all spoken publicly about this you may have heard stories from other parliamentarians who have experienced similar bullying, harassment and threats. Have you found that there are similar dynamics at work in commentary against parliamentarians and politicians who belong to other minority or marginalized groups such as

racialized persons, LGBTQ persons, or immigrants and refugees?

JB: The homophobic stuff started for me on the campaign trail. And about two years in I just had enough of it. Too many lines were being crossed. I went on the 6 o'clock news and spoke about acceptance and tolerance around the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer community. I made it very clear that if a 53-year-old white lesbian cabinet minister is getting this kind of abuse about her sexuality, can we just imagine what a kid in rural Nova Scotia is going through in their own home if they are afraid to come out to their parents or friends at school. It was easier to turn that around than the misogyny, and I don't know why. I don't know if it was more entrenched or what. But it just seems as though there will always be a level where it will be acceptable to sexualize women and equate their power and leadership to how they look and what they wear.

RS: That's a very interesting perspective, and I'm interested in hearing more about the intersectionality of women and other minority or marginalized communities, and especially for newcomer women or LGBTQ women or others, hearing how having that identity may compound the effect. When I spoke publicly about what I was facing I was contacted by many other women who shared their experiences, including the leader of another party in our province who is a woman and the member of racial minority

A Message To My Younger Self

Anne Kang
MLA for Burnaby-Deer Lake (British Columbia)

Dear Anne,

Turn passion into action. Keep the values of community involvement and volunteerism close to your heart, and be ready to embark on an incredible journey that life will take you on. Don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone, and never miss an opportunity to learn.

Sometimes, the journey will get tough, but when you stop and look around, you will find your family, friends, and community standing right next to you, and you will find the strength, through their support, to keep going.

Dream big! There are endless possibilities in life, and many different ways to support and empower others. It doesn't matter what you do when you grow up, as long as you help others and make your community better. Stay true to yourself, as you are destined for great things. I believe in you!

Love always, Anne



group. She faced some profound abuse along these lines and it just seemed to exasperate the situation. But, there just seems to be this desire to “put women in their place” when they achieve success.

CB: About four of five months after the initial flood of abuse towards me things seemed to have quieted down. And then one morning, out of the blue, I woke up to a death threat on my phone. It wasn't long after that I was at a forum about bullying in high school and there was a young woman who had faced some intense and persistent bullying. She told us how she could never get away from it. She said to us, “Your generation could get away from it. But our generation can't because we take our phones to bed with us and they can get us there.” I remember having a very emotional reaction to that. When I thought about my 19-year-old self, dealing with what I had to deal with last year as a mature 55-year-old adult with my own children... I can't imagine what

we're doing to our children and our young women when we're not screaming at the top of our lungs that this type of thing has to stop. It taught me a lesson about someone who has the privilege to serve needing to speak out. It's not just our right, it's our responsibility. We give voice to those young women like the one who sat next to me and shared her experience, which was similar to mine, but at a very different point in her life.

CPR: Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne, whose office has recently publicized the kind of hateful and threatening social media comments she receives, spoke to some of the Daughters of the Vote delegates. She advised them if they planned to go into politics or public life they would need to have a thick skin but porous so that they can still feel. How do you balance the need to protect yourself from this kind of online/ or face-to-face abuse while still being available to hear directly from constituents who may not reach out to you in any other way?

RS: It is a real fear that I face. If my portfolio, my department, hits the news for whatever reason and I'm more front and centre, it creates a panic and fear. I have to overcome that and not continuously put up these walls. I have to accept that there may come another time when I will be subjected to the same kind of abuse I faced. I try to remember how I talk myself out of these moments of fear – it's only a small, small section of the population. I have built a legion of strong feminist women around me who will support me and have my back. And I have to confess, I was watching in awe of what Cathy was doing in Newfoundland and Labrador with the #LiftHerUp campaign, so I replicated that here in Manitoba and started up the #LiftHerUpMB hash tag.

JB: A few years ago, I had a constituent who wasn't even in my Twitter feed call me a retarded c*nt. I remember reading that and then seeing people coming to my defense. I remember my son, who had taken himself off social media the day after I was elected, calling me in a rage because someone had sent him a screen shot of that through a text message. I have a 6-foot, 200-pound welder son and he was going to find this guy... So, after talking him off the ledge, and after talking my partner off the ledge, I went to bed angry, hurt, and p*ssed off at the world.

I woke up to an email from the person who had called me that. He was the single dad of a little girl whose cat had died that night and I was in his crosshairs. He apologized to me and I accepted his apology, but not before I wrote back and told him the effect those two words had on me, on my son, on my partner, and on my



A Message To My Younger Self

Monique Pauzé
MP for Repentigny
(Quebec)

I'm proud to see that you were already fighting for gender equality, environmental protection and Quebec sovereignty at such a young age.

Protecting ecological systems from overly voracious economic activity will become increasingly important, as will persuading decision-makers to adopt fairer social policies as inequality rises.

If one day you're asked to jump head-first into the leadership of a union or into politics, go for it. If your decisions are motivated by the pursuit of fairness, respect for nature and social justice, you will never have regrets. Put aside your doubts and believe in yourself. One day, you will be elected to represent the people of Repentigny, and you will be able to pursue your goals. Finally, don't plan on a quiet retirement; it's not going to happen.

friends who all saw it and called me the night before for support. I think by letting him know that this was the affect he had on a person whom he had never met was cathartic for me; and I don't care what it was for him.

Another tactic I used was screenshotting these comments. If their name was attached to them I tweeted them out and embarrassed them. To me, that was reclaiming some of my power in defending myself. If you are going to call me a c*nt and you're stupid enough to attach your name to it, I'm going to make sure it is out there in social media land. Hopefully someone who knows you can say something or at the very least embarrass you at the end of the day. That was about taking back my power.

I'm a very "say what you mean" kind of person. I remember when the Daughters of the Vote came to Nova Scotia to attend a parliamentary session. We had MP Bernadette Jordan and other MLAs there for a Q&A. The question posed to us was: What do you say to someone who is misogynistic or anything like that? Bernadette said she tried to figure out where they're coming from with that type of language, and others agreed that if you try to understand it then you can name it and fix it. When they got to me, I said the first thing that came to my mind. I tell them to f*ck off!

I don't care where you're coming from. I don't care what's going on in their lives. I don't care if that's how they value women. You cannot talk to me like that. You cannot talk to any woman like that. I think we need to

start fighting back in a more aggressive way instead of just saying it's part of an entrenched patriarchy and part of society's fabric. I'm too old for that. If someone is going to call me a derogatory name I'm going to fight back. I'm not going to answer it with something as equally derogatory, but I'm going to say it's not okay and you need to stop.

CPR: Building on that example of a personal response for when this type of hateful language is directed at you, is there anything that governments, social media companies, or concerned observers can or should do when they observe it?

JB: When Rochelle was reading those remarks posted on mainstream media websites, shame on them! Shame on them for allowing those remarks to remain up there and not filtering them. We have seen that all across the country – Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) and local news outlets just let this garbage sit. I don't care if it sits for a minute, an hour or a day. They don't do their job.

RS: I was just enraged when I saw they were still up. Finally, I called out CBC publicly on Twitter and asked, "Is nine months long enough? All my constituents have read them, my children have read them... are you leaving them there for my grandchildren to read?" That morning they were having a discussion about the responsibility of government, corporate Canada, and all good citizens to call out misogyny. Walk the walk, people!

A Message To My Younger Self

Nicole Rancourt
MLA for Prince Albert Northcote (Saskatchewan)

If I could send a message to my younger self, my main message would be to stay true to yourself. Never feel that you need to be someone that you are not. Dress the way you want, and be proud of who you are because people will appreciate you for being authentic. People will always judge you but that is because they may not be truly comfortable with who they are, so don't let their insecurities affect you.

Never forget where you came from because all the people in your life and experiences make you the wonderful person you are today. Stay humble, and always treat others how you would want to be treated. Remember your manners and respect everyone. Don't sweat the small stuff and ask yourself "will this matter a year from now?". Have good boundaries with your personal and work life. Surround yourself with people who stay true to their values and morals. Make time for your family and friends because they are truly what matters in the world.



I called out CBC and said these comments have been sitting on your Facebook page for nine months. It wasn't as though there were one or two; there were a significant number of them. I screenshotted some of them as a part of taking my power back and hopefully embarrassing some of the people who made the comments in the first place. CBC is a leader in the media world and they've got to have some skin in this game. They need to take a stand and put a filter on their Web pages and social media sites, or have someone there who will erase the content or not even allow it to appear.

CB: I just want to add a point about the social media companies themselves. When you think of how media and technology have developed over the past decades and centuries, there's always a wild west mentality with new, disruptive technology until societal norms wrap themselves around it to determine what's okay and what's not okay.

With social media companies, we have some very successful companies which peaked with their success very quickly. They often have young, male CEOs without robust board governance. But I do think there's a corporate social responsibility that these platforms are not acknowledging. They talk about the things they're doing, but the action is really lacking. As policy makers, I think we need to put some accountability on them in terms of creating platforms that are socially acceptable while giving power to individual voices – and these are excellent platforms for that.

Joanne, I'm not sure if you remember a speaker at a conference we attended who said: "As feminists, we have worked for decades to help you have a voice in the legislatures and we are not going to let social media take that voice away." We have a right to be in the House. We need to be in the House. And, better policies result from us being in the House. We can't let social media platforms and the companies that run them to do things, unchecked, that allow women's voices to be diminished in these very important roles.

CPR: When this roundtable is published I hope to share a link with all of you on social media in case it's something you'd like to share with your followers. On the off chance one of the anonymous trolls who have harassed you and other women politicians reads this, is there anything you'd like to say to them?

JB: I remember what my son said to me when this happened. "Mom, you may have signed up for this,

but I didn't." I didn't sign up for it. I have never been treated in such a derogatory, hateful way as I was when elected. But it's not just these anonymous troll accounts. There are legislatures where women parliamentarians have received derogatory comments from their male colleagues – and I'm thinking of particular examples in Alberta and recently in New Brunswick. It has to start within our own Houses. We have to set the tone. But to the trolls, and to anyone who engages in this type of behavior, I would just say knock it off.

RS: I agree. I am always open and willing to have a conversation with anybody that I serve in the Manitoba public regarding my policies, my party platform initiatives, and what my government is doing or not doing as the case may be. I'm always open to those discussions. I will never back away from that, and I believe that is my duty as a public servant. But, please remember, let's talk about the policies and let's talk about the issues with intelligent language. If you want to make your point, use respectful language. I'll respect you, and all I ask in return is a little common courtesy and decency.

And to the trolls, just remember that all of us are someone's mother, sister, daughter, spouse, partner... We're human beings. Do not dehumanize us. Treat us with the same respect that you would treat a female in your family or another woman that you respect in your personal life. Just treat people with respect. We're not asking for anything outside the norm.

CB: The only thing I would add to the trolls is: you are in the minority. If my experience is similar to what other women have experienced, the outpouring of support that continues today amazes me. People who stopped me in the street – who stopped my children in the street – to say how proud they were of me for speaking up and how brave I am – they are in the majority. Troll behavior is not going to stop me or any other woman from exercising our right and responsibility to sit in the legislature.

CPR: Thank you all so much for this. It's been a privilege to participate in this conversation with you.

RS: I do want say – and I have made a point to say this since I spoke out about what happened to me – thank you to you, and any man who chooses to participate in or initiate a dialogue like this. The only way we are going to open minds and show support to women in legislatures dealing with these issues is to talk about them and publicize them.

Daughters of the Vote

On March 8, 2017, coinciding with International Women’s Day, 338 young women between 18 and 23 filled every seat in the House of Commons. Marking the 100th anniversary of some women receiving the right to vote in federal elections, Equal Voice’s highly successful Daughters of the Vote (DOTV) program drew positive attention from media around Canada and the world. As DOTV delegates reveal in this illuminating roundtable discussion, the inspiration they drew from each other and the women parliamentarians they met on the journey to Ottawa and during their week in the capital will have far-reaching effects as they share what they’ve learned with their communities and apply it in their own future endeavours.

Brielle Beardy, Justice Betty, Srosh Hassan, Jacqueline Keena, (Takudzwa) Lavin Mapinge and Alana Robert

CPR: What have you taken away from this experience as young women who may have had an interest in politics but perhaps had little or no experience with parliamentary politics or partisan politics?

Brielle Beardy: I took away the amazingly positive feeling of support among the delegates. We know that’s not really the state of things currently in parliament where there is a lot of heckling, talking over one another and undermining each other. Also, as someone who is both transgender and Indigenous and just fighting for

basic human rights, I went in thinking I would have to be very forward in order to be heard, but Equal Voice really helped to create an environment where I felt comfortable and respected. As young women spoke in the house and brought forward issues that were important in our communities, we listened to each other and supported one another. To me it just

Brielle Beardy was the DOTV delegate for Churchill-Keewatinook Aski. A young transgender Indigenous activist who grew up in northern Manitoba, she strives to educate others about LGBTTTQ rights, women’s rights and Indigenous rights. Justice Betty was the DOTV delegate for Willowdale. She studies political science in the Dual Degree Program between Columbia University and Sciences Po Paris. She frequently travels between New York and Canada speaking on issues related to the involvement of women, youth and people of colour in politics. Srosh Hassan was the DOTV delegate for Sherwood Park - Fort Saskatchewan. She studies sociology and political science at the University of Alberta and serves as a content editor for the Edmonton-based online publication, The Wanderer. Jacqueline Keena was the DOTV delegate for Winnipeg South Centre. Holding a BSc in Agribusiness from the University of Manitoba, she was active in student government and served on the board of directors for Be The Vote, a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization with the goal of increasing youth voter participation. (Takudzwa) Lavin Mapinge was the DOTV delegate for Grande Prairie – Mackenzie. Prior to immigrating to Canada to study social work and community development at MacEwan University, she worked with vulnerable communities in Zimbabwe. Alana Robert was the DOTV delegate for Charleswood - St. James - Assiniboia - Headingley. An Osgoode Hall Law School student, she hopes to pursue a career in Human Rights law and is the founder and president of the Justice For Women student group.

A Message To My Younger Self

**Bernadette Jordan
MP for South Shore - St.
Margaret’s (Nova Scotia)**

Hey Bern; Time for some advice from your older (wiser?) self. If I can tell you one thing, it’s “don’t be a spectator in your own life!” If you want to travel, do it; if you want to study, do it; if you want to zip line – well, you may want to rethink that one; and if you want to run for public office, do it.” You only get one shot, so make the best of it. Sometimes people may think you are out of your league or out of your depth – don’t listen. You’re capable, smart, and fearless – don’t let anyone tell you any different. At the end of your time on this earth don’t look back and think, “I wish I would have...”





Brielle Beardy

reinforced that we need to bring more women, more marginalized voices, into parliament because politics needs to be more inclusive. We need to reclaim that space.

Justice Betty: I'd like to echo Brielle's point. The 338 young women who came together in Ottawa were some of the most positive, inspiring, and accomplished young women I have ever met. Although, the support we showed each other may not be reflective of what currently happens in parliament, I think having all these young women full of idealism together in one place can actually create an environment where we can plan to make the changes we want to see. Hopefully, after this planning stage, we can go out into the world and try to implement these ideas together.

Alana Robert: I think my biggest takeaway was seeing and speaking to such strong, intelligent, independent women already representing us in parliament, I was able to visualize myself in the future taking a similar position. That's one of the most important and inspiring things we can have as young women – these role models. Seeing them holding these positions allows us to see ourselves, hopefully not that far into the future, sitting at the decision-making table ourselves.

Lavin Mappinge: I took away the importance of working as a team and listening to other people's voices, and also, the need to create those spaces in our own communities. I also took away the idea that we need to carry on the light and to continue to build on the foundation that has been paved for us by the



Justice Betty

generation of women that has come before us. We need to lay down a brick to keep paving the way for those behind us. We need to be accountable for this great experience that has been put on our shoulders.

Srosh Hassan: I'll take away the messages we heard from women parliamentarians regarding what they said they wished they could tell their younger selves. We heard from women parliamentarians about what it took to campaign, how long it took some of them to realize that other people wanted to support them, and how long it took them to say yes to the idea of running. That stuck with me. A lot of times you think you have to get a degree first, or you have to be older to serve in parliament. Seeing these young women who are doing so much already shows that you can be passionate about issues, do work in your community to foster change, and that change is possible at any age. You don't need to be significantly older or have professional experience to see that there's something wrong and that you want to do something about it.

Jacqueline Keena: I'd like to echo what my fellow Daughters have said, and add that I was impressed to see the support for encouraging more women to become involved in politics across the political spectrum. There wasn't a person who was against it although there may be different ideas of how to go about it.

CPR: Within your age group, is parliament (federal, provincial, territorial) thought about or discussed much? Or is this something very much removed from your day to day lived experience?



Srosh Hassan

JB: I think it has been interesting to see what has happened among my peer group since November 2016. Prior to the last American election, many people my age seemed to be more focused on American politics and there was an impression that Canadian politics was a bit boring. But what we've seen as Canadians is that while American politics may be very entertaining, what's happened in the past few months has caused many people my age to be more self-reflective and as a result have a greater interest in how the Canadian political system works. And, specifically, there is a growing idea of Canada being a world leader or a greater leader on the international stage – that this period is a unique opportunity for Canada to step forward.

BB: Speaking on lived experience, I grew up in a First Nations community and there was a disconnect between how everything worked and which level of government was responsible. I come from an underprivileged background, and among my peers there is a huge amount of misunderstanding about how government works. I feel as though people who live on First Nations communities are just made to accept the status quo. That needs to change and I'm personally using my experience with Daughters of the Vote to help change that and educate people. I want to see more people like myself and the people I grew up around being engaged more in politics. The best way to target inequality is by knowing and by voting and being involved in every level of government.

LM: In the communities I've been in, I would say many young people feel rather neglected by the



Jacqueline Keena

leadership, whatever level of state. But when I was in school, it was a very different lived experience. Everyone was interested in politics. And they were learning how to express their opinions, even if these opinions were different from what they were taught growing up.

JK: In my experience, I think my friends fall into two groups of people. One group is very political, they seem to know everything that's going on, and you can have very in-depth conversations with them. The other group – maybe it's apathy or maybe it's just that politics isn't a hobby for them – but they aren't as well informed about the political system. But if you have a one-minute conversation with them about the issues they face as students, or nurses, or teachers, or tradespeople, they then realize that government does matter to them and they do want to know about the decisions being made on their behalf. But, there is an educational component missing, because if they're not taking politics specifically in school they may be missing some of the tools needed to find out this information or to understand what they're hearing on the news.

SH: I have friends that are very interested in parliament and we can meet up and talk about these things at length; and then there's a larger majority of people who have a sense of what's going on – especially American politics because that's what's coming into their feed. But many people my age feel rather cynical about politics in this country and they may have a very superficial understanding of it. You receive so much news at once that it's sometimes hard to keep track



Lavin Mapinge

of what's going on. Sometimes people don't have a handle on all the information, and others that do know what's going on aren't necessarily sure what they can do about it.

AR: I think young people are genuinely interested in what's happening in politics in Canada, and especially as they see more politicians coming from diverse backgrounds who resemble them making up parliament, that can be quite powerful and trigger an interest.

CPR: Many Daughters of the Vote delegates had the opportunity to meet with provincial or territorial parliamentarians in addition to federal parliamentarians. Was there any advice they offered or experience you had in speaking with them that you'd like to share?

BB: I had a chance to really get to know (Manitoba MLA) Nahanni Fontaine. I relocated from up north to Winnipeg and now live in her riding. In speaking to her and hearing from others on the panels, I really took away that we should be unapologetic about our politics. As young women, we're fighting our way to the top. To hear from someone of her calibre and to learn about what she went through, it really reflected some of my struggle. Growing up in poverty, being around drug abuse, being close to people who are involved in sex work... that's the kind of life I had and it's similar to what other Indigenous people have experienced. She talked about choosing to take those kinds of burdens and using them to shape you into



Alana Robert

a stronger person. That's what I'm carrying forward with me.

JB: Interestingly, last week I sat on a panel last week with Minister Chrystia Freeland, Minister Carolyn Bennett and Minister Helena Jaczek. All encouraged young women to become involved in politics in whatever way they choose; but one of the things they all stressed was the need to develop a specialty when it comes to running for office and honing one's skills before they enter political office. I thought that was quite interesting, because as women entering politics we are going to have to prove ourselves and justify ourselves in these positions more than our male counterparts. So, to have a specialty or expertise can really help to establish a form of armour. But, at the same time, while I value that advice, as the other Daughters said when thinking back to all of us sitting in the House of Commons, there is something to be said for early involvement. I think we are seeing a trend with some recent by-elections of young women getting their foot in the door earlier on. It is a question of balance – yes, hone that specialty to justify yourself and establish yourself in a field, but do not wait forever. Politics is demanding the voices of young people.

AR: One of the compelling pieces of advice we heard was from Celina Caesar-Chavannes. She said that if you've thought about something more than once, then you should go for it. She really encouraged us not to hesitate and to follow our passions and dreams.

LM: Most of the women on the panels stressed that you have to believe in yourself and the things you are passionate about because that's the first step in convincing someone to believe in your vision. But if you're doubting what you have in your hands, no one will be willing to take it. Also, they told us about the importance of knowing when to take a break and taking care of yourself, because you cannot keep giving from an empty well.

CPR: What has your experience been like since the event? Are you still hearing from other Daughters of the Vote? Have you maintained the enthusiasm you had?

JK: I think the magnitude of the event, the sheer number of us there, really struck a chord with current parliamentarians. It was a clear reminder that when 338 of us were in the House of Commons, that was more women than have been elected federally in the entire history of Canada. Since the event, we've all gone back to our ridings. People want to hear about the event itself, but they also want to hear about women in politics generally – what we think, what other people think. It's created 338 small conversations across the country that need to happen to keep moving forward.

BB: Since the event there have been many opportunities for me to keep engaging people about women in politics. I was the single female transgender at the event, so I did garner quite a bit of attention and I've been quite humbled by it. And I'm still riding a wave of positivity from the event. It's been so uplifting to develop a genuine sisterhood across the country with so many beautiful, intelligent young women who want to look out for each other. I've remained in contact with so many of them. What I set out to do with Daughters of the Vote was to develop skills I need to use to advocate for the issues I'm passionate about, and it has been a huge help with that.

JB: I think the work that Equal Voice did in bringing 338 like-minded, yet exceptionally different, young women together was incredible. We've formed a very powerful network that has continued through our Facebook group, individual connections, etc. Interestingly, earlier this week Minister Bennett invited me to the permanent mission here in New York, and I ran into a sister from Daughters of the Vote who was there to attend the UN's forum on Indigenous issues. You don't just expect to run into people like that, but there we were attending this meaningful event together. Daughters of the Vote represents a unique and

A Message To My Younger Self



Filomena Tassi
MP for Hamilton West-Ancaster-Dundas (Ontario)

Believe in yourself. Read and reflect on the words of Marianne Williamson, words which Nelson Mandela used in an inaugural address: "Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, and fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God."

Never see any obstacle as insurmountable. Take the long view. What one day may seem an impossible situation, with time, wisdom, patience and good guidance can and will be overcome.

Keep intentions that are genuine and work towards the promotion of justice, fairness and goodness. This will help you to feel peace and fulfillment at the end of your career.

Stay humble and treat everyone with respect. Serving as a Member of Parliament is a blessing, an honour and a gift. Never forget those who entrusted you to serve. Remember you are fortunate.

Include exercise and meditation/mindfulness in your daily practice. It is very important to take care of yourself. You must stay healthy to serve most effectively. Make time for this in your life.

powerful group that will continue to have a positive impact within our own communities and more broadly speaking throughout Canadian society. As we embark on our individual missions, I am confident that we will be able to leverage the support of one another.

SH: I'd just like to echo what my fellow delegates have said. The solidarity really stuck with me. The fact that we were able to make such meaningful connections with so many like-minded, yet unique people was amazing. And, the individual conversations we're able to bring back to our communities will really have a lasting impact. It's been so touching to have people come up to me telling me they heard my statement in the House or asking me about my time in Ottawa.

CPR: Is there anything we haven't covered in this discussion that you'd like to mention before we conclude? Or, knowing that many parliamentarians will be reading this, is there anything you'd like to say to our current parliamentary representatives?

JB: The treatment many female parliamentarians have to endure is shameful and really discouraging for young women. The 338 of us within our communities have an obligation and duty to encourage other young women to realize that while opposition is going to be a part of being a woman in power, it is the first step towards something better. There is a tendency to normalize bullying against women – especially women in politics – and one day I would like it to be that women in leadership positions is the new status quo. I'd like to thank the many women parliamentarians who have served our country and who have been trailblazers. Moving forward, the 338 of us really have to step up and set an example for those of us in the next generation considering politics. But also, we have to step up for young women who are not considering entering politics because they think their voice isn't worth hearing. We need to remember them when advocating for change.

BB: I'd like to second that. When I came into this program, I wanted to represent other young women coming from challenging socio-economic circumstances, and particularly women on reserves. We need to make our politics more accessible and to use terms that more people can understand. And I just want to state again, to my fellow Daughters on this call, how much this experience has changed my life. I feel empowered, humbled, gracious and awed by the work these young women are doing. I can't wait to see a future with more feminist voices and a more inclusive future. I am so much more hopeful because I've had the chance to meet you.

SH: I got chills hearing that. Thank you for putting into words everything that I've been thinking about. As someone who fits into many intersections of society, I wish our parliamentarians - acknowledging that we are multi-partisan and may have different ideas about how to go about doing this - would find ways to be more inclusive and representative of us – of women of color, of queer women, of Indigenous women, of disabled women, of immigrant women. I think we often see politicians pick and choose issues that matter to them, but people are complex human beings and they have many life experiences that help shape the way they see the world. I love seeing some of this intersectionality reflected in the advocacy among the young women of my generation, but I think we're still a good distance away from seeing that fully reflected in parliament.

CPR: Thank you all so much again. You are all wonderful representatives of your fellow Daughters of the Vote delegates, and members of your generation generally.



A Message To My Younger Self

Irene Mathysen
MP for London-Fanshawe
(Ontario)

The opportunity to serve as a Canadian parliamentarian should always fill you with a sense of wonder at the incredible privilege the work affords. Despite your youth, challenges and yes—barriers, never count yourself out. In the course of whatever service you are fortunate enough to undertake on behalf of the many and diverse communities of Canada, remember that true service requires humility and the measured conduct of one who understands the role of the servant leader. And while you should respond to those who depend on you with grace, commitment and kindness also remember to never be afraid to shake up the status quo. Well-behaved women rarely make history; so make history.

The Canadian Scene



Hon. Steve Thomson

New British Columbia Speaker

On June 22, Kelowna-Mission MLA **Steve Thomson** was acclaimed as the new Speaker of British Columbia's Legislative Assembly, replacing **Linda Reid**.

A former executive director of the BC Agriculture Council, he also spent time as general manager of the BC Fruit Growers' Association and the BC Milk Producers Association, and was director of the Kelowna Museum, the Okanagan Innovation Fund and the BC Bioenergy Network.

Previously a member of Canada's National Rugby team, Premier **Christy Clark** said she couldn't think of a better choice to set the tone of debate "or a bigger man to enforce the rules."

A former forestry minister, Thomson presided over a brief session which saw the Liberal government defeated on a non-confidence motion. He resigned as Speaker on June 29. As of the time of writing, the position is vacant.



Hon. Perry Trimper

New Newfoundland and Labrador Speaker

Lake Melville MHA **Perry Trimper** was elected Speaker of Newfoundland and Labrador's House of Assembly on August 8, defeating Harbour Grace-Port de Grave MHA **Pam Parsons** in a secret ballot. Trimper replaces **Tom Osborne** who was appointed to cabinet on July 31. Deputy Speaker **Lisa Dempster** was appointed a minister during the same cabinet shuffle.

First elected in 2015, Trimper was born in Nova Scotia and moved to Labrador in 1987. A former Principal Scientist with Stantec, he worked on environmental assessment, research and land-use patterns associated with resource development projects in Labrador and other northern regions around the world.

Trimper was formerly Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs, Climate Change, the Government Purchasing Agency, and WorkplaceNL.

A resident of Happy Valley-Goose Bay, he said he believed he is the first Speaker to represent the



Canadian Women Parliamentarians delegates gather around a statute of the Famous Five located on the grounds of the Manitoba legislature in honour of Nellie McClung’s accomplishments as a suffragist.

mainland portion of the province and was honoured to share this accomplishment with all of Labrador.

Trimper, who pledged to continue Osborne’s efforts to bring more decorum to the House, immediately presided over an unscheduled Question Period requested by the Opposition.

55th CPA Canadian Regional Conference

From July 16-22, 2017, more than 60 parliamentarians and guests gathered in Winnipeg to participate in the 55th Annual CPA Canadian Regional Conference. The city that proudly calls itself the heart of the continent welcomed attendees with characteristic friendliness, and conference organizers presented a thoroughly engaging and interesting program.

Canadian Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Meetings

On July 16-17, 2017, Canadian Women Parliamentarians (CWP) met to discuss the year’s recent events and plan a course for the new year. On

July 16, Ontario MPP **Lisa Thompson** was acclaimed as the new vice-chair of the CWP steering committee. Thompson will use the three-year term to observe Saskatchewan MLA **Laura Ross**, the incoming CWP chair, before assuming the role.

Outgoing CWP chair Linda Reid explained that CWP’s “challenge is to widen the path – to bring more women with us.” Numerous initiatives, including twinning initiatives with Caribbean Commonwealth countries, dedicated funding from CPA International for Canada’s CWP outreach projects, and the highly successful Daughters of the Vote (DOTV) event were heralded as some of the ways the organization was meeting that challenge. Ross called the DOTV program “invigorating. It gave us a lot of confidence in the upcoming generation. They are not afraid to ask the tough questions.”

Ontario MP **Yasmin Ratansi** reported on the recent International CWP conference where theme was political violence against women. While attending the event Ratansi presented information on gender-based budgeting and was invited to hold a master class on the subject.

Reid stated that she was unsuccessful in her bid to be elected International CWP chair. However, she said that based on what she observed at the meeting and heard from voting members, she was ultimately pleased with the result. Reid explained that some international CWP members don't see Canada, Australia, and other similar Commonwealth countries as "needing" the CWP the way they do. Women politicians in other countries know their very lives can be in danger by standing for election. Reid said that these women truly need these types of positions and CWP Canada should be there to support these women.

During a second day of panel presentations, Guyana MP **Amna Ally** and Turks and Caicos Islands MP **Karen E. Malcolm** spoke about the percentage of women being elected or appointed in their respective countries and noted some recent highlights, including Turks and Caicos women holding all of the country's highest positions, save for that of governor.

Equal Voice's Executive Director **Nancy Peckford** and former MP **Eleni Bakopanos**, vice-president of the Quebec chapter, offered a recap of DOTV event and provided an honest analysis of the many positives (increased awareness, lasting networking connections, broad support from parliamentarians) and some negatives (lack of universality of translation services, online bullying of some delegates) from the event. **Alexa Lewis**, a DOTV delegate, who was present at the conference called the event "one of the first moments where I felt truly Canadian." Equal Voice has received

A Message To My Younger Self

Cathy Rogers
MLA for Moncton South
(New Brunswick)



Years ago you may not have fully grasped the importance of learning and investing in various employment, volunteer, or professional development experiences. Nor may you have known that these personal investments gave you your passion for learning and acting to make a better society.

But at 38, when you left a government career to complete both a Master's and a PhD, while balancing work, single parenting, volunteering, and managing a household, it became more and more clear that women are strong.

I'm glad that you did not succumb to the voices saying, "No, it's too much... too late, or not worth it." As long as you follow your passion, and work hard and smart for the honourable and right causes, then risks are worth taking, and faith and passion will sustain.

A Message To My Younger Self

Daiene Vernile
MPP for Kitchener-Centre (Ontario)



You've won the lottery! You don't realize it yet, but being born in Canada, you'll benefit from an excellent education system and universal healthcare. You live in a country where we strive to protect women's rights and gender equality.

Sure, you were born into an impoverished, immigrant family, but you'll take advantage of all those phenomenal Canadian opportunities.

Your love of politics and history will land you a career anchoring and producing a weekly television current affairs program. There will be few women in your workplace, and at times, you'll have to put up with a lot of chauvinistic nonsense. But, don't be deterred, as great things are in store.

After 30 years of covering Ontario news, an opportunity will come knocking. Don't say, "No." This will be your chance to serve your community. Time to give back.



Some delegates of the 55th Annual CPA Canadian Regional Conference pose on the steps of the Manitoba Legislature during a break from the proceedings.

grants for a legacy project that will keep building and fostering the networks that were created, and another DOTV event is planned for 2020.

In a session on interacting with the media, presenters **Mary Agnes Welch** and **Louise Waldman**, a political reporter and a public relations expert, respectively, offered tips about talking to reporters. They discussed subtle sexism but also noted ways to make gender work for women parliamentarians.

During a final session, **Sandy Mayzell** explained how a previous CWP meeting provided some inspiration for her education project. Titled “Dancing Backwards,” it promotes the study of women politicians in history curriculums in Grades 5-8 across the country. The program creates an archive of stories of women politicians as retold by students in various media.

Session 1 – Heckling and Civility in the Chamber

The first of the conference’s featured sessions examined the role of heckling in the chamber. Panellists, who included Manitoba Speaker **Myrna Driedger**, Ontario Speaker **Dave Levac**, Saskatchewan Speaker **Corey Tochor**, and House of Commons Deputy Speaker **Bruce Stanton**, shared diverse

opinions on the issue. Driedger noted that she had heckled while in Opposition, but serving as Speaker and watching debate from a different vantage point has changed her opinion on the matter. She said that when children see this behaviour from the gallery it looks like adult bullying. Levac suggested humorous heckling has its place in debate, but he won’t tolerate misogyny, bullying, or heckling that drowns out an MPP who has the floor. Levac uses a three strikes policy where he names an offending Member to warn them in advance of taking action. Tochor contended that cracking down on heckling is almost a partisan activity because it would mostly serve to benefit the government. Finally, Stanton suggested that heckling can actually elevate debate by bringing more backbench MPs into debates and making them and ministers up their game. However, he also noted that heckling is different from wilful obstruction. During a Q&A period, Newfoundland and Labrador Speaker **Tom Osborne** noted that during Question Period if he finds opposition MHAs are obstructing Ministers from answering questions through boisterous heckling he will let the clock continue to run. If government MHAs appear to be heckling in an attempt to run out the clock, he will stop time until they settle down in order to give the opposition members the full opportunity to ask questions.

Session 2 – Overcoming Obstacles in Male-dominated Professions

A second session featured a presentation by **Katherine Bueti**. Formerly serving in Canada’s military, Bueti is now a criminal defense lawyer at the firm of Bueti Wasyliw Wiebe. She recounted her experiences faces instance of sexual harassment and misogyny at times when relatively few women were involved in these professions. Bueti spoke of the informal support groups women in these professions have created and how change is occurring, but slowly.

Session 3 – Moving Forward on Indigenous Prosperity

The third conference session was structured as a Q&A period with **James Wilson**, Deputy Minister of Manitoba’s Department of Growth, Enterprise and Trade, and **Angie Bruce**, Deputy Minister of Manitoba’s Department of Indigenous and Northern Relations and Deputy Minister of Municipal Relations. Wilson and Bruce outlined some successful strategies First Nations communities and Indigenous people were using to foster economic growth and security. However, they stressed the complexity and institutional entrenchment of colonialism which puts numerous obstacles in the way, and the difficulty all levels of government have had as they navigate relationships and jurisdictional issues with an exceptionally diverse Indigenous population across the country, and even within provinces.

A Message To My Younger Self

Mireille Jean
MNA for Chicoutimi
(Quebec)

I’m a businesswoman who only recently took the plunge into politics. Still, here are a few lessons that I have learned and would like to share. Don’t wait for someone to offer you a spot—take it!

Once you’re elected, allow yourself to make mistakes. You will find that people are not as nasty as you have been led to believe. In fact, they’re quite friendly and often want to help. In politics, it’s important to learn how to take a step back; there is always tomorrow.

As for your reputation, don’t worry about it: despite the bad press politicians sometimes get, people always show a lot of respect for those who dare to enter the arena, whether they voted for you or not.



A Message To My Younger Self

Tina Beaudry-Mellor
MLA for Regina University (Saskatchewan)

In her groundbreaking book, *Lean In*, Sheryl Sandberg writes that “it’s a jungle gym, not a ladder.” Your life and your career is not likely to walk in a straight line from point A to point B. Don’t be afraid to take advantage of new opportunities and challenges as they arise, even if they temporarily shift you in a different direction. Stretching out of your comfort zone is something you need to do regularly in order to grow in areas of competency. With each new challenge, focus on mastering the skills and knowledge you need to rise to the occasion. If you do this, you will soon have all the tools to be a strong and competent leader. Remember to surround yourself with people who will inspire you to be better.

Politics can be tough and there will be plenty of times you will struggle. If you surround yourself with the doers, the movers, the shakers and those filled with positive energy, you will have all you need to protect yourself during those times you will struggle with the inevitable haters you will encounter.

Keep moving, always.



Session 4 – Talkin’ Bout My Generation: Millennial Edition

A fourth session explored Canada’s millennial generation as it comes of age politically. **Shannon Sampert**, an associate professor at the University of Winnipeg’s Department of Political Science reviewed recent voting data on millennials. Voter turnout among this demographic is up in recent elections and especially in competitive races or general elections with an uncertain outcome. She noted this generation has great mistrust and cynicism about politics, and while millennials are engaged politically they generally believe governments have let them down. **Adrienne Tessier**, Deputy Premier of Manitoba’s Youth Parliament, suggested that the millennial generation’s worldview was fundamentally shaped by ideas of insecurity relating to the September 11 attacks on the United States, the Great Recession, and the trend towards precarious contract work and the gig economy. **Lisa Cefali**, a partner at the Legacy Bowes executive search group spoke about using the distinct life experiences and skills of intergenerational groups to solve problems. The millennial, or “video game generation,” learned that if they try, they could

reach the next level; but if they failed they could start again until they succeeded. However, they need to understand why they are doing something in order to ‘buy into it’ and become invested. **Dana Oftedal**, the director of Brand Management at Red River Mutual, spoke of the importance of corporate responsibility to members of this generation and how they are willing to switch brands for a good cause – provided that a company demonstrates it believes in the cause. Finally, **Catherine Fournier**, a Parti Québécois MNA who became the youngest woman ever elected to the National Assembly, spoke of this generation seeking to avoid excessive partisanship and wanting to choose ideas à la carte.

Session 5 – Mental Health in Politics: It’s Time To Talk

This session explored burnout in politics, finding good work-life balance, and managing mood disorders and other mental health conditions in public office. **Tara Brousseau-Snyder**, executive director of the Mood Disorder Association of Manitoba, listed symptoms associated with burnout and noted that certain conditions such as bipolar disorder are common among politicians because these people tend to be creative and high-energy. **Royce Koop** of the University of Manitoba’s Department of Political Studies, reviewed information contained in Samara Canada’s exit interviews which indicated a need for strategies to minimize strain on family life, possibly including shorter work weeks, more limited sitting hours, and better availability of childcare options. **Sharon Blady**, a former Manitoba MLA, spoke about her lived experience of being an elected politician with a mood disorder – post-partum depression. Blady said many great leaders have suffered from mood disorders, and “we should not hide this.” She noted these leaders hone the ability to work through a crisis and these skills should be considered assets, not liabilities.

Session 6 – Polling in the Age of Trump: Challenges and Lessons

Christopher Adams, a past pollster who currently works as a political scientist at the University of Manitoba’s St. Paul’s College, noted that polling companies have had some high-profile missed predictions in the past few years. He explained that their current challenge is in identifying an accurate mini-electorate to sample. However, he contended that recent elections have seen pollsters accurately predict the popular vote while being off in terms of seat forecasts.



A Message To My Younger Self

Caroline Simard
MNA for Charlevoix–Côte-de-Beaupré (Québec)

You don’t know it yet, but in 2014 you will be elected for the first time as the Member for a large riding covering more than 13,000 km². You will be named Parliamentary Secretary

to the Premier of Quebec and, a few years later, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Tourism.

Your team will cause you to question yourself sometimes, but you will stay the course by believing in your dreams and showing what you are capable of. Trust in yourself, respect others and take the time to listen — you’ll go far.

Session 7 – How Tweet It Is! The Art of Effective Social Media and Political Communications

Susie Parker of the Sparker Strategy Group, **Steve Lambert** of the Canadian Press, and Newfoundland and Labrador MHA **Bernard Davis** discussed how politicians are increasingly using social media to interact with constituents and disseminate their messages. They noted that as the ‘Wild West’ days of the Internet and social media come to an end, we are likely moving towards a more policed and polite social media landscape. However, when abuse does occur, they recommended maintaining screen grabs for evidence prior to deleting offensive messages or blocking abusive posters. Parker also explained that maintaining a presence on all platforms is not necessary. She recommended a politician chooses one or two, ‘owns it,’ and ensures that staff also using these accounts follow policies to identify and differentiate their posts from your own thoughts and ideas. For example, some politicians use their initials to indicate their own posts while staff posts might include a note such as “From the Office of...”

Session 8 – Adjusting to “Civilian” Life After Politics

The conference’s final session dealt with retirement from political life. Whether a politician’s exit is planned or the result of an electorate’s decision, the transition is difficult for many former politicians who have built an identity around the job. Former Manitoba MLA **Gord Macintosh** advised parliamentarians to take their work seriously, but not to take themselves too seriously. “If you take yourself too seriously, you’re setting yourself up for a fall.” Another former Manitoba MLA **Kerri Irvin-Ross** said one challenge for former parliamentarians returning to private sector work is realizing that they have developed many useful skills in politics, but not knowing how to market themselves to businesses or organizations. **Barbara Bowes**, of the Legacy Bowes Group, outlined eight motivators that people should consider when examining what type of work they are best suited for.

Conference attendees praised the selection of the panel subjects and the quality of panellists. The 2018 CPA Canadian Regional conference will be held in Ottawa.



A Message To My Younger Self

Catherine McKenna
MP for Ottawa Centre
(Ontario)

You will hear from people who don’t think you can win. They will tell you that you aren’t good enough, you aren’t connected enough, and that moms can’t do the job.

Don’t listen. Do things your own way and you will be great.

Some days are harder than others, and it won’t always be easy, but always stick to what you believe in. You are a strong woman and you work hard, so take a deep breath and embrace the challenges you face. Make sure to take time for yourself, your family and friends and everything will be okay.

A Message To My Younger Self

Lorraine Richard
MNA for Duplessis
(Quebec)

After 14 years in politics, one thing is clear: despite the progress women have made in our society, they still face many barriers. Some of them are harder to break down than others.

But the more women there are in politics, the more they can change!

So get in there and seize the opportunity; no one will hand it to you. Make decisions based on your convictions and you will make a difference. Be strong. Above all, be yourself. Staying true to your beliefs will be your greatest asset.



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*As of September 30, 2017

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New and Notable Titles

AGorohov / shutterstock.com

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.





British Columbia

A number of historic and unprecedented events have unfolded in recent months in British Columbia. The extraordinarily close results of the May 9 provincial general election led to a minority parliament, decades after BC's last experience with a minority government in 1952. As anticipated given the close party standings,

the legislative sitting to test the confidence of the Assembly was brief but eventful.

General election results and a minority parliament

The preliminary election result was 43 seats for the BC Liberal Party, 41 for the BC New Democratic Party (NDP) and three for the BC Green Party. A party needs 44 seats for a majority in BC's 87 Member Assembly.

Two judicial recounts and the counting of about 179,000 absentee ballots completed on May 24 did not change party standings from the preliminary result. The BC Liberal Party received 40.36 per cent of total votes cast and the BC NDP 40.28 per cent - the narrowest result between political parties in BC history and a separation of only 1,566 votes. The BC Green Party received its largest vote share ever in BC, at 16.84 per cent. The BC Green Party's leader, **Andrew Weaver**, was the first BC Green Party candidate elected to the Assembly in 2013; in increasing their seat count to three Members, the caucus is still short of the four-Member threshold for recognized party status under BC's *Constitution Act*. As such, Mr. Weaver and his caucus are currently recognized as Independents in the Legislative Assembly.

On May 29, **John Horgan**, Leader of the Official Opposition, and Mr. Weaver delivered a "2017 Confidence and Supply Agreement" to Lieutenant Governor **Judith Guichon** to indicate the BC NDP was prepared to form Government with the support of Mr. Weaver and his caucus. The agreement pledges support of the Independent (BC Green) caucus on confidence and supply matters; their support with

A Message To My Younger Self

Marjolaine Boutin-Sweet
MP for Hochelaga
(Quebec)



If I had known 50 years ago that I would be elected twice as an MP, if I had known that my leader and my party would value me enough to appoint me whip and entrust me with the well-being of my colleagues, and if I had known how well my knowledge and abilities would help me support so many people in need, I would have had a lot more self-confidence. I would have done this a lot sooner.

To all you young or not-so-young women, I say, draw up a list of your strengths and attributes, and start chasing your dreams.

respect to other issues would be determined on an “issue by issue basis.”

Premier **Christy Clark** indicated on May 30 that she intended to continue as Premier and would request the Lieutenant Governor convene the Legislative Assembly in order to test the confidence of the House. The Members of the Executive Council were sworn in at a ceremony at Government House on June 13. Many of the 22 Ministers were in Cabinet in the previous Parliament and retained their portfolios.

The 87 Members of the Legislative Assembly were sworn in during three separate caucus ceremonies held on June 7 and 8, 2017.

First Sitting of the First Session of the 41st Parliament

The 41st Parliament opened on June 22, 2017 and the first item of business that morning was to elect a Speaker. Only one Member agreed to allow his name to be considered and therefore **Steve Thomson**, Member for Kelowna-Mission, was acclaimed Speaker. In order to be eligible to serve as Speaker, Mr. Thomson had resigned as Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations the day before.

Following the brief morning proceeding, the afternoon featured the Speech from the Throne delivered by the Lieutenant Governor. The NDP and Independent (BC Green) caucuses indicated they would not support the motion of Address in Reply. Premier Clark described the Speech from the Throne as an attempt to gain the support of other parties in the Assembly and to reflect what her party had learned from the recent election results; however, the opposition criticized the speech for taking a substantial number of items from the opposition parties’ platforms.

Throughout the week’s sitting, in keeping with their argument that a confidence vote should not be delayed, the Official Opposition had only one speaker, **Carole James**, Member for Victoria-Beacon Hill, participate in the debate on the Address in Reply on June 26. That day, Mr. Weaver also commented on the Throne Speech, noting that he would not be voting in favour of the Address in Reply.

On June 26, the Government introduced two bills: a campaign finance reform bill, and a bill amending the BC *Constitution Act* and the *Legislative Assembly Management Act* to lower the threshold for recognition as a party from four Members to three, which would allow the Members elected as BC Green Party

candidates to have official party status in the Assembly. Both bills were defeated at First Reading, 44-42.

On the same day, the Official Opposition tabled the required written notice of an amendment to the Address in Reply that stated that the Government does not enjoy the confidence of the House. They also requested, but were not granted, unanimous consent of the House to immediately vote on the motion of Address in Reply.

On June 28, Mr. Horgan, Leader of the Official Opposition, moved, seconded by **Sonia Furstenau**, the Independent (BC Green) Member for Cowichan Valley, the amendment to the Address in Reply stating that the government does not have the confidence of the House.

Mr. Horgan was the only Official Opposition Member to speak to the amendment. Ms. Furstenau and her caucus colleague **Adam Olsen**, the Independent (BC Green) Member for Saanich North and the Islands, made their first speeches in the Assembly in support

A Message To My Younger Self

Deb Matthews
MPP for London North
Centre (Ontario)



Your point of view is as valid as anyone else’s. Don’t be afraid to stand strong and express it.

Be conscious and deliberate in defining what is important to you, and what your values are. Then stay true to them.

Work hard.

Get out of your comfort zone. Try your best to see the world from many points of view. Get to know people who aren’t like you.

Be kind.

Read. Listen. Travel. Laugh. Learn. Love. Enjoy.

of the non-confidence amendment. The final Member to close debate on the amendment to the Address in Reply was Premier Clark on the afternoon of June 29.

A division was called on the amendment to the Address in Reply and the motion carried 44-42, with the NDP and Independent (BC Green) caucuses voting in favour. The main motion on the Address in Reply was technically spent, due to the non-confidence amendment to it having carried; however, for purposes of procedural completion, the motion as amended was also voted on. A second division on the amended Address in Reply motion resulted in the same vote: 44-42.

Speaker Thomson, Deputy Speaker **Greg Kylo**, and Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole **Simon Gibson**, all Members of the BC Liberal Party, resigned their positions as presiding officers following the Government's defeat. At five sitting days, or eight calendar days, Speaker Thomson is the shortest-serving Speaker in BC history.

Lieutenant Governor's decision

Following adjournment, Premier Clark proceeded to Government House to meet with the Lieutenant Governor. Shortly after the Premier's departure from Government House, Mr. Horgan arrived to meet with Her Honour, and then announced to the waiting media that he had been asked to form a Government. The Lieutenant Governor later issued a statement that she had accepted Premier Clark's resignation, and had asked Mr. Horgan to form a Government. Questioned by the press later in the evening, Premier Clark said that she had requested dissolution, but Her Honour declined to grant her request.

Mr. Horgan was sworn in as BC's 36th Premier on July 18, along with Members of the Executive Council.

Member orientation

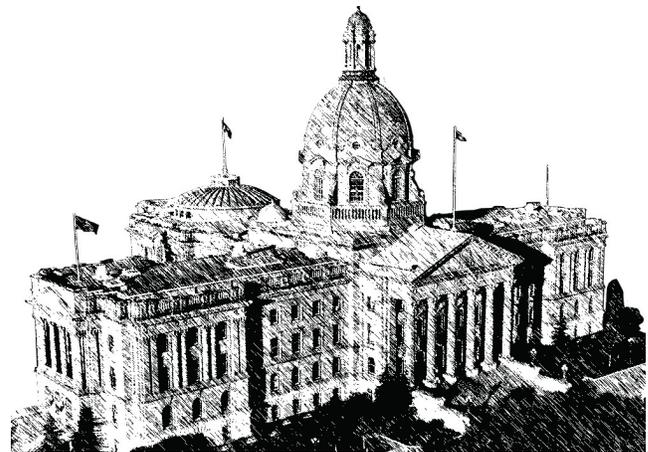
The 2017 provincial general election saw 27 new Members elected. The publicly accessible Members' Orientation website (<http://members.leg.bc.ca/>) has been updated to provide information for new, returning and non-returning Members on issues ranging from the role of a Member, payroll, transition provisions, and constituency office arrangements. The website will be updated as required to be a useful resource for Members on an ongoing basis. Two well-attended Assembly open houses were held in June for Members and their staff wishing to learn about the

administrative services provided by the Legislative Assembly, such as the library, financial and human resources services, parliamentary committees support and parliamentary education and outreach. The Legislative Assembly also offered three presentations on parliamentary procedure, one for each caucus.

Death of a Former Member

Grace McCarthy, died on May 25, 2017 at the age of 89. As a Member of the Legislative Assembly first elected in 1966, and re-elected in 1969, 1975, 1983 and 1986, she held a variety of Cabinet portfolios. She is credited with a number of achievements such as policy changes to ensure a woman could apply for a mortgage without a male guarantor, establishing BC's first toll-free telephone help line for children, and championing BC's hosting of Expo '86. Ms. McCarthy was also BC's first female Deputy Premier. She was known as a dedicated and tireless figure in the BC Social Credit party, playing a key role in rebuilding the party after its 1972 electoral defeat.

Alayna van Leeuwen
Committee Research Analyst



Alberta

3rd Session of the 29th Legislature

The 3rd session of the 29th Legislature, which had commenced on March 2, 2017, adjourned for the summer on June 5, 2017. During the session, the Assembly passed a total of 18 Government Bills and two Private Bills. In addition, two of the eight Private Members' Public Bills (PMPB) introduced were granted Royal Assent.

Bill 17, Fair and Family-friendly Workplaces Act

On May 24, 2017, Bill 17, *Fair and Family-friendly Workplaces Act*, was introduced by the Minister of Labour, **Christina Gray**, MLA (Edmonton-Mill Woods). The Bill proposed a wide variety of changes to the province's labour laws, including extensions to various types of paid and unpaid leave, increased job protection for employees while on leave, simplifying the process for union certification and decertification, and expanding the scope of workers who can unionize.

When the Bill was introduced in the Assembly, a number of Members took the unusual step of calling for a recorded vote on the motion for First Reading. Bill 17 did receive First Reading, and opposition caucuses subsequently argued that it should have been divided into two different Bills to separate the proposed amendments to the *Employment Standards Code* from the proposed amendments to the *Labour Relations Code*. The Bill was not divided but was amended during Committee of the Whole consideration. On June 5, 2017, Bill 17 was passed at Third Reading on division and was granted Royal Assent on June 7, 2017.

Government Motion 16

On January 4, 2017, Ethics Commissioner **Marguerite Trussler** issued a report finding that **Ric McIver**, MLA (Calgary-Hays), had breached the *Conflicts of Interest Act* on November 22, 2016, when he asked a question during Oral Question Period regarding proposed price caps on electricity. The report was issued following an investigation into a complaint filed by **Heather Sweet**, MLA (Edmonton-Manning) and Deputy Chair of Committees. The issue concerned the fact that because Mr. McIver's wife is the sole shareholder and director of a competitive retailer in the energy market his question "may reasonably be perceived as seeking to influence government policy in a way that would benefit a business wholly owned and operated by the Member's spouse." Mr. McIver has made an application for a judicial review of the Commissioner's recommendations, and a hearing has been scheduled for January 12, 2018.

On March 15, 2017, Government Motion 16 was introduced, in accordance with the *Conflicts of Interest Act*, to have the Legislative Assembly concur in the Report of the Ethics Commissioner concerning Mr. McIver and to require the Member to apologize to the Assembly and pay a fine of \$500, as recommended

by the Commissioner. Ms. Sweet recused herself from debate on the motion. On March 21, 2017, the motion carried, on division, and a purported question of privilege was immediately raised following the recorded vote, arguing that the passage of the motion interfered with a Member's freedom of speech. On April 3, 2017, Speaker **Robert Wanner** ruled that there was no *prima facie* question of privilege following which Mr. McIver made an official apology to the Assembly and paid the \$500 fine.

Committee Activity

The Select Special Ombudsman and Public Interest Commissioner Search Committee reported to the Assembly on May 25, 2017, and recommended that **Marianne Ryan** be appointed as Alberta's ninth Ombudsman and second Public Interest Commissioner. Ms. Ryan had a distinguished 35-year career in policing and most recently served as the Commanding Officer for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Alberta. Ms. Ryan was sworn-in on July 4, 2017, and is Alberta's first female Ombudsman and Public Interest Commissioner.

A Message To My Younger Self

Kim Rudd
MP for Northumberland-
Peterborough South
(Ontario)



The 100th anniversary of the election of the first woman parliamentarian is a testament to Canadian democracy. It has been my sincere privilege to work with so many incredible women parliamentarians. These are women from all walks of life who bring their unique skills to their roles every day. I would tell myself as a young woman that you can never let any chorus of naysayers, or the minstrels of the negative, become the soundtrack to what will eventually become the symphony that is your life. Though we may have differing political ideologies, our values as women and our values as Canadians will stand as our truest permanent legacy.

On June 1, 2017, the Select Special Auditor General Search Committee was struck. The mandate of this committee is to invite applications for the position of Auditor General and to recommend to the Assembly the applicant it considers most suitable to this position.

On June 21, 2017, the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices issued its report on its review of the *Child and Youth Advocate Act*. The report includes nine recommendations related to the mandate and work of the Advocate.

Electoral Boundaries Commission (EBC)

On October 31, 2016, a five-member EBC was appointed in accordance with legislation requiring the regular review of the existing boundaries and names of the province's 87 electoral divisions.

On May 25, 2017, the EBC, chaired by Justice **Myra Bielby** of the Alberta Court of Appeal, submitted its

Interim Report to Speaker Wanner, who then tabled the report in the Assembly. In its Interim Report the EBC recommends that three new "urban" ridings be established: one in Edmonton, one in Calgary, and one just outside of Calgary near Airdrie. Correspondingly, the Report also recommends reducing the total number of rural constituencies by three through adjusting the existing electoral boundaries in areas northeast and southwest of Edmonton, and in the southeast region of the province.

As part of the consultations conducted for the final report the public was invited to submit written feedback online by July 16, 2017, and public hearings were scheduled to be held around the province in the latter part of July. The EBC must release its final report by October 31, 2017.

Jody Rempel
Committee Clerk

A Message To My Younger Self

Michelle Stilwell
MLA for Parksville-
Qualicum (British
Columbia)

Moving from the world of elite sport, where people built you up, into the political arena, where people will fight just as hard to tear you down, will be one of your life's most rewarding adventures.

Learning to cope and responding to criticism, with support from family, friends and colleagues, will be your biggest challenges. But like everything in life, do what you feel in your heart to be right – for you'll be criticized anyway.

Don't underestimate yourself and remember that you were elected and re-elected by your constituents to represent their voices in the Legislature and that every day you get the opportunity to help make someone else's day/life better.



Manitoba

2nd Session of the 41st Legislature – Spring Sitting

The Second Session of the 41st Legislature resumed on March 1, 2017, with the House sitting until June 1 to complete consideration of Specified Bills. In the same period, the House completed the Budget debate and began consideration of departmental estimates.

Several Bills received Royal Assent on June 1st, including:

- *Bill 9 – The Advocate for Children and Youth Act*, which expands the mandate of the Children's Advocate of Manitoba;
- *Bill 18 – The Legislative Security Act*, to address security matters within the legislative precinct;

- *Bill 19 – The Efficiency Manitoba Act*, establishing Efficiency Manitoba Inc. with a mandate to achieve electrical energy savings and natural gas savings;
- *Bill 21 – The Fiscal Responsibility and Taxpayer Protection Act*, which replaces the *Balanced Budget Act*, repealed last year;
- *Bill 25 – The Cannabis Harm Prevention Act*, amending several acts to address health or safety concerns that will arise when cannabis consumption is no longer illegal, and to close any legislative gaps that might be created when cannabis is no longer considered an illegal drug;
- *Bill 29 – The Health Sector Bargaining Unit Review Act*, which establishes a fixed number of bargaining units for each health region and for each province-wide health employer;
- *Bill 33 – The Minimum Wage Indexation Act*, to provide that the minimum wage is adjusted on October 1 of each year to reflect changes in the Manitoba Consumer Price Index.

Budget debate

On April 11, 2017, Finance Minister **Cameron Friesen** delivered his second budget. Highlights of the government’s budget included:

- investments to Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living, including \$107.5 million in new spending with targeted investments in primary health care services, cancer drugs, expanded dialysis treatment, mental health services and reduced ambulance fees;
- investments in Manitoba Families, increasing its budget and improving the supply and quality of affordable housing, addressing wait lists for child care spaces, providing appropriate support for Employment Income and Rental Assistance programming clients and protecting the Primary Caregiver Tax Credit;
- funding boost to Manitoba Education and Training with an overall increase of \$36 million, including measures that will focus on reducing barriers to post-secondary education for low-income students;
- increase of \$12 million to Manitoba Justice including commitments to innovative approaches to the backlogs of the province’s justice system;
- an overall strategic infrastructure investment forecast to reach over \$1.7 billion in 2017/18;
- indexing personal income tax brackets and the basic personal exemption;
- removing regulatory burdens for businesses, non-profits, local government and residents and

reducing red tape for municipalities and third party proponents;

- a focus on community partnerships that will enable marketing northern Manitoba as a place to visit, to invest in and to live, and which will engage indigenous communities in economic development.

During her contribution to the budget debate on April 12, Interim Official Opposition Leader **Flor Marcelino** moved a motion expressing non-confidence in the government, stating that the budget neglected the priorities of Manitobans, ignored the needs of families and seniors, and failed to present a clear, strategic and inclusive vision for the future of Manitoba by, among others:

- failing to protect front-line services and making deep cuts to services;
- cutting the health infrastructure budget by 20 per cent after cancelling \$1 billion in health projects;
- refusing to raise the minimum wage for a second year;
- raising post-secondary tuition fees by up to 7 per cent and deregulating course fees;
- failing to present any kind of strategy for training

A Message To My Younger Self

Bowinn Ma
MLA for North Vancouver-
Lonsdale (British
Columbia)



There is nothing for me to teach you here that you will not learn for yourself in time. You will make mistakes and often be wrong, and all of those experiences will shape who you become and how you behave during the moments that really matter.

You will learn not to judge people too quickly or too harshly and to approach every situation with humility; you will learn to be bold and find the courage to push beyond your limits; and you will forge the convictions that will guide you as you face challenges on behalf of the public you serve.

- and long-term job creation in Manitoba;
- making almost no investment for northern Manitoba with a long-term strategy to grow the North's economy;
- failing to provide any real strategy to combat climate change.

On the same day, Independent Member and Interim Leader of the Manitoba Liberal Party **Judy Klassen** (Kewatinook) moved a sub-amendment, stating that the budget failed, among others, to:

- address the most vulnerable by not increasing employment income assistance amounts;
- develop a duty to consult framework for indigenous communities;
- protect the environment by cutting funding to the Clean Environment Commission, water science and watershed management;
- invest in the promotion of practical homeownership opportunities for indigenous families;
- uphold the Jordan's Principle resolution, as unanimously voted by this House, by cutting the funding to indigenous health, and Intergovernmental Strategic Relations.

On April 20, the sub-amendment was defeated on a recorded vote of yeas 15, nays 39. Subsequently, Ms. Marcelino's amendment was defeated on a recorded vote of yeas 16, nays 39, while the main budget motion carried on a recorded vote of yeas 39, nays 16.

Committee of Supply

The Committee of Supply began consideration of the Estimates of the Departmental Expenditures on April 25. As of June 1, only resolutions to approve departmental spending for two departments were passed, with the remaining departments to be completed in the fall together with the remaining steps for the passage of the budget.

However, before the House rose for the summer, the Committee of Supply considered and passed supply resolutions dealing with temporary funding for operating and capital expenditures until the main supply bills are completed later this session. The House also dealt with passing all stages of a second Interim Supply bill. As a result, Bill 19 – *The Interim Appropriation Act, 2017 (2)* received Royal Assent on June 1, 2017.

Standing Committees

Since the last submission, the Standing Committee on Public Accounts met on two occasions to consider several Auditor General's Reports covering issues relating to the departments of Health Seniors and Active Living, as well as Infrastructure and Families.

In a very busy spring for committees, the Standing Committees on Social and Economic Development, Legislative Affairs, Private Bills, and Justice held a total of 18 meetings, hearing public presentations on legislation and completing consideration of clause-by clause of many bills. In particular, the Legislative Affairs committee met in two occasions for a total of 12 hours debating Bill 19 – *The Efficiency Manitoba Act*.

New Sergeant-at-Arms

On May 29, the House welcomed its new Sergeant-at-Arms. **Dave Shuttleworth** is the first full-time holder of this position in the history of the Manitoba Legislature and a member of the Manitoba Metis community, making him the first indigenous Sergeant-at-Arms in the 146-year history of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba.

Sergeant Shuttleworth is a 30-year veteran of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, where he rose to



A Message To My Younger Self

Carla Qualtrough
MP for Delta (British Columbia)

When given an opportunity or a chance, always take it. Keep aiming higher, and do the laps because there is just no substitute for hard work and

you know you can't cut corners. Your hard work will take you places.

Continue to advocate for yourself and others, and never hesitate to be bold. Take the path less travelled and seek out new experiences. There are always obstacles but stand firm in your convictions in order to achieve your goals.

Continue to be the strong, fierce leader I know you to be!

the rank of inspector. His extensive policing career included postings in Nunavut, Labrador, Ottawa and Saskatchewan as well as various detachments across Manitoba

Member Sitting as an Independent

MLA **Steven Fletcher** (Assiniboia) was removed from the Progressive Conservative caucus on June 30. In accordance with section 52.3.1 of *The Legislative Assembly Act*, a member who is elected with the endorsement of a political party and ceases to belong to the caucus of that party during the term for which he or she was elected must sit in the Assembly as an independent for the remainder of the term.

Chamber renovations

Our Chamber is currently undergoing extensive renovations to enhance accessibility. In order to achieve this goal, the floor of the chamber will be raised and a ramp installed. Constructions began immediately after the House rose on June 1 and will continue until the beginning of October. As a result of the renovations, the Chamber, Public Galleries and Press Gallery will remain inaccessible during the summer months while the work proceeds. Enlarged, colour photos of the Chamber will be on display in the Rotunda for the benefit of visitors while the construction is taking place.

By-Election and Current Party Standings

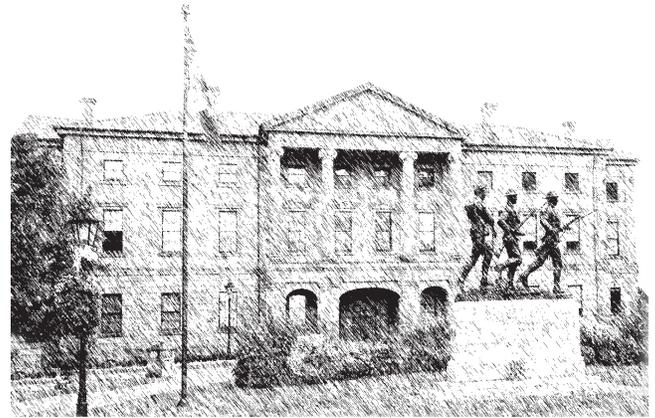
As a result of the by-election held on June 13, 2017, New Democratic Party candidate **Bernadette Smith** became the newly elected member for the Winnipeg constituency of Point Douglas. She will be officially introduced when the House resumes sitting in October.

Ms. Smith is the co-founder of the Manitoba Coalition of Families of Missing and Murdered Women in Manitoba (CFMMWM) and the Drag the Red Initiative and for years organized the annual No Stone Unturned Concert for Missing and Murdered Women in Manitoba. In 2016, she was appointed to the Order of Manitoba in recognition of her work for Canada's missing and murdered indigenous girls and women.

The current party standings in the Manitoba Legislature are: Progressive Conservatives 39, NDP 13, with five Independent members.

Andrea Signorelli

Clerk Assistant/Clerk of Committees



Prince Edward Island

Second Session, Sixty-fifth General Assembly

The Second Session of the Sixty-fifth General Assembly resumed on April 4, 2017 and adjourned to the call of the Speaker on May 12, 2017 after 22 sitting days.

House Business

During the spring sitting, Government tabled a total of 15 bills, 14 of which proceeded through all

A Message To My Younger Self

Pam Damoff
MP for Oakville North-Burlington (Ontario)



Take more chances and do not be afraid of failure. Watch for unexpected opportunities and take advantage of them.

Always keep learning and trying new things. It is important to take care of yourself.

Go for a bike ride or take a walk when you need to think. No good ideas every popped in to your head when you are busy.

Be confident and stick to your principles, even when it is hard to do so.

stages and received Royal Assent. Bill No. 76, *Public Interest Disclosure and Whistleblower Protection Act* had been introduced and read a first time as of the May 12 adjournment. Notable among legislation which received Assent were three amending bills intended to provide alternative dispute resolution capabilities in family law cases involving family separation and the need to ensure protection of the best interests of children. Through these measures the positions of Children's Lawyer and Parenting Coordinator were established in the Family Law Centre of the Department of Justice and Public Safety.

Three private members' bills were introduced during the spring sitting. Leader of the Third Party **Peter Bevan-Baker** tabled Private Member's Bill No. 103, *Election Age Act*, on April 6. This bill would amend the *Election Act* to lower the voting age to 16 from 18 years of age and also amend the *Legislative Assembly Act* to lower the age of eligibility to serve as a member to 16 from 18. The bill passed second reading, but was not recommended by committee.

Leader of the Opposition **Jamie Fox** introduced Bill No. 104, *An Act to Amend the Highway Traffic Act (No. 4)* on May 4, 2017. The bill amends the *Highway Traffic Act* to require motorcyclists to remove helmets and face coverings when requested to do so by a peace officer, after coming to a safe stop. The bill was amended in committee, but passed all reading stages and received Royal Assent on May 12, 2017.

The third private member's bill introduced during the spring sitting was Bill No. 105, *Reward Points Protection Act*, promoted by **Chris Palmer**, MLA for District 21: Summerside – Wilmot. This bill would prohibit suppliers from entering into or amending a reward agreement to provide for the expiry of reward points due to the passage of time alone. Bill 105 was introduced and read a first time on April 27, 2017.

Electoral Boundaries Commission

A five-person Electoral Boundaries Commission was established pursuant to the *Electoral Boundaries Act* in December 2016, in order to review the provincial electoral districts and make a report, complete with recommendations, to the Legislative Assembly. In coming to its recommendations, the Commission considered enumeration data from the last general election, population patterns, communities of interest, existing polling divisions, municipal boundaries, the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, and other factors. The Commission also sought public input and

held public meetings during the winter. Its report was tabled on May 9, 2017. The main conclusion was that all districts except Evangeline – Miscouche should be adjusted in order to have a variance of less than 10 per cent from the provincial average number of electors (3,700) within their boundaries. Currently, variances as great as 43.79 per cent and -28.25 per cent above and below average, respectively, exist among PEI's 27 electoral districts. In the case of Evangeline – Miscouche, a greater variance was considered justified by the need to protect Acadian language, culture and tradition in the province. The Commission proposed new district boundaries, as well as new names for some districts. The report can be viewed at <http://www.assembly.pe.ca/docs/2017-electoral-boundaries-report.pdf>. Subsequent to the tabling of the Commission's report, the Assembly unanimously carried a motion to approve the report, and a bill to amend the *Electoral Boundaries Act* was passed to enact the Commission's recommendations. The changes will take effect in the next general election.

Speaker's Ruling

On April 11, Speaker **Francis (Buck) Watts** ruled on a Point of Privilege raised by Leader of the Opposition **Jamie Fox** on April 7. Mr. Fox asserted that Premier **Wade MacLauchlan** offered information to the House on April 6, 2017, concerning the decision to provide policing services at a public meeting of the Public Schools Board of April 3, 2017, which differed from information given to the media by the government. Speaker Watts found that the matter was raised at first opportunity, but that Mr. Fox did not offer specific information or detail to substantiate this claim, nor did he indicate which individual or collective privileges had been offended. Thus the Speaker found that the matter did not constitute a *prima facie* breach of privilege.

Retirement of Sergeant-at-Arms and Director of Security

May 12 marked, most likely, the final day in the Chamber for Warrant Officer **Al J. McDonald**, Sergeant-at-Arms and Director of Security. Mr. McDonald is set to retire in September after 22 years working in a security capacity at the Legislative Assembly, and 10 years as Sergeant-at-Arms and Director of Security. Prior to his role at the legislature, Mr. McDonald had a distinguished career in the military. Many MLAs rose to recognize Mr. McDonald for his dedication in implementing and enforcing security measures at the Assembly through the years.

Changes at Elections PEI

On the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Legislative Management, the Legislative Assembly appointed **Stephanie Roberts** as Deputy Chief Electoral Officer on April 26. This followed the retirement of **Judy Richard** from the position effective April 19.

Gary McLeod resigned as Chief Electoral Officer for Prince Edward Island, effective June 1, 2017.

Mr. McLeod had served as Chief Electoral Officer since January 2013. Speaker Watts thanked Mr. McLeod for his service to Prince Edward Islanders and wished him all the best in his future endeavours. **Marian Johnston**, Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees for the Legislative Assembly, has accepted the designation as Chief Electoral Officer (Acting) from the Standing Committee on Legislative Management. A new permanent Chief Electoral Officer will be appointed by the Legislative Assembly in due course.

Ryan Reddin

Clerk Assistant – Research, Committees & Visitor Services



Ontario

Membership Changes

A Writ of Election, dated June 1, 2017, was issued for the Electoral District of Sault Ste. Marie to address a vacancy that occurred following the resignation of Liberal MPP **David Oraziotti**. **Ross Romano**, the Progressive Conservative candidate, was returned as duly elected and subsequently took the Oath and subscribed to the Roll on June 23, 2017.

On May 29, 2017, there was a change in the distribution of seats in the House after **Jack MacLaren** (MPP for Carleton-Mississippi Mills) ceased to be a

member of the Progressive Conservative Caucus. He now sits as an Independent Member and consequently was removed from the Standing Committee on Regulations and Private Bills as per Standing Order 113(a) which requires that membership of Committees be in proportion to the representation of the recognized Parties in the House. His re-appointment as an Independent member to a committee is pending.

Question of Privilege

On March 20, 2017, **Jim Wilson** (MPP for Simcoe-Grey) rose on a question of privilege concerning government advertising on electricity pricing. The Member for Simcoe-Grey alleged that advertisements or announcements in various forms were issued by the government which alluded to future price cuts and changes to the electricity sector. The Member argued that this constituted a *prima facie* case of contempt in that the items provided to Speaker **Dave Levac** presumed and predicted the outcome of a decision of the House before first implementing the legislative changes required to give effect to these pledges.

On March 23, 2017, the Speaker concluded that while the message conveyed to the reader or listener of the various communications were definitive - that a reduction in electricity prices would occur; it did not constitute a *prima facie* breach of privilege. The Speaker ruled that to find a *prima facie* case of contempt in these communications given their definitive, unconditional language, would require the Speaker to conduct legal analysis of the legislative framework necessary to produce the results alluded to in the ads and other items. Precedent dictates that it is not for the Speaker to undertake legal analysis, make legal findings or attempt to interpret the law. The Speaker therefore ruled that it was beyond the purview of the Speaker to determine whether or not the Assembly had a necessary role in the implementation of measures required to bring about the promised changes to the electricity sector.

Following the subsequent introduction of Bill 132, *Fair Hydro Act, 2017*, on May 15, 2017, **Steve Clark** (MPP for Leeds-Grenville) renewed the question of privilege previously raised on March 20. Referencing the Speaker's March 23rd ruling, Mr. Clark alleged that advertisements released by the government relating to changes to the electricity sector, combined with the introduction of Bill 132, constituted a *prima facie* case of contempt by the Minister of Energy given that they presumed a timeline and outcome of a bill currently before the House.

On May 18, 2017, the Speaker delivered his ruling and in doing so made reference to the question of privilege originally raised by **Jim Wilson** (MPP for Simcoe-Grey). In his earlier ruling, the Speaker found that a *prima facie* case of contempt had not been made out largely due to the fact that to do so would have required the Speaker to conduct some sort of a legal analysis of the legislative framework necessary to produce the results alluded to in the ads and other items. The Speaker found this to be as true in the present case as had been in March. He concluded that it was beyond the scope of the Speaker's interpretive powers to determine whether or not the specific piece of legislation before the House, Bill 132, was the sole mechanism available to the Government of Ontario to implement its policy agenda. The Speaker found that the government messaging around Bill 132 was conditional in nature and explicitly recognized the need for the Bill to first pass in the Legislative Assembly. The Speaker therefore concluded that a *prima facie* case of contempt had not been established.

Budget

On April 27, 2017, Finance Minister **Charles Sousa** presented Ontario's 2017 Budget, which on May 16, 2017, carried on the following division: 53 to 39.

Condolences

During this period, the House expressed its condolences on the passing of former Members **Ken Black**, Member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay, September 10, 1987 - September 5, 1990 and **Stephen David**

Owens, Member for Scarborough Centre, September 6, 1990 - June 7, 1995.

Committee Activities

Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs

The Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs met in May to consider Bill 127, *Stronger, Healthier Ontario Act (Budget Measures), 2017*. Following one day of public hearings on May 15, 2017, and one day of clause-by-clause consideration on May 16, 2017, the Committee reported the Bill back to the House with certain amendments. Once reported back, the Bill was immediately ordered for Third Reading pursuant to an Order of the House. After debate, the Bill passed Third Reading and received Royal Assent on May 17, 2017.

The Committee is currently considering Bill 148, *Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act, 2017*. Among other initiatives, the legislation would raise the provincial minimum wage; and mandate equal pay for part-time, temporary, casual and seasonal employees doing the same job as full-time employees. The Committee intends to hold public hearings on the bill across Ontario this July, with clause-by-clause consideration scheduled for August.

Standing Committee on General Government

During the period May-July 2017, the Standing Committee on General Government spent three meetings on clause-by-clause consideration of Bill



A Message To My Younger Self

Rachel Blaney
MP for North Island — Powell River (British Columbia)

Do not be afraid and if you are, go for it anyway. A life that isn't fully lived is wasted. If you waste some time, forgive yourself immediately.

Encourage women around you, always. Learning to make space in the world you live in can be a challenge, remember that you have a right to be the main character in your own life.

Make sure you take time for yourself to reflect on the choices you are making. Not paying attention can lead you somewhere you do not want to be. Take time to be aware of your direction. Do not try to be someone else; admiring others is wonderful but the biggest gift you can give to the world is your authentic self.

65, *An Act to amend the Highway Traffic Act in respect of speed limits in municipalities*. Bill 65, which had two days of public hearings in April, sought to address the ability of municipalities to set speed limits within their borders. It aimed to designate by-law areas where speed limits of less than 50 kilometers per hour can be imposed; and to use automated speed enforcement systems and red light camera systems in community safety zones where the speed limit is below 80 kilometers per hour, and in school zones. The bill was reported to the House, as amended on May 9, and received Royal Assent on May 30, 2017.

The Committee next considered two Government bills: Bill 124, *An Act to amend the Residential Tenancies Act, 2006* and Bill 114, *An Act to provide for Anti-Racism Measures*. Both bills were time allocated to assure their passage through the Legislature before the summer adjournment, and received Royal Assent on May 30 and June 1, 2017, respectively.

By way of amendments to the 2006 legislation, Bill 124 proposed, *inter alia*, to repeal exemptions to rent control rules, expanding rent control to all private rental units, including those occupied on or after November 1, 1991; to introduce new obligations on landlords requiring possession of an occupied rental unit for their own use, such as requiring the landlord to compensate the tenant; and to remove landlords' ability to apply for above-guideline rent increases for increases to municipal taxes or utility costs. The Committee held two days of public hearings, receiving submissions from both landlord and tenant groups. The bill was reported to the House, as amended, on May 17, 2017.

Bill 114 provided for various anti-racism measures, such as requiring the Government of Ontario to maintain an anti-racism strategy, reviewable every five years; requiring the Minister to establish data standards for the collection, use and management of information to identify and monitor of systemic racism and racial disparities; and providing for the Anti-Racism Directorate to assist the Minister in carrying out duties under the bill. The bill was reported to the House, as amended, on May 30, 2017.

Standing Committee on Justice Policy

The Standing Committee on Justice Policy met to consider Bill 89, *Supporting Children, Youth and Families Act, 2017*. The bill seeks to repeal the *Child and Family Services Act* and replace it with the *Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017*, as well as make minor

amendments to various other acts. The Committee held a total of three days of public hearings in March and April; and four days of clause-by-clause consideration in April and May. The Committee reported the bill back to the House with amendments on May 15, 2017, where it was ordered for Third Reading.

The Committee then considered Bill 132, *Fair Hydro Act, 2017*. In response to the concerns surrounding energy prices in the province of Ontario, the bill seeks to make amendments to the *Electricity Act, 1998*, and the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*. The Committee held three days of public hearings in May and one day of clause-by-clause consideration of the bill on May 29, 2017. The bill was reported back to the House with amendments on May 30, 2017, where it was then ordered for Third Reading and went on to receive Royal Assent on June 1, 2017.

Standing Committee on the Legislative Assembly

In April and May 2017, the Standing Committee on the Legislative Assembly held four days of public hearings on Bill 87, *Protecting Patients Act, 2017*. The Bill set out various changes to existing laws, including the *Immunization of School Pupils Act*, the *Laboratory and Specimen Collection Centre Licensing Act*, the *Ontario Drug Benefit Act*, the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*, and the *Seniors Active Living Centres Act, 2017*.

The Committee heard from 39 witnesses during public hearings and considered 120 amendments during the clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill. One amendment proposed an additional schedule modifying the *Drug and Pharmacies Regulation Act*. The amendment was initially ruled out of order as it attempted to open an *Act* which had not been included in the Bill, however by unanimous consent the Committee agreed to consider the amendment and subsequently adopted it. The Bill was reported back to the House, as amended, on May 18, 2017.

Standing Committee on Public Accounts

In May, the Standing Committee on Public Accounts tabled two reports: Public Accounts of the Province (Chapter 2, *2015 Annual Report of the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario*); and Long-Term-Care Home Quality Inspection Program (Section 3.09, *2015 Annual Report of the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario*).

Standing Committee on Regulations and Private Bills

Between the months of February and June, the

Standing Committee on Regulations and Private Bills met to consider multiple private bills, 12 of which received Royal Assent on June 1, 2017.

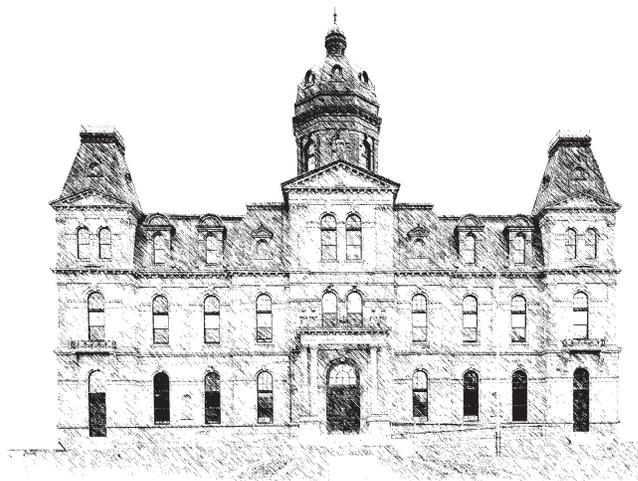
Standing Committee on Social Policy

The Standing Committee on Social Policy met throughout the month of May to consider two Government bills. The first, Bill 68, *An Act to amend various Acts in relation to municipalities*, sought to amend the *Municipal Act, 2001*, the *City of Toronto Act, 2006*, the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* as well as several others. After three days of public hearings, followed by four days of clause-by-clause consideration, the bill went on to receive Royal Assent on May 30, 2017.

The Committee then considered Bill 96, *Anti-Human Trafficking Act, 2017*. The bill consists of two parts. The first, proclaims February 22 in each year as Human Trafficking Awareness Day while the second part sets out to define human trafficking while also establishing

a process for obtaining restraining orders in the human trafficking context and implementing a tort of human trafficking requiring no proof of damage.

Jocelyn McCauley
Committee Clerk



A Message To My Younger Self

Marie Renaud
MLA for St. Albert
(Alberta)

Remember when you were a little girl and your mother angrily asked you why you always said exactly what you were thinking? I want to tell you that there is no need to feel bad about that. There is no need to try and change who you are.

Be proud of the strong young woman you are and the strong woman you will become. Be confident when you express your informed opinion and be thankful you have been given opportunities to speak for people who are unable to speak for themselves.

Treasure the gifts you were given even if they don't always feel like gifts. Be truthful. Be compassionate. Be strong. Always be yourself.

Enjoy the journey; it is going to be excellent.

New Brunswick

The third session of the 58th Legislative Assembly opened on November 2, 2016, and adjourned on May 5, 2017, sitting a total of 47 days. As in recent sessions, bills and estimates were referred to separate standing committees, which often met during weeks the House was adjourned. During the session, the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, chaired by **Gilles LePage**, held 26 meetings to consider various government bills, while the Standing Committee on Estimates and Fiscal Policy, chaired by **Bernard LeBlanc**, held 13 meetings to consider departmental estimates.

Legislation

During the session, 59 bills received Royal Assent. Bills introduced near the end of the session that were of particular interest included the following:

Bill 56, *An Act to Amend the Political Process Financing Act*, introduced by Deputy Government House Leader and Minister of Health **Victor Boudreau**, lowered the political contribution limit from \$6,000 to \$3,000 and changed the formula for public financing to political parties to give greater weight to votes received by

female candidates. The bill was subsequently amended to prohibit political contributions from corporations and trade unions;

Bill 67, *An Act Respecting Family Day*, introduced by Premier **Brian Gallant**, designated the third Monday in February, starting in 2018, as Family Day, which will be a paid public holiday and a prescribed day of rest.

Resolutions

On May 4, the Legislature passed a resolution introduced by **Bruce Fitch**, seconded by Official Opposition Leader **Blaine Higgs**, which recognized annually the third Saturday in September as **Becca Schofield** Day. Ms. Schofield, a 17-year-old from Riverview, New Brunswick, diagnosed with terminal cancer, created Becca's bucket list to persuade people to perform random acts of kindness and post it on her Facebook page *Becca's battle with Butterscotch* or tweet it under the hashtag #*beccatoldmeto*, which resulted in hundreds of people posting about their good deeds in honour of Becca.

Select Committee on Cannabis

On April 28, the House appointed a Select Committee on Cannabis, chaired by **Benoît Bourque**, to conduct public consultations on the legalization of recreational cannabis in New Brunswick. On June 21, the *Report of the New Brunswick Working Group on the Legalization of Cannabis* was filed with the Office of the Clerk and referred to the committee. The purpose of the report was to inform New Brunswickers about the challenges and opportunities brought on by the legalization of recreational cannabis and to propose a model for what a legal cannabis industry could look like in New Brunswick. The committee is expected to begin the public consultation process in the summer, with the intent of releasing a final report in September.

Auditor General

A joint meeting of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, chaired by **Trevor Holder**, and the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations, chaired by **Bertrand LeBlanc**, was held on June 20. The committees considered Auditor General **Kim MacPherson's** report entitled *Report of the Auditor General of New Brunswick 2017 Volume I, Performance Audit*. It detailed the Auditor General's findings on an advisory services contract in the Department of Social Development and on

government's progress in addressing its commitments to climate change initiatives.

MALA

In celebration of Canada 150, the first showing of a high-tech, multimedia presentation was projected upon the front exterior of the Legislative Assembly building on June 21 and continued throughout the summer. The 30 minute presentation, entitled MALA, which means "where I'm from" in Mi'kmaq, highlighted New Brunswick's history through stories of key people and events.

The presentation showcased major cultural events, partners, characters and stories from New Brunswick's history, focusing on the cultural diversity of First Nations, Anglophones, Francophones and immigrants.

Inspection of Guard

On July 1, Canada Day, Speaker **Chris Collins** was invited to inspect the City of Fredericton Ceremonial

A Message To My Younger Self

Sylvia Jones
MPP for Dufferin-Caledon
(Ontario)

My advice to my younger self? Don't be in such a hurry!

My desire to start a career (and worries about taking on too much student debt) meant I didn't explore my post-secondary options as much as I wish I had.

There is no easier time to go to school than when you are young. Take advantage of the opportunities to explore your interests; even if you can't see an immediate path to a job.

While we continue to learn throughout our lives, formal schooling is a gift that shouldn't be rushed.

Find your passion and enjoy the journey as well as the rewards.



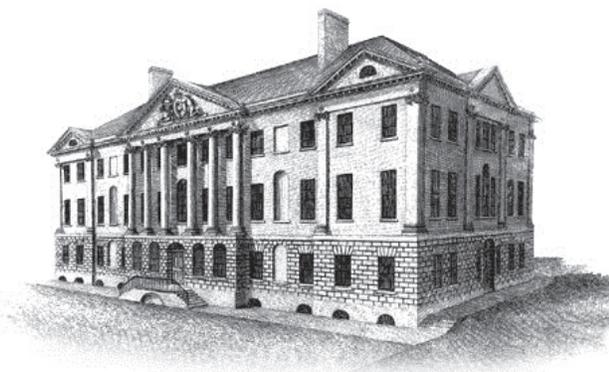
Guard on the grounds of the Legislature. This was an initiative of the City of Fredericton and coincided with the commencement of weekend tours of the Legislative Assembly building during the summer tourist season.

Resumption of Sitting and Standings

The Legislature is expected to resume sitting on October 24. The standings in the House are 26 Liberals, 22 Progressive Conservatives, and 1 Green.

Shayne Davies

Assistant Clerk and Clerk of Committees



Nova Scotia

Hearings before the Law Amendments Committee

Bill # 59, *An Act Respecting Accessibility*, was introduced during the Fall 2016 sitting of the House of Assembly. In contrast to other Bills before the Committee, Bill # 59 was not reported back to the House during the Fall sitting but remained on the agenda of the Law Amendments Committee when the House rose on November 10, 2016. This was unusual as bills introduced during a sitting are usually passed by the House during the same sitting.

Bill # 59 generated a great deal of interest and the extensive hearings resulted in major amendments being made to the Bill. Hearings were held by the Committee when the House was not sitting. This is also an unusual practice for our House of Assembly. For the first time our Legislative TV live-streamed the committee hearings and meetings on a YouTube channel and on the Legislature's website. We also had closed captioning and sign language interpreters present during all the hearings and deliberations.

Some presentations were made via video feed from other parts of the province. Meetings were scheduled well in advance and this facilitated the participation of many persons. This was noteworthy as the committee has not traditionally given "advance" notice of hearings to the public nor broadcast the hearings to the public in the recent past.

This Bill caused the Committee to make its hearings and deliberations "accessible" to a larger audience and this change in process was viewed as a major step forward by many. It will be interesting to see whether the Committee will alter its processes for further hearings on bills referred to it for study.

Spring sitting of the House

On March 23, 2017, the Speaker issued a notice advising that the 3rd session of the 62nd General Assembly would resume at 1pm on April 25 and the Government advised that the budget speech would be delivered in the House of Assembly on April 27, 2017.

Bill # 59 was reported back to the House on the first sitting day and the House gave unanimous consent to the Bill being referred to the Committee of the Whole House on Bills the same day.

The House sat for four days: April 25, 26, 27 and 28. During that time two Government bills and 10 Private Member bills were introduced, Bill # 59 was passed by the House, the Budget address was given on April 27, opposition party responses were completed and the estimates were referred to the Committee of the Whole on Supply on April 28.

On April 30, the House was dissolved and the writs of elections were issued with an election date of May 30, 2017.

General Election – May 30, 2017

The Liberal party was returned as the governing party for a second mandate and the seat distribution is as follows: 27 Liberal, 17 Progressive Conservatives and seven New Democrats. The gender distribution of the 51-member House is 34 male MLAs (20 Liberal, 12 PC and 2 NDP) and 17 female MLAs (7 Liberal, 5 PC and 5 NDP). There are 13 new MLAs and that number represents 25.5 per cent of the MLAs in the House.

On June 15, 2017 the Cabinet was sworn into office. There are 17 cabinet ministers. The 14 re-elected

members who were cabinet ministers at the time the election was called were returned to cabinet but to different portfolios. Three new members were added as cabinet ministers. There are 5 women in the cabinet representing 30 per cent of the cabinet.

The members were sworn in on June 16, 2017.

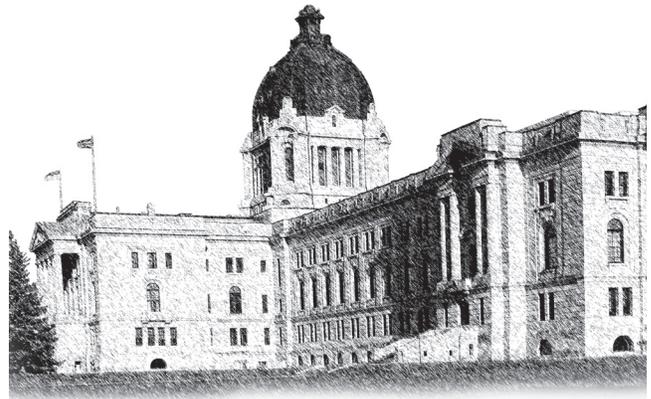
Election of Speaker

On June 16, 2017, the House sat for the limited purpose of electing a Speaker and a Deputy Speaker. **Kevin Murphy** was elected Speaker for a second term. **Chuck Porter**, MLA for Hants West, was elected as the Deputy Speaker.

Lieutenant Governor

On June 28, 2017, **Arthur J. LeBlanc** was installed as Nova Scotia's 33rd Lieutenant Governor. At the time of his appointment His Honour was a justice of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia. He is the first Acadian to occupy this position.

Annette M. Boucher
Assistant Clerk



Saskatchewan

The spring sitting concluded on May 18, 2017. The first session of the 28th Legislature was unusually long because of the election that was held in April 2016. It is anticipated that regular sitting periods under the calendar will resume on October 25, 2017 when the second session will commence. The Assembly sat 91 days, passed two budgets, and 69 government bills received Royal Assent in the first session.

Member Returns to Caucus

Don McMorris, Member for Indian Head-Milestone, returned to the Saskatchewan Party caucus on March 6, 2017. He resigned from cabinet and caucus in August 2016.



A Message To My Younger Self

Louise Harel
Former MNA for Hochelaga–Maisonneuve (Quebec)

When you first get elected in Hochelaga–Maisonneuve in 1981, you don't think you will sit in the National Assembly of Quebec for more than a few years, but you will stay there for 27 years and 8 months. You will be a minister under four premiers, the head of about 10 departments, the chair of numerous committees, the house leader of the Official Opposition and the first female Speaker of the National Assembly.

You will fall madly in love with this job, despite knowing that politics is a blood sport in which the aim is to destroy your adversaries—fortunately, only symbolically. The whole time, you will try to approach politics from a woman's perspective rather than a man's. You will try to persuade and convince, not to impose and order. You will base your decisions on the interests of the most vulnerable people in society.

You will want to share—especially with young women—your belief that being a politician can give you indescribable joy and truly improve people's lives.

Leader of the Opposition

Trent Wotherspoon, the Member from Regina Rosemont, who served as the interim leader of the Saskatchewan New Democratic Party (NDP) and Leader of the Opposition since April 2016, stepped down from both positions on June 13, 2017 to consider running for the party leadership of the Saskatchewan NDP. On June 20, 2017, **Nicole Sarauer**, the Member from Regina Douglas Park, was elected as the new interim party leader and appointed Leader of the Opposition by her caucus. She is the first female leader of the Saskatchewan NDP. The Saskatchewan NDP leadership convention is expected to take place in May 2018.

Resignation of Member

Jennifer Campeau, the Member from Saskatoon Fairview, resigned June 26, 2017. Pursuant to section 46 of *The Legislative Assembly Act, 2007*, a by-election to fill a vacancy in the Legislative Assembly must be held within six months after a seat in the Assembly becomes vacant. A date for the by-election has yet to be announced.

As a result of one member returning to caucus and one member resigning, the composition of the Assembly is now 49 Saskatchewan Party members, 11 New Democratic Party members, and one vacancy.

Stacey Ursulescu
Committee Clerk



The Senate

In the Chamber

This quarter was extremely busy in the Senate. Eighteen bills received Royal Assent during this period, while Bill S-5, the *Tobacco and Vaping Products Act*, and six Senate Public Bills were read a third time and sent to the House of Commons for study, with a response still pending.

Especially noteworthy was the increase in the number of messages exchanged between the houses concerning amendments to bills. A total of nine bills were involved in such exchanges during this quarter. In five cases, all involving government legislation, the House of Commons either disagreed with the Senate amendments, or accepted certain amendments

A Message To My Younger Self

Carole James
MLA for Victoria-Beacon Hill (British Columbia)

Believe in, and be true to yourself. There will always be critics, but if you can trust your gut and focus on your values, you will stand strong and weather anything that passes your way.

Laugh more, worry less!

Remember what's truly important, and don't sweat the small stuff. Learn to let go of slights or mistakes or stumbles. Life is all about learning, so challenge yourself.

And no matter how clear the plan is for your life and your future, always leave room for the unexpected and unscheduled. Often those are the richest experiences. Respect yourself and others.



– sometimes with changes – and disagreed with others. In all these cases the Senate did not insist on its changes, agreeing with the amendments made by the Commons. The reply to the message from the House of Commons on Bill C-44 did, however, note “that the Senate confirms its privileges, immunities and powers as provided under the Constitution to amend legislation, whatever its nature or source”. In three cases, relating to non-government bills, the originating house agreed to the other house’s amendments. As for the last case, the message from the Commons with amendments to Bill S-3, which amends the *Indian Act* to address sex-based inequities in registration, the item was still on the Orders of the Day for consideration by the Senate as of the writing of this summary.

On June 14, 2017, the Senate adopted a motion authorizing its Clerk, **Charles Robert**, to appear before a committee of the House of Commons with regards to his nomination as Clerk of that house. His nomination was subsequently confirmed and took effect on July 10, 2017.

Speaker’s Rulings

The Speaker dealt with several points of order this period. Two rulings were particularly significant.

On April 13 the Speaker ruled on the receivability of an amendment to Bill C-6, amending the *Citizenship Act*. After providing background on the issues of principle and relevancy, and how they related to the bill, his ruling was that the amendment was in order and that debate could continue. In reaching his decision the Speaker noted that the Senate is a debating chamber and, unless an amendment is clearly out of order, debate should normally be allowed to continue.

On June 14, 2017, a senator moved a motion of instruction proposing that the National Finance Committee divide Bill C-44, a budget implementation act. The acceptability of this motion was immediately challenged by the Government Representative in the Senate, on the basis that appropriations bills cannot be initiated in the Senate as they require a Royal Recommendation.

The next day, the Speaker began his ruling by noting that, by adopting the fifth report of the Rules Committee dealing with the division of bills in late May, the Senate had confirmed that a process does exist to divide bills in certain circumstances. He then reviewed past cases where division had been attempted. In 1988, a similar motion had been ruled out of order because of issues surrounding the Royal Recommendation, but that decision was overturned. The Commons did not accept the division of the bill, and the Senate did not insist. In 2002, a motion to divide another bill was not challenged and the House of Commons accepted the proposal.

The Speaker then turned to the specific case of Bill C-44. Given the nature of the bill and the proposed division, the Speaker concluded that the adoption of such a motion could effectively lead to two bills, each requiring a Royal Recommendation, originating in the Senate, which is not permissible. As such, the motion was ruled out of order. The Speaker’s ruling was then appealed and overturned. The actual motion empowering the committee to divide the bill was eventually defeated, at a later sitting, on a tie vote.

Committees

Nineteen committee reports were presented or tabled during this period. In addition, 38 reports were adopted by the Senate, some with motions requesting



A Message To My Younger Self

Carolyn Bennett
MP for Toronto-St. Paul’s
(Ontario)

Politics is not a swear word! Politics is about engaged citizens, not satisfied with the status quo, who want to make a difference.

Changes that we see as obvious are not always shared. Even with the best evidence and the Canadian value of fairness, not everyone will just “get it”. Some people are doing very well in the status quo, and will pull just as hard to resist those of us trying to effect change.

Success often comes in finding the “unusual suspects” to support change – especially those who won’t benefit personally. Allies recognize that good public policy benefits the most people or those most in need. Progress in feminist causes has required having great men onside.

government responses. A few of those reports are notable for their effects on the *Rules of the Senate* and the *Senate Administrative Rules (SARs)*.

In April, the Rules Committee reported on a case of privilege relating to leaks of the Auditor General's report on the audit of Senators' expenses. The extensive report made several recommendations aimed at ensuring more confidential management of information within the Senate and the development of policies on cases when sanctions can be applied to third parties for breaches of confidentiality. The report also recommended amending the *Rules of the Senate* to provide for a definition of "in camera". This report was subsequently adopted by the Senate.

The Rules Committee also continued to study various topics relating to work undertaken by the Special Committee on Senate Modernization. In May, the Rules Committee presented its seventh report, recommending changes to the Rules so that they better reflect the evolving situation in the Senate. Definitions of "recognized parliamentary group" and "facilitator of a recognized parliamentary group" were added, while other provisions in the Rules were amended to

provide a role for such groups and facilitators in the workings of the Senate. The Rules Committee also presented its eighth report in May, recommending that proportionality between the parties and groups be taken into account when determining the membership of the Committee of Selection. Both these reports were adopted.

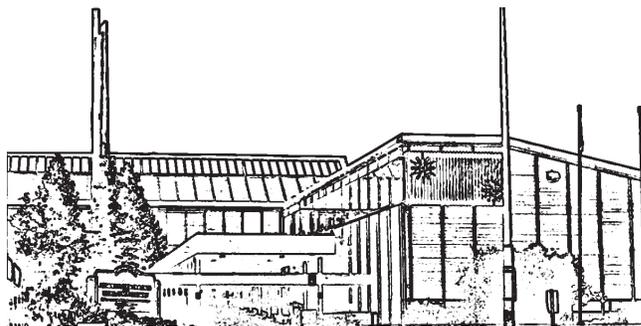
The adoption of the Internal Economy Committee's twelfth report ushered in a new version of the SARs, which will come into effect in November 2017. The adoption of the same committee's fifteenth and sixteenth reports amended the current and the new versions of the SARs to reflect the separate decisions recommended by the Rules Committee respecting recognized parliamentary groups.

On May 2, 2017, the Committee on Ethics and Conflict of Interest for Senators presented its second report. This report recommended the expulsion of Senator **Don Meredith** for breaches of the *Ethics and Conflict of Interest Code for Senators*. The senator subsequently resigned from the Senate on May 10, and the motion to adopt the report was discharged from the Orders of the Day.

Senators

Since our last report, Senator **Stephen Greene** left the Conservative caucus to sit as an independent senator.

Céline Ethier
Procedural Clerk



Yukon

Spring Sitting

The Second Session of the 34th Legislative Assembly commenced at 3:00 pm on April 20 and adjourned on June 13, after 30 sitting days.



A Message To My Younger Self

Kirsty Duncan
MP for for Etobicoke North (Ontario)

The best advice I ever received was to take every opportunity you are offered. Dream your biggest dream, and know that the impossible is nothing.

Unfortunately, as a woman in politics you will face additional challenges. You may have to speak louder and work harder. But remember that these challenges are just speed bumps, not dead ends, and you must learn to find ways around them.

Get involved in your community early and often. If you wish to be the voice of your community, you must know your community. Go door-to-door; give everyone the opportunity to be heard.

Assent

During the course of the 2017 Spring Sitting, six government bills were assented to by Yukon Commissioner **Doug Phillips**:

- Bill No. 2, *National Aboriginal Day Act*
- Bill No. 3, *Budget Measures Implementation Act, 2017*
- Bill No. 4, *Act to Amend the Supreme Court Act (2017)*
- Bill No. 5, *Act to Amend the Human Rights Act and the Vital Statistics Act (2017)*
- Bill No. 200, *Second Appropriation Act, 2016-17*
- Bill No. 201, *First Appropriation Act, 2017-18*

Budget

On April 27, Premier and Minister of Finance **Sandy Silver** moved first reading of Bill No. 201, *First Appropriation Act, 2017-18*. The same day, as is customary, Premier Silver moved second reading of the bill and delivered his (first ever) budget address. The Assembly's approval was being sought to appropriate \$1.439 billion, the largest amount in the territory's history.

Financial Advisory Panel

An April 27 government news release noted that an independent Yukon Financial Advisory Panel "comprised of five territorial and Canadian business, management and academic leaders" had been struck to look at financial options for the territory. It further indicated that from June to September the panel would speak to Yukoners, First Nations governments, municipal governments and others, that the panel would present its findings and proposed recommendations by the end of 2017, and that the government would deliver a response to the panel's report.

National Aboriginal Day Act

The first bill passed by the House in the 34th Legislative Assembly was Bill No. 2, *National Aboriginal Day Act*, which established June 21 as a general holiday in Yukon. In his lead-off speech on April 25 at second reading, Minister of Community Services **John Streicker** thanked former NDP MLA **Kevin Barr**, Mr. Streicker's predecessor in the riding of Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes, for his contributions (in December 2015, the former MLA had moved a non-binding motion -- that was adopted, as amended -- urging the establishment of National Aboriginal Day as a statutory holiday). On May 8, 2017, Bill No. 2 was

reported from Committee of the Whole, given third reading, and assented to.

Amendments to the Human Rights Act and the Vital Statistics Act

On the final day of the Sitting, Bill No. 5, *Act to Amend the Human Rights Act and the Vital Statistics Act (2017)*, standing in the name of **Pauline Frost**, Minister of Health and Social Services, passed third reading, and was assented to by the Commissioner. Bill No. 5's explanatory note states that the bill amends the *Human Rights Act* by "add[ing] gender expression and gender identity as prohibited grounds of discrimination." With respect to the *Vital Statistics Act* and its regulations, the bill "permit[s] a change of sex on a person's registration of birth, whether or not the person has had sex reassignment surgery; and allow[s] for a person's sex to be recorded as something other than male or female."

Former Commissioner Jim Smith

On April 14, **Jim Smith**, the territory's Commissioner from 1966 to 1976, passed away. In a statement released the same day, Commissioner Phillips noted, "during his tenure, Commissioner Smith was effectively the premier of the territory, acting as head of the Government of Yukon." Commissioner Phillips further observed, "Commissioner Smith had a passionate belief that the control and management of Yukon's land and resources and constitutional affairs should be in the hands of elected Yukoners. He laid a solid foundation for the development of responsible government and the achievement of the devolution of Yukon land and resources in 2003. All Yukoners remain forever in his debt."

On April 24, tributes in remembrance of Mr. Smith were offered in the House by Premier Silver (on behalf of the Liberal Party caucus), by MLA and former Commissioner **Geraldine Van Bibber** (on behalf of the Yukon Party caucus), and by Third Party Leader **Liz Hanson** (on behalf of the NDP caucus).

Appearance of witnesses in Committee of the Whole

On May 18, pursuant to a motion moved by **Ranj Pillai**, Minister of Energy, Mines, and Resources and adopted that day, witnesses from the Yukon Development Corporation and the Yukon Energy Corporation appeared before the Committee to answer questions regarding matters related to the two corporations.

Public Accounts Committee Hearings

On June 28 and 29, the Standing Committee on Public Accounts held public hearings in the Chamber on two performance audit reports that had been released by the Auditor General of Canada on March 6. The first hearing concerned the report on Yukon government transfers to societies; the second hearing was on the report on capital asset management. Auditor General of Canada **Michael Ferguson** appeared as a witness at both hearings. Other witnesses appeared at the hearings on government transfers to societies from the following departments: Community Services; Economic Development; Energy, Mines and Resources; Finance; and the Executive Council Office. At the hearings on capital asset management, other witnesses appeared from the departments of Highways and Public Works; Health and Social Services; and Education.

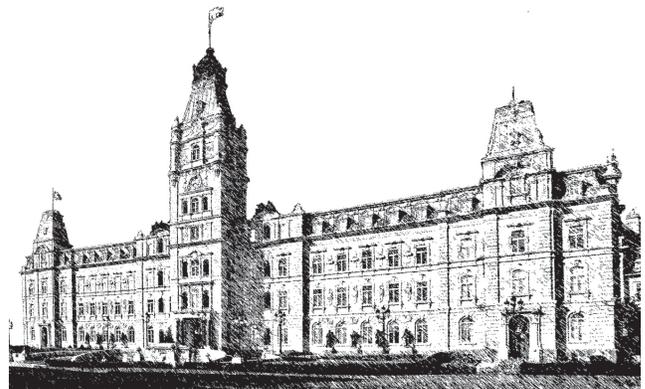
The Committee's reports on the hearings have been released and are posted on the Legislative Assembly's website. The reports will be tabled in the House by Official Opposition Leader **Stacey Hassard**, in his

role as the Committee's Chair, at the outset of the Fall Sitting.

Fall Sitting date announced

While Spring, Fall, and Special Sittings are contemplated in the Standing Orders, the Legislative Assembly does not have fixed sitting dates. The rules provide that a minimum of two weeks' notice be provided (except in case of emergency) of the date on which the House will meet. On the final day of the Spring Sitting, the Premier announced in the House that the Fall Sitting would commence on October 3.

Linda Kolody
Deputy Clerk



Québec

Extraordinary sitting

On May 29, 2017, at the request of Premier **Philippe Couillard**, the National Assembly held an extraordinary sitting to permit the introduction of Bill 142, *An Act to ensure the resumption of work in the construction industry and the settlement of disputes for the renewal of the collective agreements*. After some 18 sitting hours the bill was passed on the following division: Yeas 76, Nays 21, Abstentions 0.

Composition of the National Assembly

On April 27, 2017, **Sam Hamad**, Member of the parliamentary group forming the Government (Québec Liberal Party), announced his resignation as Member for the electoral division of Louis-Hébert.

On May 16, 2017, **Gaétan Lelièvre**, Member for the electoral division of Gaspé, was removed from the Parti Québécois caucus and now sits as an independent Member.



A Message To My Younger Self

Laurie Scott
MPP for Haliburton –
Kawartha Lakes – Brock
(Ontario)

Take advantage of opportunities as they present themselves. Sometimes you will find yourself in the right place at the right time. Don't

let the moment pass you by!

Be confident to take on things that you think you are too young or inexperienced for, and never doubt your ability to meet the challenge.

Trust that when people ask you to be involved in something, they genuinely believe in you and value your contributions.

Don't underestimate the value of education. It is worth the time and effort, even if it won't be clear to you until twenty years down the line.

On May 29, 2017, a by-election was held in the electoral division of Gouin, which had become vacant following the resignation of **Françoise David**. The candidate who replaced her under the Québec Solidaire banner, **Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois**, was elected. He officially took his seat in the National Assembly at the sitting of June 6, 2017.

The composition of the National Assembly stands as follows: Québec Liberal Party, 68 Members; Parti Québécois, 28 Members; Coalition avenir Québec, 20 Members; 3 Members sitting under the Québec Solidaire banner; and 5 independent Members. One seat remains vacant.

Estimates of expenditure and passage of Appropriation Act No. 2, 2017-2018

On April 11, 2017, the debate on the budget speech ended with recorded divisions on the Government's budgetary policy and on the motions stating a grievance moved within the framework of this debate. On May 10, 2017, after the consideration of the estimates of expenditure by the standing committees, the Assembly examined the estimates of the Assembly in Committee of the Whole. It then adopted the 2017-2018 estimates, as well as Bill 136, *Appropriation Act No. 2, 2017-2018*, during the same sitting.

Bills passed

From April to June 2017, the National Assembly passed 15 bills, five of which were private bills. Nine of these bills, including four private bills, were passed unanimously. Among the bills passed, the following should be noted:

- Bill 98, *An Act to amend various legislation mainly with respect to admission to professions and the governance of the professional system;*
- Bill 113, *An Act to amend the Civil Code and other legislative provisions as regards adoption and the disclosure of information;*
- Bill 115, *An Act to combat maltreatment of seniors and other persons of full age in vulnerable situations;*
- Bill 122, *An Act mainly to recognize that municipalities are local governments and to increase their autonomy and powers.*

Special events: Celebrations of the 225th anniversary of Québec's parliamentary institutions

On April 4, 2017, the President of the National Assembly officially launched the festivities of the 225th

anniversary of Québec's parliamentary institutions, which commemorates the holding, in 1792, of the first general election in Québec and the birth of its parliamentary institutions. The exhibition *1792. A Parliament is Born*, which was created for the occasion, retraces the major debates of the Members of the House of Assembly of Lower Canada (1792-1841). This reform movement is still the basis of Québec's parliamentary practices today.

The original volume of comic strips *1792: à main levée* was also unveiled during a launching held at the Salon international du livre de Québec on April 5, 2017. This work, produced in collaboration with Québec cartoonists and a comic strip consultant, presents four key moments in the history of Québec democracy: the first elections of 1792, the language debate, Pierre-Stanislas Bédard's political commitment and the adoption of the 92 Resolutions.

Cancellation of an Assembly sitting

Owing to major flooding that occurred in several Québec regions, and to allow Assembly Members to be present in their ridings, the parliamentarians unanimously agreed to cancel the Assembly sitting that was to be held on May 9, 2017, as well as all committee proceedings scheduled for that day. The next day, the Assembly adopted a special order to reorganize parliamentary proceedings over the two days following the cancelled sitting. The cancellation of an Assembly sitting because of extreme weather events or natural disasters is very rare, the only other case being the sitting of March 4, 1971, which was adjourned a few minutes after the sitting opened due to a snow storm.

Rulings and directives from the Chair

On April 11, 2017, the Chair gave a ruling following a request for an urgent debate on the Jordan decision's effects on Québec's judicial system. In this case, the request for an urgent debate did concern a specific, important matter that fell under the Assembly's jurisdiction. However, this subject had been in the news for several months. While true that, for the first time in Québec, a person accused of murder obtained a stay of proceedings on the basis of the Jordan decision criteria, the possibility that the Supreme Court of Canada ruling could have such effects has existed since 2016, when the Court handed down its decision in the case. The Jordan decision was the source of the issue underlying the request for an urgent debate, since a stay of proceedings in a trial was not, within the

meaning of parliamentary law, a sudden worsening of the situation. As a result, based on the criteria established by jurisprudence, the request for an urgent debate was declared out of order.

On April 12, 2017, the Chair ruled on the receivability of the motion to divide moved within the framework of the passage in principle of Bill 122, *An Act mainly to recognize that municipalities are local governments and to increase their autonomy and powers*. Reading and analysis of the bill showed that various clusters of amendments proposed to municipal legislation could be grouped together and considered distinct principles contained within the bill. The motion proposed that the bill be divided in two. The Chair ruled that the sections included in the first bill proposed could be considered apart from the rest of Bill 122 and formed a coherent whole that could stand alone from the rest of the bill. Consequently, the motion met the receivability criteria stated in jurisprudence and was declared receivable.

Committee proceedings

From April to June inclusively, the standing committees held 128 public meetings totalling just over 485 hours of work, which included more than 221 hours set aside for the clause-by-clause consideration of public bills and over 42 hours for public hearings.

Work on bills

During this three-month period, special consultations were held on three bills, including Bill 137, *An Act respecting the Réseau électrique métropolitain*. Nine witnesses were heard and 15 briefs were received during the public hearings on this bill, whose purpose is to facilitate the construction and operation of a new shared transportation infrastructure connecting downtown Montréal, the South Shore, the West Island, the North Shore, and Montréal-Trudeau airport.

Over the same period, four private bills and 11 public bills were examined, including Bill 137, whose consideration had not been completed, after more than 26 hours, when the Assembly adjourned for the summer on June 16, 2017. The Committee on Institutions (CI) was the busiest with 79 hours set aside for the clause-by-clause consideration of bills. Among the three bills examined by the CI members, Bill 98, *An Act to amend various legislation mainly with respect to admission to professions and the governance of the professional system*, required 81 hours of work during 23 sittings. The Committee on Health and Social Services (CHSS) was the second busiest committee

with more than 48 hours spent on the consideration of two bills: Bill 99, *An Act to amend the Youth Protection Act and other provisions*, and Bill 130, *An Act to amend certain provisions regarding the clinical organization and management of health and social services institutions*. The consideration of both these bills should resume after the summer recess.

Estimates of expenditure

As every year, the nine sector-based committees were very busy during the consideration of the 2017-2018 estimates of expenditure, namely the anticipated annual expenditures of each department for which the Government asks the Assembly's approval. Following the 25-hour debate on the budget in the Assembly and in the Committee on Public Finance, as provided in the Standing Orders of the National Assembly, the estimates of expenditure of the 19 portfolios, divided into 54 components, were examined by each of the sectorial committees within their areas of competence. The Standing Orders stipulate that the consideration of the estimates of expenditure by the committees may not exceed 200 hours for 10 consecutive sitting days, which was achieved at the end of this exercise. With 34 hours of work, the Committee on Institutions clocked the most sitting hours during this period.

Among the six independent Members present at the time, four took part in the consideration of the estimates of expenditure. This resulted in an agreement on the participation of independent Members, valid only for the consideration of the 2017-2018 estimates. This agreement provided for the sharing of blocks of time during the examination of components on which these Members wished to speak.

Tabling of the report from the Committee on Public Administration

On June 14, 2017, the chair of the Committee on Public Administration (CPA), **Sylvain Gaudreault**, Member for Jonquière, tabled the Committee's 36th report. This report highlights the observations, conclusions and recommendations made by the CPA members with regard to the eight public hearings held since February 2017, hearings that concerned nine departments and public bodies as well as the Auditor General of Québec. In accordance with the Standing Orders, the CPA must hear the Auditor General every year with respect to his annual management report. In addition to these hearings, the Committee members presented their analysis of the management reports from eight departments and public bodies. The 20th anniversary of this Committee was also underlined in

the final chapter of the report, which highlights the evolution of the CPA's mandates since its inception.

Visit to Lac-Simon

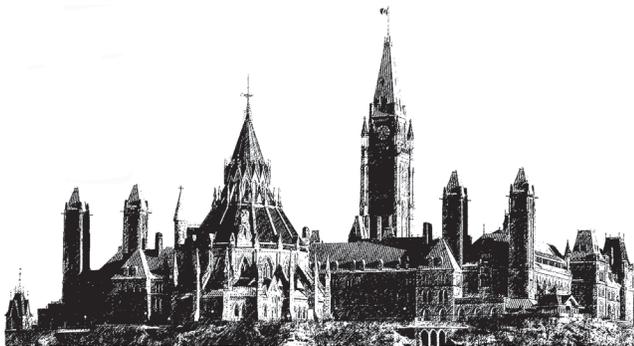
On May 17, 2017, a delegation of the Committee on Citizen Relations travelled to the Lac-Simon community, in Abitibi-Témiscamingue, within the framework of the order of initiative on aboriginal women's living conditions as affected by sexual assault and domestic violence. During this visit, the delegates, namely the chair, vice-chair and a Committee member representing each parliamentary group as well as an independent Member, had the opportunity to discuss this issue with the chief of Lac-Simon, band council members, the police chief of this community, community members as well as people working with the community. This visit allowed delegation members to better understand the environment and reality experienced by the members of this community located far from any major city and thus gather information needed to draft the final report on this mandate.

Anne-Marie Larochelle

General Directorate for Parliamentary Affairs
Sittings Service

Stéphanie Pinault-Reid

General Directorate for Parliamentary Affairs
Committees Service



House of Commons

The First Session of the Forty-Second Parliament continued through the months of April, May and June 2017, with the House adjourning for the summer break on June 21, 2017. The report below covers the months of April, May, June and July 2017.

Financial Procedures

On June 14, 2017, the final supply day in the period ending June 23, 2017, the House considered motions to concur in the Main Estimates and the Supplementary Estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2018. The House Leader of the Official Opposition, **Candice Bergen** (Portage—Lisgar), had advised the Speaker by letter before the consideration of the estimates that she was withdrawing the 242 notices of opposition she had put on notice on June 12, 2017. Accordingly, the House did not consider her notices of opposition. **Cathy McLeod** (Kamloops—Thompson—Cariboo), **Gabriel Ste-Marie** (Joliette) and **Nathan Cullen** (Skeena—Bulkley Valley) had put on notices of opposition to Vote 1, under Privy Council Office — Program expenditures, Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada — Program expenditures and Senate — Program expenditures and contributions. The House voted on the motion to concur in Vote 1, which was carried. Following this, as per the usual practice, the House adopted two supply bills for the Main and Supplementary Estimates.

A Message To My Younger Self

Mitzi Dean
MLA for Esquimalt-Metchosin (British Columbia)



Recognize and honour the history and sacrifices that came before you and be proud of building a better community through your service. Always know why you are doing what you are doing and for whom.

Exceed your own standards in everything you do. Others may be more popular, but stay true to yourself and your standards.

Listen to your instinct and voice your perspective – it is unique and valuable. Be professional, reliable and accessible, and allow yourself to be unpredictable and use new methods when you really need to.

Points of Order and Questions of Privilege

Points of Order

On May 17, 2017, **Murray Rankin** (Victoria) rose on a point of order concerning the nomination process for the Commissioner of Official Languages. Mr. Rankin argued that, as required by the *Official Languages Act*, substantive consultation was required before the appointment of the Commissioner, which he claimed, did not occur. Both Mr. Rankin and Ms. Bergen contended that the nomination process should be halted until such time as true consultations had been undertaken. On May 29, 2017, the Speaker delivered his ruling, reminding the House that the role of the Chair is strictly limited to determining procedural admissibility of the motion for the nomination of the Commissioner of Official Languages and that the Speaker cannot adjudicate on the legality of matters. As such, the Speaker indicated that he was satisfied that the procedural requirements were met.

On June 19, 2017, **John Nater** (Perth—Wellington) rose on a point of order regarding the appointment of the Clerk of the House of Commons. Mr. Nater contended that the Government's motion to appoint the new Clerk of the House of Commons should be ruled out of order since the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs had not yet studied and reported back to the House on the matter. The Speaker ruled immediately, explaining that a report from the committee is not required in order to proceed with the nomination of the Clerk, and as such, he allowed the motion of nomination to proceed.

Questions of Privilege

On April 6, 2017, following the Speaker's *prima facie* finding on a question of privilege raised by **Lisa Raitt** (Milton) regarding access to the parliamentary precinct, Ms. Raitt moved a motion to refer the matter to the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs. During the debate on the motion, **Alexandra Mendès** (Brossard—Saint-Lambert), moved a motion that the House do now proceed to Orders of the Day, which was later adopted. The adoption of this motion had the effect of having the privilege motion superseded and dropped from the Order Paper. The next day, Mr. Nater raised a question of privilege, in which he asked that the matter of privilege under debate on April 6, 2017, be revived. Mr. Nater alleged that the adoption of a motion to proceed to Orders of the Day when debating a privilege motion prevented the House from pronouncing itself on the merits

of the question of privilege raised by Ms. Raitt. On April 11, 2017, the Speaker delivered his ruling in which he determined that it was procedurally in order to revive a matter of privilege that has been superseded. Acknowledging that the situation in which the House found itself was unprecedented, he indicated that the method proposed by Mr. Nater was a procedurally acceptable manner to revive the matter of the original question of privilege, drawing a comparison to instances where Members who wish to revive a motion to concur in a committee report, can again give the required 48 hours' notice of the same motion and move it again in the House. The Speaker found a *prima facie* question of privilege and invited Mr. Nater to move the appropriate motion to refer the matter to the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs. This motion was later adopted and the matter was referred to the Committee. On June 19, 2017, the Committee presented to the House its 34th report entitled "Question of Privilege Regarding the Free Movement of Members of Parliament within the Parliamentary Precinct".

On April 11, 2017, the Speaker ruled on a question of privilege raised by Ms. Bergen on March 23, 2017, regarding an alleged intimidation by the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs, **Carolyn Bennett** (Toronto—St. Paul's) during a recorded division. The Speaker noted that a review of the events did not show any indication that Ms. Bergen had been impeded in the performance of her duties, and accordingly, the Speaker did not find that there had been a breach of privilege.

On May 18, 2017, the Speaker delivered his ruling on the question of privilege raised by **James Bezan** (Selkirk—Interlake—Eastman) concerning the alleged discrepancies in comments made by the Minister of National Defence, **Harjit Sajjan** (Vancouver South), in the House concerning the tax credits for members of the Canadian Armed Forces stationed in Kuwait and Iraq on Operation Impact. The Speaker indicated that while Mr. Bezan may be in disagreement with the statements made by the Minister of National Defence, there was no evidence presented that would suggest that the three necessary conditions for finding that a Member misled the House existed in this case. Accordingly, the Speaker concluded that no *prima facie* case of privilege exists in this case.

On May 4, 2017, **Luc Thériault** (Montcalm) rose on a question of privilege regarding the right to freedom of speech for Members from unrecognized parties. Mr. Thériault argued that the rights of independent

Members had been violated as a result of the government's approach to proposed parliamentary reforms. Mr. Thériault pointed to several factors, namely the government's intention to increase the use of time allocation, that independent Members were made aware of the government's intentions later than other parties, and that independent Members of Parliament are not able to sit as permanent members on the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs. The Speaker ruled on the matter on June 6, 2017, explaining that the Chair has no authority to judge the adequacy of time limits agreed upon by the House, nor decide when and if an issue has received sufficient debate. The Speaker stated that ultimately, the Standing Orders can be amended only by way of a decision of the House. The Speaker concluded by indicating that he had not found a *prima facie* question of privilege.

On May 10, 2017, Mr. Rankin rose on a question of privilege alleging that a breach of privilege had occurred due to the government's decision to advertise the appointment process for the board of directors of the new Canada Infrastructure Bank, before Parliament passed the enabling legislation. Mr. Rankin contended that the government was undermining Parliament's authority by advertising for positions that had not yet been formally created. On May 12, 2017, **Kevin Lamoureux** (Winnipeg North) provided comments, drawing to the attention of Members the news release published on Infrastructure Canada's website on May 8, 2017, where it indicated that the selection processes were subject to Parliamentary approval. On May 29, 2017, the Speaker presented his ruling and concluded that, in applying the strict procedural confines of contempt, he found that the matter raised did not constitute a *prima facie* contempt of the House, and accordingly, no *prima facie* case existed given that there was no evidence that members were obstructed in the fulfillment of their parliamentary duties nor that the House was obstructed in its legislative authority.

On May 17, 2017, **Kelly Block** (Carlton Trail—Eagle Creek) raised a question of privilege concerning the alleged leak and premature disclosure of the contents of Bill C-49, *An Act to amend the Canada Transportation Act and other Acts respecting transportation and to make related and consequential amendments to other Acts*. Ms. Block stated that confidential information from the bill was provided to journalists before the tabling of the bill in the House on May 16, 2017. Ms. Block referenced news reports from May 15, 2017, which, in her view, indicated that journalists were granted access to parts of the bill before parliamentarians.

She argued that the details contained in the media coverage demonstrate that a leak had occurred and that the government had thus breached the privileges of the House. On May 31, 2017, Mr. Lamoureux argued that while extensive consultations were held prior to the finalization of the bill, the government took great care in ensuring that the details of Bill C-49, *An Act to amend the Canada Transportation Act and other Acts respecting transportation and to make related and consequential amendments to other Acts*, were not prematurely divulged prior to its introduction. The Speaker gave his ruling on June 8, 2017, noting that there was no acknowledgement that the government had prematurely disclosed the contents of the bill and that the government assured the House that it did not share the bill with the media before it was introduced. The Speaker concluded by indicating that there was an absence of evidence that Members had been impeded in the conduct of their parliamentary functions and that he could not find that a *prima facie* case of privilege existed.

On June 2, 2017, **Monique Pauzé** (Repentigny) raised a question of privilege concerning an amendment moved in committee in relation to Bill C-44, *An Act to implement certain provisions of the budget tabled in Parliament on March 22, 2017, and other measures*. Ms. Pauzé argued that the Chair of the Standing Committee on Finance wrongly ruled that her amendment was inadmissible, stating that it required a royal recommendation and, having given notice of the same amendment at report stage, was asking the Speaker to select it at this stage. On June 5, 2017, the Speaker delivered his ruling in which he upheld the view that a royal recommendation was required for her proposed amendment. Responding to Ms. Pauzé's argument that her status as a Member from an unrecognized party prevented her from appealing the decision of the chair in committee, the Speaker indicated that while she may not have been able to participate in precisely the same way as other Members, the process did afford her the ability to participate. The Speaker indicated that Ms. Pauzé was granted the opportunity at report stage to present her arguments as to why her amendment should have been admissible. In conclusion, the Speaker stated that that he could not find that Ms. Pauzé had been impeded in the performance of her duties and that therefore no *prima facie* case existed.

On June 8, 2017, **Robert-Falcon Ouellette** (Winnipeg Centre) raised a question of privilege on the right of Members to use indigenous languages in proceedings in the House of Commons. Mr. Ouellette stated that

his privileges had been violated when simultaneous translation was not provided for a statement he made on May 4, 2017, in Nehiyó, the Cree language. He argued that the lack of simultaneous translation effectively silenced him and asked for resources to be allocated to allow for translation of indigenous languages. In a decision delivered on June 20, 2017, the Speaker stated that given the House's current limited technical and physical capacity for interpretation, Members wishing to ensure that their comments made in a language other than French or English are understood are encouraged to repeat their comments in one of the two official languages so that the interpreters are able to provide the appropriate interpretation. The Speaker noted that the decision to change the current system in terms of interpretation services ultimately belongs to the House itself. The Speaker concluded by saying that while the current offering of interpretation may not be seen as ideal to some Members, he could not find that Mr. Ouellette had been prevented from conducting his parliamentary functions, and therefore could not find that a *prima facie* case of privilege existed in that instance. He also noted that Members could raise the issue with the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs.

Committees

The filibuster that began in March 2017 in the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs, as a result of a government proposal to study proposed reforms to modernize the Standing Orders of the House of Commons, continued during the month of April. Debate continued for numerous days during which the meeting was suspended overnight, during weekends and during constituency weeks, but not formally adjourned. On April 30, 2017, in a letter sent to the House leaders of the opposition parties, Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, **Bardish Chagger** (Waterloo), announced that the government would abandon certain proposals towards this modernization, but would move forward with proposals related to omnibus bills, the role of ministers and parliamentary secretaries on committees, prorogation, the financial cycle, as well as a Prime Minister's Question Period. Soon after Ms. Chagger's letter was sent, on May 2, 2017, the meeting of the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs was adjourned, putting an end to the filibuster.

Other Matters

Changes to the Standing Orders

On June 19, 2017, the Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Ms. Chagger, moved a motion concerning proposed changes to the Standing Orders. The changes included changes to prorogation, omnibus bills, the financial cycle and the roles played by parliamentary secretaries in committees. The motion was adopted by the House on June 20, 2017, by a vote of 168 to 128, with the changes coming into force on September 18, 2017. These changes will be permanent, with the exception of the changes to the Financial Cycle, which will only stay in effect for the duration of the current Parliament.

Address to Parliament

On April 12, 2017, **Malala Yousafzai**, a Nobel Peace Prize winner, co-founder of the Malala Fund and a girls' education activist, delivered an Address to Parliament in the House of Commons. Ms. Yousafzai was welcomed by Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau** (Papineau) and thanked by the Speakers of both Houses. Ms. Yousafzai is the youngest person to ever address Parliament and the sixth person to receive honorary Canadian citizenship.



A Message To My Younger Self

Ginette Grandmont
Former MNA for Masson
(Quebec)

A surprise awaited me at the end of two very busy careers and after I had raised my family: to my great surprise, I was elected to the National Assembly in 2007. It was a wonderful experience, but ended too quickly.

If I had known when I was younger that political life would be so rewarding, I would have gone into it much sooner.

If you're an ambitious young woman, don't hesitate to jump into politics. It is rewarding and demanding, but it is worth the effort.

Members

On May 3, 2017, the Speaker informed the House that the Acting Clerk had received from the Chief Electoral Officer certificates of the election of five new Members. **Bob Benzen** (Calgary Heritage), **Mona Fortier** (Ottawa—Vanier), **Stephanie Kusie** (Calgary Midnapore), **Emmanuella Lambropoulos** (Saint-Laurent) and **Mary Ng** (Markham—Thornhill) were introduced and took their respective seats in the House.

On May 16, 2017, Ms. Bergen, Prime Minister Trudeau, the Leader of the New Democratic Party, **Thomas Mulcair** (Outremont), **Xavier Barsalou-Duval** (Pierre-Boucher—Les Patriotes—Verchères) and **Elizabeth May** (Saanich—Gulf Islands, GP), made statements in tribute to the Interim Leader of the Official Opposition, **Rona Ambrose** (Sturgeon River—Parkland, CPC). Ms. Ambrose, who had recently announced her plan to resign as a Member of Parliament, made a farewell speech.

Denis Lebel (Lac-Saint-Jean) announced his departure from federal politics with a speech in the House on June 20, 2017. The Leader of the Official Opposition, **Andrew Scheer** (Regina—Qu'Appelle), the Government Whip, **Pablo Rodriguez** (Honoré-Mercier), **Marjolaine Boutin-Sweet** (Hochelaga), Mr. Barsalou-Duval, Ms. May and the Speaker also made statements to pay tribute to Mr. Lebel.

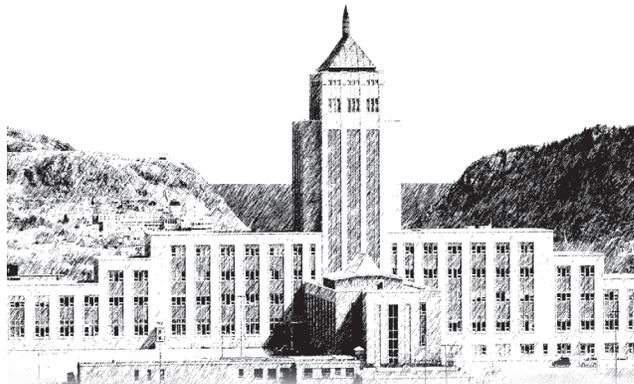
New Clerk of the House of Commons

On June 20, 2017, the House adopted a motion designating **Charles Robert** as Clerk of the House of Commons. Mr. Robert previously served as Interim Clerk of the Senate and Clerk of the Parliaments since March 2015. His career on Parliament Hill began more than 35 years ago, with service at the Library of Parliament and House of Commons before he joined the Senate in 1991. He replaces **Marc Bosc**, Acting Clerk of the House since 2014.

Moment of Silence

On June 5, 2017, the House observed a moment of silence in memory of the victims of the attack in London and to commemorate **Christine Archibald**, from Castlegar, British Columbia.

Marisa Monnin
Table Research Branch



Newfoundland and Labrador

The House reconvened following the Easter break on May 1.

During the Spring sitting the House passed nine Bills in addition to the Supply Bill. There were two amendments to the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act* passed; one gave effect to the recommendations of the Members' Compensation Review Committee which had been approved by the Commission and the other made provision for the temporary appointment of Officers of the House by the Speaker upon recommendation of the Management Commission in certain circumstances.

On May 29, the Speaker ruled that a *prima facie* case of privilege had been established with respect to a Member tweeting and re-tweeting a video of unparliamentary language which he had been asked to withdraw from the House. The matter was referred the Privileges and Elections Committee which will report when the House re-convenes.

On September 6, 2017, the Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador struck down as unconstitutional the special ballot provisions of the *Elections Act, 1991* which provide for voting prior to the close of nominations.

The House is scheduled to meet for the fall sitting on November 6.

The House adjourned on May 30 *sine die*.

Elizabeth Murphy
Clerk Assistant

Trailblazer: Canada's First Female Clerk

Newfoundland and Labrador was the last province to enter Confederation, but it boasts an important Canadian first – Bettie Duff, who served as Clerk of the House of Assembly of Newfoundland and Labrador from 1977-1991 was the first woman to hold this position in the country. In this special edition of the Canadian Parliamentary Review celebrating 100 years of Canadian women parliamentarians, it is fitting that we are also able to honour one of the trailblazing women working within parliamentary institutions that support parliamentarians' ability to fulfill democratic responsibilities.

Andrea Hyde

Newfoundland and Labrador's House of Assembly has the honour and distinction of having the first female Clerk of any legislature or parliament across Canada.

Bettie Duff became the Clerk of the House of Assembly in 1977, and held that position until her retirement in 1991. During her tenure, she worked with four Premiers and five Speakers, and experienced four General Elections.

As Clerk of the House of Assembly, Duff was well-respected by all parties, and much-admired for her graciousness and warm sense of humour. Her ability to mentor those around her created an atmosphere of growth and supportiveness, and her guidance was valued highly by her colleagues.

When asked about her work, she replied that the job of the Clerk was "challenging, and different from anything that I ever did before. I'm really enjoying it." (*Daily News*, November 21, 1981)

Her career previous to becoming Clerk of the House was equally as interesting. She was Private Secretary to Premier Joey Smallwood for 23 years, and then held executive assistant positions within government as well as in the House of Assembly with Speaker Gerald Ottenheimer before becoming Clerk.

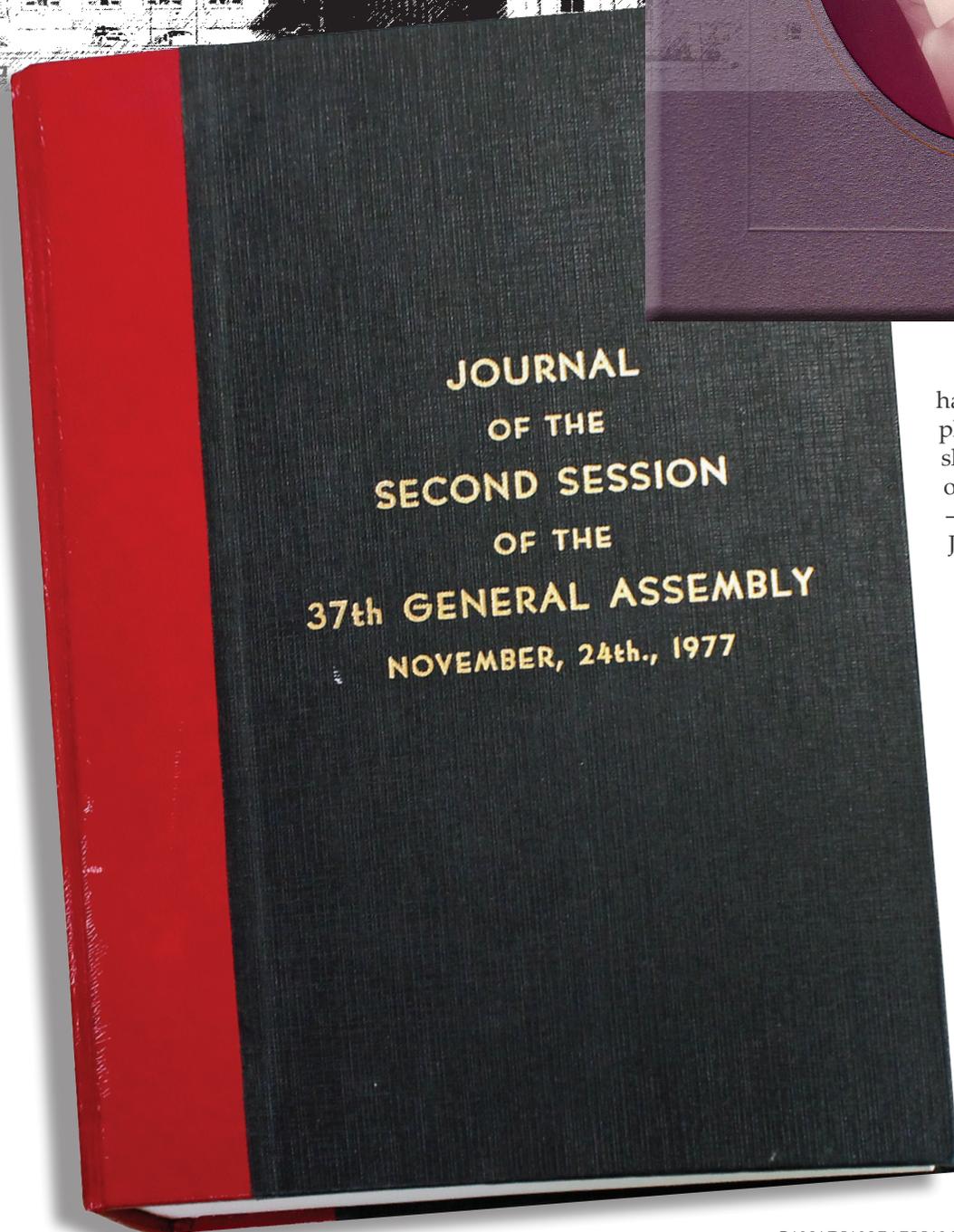
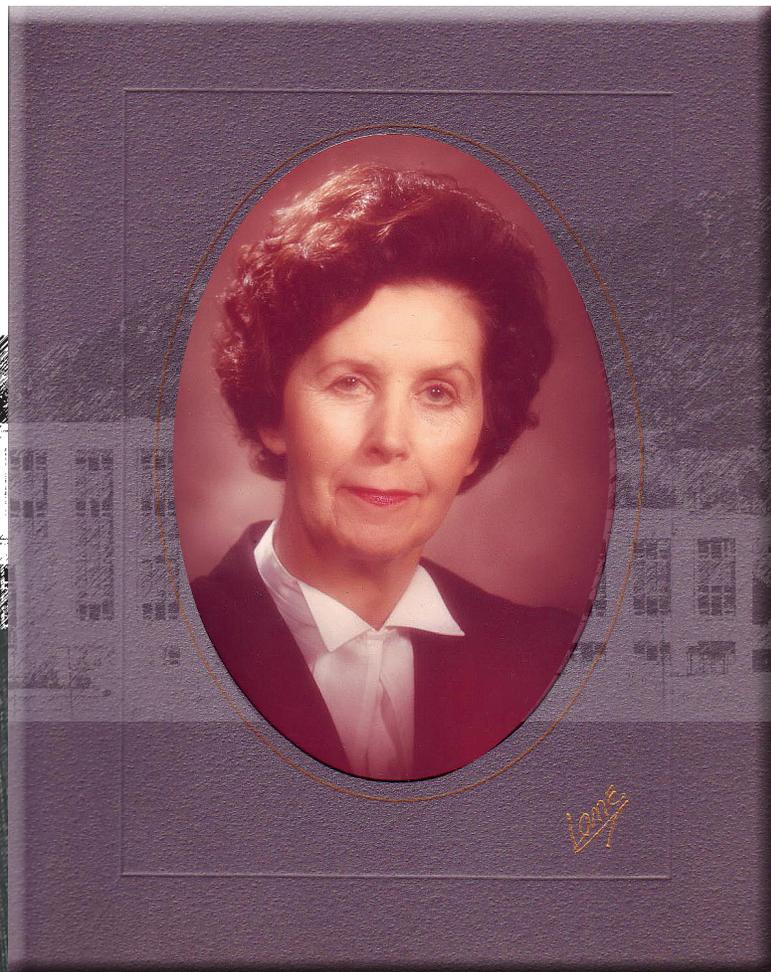
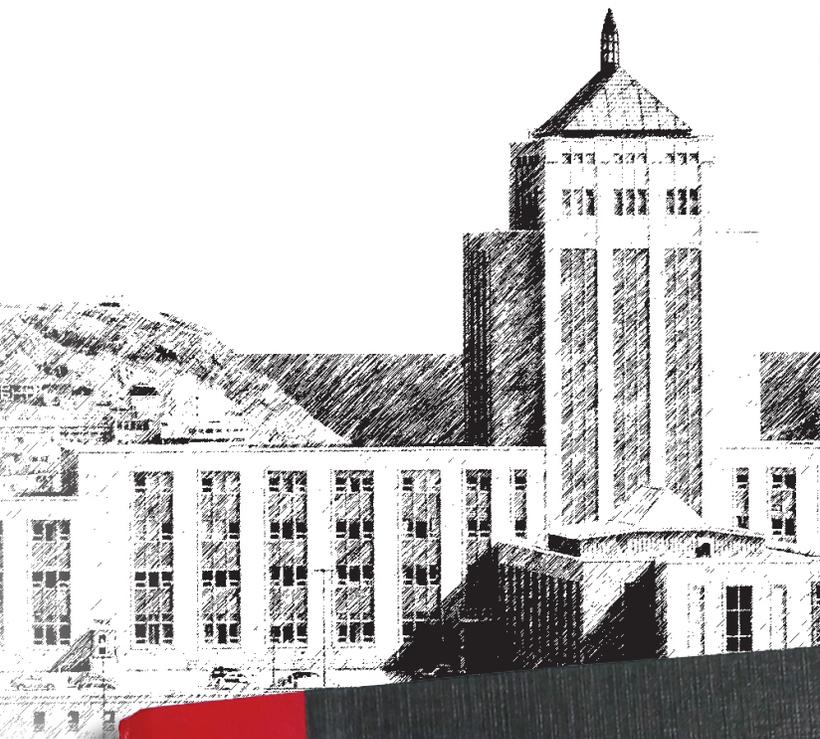
When asked about Duff, Smallwood stated that he had only the utmost respect for her after "23 years of absolutely magnificent work and dependability," and that "she was privy to more government secrets than [almost] anyone else" (*Daily News*, November 21, 1981). Ottenheimer also spoke highly of her, stating that she was "extremely intelligent and loyal, with a good sense of responsibility and a good sense of humour" (*Daily News*, 21 November 1981).

Upon her retirement in 1991, Premier Clyde Wells paid tribute, noting that "[Bettie] has served the entire House, both sides and the middle, quite well" as he "acknowledged her tremendous record of service" (*Hansard*, November 25, 1991).

MR. SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HONOURABLE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY:
I thank you for the large measure of supply you have granted. I assure you that the appropriation that you have granted will be expended by my Ministers with care and efficiency.
It is my pleasure that the Second Session of this thirty-Seventh General Assembly now be prorogued.

Andrea Hyde is an Information Specialist - Client Services at the Newfoundland and Labrador House of Assembly's Legislative Library.


ELIZABETH M. DUFF
Clerk of the House of Assembly



In her personal life, Duff had a lifelong interest in photography and travel, and she was a dedicated member of her local Catholic Church – St. Theresa’s Parish in St. John’s.

Bettie Duff passed away on August 28, 2016 – her 90th birthday. She spent her final day attending church, and celebrating with family and friends.

Photo credits:
Collection of the House of Assembly and Erica Yetman

“The purpose of a woman’s life is just the same as the purpose of a man’s life: that she may make the best possible contribution to the generation in which she is living.”

— Louise McKinney