

**THIRTY THIRD ANNUAL REPORT
of the
PARLIAMENTARY CENTRE**

For the Year Ending September 30, 2001

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PART I: MESSAGES

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



As is traditional, the Centre found the past year a difficult one—and this year will present challenges as well.

The Centre has been well served by the Executive Director, Associates and staff. Morale is high, and all are determined to see the Centre realize its ambitious plans. The Board is pleased by efforts

to raise the Centre's profile, including the Hill Times column, the redesigned website and the annual luncheon for Centre stakeholders hosted by the Speakers of the Senate and House of Commons. As any survey of world events would indicate, the Centre's mission of supporting democratic development and good governance remains as relevant as ever.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

September 11 and the Parliamentary Centre



To quote our last Annual Report, 2000-2001 "was a successful year for the Parliamentary Centre, but we did not quite break even on the balance sheet". Although true as far as it goes, that dry sentence does not do justice to the year that was.

People say that things will never again be the same after September 11. In one sense that is obviously not true. Many of the things in our world, including its troubles, continue to march right ahead. For those who suffer from poverty and violence as a daily reality, the world has looked very familiar since September 11. For the powerful, however, there is a heightened sense

of insecurity, similar in some ways to the atmosphere of the cold war. The United States, the global ultra power, has organized a shadow government and a North American military command. No longer do Americans see North America as a fortress providing them protection against the dangers of the world. They - like everyone else in the world - are exposed to the risks of the 21st century.

This new sense of insecurity arises from what is perceived to be an elusive, shadowy enemy. The power of terrorism, or at least of non-state terrorism, cannot be measured in kilotons and throw weight, troops on the ground or ships in the water. Terrorist networks form and reform like smoke. What sustains their violence is a

powerful sense of injustice and commitment to a cause. They claim that the weak and marginalized of the world have little to lose and everything to gain by violence. They promise victory in this world and glory in the next. They attack democracy as propaganda of the powerful masking corruption and injustice – and they organize and advertise their attacks employing sophisticated modern technology.

The initial response of the democracies to this threat was—and remains—primarily military in nature, supplemented by security measures that are unprecedented in degree if not kind. There is a dawning realization, however, that this response, by itself is insufficient as a counterweight to the appeals of terrorism. The threat of terrorism arises to a limited degree from the terrorists themselves who are, after all, not supermen but ordinary (if unusually motivated) mortals. The greater danger arises from the environment of sympathy that surrounds terrorism in many parts of the world. During a recent visit to Pakistan, most people I met professed abhorrence for extreme fundamentalism but many went on to express their respect for the willingness of the fundamentalists to stand up for Pakistan both politically and culturally. People expressed distrust of the west on two grounds: its inconstancy in supporting and then dropping countries like Pakistan depending on shifting geopolitical interests; and its support of systems

of electoral democracy that many Pakistanis now associate with corruption and party politics of the worst kind.

Those who are engaged in practical programs of democratic development – like the Parliamentary Centre - should face the fact that many of the poor and marginalized in countries where we work see democracy as a con game played for the benefit of small elites and their foreign allies. September 11 was a wakeup call that we must join in the debate of these issues and not confine ourselves solely to the role of technocratic aid managers. Contrary to some ideologues, democracy is not a preordained state towards which everyone will move inevitably. Democracy is a set of beliefs whose realization runs all sorts of risks. There is the risk that democracy will enforce narrow self-interest in the face of urgent need for economic and social reform. There is the risk that democracy will be prey to apathy and extremism. There is the risk that people will grow bored with democracy and the demands it makes of them.

To engage the Parliamentary Centre more fully in the enterprise of democracy building we have begun a number of initiatives that will present the research and advocacy capacities of the Centre. These include the redesign of the Centre website, publication of a PC Bulletin and a column on parliamentary democracy in the Hill Times. We invite all those concerned with these issues—our partners, our board, our audience—to join the debate.

MESSAGE FROM JOHN WILLIAMS, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT



I have been associated with the Parliamentary Centre for a number of years as a member of its Board of Directors and its Executive Committee. I have also been pleased to be identified with the objectives and accomplishments of the Parliamentary Centre through its work in improving parliaments in a significant number of areas both here in Canada and around the world. From its bridge building initiatives such as the Parliamentary Business and Labour Trust,

which enhances communications between parliament and the private sector in Canada, to its multi year commitment to improve governance in Ethiopia, to its production of a handbook on controlling corruption, the Parliamentary Centre is there. It has numerous other projects to foster and enhance governance and now the Parliamentary Centre has agreed to accept the role of international secretariat of GOPAC (Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption).

This is a new responsibility for the Parliamentary Centre, and in addition to its role as secretariat of the international organization, it will also be

the secretariat for the North American regional chapter of GOPAC. These roles will place the Parliamentary Centre at the forefront of developing good governance through enhancing the effectiveness of parliaments around the world. It is one of the fundamental precepts of GOPAC that in order for good governance to thrive and flourish, openness, transparency and democracy must be improved. It is parliaments' role to demand accounting from its executive and to ensure its executive is open, transparent, democratic, and conducts its business in accordance with the wishes of parliament as the representative institution of the citizens. Parliament has been given the authority to demand accountability from its executive, however

far too often it has failed or come up short in fulfilling its mandate.

Through its experience and understanding of good governance in all its aspects the Parliamentary Centre is uniquely positioned to provide guidance, support and direction to parliamentarians and to GOPAC.

I am sure you will be hearing much about the role of the Parliamentary Centre in the years to come as it continues to develop its knowledge base and expertise in the area of good governance. The Parliamentary Centre will have a growing role to play in enhancing the theory and practice of governance and by doing so will aid in the development of democracy and prosperity around the world.



PART II: PROGRAMMING DURING THE PAST YEAR

The Parliamentary Centre continued to expand the reach and depth of its programming in support of parliament, both in Canada and elsewhere in the world. Peter Dobell and Martin Ulrich, a senior Treasury Board official seconded to the Centre, began interesting and important work on two key aspects of the Canadian House of Commons – the budget process and relations between parliamentarians and bureaucrats. Elsewhere in the world, the Cambodia-Canada Parliamentary Strengthening Program completed its inception phase and the Russian program entered the final phase of its work focussed on the strengthening of financial accountability mechanisms. After several years of effort, the Centre succeeded in obtaining CIDA support for a Middle East program focussed on parliaments and WTO accession. In addition to these and other country programs, the Centre further developed three global programs: an anti-corruption program centred on the establishment of the Global Organization for Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC); a program for parliamentarians on poverty reduction policies; and a research project entitled “Parliaments that Work” that aims to develop indicators of parliamentary performance.

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

Parliament of Canada

The Centre has for many years published *Occasional Papers on Parliamentary*

Government, a periodical devoted to comment on the work of Parliament and ways to enhance its role and that of private Members. The four issues printed during the year were entitled Stress and the MP, Managing Staff, MPs views on Committee Organization and The Question Period: What Former Members Think. The first two were prepared in time to be given to all MPs elected for the first time in the 2001 election. The third was based on a panel discussion among a group of former MPs from all parties.

The Founding Director wrote two studies that were published by the Institute for Research on Public Policy, the first entitled *What Could Canadians Expect from a Minority Government?* and the second *Reforming Parliamentary Practice: the Views of MPs*. The first appeared a few weeks before the November, 2000 election and generated widespread interest. The other was based on a poll of Members’ seeking their reaction to a number of proposals for strengthening the role of committee chairs and parliamentary secretaries. Findings were discussed at a May 10, 2000 meeting of MPs organized by the Centre.

The Parliament, Business and Labour Trust (PBLT) was created with the objective of narrowing the gap between parliamentarians and the business and labour sectors. Indications from Members of Parliament and from our private

sector partners are that the Trust is contributing to this important and worthwhile goal. In our continuing efforts to increase understanding between parliamentarians and the business and labour sectors as well as raise the profile and activity level of the Trust, we redesigned the program in 2000-2001 while keeping our traditional visits program intact. In doing so, we asked our partners – both parliamentary and corporate, to become more involved in the development of activities and the response has been very positive.

We asked for suggestions for concurrent or complimentary activities that would bring together representatives of our private sector partners and Members of Parliament on issues of common concern. As a pilot activity, we focused on the high tech sector. Members who expressed an interest in information and communication technology (ICTs) were invited to learn more about the sector and to explore the implications of increasing demands for information as well as government-on-line strategies. Following a series of PBLT visits in Canada, a small group of Members of Parliament traveled to Washington D.C. under the Centre for Legislative Exchange to meet with the Congressional Management Foundation, the Institute for Electronic Government, the Woodrow Wilson Centre and the Center for Excellence in Government. The activity was then followed up with a very well attended and successful one-day session on Parliament Hill for Members and House of Commons staff.

Through the year, we completed ten visits and two roundtables and saw a five-fold increase in participation levels compared with fiscal year 2000-2001. Making the Trust more flexible and responsive to both parliamentarians and our private sector partners has allowed us to expand and, at the same time, deepen the partnerships and understanding among the three sectors.

The Centre's subsidiary, the *Centre for Legislative Exchange (CLE)*, continued to provide opportunities for exchanges between parliamentarians and legislative staff from Canada and the United States. During 2000-2001, CLE

completed its pilot program and undertook an evaluation of the project. The pilot project, carried out with financial support from the Donner Canadian Foundation and the Starr Foundation, tested a new approach for making contact with Members of Congress. Based on legislation before Congress, CLE identified policy areas of interest to both Canada and the United States and made contact with interested American legislators. We then arranged for a small group of Canadian Members and Senators, knowledgeable on the chosen subject, to visit Washington for a few days of informal, confidential dialogue. While the visits were well attended, it should be noted that the November 2000 election and the adjustment to a new administration resulted in a decrease of activity level. Nevertheless, CLE carried out three successful activities during the year. The first, in cooperation with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Canadian Regional Council, focussed on Border Management and Transportation Infrastructures: A Comparison of the Operations of National, State and Provincial Governments. The second activity, in cooperation with the Canada Transportation Act Review Panel, focussed on Transportation Infrastructure and Legislation, with special emphasis on the railway and complimentary legislation between Canada and the US. The visit took place in June 2001. The third activity, in cooperation with IBM Canada, focussed on E-government and the Impact of New Technologies on Government. The visit took place in August 2001.

Parliament-Government Relations: Together with the Public Policy Forum (PPF), the Parliamentary Centre is interviewing senior government officials and parliamentarians to identify how relations between these two groups can be improved. The Treasury Board commissioned this work in view of evidence of considerable mutual distrust. Areas for improvement include: consulting on policy priorities; greater sharing of knowledge; and improved guidance for both members and officials at parliamentary committee hearings. Results will be published by the PPF and the Parliamentary Centre.

The Budget Process: Budgets have become the principal instrument of government policy making

and democratic control. The Centre is preparing a paper, for publication by the Institute for Research on Public Policy (IRPP), describing how parliament advises on and authorizes the budget, and then scrutinizes budget implementation. The paper will identify indicators of parliamentary performance and, based on an assessment of actual performance, propose improvements in three areas—improved committee study, a streamlined financial control framework, and strengthened committee engagement of Canadians.

Canada-Hungary Parliamentary Friendship Group (CHPFG): The Canada-Hungary Parliamentary Friendship Group is an initiative of Mr. Tom Wappel, MP for Scarborough Southwest. The Friendship Group currently has 33 members.

The objectives of the Friendship Group are three-fold. First, to strengthen the relationship between the Canadian and Hungarian Parliaments and, in turn, the relationship between our two countries. Second, to share experiences in areas of common concern and interest and to discuss ways to continue co-operation. Third, to carry out biannual visits and other activities between the two Parliaments.

In 2000-2001, the Parliamentary Centre assigned a Canadian intern to the Hungarian Parliament with the support of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

International Parliamentary Democracy Network: The Parliamentary Centre, in co-operation with the Council for a Community of Democracies, held a series of discussions in Washington and Ottawa to explore the establishment of a network of parliamentarians that would work together to promote and support democratic principles and practices on national, regional and international levels. The inaugural workshop will be held in Canada in 2002.

After four successful years, the Parliamentary Centre's *Youth International Internship Program* drew to a close in 2001-2002. The program, developed to complement Parliamentary Centre projects, supported the participation of 47 Canadian youth who were assigned to the

national and/or provincial legislative bodies in our partner countries. Placements included the nine provincial legislatures of South Africa, the National Parliaments of Ethiopia, Ghana, Uganda and Hungary, the Mexican Congress, the Japanese Diet, the European Parliament and the American Congress. In addition, an intern was posted to the Contact Trust, a parliamentary watchdog organization in South Africa, and another to work directly on the creation of a Global Network of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC). During the course of the year, it was decided to end the program because of the heavy demands it was putting on Centre staff to liaise with and supervise the interns.

The internship program aided the Parliamentary Centre in meeting its program objectives while at the same time providing Canadian youth with a once in a lifetime opportunity and experience. We would like to thank the participants and our partners for their contributions and support throughout the program.

OSCE AND TRILATERAL COMMISSION

Since the establishment of the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE in 1991 the Centre has provided research support and advisory services to the Canadian parliamentary delegations attending Assembly meetings. The *Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe* is playing an increasingly important role in reducing tension and conflict in troubled countries in Eastern Europe. During the fiscal year 2000-2001 the annual meeting was held in Paris, July 6-10, 2001.

The Centre provides the secretariat for the Canadian Group of the *Trilateral Commission*. The Commission is a non-governmental policy-oriented discussion group composed of distinguished citizens from Western Europe, North America and Asia drawn from a variety of backgrounds. Its purpose is to encourage mutual understanding and closer cooperation among the three regions. The Annual Meeting of the Trilateral Commission was held in London in March 2001.

AFRICA

The 2001 fiscal year marked the full implementation of the *Canada-Ethiopia*

Parliamentary Capacity Development Project. Previously, the implementation of the Project was marked by delays brought on by parliamentary elections and war between Ethiopia and Eritrea. The early part of the year was spent re-evaluating expected project results and providing technical assistance with the re-organization of Parliament. The Resident Director, Hon John Bosley, PC continued to serve as senior advisor to Parliament.

The principal objective of the program is to improve the capacity of the House of Peoples' Representatives to fulfill its oversight role while allowing for greater participation by a wide spectrum of Ethiopian interests. During the year, the Project increased the understanding of oversight mechanisms of selected MPs and committee members. Lessons learned were shared with other African countries. As well, the Women's Affairs Standing Committee conducted a mission to Canada to study Canada's policies to promote gender equality and to study the role of Parliament in overseeing women's programs.

In the coming year, the Project will continue to focus its efforts on improving oversight capacity, with increased emphasis on public consultation in connection with the work of the Women's Committee in overseeing penal reform legislation. Special attention will be paid to the parliamentary role in poverty reduction policies and the Project will support the implementation phase of Parliament's reorganization.

Following the 2000 parliamentary elections, the *Ghana Parliamentary Committee Support Project* continued its efforts to build the capacity of the Public Accounts and Finance Committees. A key objective of the Project is to improve cross-party cooperation, a very important objective following elections that saw the defeat of a government and transfer of power to the opposition. Many of the Project's 'alumni' became Ministers in the new government.

The Project continued its annual "Committee Workshop Retreats" in an effort to improve the Committees' understanding of key policy issues related to their mandates. The focus of the retreats was 'Macro Economic Growth and

Poverty Alleviation'. As in previous years, the events were co-sponsored by CIDA and the World Bank Institute. They were successful in improving knowledge of the Members and in helping build a degree of cross-party cooperation and consensus. As the Project enters its final year, the Committees have requested continued Canadian assistance through the Centre.

The *Parliamentary Capacity Development Program (PCDP)* differs from the Centre's other Africa projects in that it is not a bilateral project. Rather, it is funded through CIDA's Partnership Branch and is composed of two Projects – one that works with the Library, Research and Committee Sections of the South African legislatures and the other that works with the 14 nation Association of Parliamentary Libraries of Eastern and Southern Africa (APLESA). As the first phase of the project was drawing to an end, the Centre submitted a proposal to CIDA to extend its Program Funding through to 31 March 2005.

The *South Africa Legislative Project* has supported the Western Cape Parliament and the Northern Province (Limpopo) Legislature in building staff capacity to provide better library and research services to Members and Committees. This has been achieved through a variety of legislature-specific training initiatives. In the Gauteng Legislature, the Centre is providing research and technical assistance to the "processes transformation group" that is responsible for developing staff systems for improved parliamentary oversight. In addition, the Centre has been working with the Committees Forum and the University of the Western Cape School of Government to develop the first accredited committee staff training program. The goal of the program is to provide the legislatures with an institutionalized, sustainable professional development program.

The *APLESA Project* has helped strengthen this regional Association by improving inter-parliamentary networking, for example, by developing the APLESA website—www.aplesa.org. A Strategic Planning Session in Kampala for the 14-member Association led to the striking of working committees on key

objectives identified by APLESA. The working committees should allow APLESA to increase member participation while strengthening the operation of the Association.

The year also marked a return to cooperation with the *National Assembly of Kenya*. With support from CIDA, the Centre was part of the British, American and Canadian Multi-Donor Group that was mandated to conduct a review of the Assembly's strategic plan. The former Clerk of the Manitoba Legislature and a current Centre Associate, W. "Binx" Remnant, participated on behalf of the Centre and was also the author of the final report. As a result of the review, a plan has been developed for support to the Assembly over the coming years. Specific areas for Centre involvement and levels of support will be determined in early 2002.

As well, with support from the World Bank Institute, the Centre facilitated a workshop on oversight and accountability for the Members of the Public Accounts, Finance and Trade and Public Investment Committees of the Kenyan Parliament. The workshop drew on the experience of Ghanaian MPs who have participated in Centre programs in that country, as well as on the Budget Information Service of IDASA and the Association of Public Accounts Committees (APAC) of South Africa and the Washington-based International Budget Project.

ASIA

This year the Centre launched the CIDA funded *Cambodia-Canada Legislative Support Project*, a \$4.5 million capacity development project with the Parliament of Cambodia. In April 2001, the Centre led a project team on a month-long inception mission to Cambodia and in November 2001 the project was officially inaugurated during a Joint Project Steering Committee chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Ranariddh, President of the National Assembly of Cambodia. The Parliamentary Centre is working with both the National Assembly and Senate to strengthen 3 aspects of the Parliament: the secretariats, parliamentary review of legislation and the responsiveness of parliamentary committees to the people.

Activities during the next year will include in-country workshops, seminars and management training for secretariat staff.

The Centre also advanced its work with the National People's Congress of China (NPC). With the first CIDA funded cooperation project drawing to an end, the Centre collaborated with its partners within the NPC to submit a proposal to CIDA for a longer-term legislative cooperation project between the Parliamentary Centre and the NPC. Centre representatives travelled to China on two occasions during the year to conduct monitoring and evaluation missions and also took the opportunity to discuss future cooperation with officials at the national and regional level. With a new initiative in China, the Centre would continue to work with the Legislative Affairs Commission and the Research Office of the Standing Committee as well as with regional and provincial congresses such as the Jiangsu Provincial People's Congress and the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region People's Congress. The Centre is currently negotiating with CIDA the terms and conditions for such a project.

Also in Asia, the Centre continued to work with the National Assembly of Vietnam through the CIDA funded Policy Implementation Assistance Project. In partnership with Experco-Stikeman Elliot, the Centre arranged during the year for Canadian experts to participate in workshops in Vietnam. The Centre's work with the Social Affairs Commission and the Law Commission focuses on legislative processes, the supervisory powers of legislative assemblies as well as policy development in the areas of social security, gender and family.

EASTERN AND CENTRAL EUROPE

Since April 1994, the Centre has managed the *Canada-Russia Parliamentary Program (CRPP)*, undertaking parliamentary development and staff training with the State Duma and Federation Council of the Russian Federal Assembly. Additionally, CRPP has collaborated during the past three years with the legislatures of seven regions in Russia's north. This northern program aimed to contribute to the development of legislation in three policy areas: aboriginal affairs, local government and natural resource law.

Committees on the North, as well as from the legislatures of Krasnoyarsk Krai and Taimyr, two regions in Northern Russia. These visits examined the living standards, entitlements and rights of aboriginal peoples in Canada, as well as the land claims process and its impact on their economic development. Additionally, CRPP sent Canadian experts on aboriginal issues to participate in workshops in Taimyr and Krasnoyarsk.

The Canada-Russia Parliamentary Program recently added an anti-corruption component to its program, designed to strengthen the linkages between the Russian Accounting Chamber (the Russian equivalent to the Auditor General of Canada) and the Duma sub-committee on financial control (the Russian equivalent to the Public Accounts Committee). As the third phase of CRPP is wrapping up, this has become the new focus of the program. Activities to date have included a study visit by senior members of the Accounting Chamber (AC) and the head of the Duma sub-committee on financial control on strengthening cooperation between the AC and the Duma. As well a seminar was organized in the Duma on strengthening the Duma's oversight role by better utilizing the AC's reports. Upcoming events will focus on improving the AC's audit methodology by demonstrating how to conduct value-for-money audits in order to produce reports that are more useable by the Duma sub-committee.

The Parliamentary Centre participated in several activities with the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Geoff Dubrow, the Parliamentary Centre's Program Manager for Eastern Europe, serves as an advisor to the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina's Parliamentary Support Project. Activities included several capacity-building assessment missions, as well as participation in a seminar on challenges faced by other Parliaments in the region.

The Parliamentary Centre's project to raise awareness within the Bulgarian National Assembly on the role and functions of an ombudsman's institution wrapped up with a closing seminar in Sofia. Canadian experts discussed the

key challenges to developing an ombudsman's institution, including the enforcement powers of the office and the importance of developing a strong reporting relationship between the ombudsman and parliament.

In October 2000, Geoff Dubrow conducted an assessment mission to the Parliament of Romania on a contract from UNDP.

MIDDLE EAST

Three main activities took place between October 2000 and September 2001.

Following the mission to Jordan that the Parliamentary Centre carried out in May 2000 on behalf of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), and the subsequent visit to Canada by a delegation from the Parliament to Jordan in September 2000, the Centre met with CIDA to explore a *regional program to strengthen the capacity of Arab parliaments in negotiating and implementing WTO and regional trade arrangements*. In July 2001, the Centre carried out an inception mission to Jordan, Egypt and Morocco to discuss the program objectives, priorities and activities. The mission affirmed the importance and timeliness of such a program, focused in particular on WTO accession and poverty alleviation. Arab Parliaments are facing serious challenges resulting from increased poverty, high unemployment, dwindling social services and declining public trust and confidence in representative institutions. The mission identified policy areas and legislative functions that the program should address. In September 2001, the Centre submitted a proposal to CIDA to implement a program to strengthen Arab Legislatures in overseeing social development and poverty reduction policies in the context of globalization and WTO accession. The Centre signed a Contribution Agreement with CIDA in November 2001. Implementation of the Program is underway.

In February 2001, the Centre, in collaboration with the National Democratic Institute (NDI), organized a three-day *study visit for a delegation*

from the Algerian Parliament. The delegates were introduced to the Canadian parliamentary democracy, the political party system in Canada, constituency relations and media relations. The program included visits to the Library of Parliament, the National Press Gallery, Question Period and an MP's constituency office. The program also included meetings with officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Honourable Peter Milliken. Prior to departure from Ottawa, Members expressed interest in continued collaboration with the Centre and the Parliament of Canada.

In the summer 2001 the Centre carried out a *needs assessment mission* for the UNDP Programme on Governance in the Arab Region (POGAR) to three Arab Parliaments, those of *Jordan, Morocco and Syria*. The mission assessed the research and information capacities of those parliaments and proposed an action plan to build their capacities.

GLOBAL AND REGIONAL PROGRAMS

Anti-Corruption

The Parliamentary Centre continued to expand its programs in support of strengthening the role of parliament in fighting corruption. Africa remains a pioneer in the formation of regional networks fighting corruption. In February 1999, African Parliamentarians representing ten parliaments from four African regions established the *African Parliamentarians Network Against Corruption (APNAC)*. The Uganda and Kenya chapters of APNAC emerged as important players in the development of anti-corruption policies. In the case of Kenya, the Government now consults APNAC before introducing anti-corruption measures to Parliament.

The *10th annual anti-corruption conference*, organized by the IACC Secretariat and Transparency International (TI), took place in Prague, October 2001. A delegation of parliamentarians with whom the Centre has worked on anti-corruption issues attended, consisting of John Williams (MP-Canada), Musikari Kombo (MP-Kenya), and Son Chhay (MP-Cambodia).

During the conference, the parliamentarians held a workshop on 'Reinforcing Parliamentary Oversight.' Topics included: The Role of Public Accounts Committees in Parliamentary Oversight, Parliamentary Oversight and Corruption, the Role of Opposition Party(s) in Parliamentary Oversight and, the Importance of Regional Networking and anti-corruption efforts.

The formation of the *Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC)* continued in full force. The Parliamentary Centre continued to support the Office of John Williams MP in preparing for the launch of GOPAC in October 2002 when the Parliament of Canada will host the First World Conference on "Strengthening Parliament in the Fight Against Corruption". The conference will mark the official launch of GOPAC by adopting the constitution and electing the Board of Directors.

Poverty Reduction

The *Poverty Reduction Program* aims to strengthen parliaments in overseeing the Poverty Reduction Strategy Process (PRSP). The second year of this program built on video-conference updates and internet discussion forums to review and deepen the insights coming from the September, 2000 Laurentian Seminar on Poverty Reduction. The aim was to prepare an eight-module "course" that will be undertaken with developing country Parliaments to draw M.P.s fully into poverty reduction policy planning, implementation and monitoring. The draft curriculum was reviewed in Vienna in July, 2001, by MPs and representatives of international organizations, and then tested in pilot projects with Parliamentary Committees in Ghana and Ethiopia. The Poverty Reduction Handbook was prepared to support the course. Further initiatives are being taken in Kenya, Cambodia and the European Balkan nations in close co-operation with the World Bank Institute and CIDA. Areas for additional work may include the Parliaments of the Southern African countries. The program has seen the development of new models of interaction with

overseas Parliaments via extensive use of video-conferencing.

Parliaments That Work

During the year, the Centre, in cooperation with the World Bank Institute, began a research program to develop indicators of parliamentary

performance. The project to be completed in 2001-2002, will consist of three phases: first, the preparation of draft indicators and an accompanying conceptual framework; second, the testing of the indicators with parliamentarians; and third, the building of a website database to report on the use of the indicators.



PART III: FINANCIAL REPORT

**FINANCIAL REPORT
AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**

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PARLIAMENTARY CENTRE ASSOCIATES

Hon. John Bosley, P.C.
Mr. Tim Colby
Ms. Elissar Sarrouh
Dr. Steven Langdon
Mr. Jacques Sabourin

For More Information Contact:

Parliamentary Centre,
255 Albert St., Suite 802,
Ottawa, ON K1P 6A9
T: (613) 237-0143 F: (613) 235-8237
E: www.parlcent.ca
I: parlcent.parl.gc.ca