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WORKSHOPS ON SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

Parliamentary Reform: Do we need it?

What would it look like?

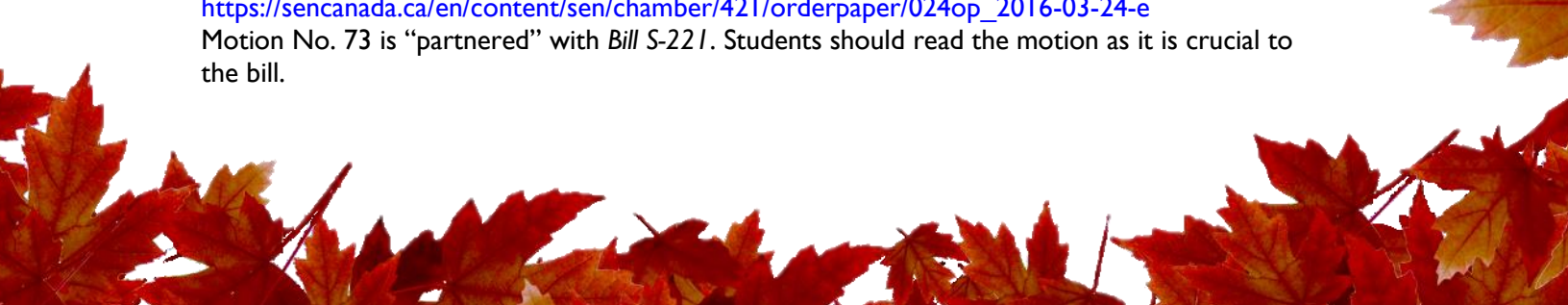
Honourable Joan Fraser

Chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and the Rights of Parliament

March 3, 2017

9:00am – 4:30pm

Required Readings

- Ajzenstat, Janet, “Bicameralism and Canada’s Founders”, in Joyal, ed., *Protecting Canadian Democracy: The Senate You Never Knew*, McGill-Queen’s University Press, Montreal and Kingston, 2003
http://encore.concordia.ca/iii/encore/record/C__Rb2352269?lang=eng
 - Reference re Senate Reform (2014): The Supreme Court Clarifies the Senate Reform Process.
<http://ualawccsprod.srv.ualberta.ca/ccs/index.php/constitutional-issues/federalism/767-reference-re-senate-reform-2014-the-supreme-court-clarifies-the-senate-reform-process>
 - First Report of the Special Committee on Senate Modernization: *Senate Modernization: Moving Forward* (https://sencanada.ca/content/sen/committee/421/MDRN/Reports/MDRN_FINAL_FirstReport_webversion_e.pdf)
The “Report of the Special Senate Committee on Senate Modernization - Part I” was presented in the Senate in October 2016. From the above link, read the First Report’s *Executive Summary* - page iii to iv. Read also the First Report’s 21 *Recommendations* on pages xiii to xix.
 - *Bill S-221 An Act to amend the Constitution Act, 1867 (Property qualifications of Senators)*
<http://www.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?Language=E&Mode=I&DocId=8148767>. This bill, introduced by Senator Dennis Glen Patterson (<https://sencanada.ca/en/senators/patterson-dennis-glen/>) in March 2016, amends the *Constitution Act, 1867* to eliminate the requirement that Senators have a personal net worth of at least four thousand dollars and to eliminate the real property requirement for Senators representing a province other than Quebec. It is currently at Second Reading stage in the Senate.
 - Senator Fraser’s reply speech as *Critic* to *Bill S-221* can be found at these two links: 2016-10-26 (http://www.parl.gc.ca/Content/Sen/Chamber/421/Debates/066db_2016-10-26-e.htm?Language=E) and 2016-10-27 (http://www.parl.gc.ca/Content/Sen/Chamber/421/Debates/067db_2016-10-27-e.htm?Language=E).
 - Motion No. 73 by the Honourable Senator Patterson: *Senate Order Paper*, March 24, 2016
https://sencanada.ca/en/content/sen/chamber/421/orderpaper/024op_2016-03-24-e
Motion No. 73 is “partnered” with *Bill S-221*. Students should read the motion as it is crucial to the bill.
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- **Bill C-586** *An Act to amend the Canada Elections Act and the Parliament of Canada Act (candidacy and caucus reforms)* Short Title: Reform Act, 2014 Sponsor: **Michael Chong (Wellington—Halton Hills)** (<http://www.parl.gc.ca/parliamentarians/en/members/profiledirect?affiliationId=170497>) received Royal Assent on June 23, 2015.
 - Latest Publication (<http://www.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?Language=E&Mode=I&DocId=8058690>) and Legislative Summary (http://www.parl.gc.ca/About/Parliament/LegislativeSummaries/bills_ls.asp?source=library_prb&ls=C586&Parl=41&Ses=2&Language=E&Mode=I) of **Bill C-586**
 - Major Speeches at Second Reading (<http://www.parl.gc.ca/LegisInfo/BillDetails.aspx?Language=E&Mode=I&billId=6507421&View=4>) of **Bill C-586** (House of Commons and Senate Sponsor and Response speeches)

Recommended Readings:

- Supreme Court of Canada, *Reference re-Senate Reform* (2014): Reference re Senate Reform - SCC Cases (Lexum) <http://scc-csc.lexum.com/scc-csc/scc-csc/en/item/13614/index.do>
- *Canada's Founding Debates*, Ajzenstat, Romney, Gairdner, eds., University of Toronto Press, Toronto, 2003 http://encore.concordia.ca/iii/encore/record/C__Rb2352269?lang=eng
- Library of Parliament Legislative Summary of *Bill C-7: An Act respecting the selection of senators and amending the Constitution Act, 1867 in respect of Senate term limits*
- http://www.parl.gc.ca/About/Parliament/LegislativeSummaries/bills_ls.asp?source=library_prb&ls=C7&Parl=41&Ses=1&Language=E&Mode=I
- *Bill C-7 An Act respecting the selection of Senators and amending the Constitution Act, 1867 in respect of Senate term limits* (2011) (Bill Short Title: *Senate Reform Act*; Sponsor: Minister of State (Democratic Reform) <http://www.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?Language=E&Mode=I&DocId=5101177>

Additional Recommended Readings:

- Reforming the Senate of Canada: Frequently Asked Questions. (http://library.parl.gc.ca/sites/lopi/default/en_CA/ResearchResources/ResearchPublications/CurrentPublications/GovernmentParliamentPolitics?subpage=/Content/LOP/ResearchPublications/2011-83-e.htm) Andre Barnes, Michel Bédard, Caroline Hyslop, Sebastian Spano, Jean-Rodrigue Paré and James Robertson. Library of Parliament, Septembre, 2011. This easy-to-navigate document allows browsing by question topic. It is a helpful review of the Canadian Parliamentary system

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- **Articles on the functioning of the Canadian Parliament:** These “primers” are provided for students who might find them helpful as a refresher of the Canadian Parliamentary system.
- Our Country, Our Parliament: An Introduction to how Parliament Works. (http://lop.parl.gc.ca/About/Parliament/Education/OurCountryOurParliament/html_booklet/canada-road-democracy-e.html) Library of Parliament, 2009.
- How Canadians Govern Themselves. (<http://lop.parl.gc.ca/about/parliament/senatoreugeneforseys/book/preface-e.html>) Eugene A. Forsey, 1980.
- Understanding Parliament Series. (<http://www.lop.parl.gc.ca/content/lop/ResearchPublications/UnderstandingParliament-e.htm>) Library of Parliament.

Items available* at <https://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/>

*If you are registered for non-credit and are unable to locate the readings, please contact us at wssr@concordia.ca