



THE PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK
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1. Proposed Program

The Professional Development Certificate in Parliamentary Governance program comprises three phases:

1. An initial introductory self-directed online course on the fundamentals of parliamentary governance.
2. Two moderated online courses:
 - a. a practical course on parliamentary communications for MPs
 - b. an applied course on the role of parliament in the budget process (PFM)
3. A one week intensive in-person capstone residency course, comprising live lectures and discussion groups, guest speakers and participant presentations.

Phase 1: Asynchronous, self-directed on-line course

Introduction to Parliamentary Governance.

This course is designed to provide participants with an overview of the international governance system, the role of parliament in modern society, the factors that influence how parliaments carry out their functions, the role of the Speaker and other presiding officers, women in Parliament and an introduction to parliamentary procedure.

At the end of this course, participants will be asked to prepare a 1,500 word (five-page) assessment of their parliament to be presented during the one week intensive and interactive residency course (see Phase 3, below)

20 hours of online study + 10 hours of assignments

Phase 2: Expert-moderated online courses

Parliamentary Communications

This practical course introduces the concept of a society's 'right to know' and its importance for transparency. Participants will examine the relationship between parliament and the media and



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consider how parliaments can champion transparency by making parliament more open, implementing regimes that facilitate public access to information and developing a regulatory environment conducive to a free and independent media.

The course will also explore how to design and implement communication strategies for parliaments. Focus is placed on development of practical skills of parliamentary practitioners to prepare media releases and related tools to alert media and the general public to the performance of a particular parliamentary function (e.g., holding of a committee hearing), outcomes from parliamentary action (such as recommendations for government on a topical issue generated as a result of a committee hearing, the enactment of a law) or other newsworthy events and occurrences.

20 hours online study + 10 hours of assignments

The Role of Parliament in the Budget Process (PFM)

This course aims to provide a better understanding of the core concepts, objectives, and issues of public financial management as they relate to the functions of the legislature. It considers the 'upstream' and 'downstream' stages of the budget, with particular focus being placed on the role of parliament in budget formulation and enactment, and on the monitoring and audit of government spending.

This course will be of particular interest to MPs sitting on the finance, budget, appropriations, audit, and public accounts committees, as well as to those wanting to learn how parliament's role in the budget process can be enhanced.

20 hours online study + 10 hours of assignments

Phase 3: In-person 5-day Residency at McGill University, Montreal

Contemporary Issues in Parliamentary Governance

This one-week intensive residential course will include sessions on: core functions of Parliament (including the legislative process and interactions with civil society); legislative- executive-judiciary relations; parliamentary values - codes of conduct; the role and responsibilities of: the Opposition, the backbencher, committees, and parliamentary staff; the corporate management of parliament;



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and parliamentary procedure & aspects of debate.

The course will comprise lectures, small group discussions, guest speakers and presentations by participants. At the conclusion of the course, MPs will be asked to prepare a 1,500-word (five-page) proposal of at least three reform measures they would like to put forward to their parliaments' leadership, based on what they have learned throughout the program.

30 hours of in-person class time + 10 hours of assignments

Who Should Attend?

The program is designed for newly elected MPs from around the world.

Admission requirements

Participants should hold a Bachelor's degree in any discipline and provide:

- A letter of reference or nomination from their parliament or the Parliamentary Network
- A piece of government ID, such as a passport or birth certificate.

Participants who do not hold a Bachelor's degree should hold:

- A high school leaving certificate (a copy of the certificate must be provided)

And demonstrate professional experience equivalent to a Bachelor's degree by providing:

- A Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- A letter of reference or nomination from their parliament or the Parliamentary Network

2. Facilitators

Rick Stapenhurst is an Assistant Professor at McGill University. He is a former board member at Parliamentary Centre, member of Transparency International and member of the Research Committee of Legislative Specialists. He has worked with approximately 50 parliaments in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Eastern Europe, Middle East, and the Pacific and has written numerous academic and practitioner publications covering a variety of parliamentary topics, most recent of which include *Anti-Corruption Evidence: The Role of National Parliaments in Curbing Corruption*, *Parliamentary Communications* (with Gurprit Kindra); and *Parliamentary Benchmarking* (co-editor with Mitchell O'Brien and Lisa von Trapp, published by the World Bank). He completed his Doctorate in at The



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Australian National University, researching presidential and parliamentary systems of government.

Paul C Belisle is a course lecturer and consultant specializing in the field of parliamentary corporate governance. Recently, he has worked for the World Bank Institute and UNDP in parliamentary strengthening programs, producing a comprehensive strategic plan for the Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat and conducting the training needs assessment that led to the creation of this Program. Prior to his retirement in 2009, he was Clerk of the Canadian Senate and of the Parliaments and Executive Secretary and Treasurer of the Canadian Region of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association from 1994-2009. During his mandates, he led international seminars and working groups promoting sound principles and practices in the provision of resources and services to Parliament to enhance democracy.

He has received degrees in Civil law, Political Science and Public Administration from the University of Ottawa.

Kevin Deveaux is a course lecturer and consultant. As a former parliamentarian, legal drafter and UN senior focal point, Kevin has spent his professional career engaged with parliaments and their impact on the lives of citizens. A Barrister & Solicitor from Eastern Passage, Nova Scotia, Canada, Kevin practiced law in Toronto and Halifax as a Crown Attorney, and later as a drafter of legislation. Kevin was elected to the Nova Scotia House of Assembly in 1998 for the constituency of Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage, and was re-elected in 1999, 2003 and 2006. During his time as an MP he was the Deputy Speaker for the House from 1999-2003 and the Official Opposition House Leader from 2003-2007.

Kevin also worked internationally with the US-based National Democratic Institute (NDI) as a part-time parliamentary consultant working in Kosovo, Iraq, Egypt, Cambodia and Palestine. In 2007 Kevin resigned his seat in the House of Assembly to work full-time as a Senior Parliamentary Technical Adviser with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Hanoi, Vietnam. The following year he was appointed to the post of Parliamentary Development Policy Adviser in New York with UNDP's Democratic Governance Group; he was in charge of the Global Program for Parliamentary Support (GPPS) and provided support to more than 70 UNDP Country Offices in which there were parliamentary support programs. He was directly engaged in the development and implementation of major parliamentary programs in Pakistan, Cambodia, Tunisia, Libya, Bangladesh, Lebanon, Myanmar and Iraq.



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Rasheed Draman is a course lecturer and Executive Director of the African Centre for Parliamentary Affairs (ACEPA). He has been actively engaged in Institutional, Parliamentary, Public Financial Management, Evaluation and Governance issues for the past 15 years. He has worked with more than 30 Parliaments and governments in Africa (including the Pan-African and ECOWAS Parliaments) and other Parliaments around the world. He has conceptualized, developed and led the implementation of numerous multi-million dollar governance/parliamentary support projects, as well as conducted needs assessments of several Parliaments in Africa. Dr. Draman helped a number of African Parliaments in their Strategic Planning; he designed and delivered training to MPs and staff in the budget process, social accountability, financial oversight, oversight of the extractives sector and poverty reduction. He has some publications to his credit on these subjects.

Rasheed holds a PhD in Political Science from Carleton University, where he has also taught courses on Development and Conflict. He has been a Guest Lecturer at Harvard University and has served as the Director of Africa Programs at the Parliamentary Centre between 2006 and 2013. He has also served as a Consultant for the Africa Branch and the Multilateral Programs Branch of CIDA in Canada.

Bonnie Feigenbaum is a course lecturer and consultant with 15 years of participation in local politics and over 35 years of community involvement. During her tenure as Chief of Staff for a senior Canadian Member of Parliament, she created the Mount Royal Job Fair developing partnerships, securing over 30 recruiters and over 300 job seekers from the riding.

As a Town Councillor, she designed and implemented her town's communications strategy, including media relations, website development, and a quarterly newsletter and established the "eHampstead" communication system. Bonnie also served on several standing committees of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities where she initiated the development of the "Women in local government" program to support first time elected women

Anthony Staddon is a course lecturer with over 20 years of practical, research, and teaching experience in the field of political science, with an emphasis on parliamentary studies. He is familiar with the challenges of parliamentary practice (including small country contexts); has a good knowledge of British and European Union politics; and a comprehensive knowledge of parliamentary and political development issues worldwide. He has a proven track record of delivery technical assistance and developmental support to legislatures in developed, developing, and vulnerable environments and a speaker at numerous conferences on parliament. Anthony has



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successfully delivered numerous consulting projects for a number of international organizations, including the World Bank, the European Union, the National Democratic Institute, and the Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

Educated at Southampton and Newcastle universities, Anthony has worked with the number legislatures, particularly across the Commonwealth. He joined the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in December 1999 as an Assistant Director. Between June 2002 in December 2006, he headed the Secretary-General's office working closely with then Secretary General, Honorable Dennis Marshall, a former Minister from New Zealand.

Other facilitators may include:

- Dr. John K. Johnson (former staff member New York State legislature)
- Meenakshi Dhar (consultant and former Director of Programs, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association)
- Agnes Titriku (Program Manager, African Centre for Parliamentary Affairs, Accra, Ghana)
- Eliane Ubalijoro (Professor of Practice, McGill University, and advisor to President Kagame, Rwanda)

In addition, McGill will invite both current and former Canadian and other MPs and senior parliamentary staff as guest speakers.



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3. Program Schedule

July-August 2022

- Participant Admissions to the Program & Course Registration

September-October 2022: Phase 1 - Online

- *Introduction to Parliamentary Governance*

November 2022– April 2023: Phase 2 - Online

- *Parliamentary Communication*
- *PFM: The Role of Parliament in the Budget Process*

May 2023: Phase 3 – in Montreal

- *Current Trends in Parliamentary Governance*