

WSSR

WORKSHOPS ON SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

The Parliamentary Process: Looking Back at the Last 150 Years

Honourable Don Boudria

Former Government House Leader

February 3, 2017

9:00am – 4:30pm

Purpose: The purpose of this workshop is to introduce students to parliamentary processes and procedures and familiarize them with Parliament's roles and responsibilities.

I. The Westminster Parliamentary System in Canada

- a. The House of Commons: "Rep by Pop"
- b. Functions of Parliament
- c. The Chamber
- d. Parliamentarians on the Hill and their districts
- e. The Cabinet and the decision-making process
- f. The financial cycle of the Government
- g. The legislative process and legislative development
- h. The Prime Minister's Office: first amongst equals?
- i. The role of the Public Service
- j. Policy development
- k. Decision-making
- l. The Senate
- m. Political overview

2. Parliamentary Committees: their role and function

3. Party discipline

- a. Do MPs need more freedom from their Party Whips?

4. Electoral Process

5. Concluding considerations

- a. Is Parliament broken?
- b. What is its future?

Required Readings

Forsey, Senator Eugene A. How Canadians Govern Themselves. © The Majesty her Queen in Right of Canada, 1980. <http://www.lop.parl.gc.ca/About/Parliament/senatoreugeneforsey/book/preface-e.html>

