

# Customized *Parliamentary Training*

Workshops & Short Courses



## Customized Workshops & Short Courses for Parliaments

Parliaments, like all government institutions, are considering their readiness for critical events, such as the recent pandemic. As part of that strategic thinking, *McGill University* can provide knowledge sharing and training for mid- to senior level staff to support their efforts in developing a parliament that has the capacity, legal framework and skills to define the institution in the post-pandemic government structure.



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## Workshops & Short Courses



Non-Credit

For



Members of  
Parliament

and/or



Parliamentary  
Staff



In-Class

or



Online

These are some of the topics that can be developed as customized short workshops or comprehensive courses for MPs and/or parliamentary staff. The topics are illustrative and can be combined or developed further to meet your parliament's needs. Courses and workshops can be held in-house at your parliaments' offices, at **McGill University** in Montreal, or delivered online.

### Topics

- **Assessing Parliamentary Performance (Benchmarking):** Using CPA's "Recommended Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures", this activity examines the motivation for parliamentary strengthening and demonstrates how parliamentary performance/impact can be measured.
- **Codes of Conduct and Parliamentary Ethics Regimes:** This activity considers the differences between codes of conduct and codes of ethics and the key features of a parliamentary ethics regime. It can be designed for Members, or for staff.
- **Committees:** Establishing committees as the focal point for the detailed and inclusive work of a parliament. This activity examines how to establish a committee system with the capacity to scrutinize draft laws, conduct oversight while ensuring public input as part of their work, and how to develop effective Terms of Reference & run an inquiry.
- **Constitutional Reform:** This activity considers parliaments' role in developing an inclusive dialogue mechanism for constitutional change; building the capacity for a parliament to engage effectively in a constitutional reform process through an evidence-based approach.
- **Institutional Reform:** This activity focuses on building policy frameworks and systems that make parliaments more open, effective and participatory. Consideration is given to how a parliament builds resilient systems that work in their particular context, in a post COVID-19 world.
- **Law-Making:** This activity looks at how a parliament can develop and approve high-quality laws in an inclusive and participative manner. It reviews new evidence-based tools to promote law-making.
- **Legal Drafting:** This activity considers how to develop parliamentary capacity to produce high quality draft legislation and amendments, in an inclusive and participative manner.
- **Oversight of Extractive Industries:** Extractive industries are among some of the most corrupt industries in the world. This activity examines how parliaments can better oversee mining and oil & gas development, and the government revenues arriving therefrom.



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- **Political Party Assistance:** The role of political parties and their parliamentary groups play in ensuring a parliament is able to function effectively, including managing committee work, setting parliamentary agendas, and political dialogue.
- **Policy Making:** This activity considers what is meant by 'policy-analysis' and why it is important. It shows how alternative solutions to given problems can be developed and assessed.
- **Parliamentary Communications:** The role of the institution in developing an overarching communications strategy. It contains practical examples of how to make parliaments newsworthy and guidance to MPs on how to be an effective communicator.
- **Parliament & the Budget Process:** This activity examines the context of the budget as well as all stages of the budget cycle – from strategy and preparation to audit. A particular focus is the critical role of the legislature and how budgetary arrangements in parliament can impact the objectives of aggregate fiscal discipline, allocative efficiency and operational efficiency.
- **Parliamentary Human Resources:** This activity will provide a framework of best practices to assist parliament in developing basic professional HR skills and expertise at the operational level in building a workforce that is productive, effective and sustainable.
- **Parliamentary Oversight:** One of the core functions of parliament, this activity examines both *ex-ante* and *ex-post* oversight and highlights international 'good practice' and the determination of 'best fit' to a particular parliament's unique context.
- **Parliamentary Rights, Privileges and Immunities:** This activity will explain how the sum of the privileges, immunities and powers enjoyed by parliament collectively and by each member individually, plays an important role in parliamentary democracy, enabling parliament to function without undue impediment, obstruction and fear of prosecution.
- **Parliamentary Leadership:** An examination of leadership traits and values, applied to a parliamentary context. This activity can be tailored for MPs or senior parliamentary staff.
- **Parliamentary Legal Counsel:** This activity examines parliamentary procedures for Legal Counsel. It includes a review of the separation of powers from a legal perspective, having laws declared unconstitutional, and preventative measures that can help reduce litigation.
- **Parliamentary Research:** This activity aims to assist Parliament to institutionalize and build the capacity of the Secretariat to meet the information, policy and budget analysis needs of the Members in fulfilling their constitutional obligations.
- **Parliamentary Rules (i.e. Standing Orders):** Examination of international good practice regarding parliamentary rules of procedure and practice as an essential guiding framework for the effective transaction of public business in an orderly manner. Attention will be paid to COVID-19 induced changes.



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- **Parliament Strengthening:** Models of change, understanding the politics of parliamentary strengthening (including incentives and disincentives of different parliamentary actors), developing strategies and building coalitions for change. Participants outline and present a political strategy for specific reform(s) in their parliament. The new challenges – and opportunities – for parliaments in a post-Pandemic world will be considered.
- **Public Engagement:** This activity considers systems to promote public education on the work and role of parliament, highlighting case studies of jurisdictions that use both traditional and new tools to enable public input.
- **Regional/Cross Border Parliamentary Collaboration:** A general introduction to international regional and cross border cooperation, focussing on frameworks and strategies, institution building, and implementation and parliamentary scrutiny.
- **Representation in Parliaments:** This activity focuses on what ‘representation’ is, how it has changed over the decades, the ways to interact effectively with citizens, and how to conduct public meetings.
- **Role of Parliament in Curbing Corruption:** The ‘abuse of public office for private gain’ costs the world more than \$2 trillion. Parliaments play a critical role in holding government officials to account.
- **Strategic Planning:** This activity focuses on how a coordinated approach to a multi-year planning cycle plays a pivotal role in meeting the heightened public expectations for stronger democratic structures and operating systems. It includes case studies of how parliaments have approached strategic planning and the added-value in so doing.

## Our Faculty and Resource Persons

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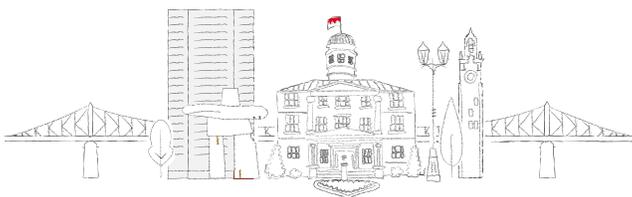
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