

WSSR WORKSHOPS ON SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

A New Approach to Canadian and Conservative Politics

Honourable Michael Chong

Member of Parliament and Former Cabinet Member

November 24th, 2017

9:00am – 4:30pm

Workshop Outline and Reading List

TIME	TOPIC	READING LIST (*Required Readings)
9:00 AM	The State of Democracy in Canada <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Where is power in our democratic system - What is the nature of that power? - How is representation failing? 	The Real Outsiders, The Samara Institute http://www.samaracanada.com/research/current-research/the-real-outsiders Lost in Translation, The Samara Institute http://www.samaracanada.com/research/current-research/lost-in-translation *Globe and Mail, “Conservative MPs break ranks more often than opposition” Bill Curry and Stuart A. Thompson http://goo.gl/BemMw *The Public Whip http://www.publicwhip.org.uk/
9:45 AM	Discussion	
10:30 AM	BREAK	
10:45 AM	Reform of Our Democracy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Three Ways to Think About Reform - Alternative Voting Systems - Lessons Learned From Failed Attempts at Reform 	Citizens’ Assembly on Electoral Reform http://www.citizensassembly.gov.on.ca/ Ontario rejects electoral reform in referendum, CBC News http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ontario-rejects-electoral-reform-in-referendum-1.632735 2015 Liberal Party Platform, Page 26-28 https://www.liberal.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/New-plan-for-a-strong-middle-class.pdf
11:30 AM	Discussion	
12:00 PM	LUNCH	

1:00 PM	Reform Act, 2014 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is it? - How has it changed things in Ottawa? - Critiques of the Reform Act 	Bill C-586 http://www.parl.ca/Content/Bills/412/Private/C-586/C-586_4/C-586_4.PDF *Bill C-586 Backgrounder http://www.macleans.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Reform-Act-2014-Backgrounder.pdf OP-EDs:
1:45 PM	Discussion	National Post, "The Reform Act's legislation of political parties more than justified" Andrew Coyne http://nationalpost.com/opinion/andrew-coyne-the-reform-acts-legislation-of-political-parties-more-than-justified Ottawa Citizen, "Healthy political systems require checks on power" Stewart Prest https://democracy.arts.ubc.ca/2014/01/23/stewart-prest-op-ed-healthy-political-systems-require-checks-on-power/ *Ottawa Citizen, "Liberals, NDP delay vote on much-debated caucus reforms" Lee Berthiaume http://ottawacitizen.com/news/politics/liberals-ndp-delay-vote-on-much-debated-caucus-reforms
2:30 PM	BREAK	
2:45 PM	Further Reforms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - So many possibilities for reform - One possible area for reform: House of Commons Standing Committees 	House of Commons Procedure and Practice, The Legislative Process (http://goo.gl/EdDzlC) House of Commons Procedure and Practice, Private Members' Business (http://goo.gl/IV4Av4) *Turning Parliament Inside Out: Practical Ideas for Reforming Canada's Democracy, (Chapter 4, Rebalancing Power in Ottawa: Committee Reform) by Michael Chong (Editor), Scott Sims (Editor), Stewart Kennedy (Editor) http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14EF0255
3:45 PM	Discussion	Turning Parliament Inside Out: Practical Ideas for Reforming Canada's Democracy, (Introduction, Rebalancing Power in Ottawa: Committee Reform) by Michael Chong (Editor), Scott Sims (Editor), Stewart Kennedy (Editor) http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14EF0254
4:30 PM	FINISH	

NOTE: If you are registered as a non-credit participant and require access to the readings that are on course reserve, please email us at wssr@concordia.ca