

WSSR WORKSHOPS ON SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

Electoral Politics during a Minority Government: The Case of BC

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April 13th, 2018

9:00am – 4:30pm

Purpose: The purpose of this workshop is to introduce students (through the lens of preparing for a provincial election) to election policy and administration as well as the unique scenarios an election agency must be prepared for when faced with a minority government. (Note all readings* listed are required)

1. Introduction to election administration

- a. Roles and responsibilities
- b. The business model of voting – is the model broken?
- c. Voting modernization

Richard D. Balasko (2015) “The Nature and Functions of Electoral Management Bodies” in The Informed Citizens’ Guide to Elections: Electioneering Based on the Rule of Law, Special issue, *Journal of Parliamentary and Political Law*, Toronto: Carswell, pp. 65-78. <http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?1441D26F>

Harry Neufeld (2015) “Changing the Canadian Voting Services Model” in The Informed Citizens’ Guide to Elections: Electioneering Based on the Rule of Law, Special issue, *Journal of Parliamentary and Political Law*, Toronto: Carswell, pp. 79-91. <http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?1441D2DF>

2. Voter registration, turnout, apathy and outreach

- a. Why is a voters list important?
- b. Whose job is it to bring out the vote?
- c. Does low turnout matter?
- d. Voter engagement strategies
- e. Are we ready for internet voting?

Keith Archer (2015) “Removing Barriers to Voter Participation: The Role of Election Management Bodies in Citizen Engagement” in The Informed Citizens’ Guide to Elections: Electioneering Based on the Rule of Law, Special issue, *Journal of Parliamentary and Political Law*, Toronto: Carswell, pp. 135-144.

<http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?1441D332>

British Columbia Independent Panel on Internet Voting (2014) *Recommendations Report to the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia*, February, available at: <http://www.internetvotingpanel.ca/>

3. Electoral finance

- a. Disclosure, contributions and expenditures



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4. Electoral realities during minority governments

- a. The case of BC: what happened on May 9, 2017?
- b. Government instability and the threat of election
- c. Elections BC – readiness for all scenarios

Justine Hunter (2017) “BC Liberals denied majority as final election count leaves government in danger”, *The Globe and Mail*, May 24, <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/british-columbia/bc-liberals-denied-majority-as-final-election-count-leaves-government-in-danger/article35108536/>

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

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