

WSSR

WORKSHOPS ON SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

Directing the Agenda of the House of Commons: What's involved?

Honourable Peter Van Loan.

Member of Parliament, York-Simcoe and Former Leader of the
Government in the House of Commons

May 12, 2017

9:00am – 4:30pm

Workshop Summary

As a key component to our parliamentary democracy here in Canada, the House of Commons plays a crucial role in producing policies that shape society. Mr. Van Loan has served in countless roles both within cabinet and outside and from this experience, he brings to this series a clear and systematic view of the goings-on of our parliament today. In his presentation, Van Loan will explore the rules of parliament and the ways in which members of parliament can contribute to debates and decisions on policy. He will present his experience in directing the agenda of the House of Commons and the challenges that it faces every day. He will also put forward his ideas about how democracy in Canada may be improved, at least from inside this great House.

Suggested Readings

- "The insider's guide to Westminster": <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2015/may/14/insiders-guide-westminster-portcullis-house-burma-road>
 - "Opening Up the Usual Channels": https://assets.contentful.com/u1rlvbs33ri/2Mu6RhKzd6OoQEm4g6aoig/43dbd3e6ec92749a367a001354b193c6/Publication__Opening-up-the-Usual-Channels-2002.pdf
 - "The Curtailment of Debate in the House of Commons": http://www.revparl.ca/36/1/36n1_13e_Plante.pdf
 - "Omnibus Bills in Theory and Practice": http://www.revparl.ca/36/1/36n1_13e_Massicotte.pdf
 - "Private Members' Bills in recent Minority and Majority Parliaments": http://www.revparl.ca/34/3/34n3_11e_Sotiropoulos.pdf
 - Marc Bosc short paper to the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments on the Canadian experience: <http://www.asgp.co/node/30375>
 - A Question of Accountability: Is Question Period in Canada working? By Andrea Ulrich, University of Regina <http://www.queensu.ca/sps/qpr/sites/webpublish.queensu.ca.qprwww/files/files/13%20question%20of%20accountability%20question%20period.pdf>
 - Fridays off? Here's how to really reform Parliament, starting with limiting PM's power by Andrew Coyne, National Post <http://news.nationalpost.com/news/andrew-coyne-fridays-off-heres-how-to-really-reform-parliament-starting-with-limiting-pms-power>
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