



# Report to Canadians 2009

*Building on the Past to Shape the Future*



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES

## The House of Commons Report to Canadians 2009

For more information on the House of Commons, visit the Parliament of Canada  
Web site at [www.parl.gc.ca](http://www.parl.gc.ca).

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### Your Portal to a Wealth of Information

The foldout inserts at the centre of this document include photographs of Members elected to Canada's 39th and 40th Parliaments. Canadians can use their postal code to identify their Member of Parliament by visiting the Parliament of Canada Web site at [www.parl.gc.ca](http://www.parl.gc.ca).

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# Letter from the Speaker

As Speaker of the House of Commons, I am pleased to present the *Report to Canadians 2009*, covering the fiscal year from April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009. This report describes the work and accomplishments of the Members of the House of Commons and the activities and initiatives undertaken by the House Administration in support of both Members and the institution.

In 1858, Ottawa was designated Canada's capital and construction began on the stately buildings of the Parliamentary Precinct. Since then, dedicated Members of Parliament have convened here to oversee the governance of this vast country. In 2008–2009, on the 150th anniversary of that debut, the Parliament Buildings and the traditions of the House of Commons represent a foundation and heritage for Members of Parliament as they work to govern our country wisely. For its part, the House Administration is adding to that base, ensuring the continued smooth functioning of the House of Commons, while keeping an eye on the road ahead.

The past fiscal year marked the end of the 39th Parliament and the beginning of the 40th, following an autumn election when Canadians voted in another minority government, the 11th in our nation's history.

In both Parliaments of the 2008–2009 fiscal year, Members voiced Canadians' values both in the Commons Chamber and in committee. They presented and discussed bills on a wide range of subjects from justice and the environment to immigration and the economy. Members also advocated for their constituents, brought national issues to the forefront and questioned the government on its policies and actions.

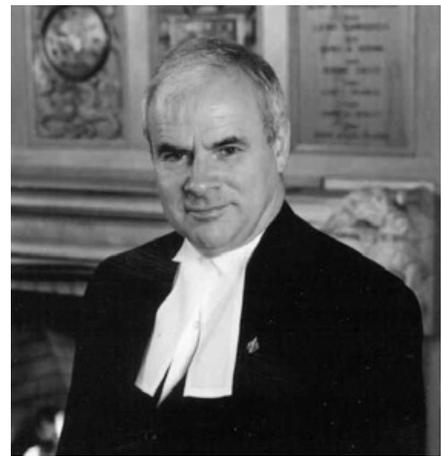
From Parliament Hill, Members travelled to meet their counterparts in other legislatures both in Canada and abroad to foster relationships, discuss common issues and share knowledge and expertise. As well, they welcomed international visitors to the nation's capital and its Parliament Buildings on behalf of all Canadians.

The House Administration provides solid support and innovation as Parliament continues to meet the changing needs of Canadians and their representatives. Upholding tradition while keeping an eye to the future, staff manages the increasingly sophisticated tools at the House of Commons in its long-standing commitment to efficiency, effectiveness and responsiveness.

One hundred and fifty-one years after Barracks Hill became the firm foundation for the inspiring buildings of the Parliamentary Precinct, I am pleased to present this report on the activities and accomplishments of the Members of Parliament and the House Administration as they help to shape Canada's future.



Peter Milliken, M.P.  
Speaker of the House of Commons



Peter Milliken M.P.  
*Speaker of the House of Commons*  
Photo: © House of Commons/  
Bernard Clark

# Building on the Past to Shape the Future: The House of Commons

The House of Commons is the official meeting place for representatives of the Canadian people. Members of Parliament come together in the Chamber, in committee rooms, in caucus rooms and in Members' offices on Parliament Hill and in constituencies. They discuss national and local issues, propose and debate laws, and hear and reflect upon input from experts and individual citizens. And from this home base, they look outward to represent Canada internationally.

## The responsibilities of Members of Parliament fall into five areas:

**Chamber activities**—The magnificent green-carpeted Chamber is where Members debate and vote on legislation, present documents and petitions, ask or respond to questions and raise issues of importance to electors.

**Committee work**—Groups of Members form the various committees of the House to investigate current issues, study proposed new laws and policies, and receive input from experts and concerned citizens about matters of importance to Canada.

**Caucus activities**—Almost all Members belong to a recognized political party. Each party has staff who provide research and other support to caucus, helping Members carry out their duties in the Chamber and in committees. Each party holds regular caucus meetings where they discuss party policies and parliamentary strategy.

**Helping constituents**—Members' constituents contact them when they want to discuss matters of concern or when they need help with federal programs and services. Members usually return to their constituencies for one week every month to make themselves available to constituents, and spend longer periods in their ridings over the summer and from late December through late January.

**Representing Canada**—In their role of promoting democratic institutions and strengthening ties with other countries, Members represent Canada internationally and receive visitors from abroad.

## Party Membership

Most Members of Parliament belong to one of four recognized political parties. Listed alphabetically, these parties are the Bloc Québécois, the Conservative Party, the Liberal Party and the New Democratic Party. Members may also sit as independents.

## Our Members of Parliament

Canadians elect people from many different walks of life to represent them in the House of Commons. Members of Parliament have diverse professions and personal backgrounds and bring a wealth of experience and expertise to the House. For example, the current Parliament includes people who are knowledgeable in business, education, law, journalism, farming, engineering, the arts, medicine and labour.

### Members of Parliament

Two foldout inserts in the centre of this report show Members elected to the 39th Parliament and the 40th Parliament.

### Who is Your Member?

If you are not certain who your Member of Parliament is, visit the Parliament of Canada Web site at [www.parl.gc.ca](http://www.parl.gc.ca) and enter your postal code in the space provided.

### Find Out More

The parliamentary Web site has a search feature you can use to learn demographic information about Members as well as obtain a biographical profile of each Member. Find it at [www2.parl.gc.ca/parlinfo](http://www2.parl.gc.ca/parlinfo).

### Period of This Report

April 1, 2008–March 31, 2009  
Total number of sitting days: 99

## Party Standings in the House of Commons as of March 31, 2009

Province/Territory	CPC	Lib.	BQ	NDP	Ind.	Vacant	Total
Alberta	27			1			28
British Columbia	22	5		9			36
Manitoba	9	1		4			14
New Brunswick	6	3		1			10
Newfoundland and Labrador		6		1			7
Northwest Territories				1			1
Nova Scotia	3	5		2	1		11
Nunavut	1						1
Ontario	51	38		17			106
Prince Edward Island	1	3					4
Quebec	10	14	49	1	1		75
Saskatchewan	13	1					14
Yukon		1					1
<b>National Total</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>308</b>

Members come from many different geographical and cultural backgrounds. Not only do they represent every geographical area of Canada, they also bring a variety of cultural heritages to the House. The membership of the House includes five representatives of the Inuit, Métis and First Nations people of Canada. Many Members were born outside Canada, in countries as varied as the United Kingdom, Tanzania, Haiti, Greece, India, Vietnam, Italy, China and Portugal. Of the 308 Members of the 40th Parliament, 11 percent were born abroad.

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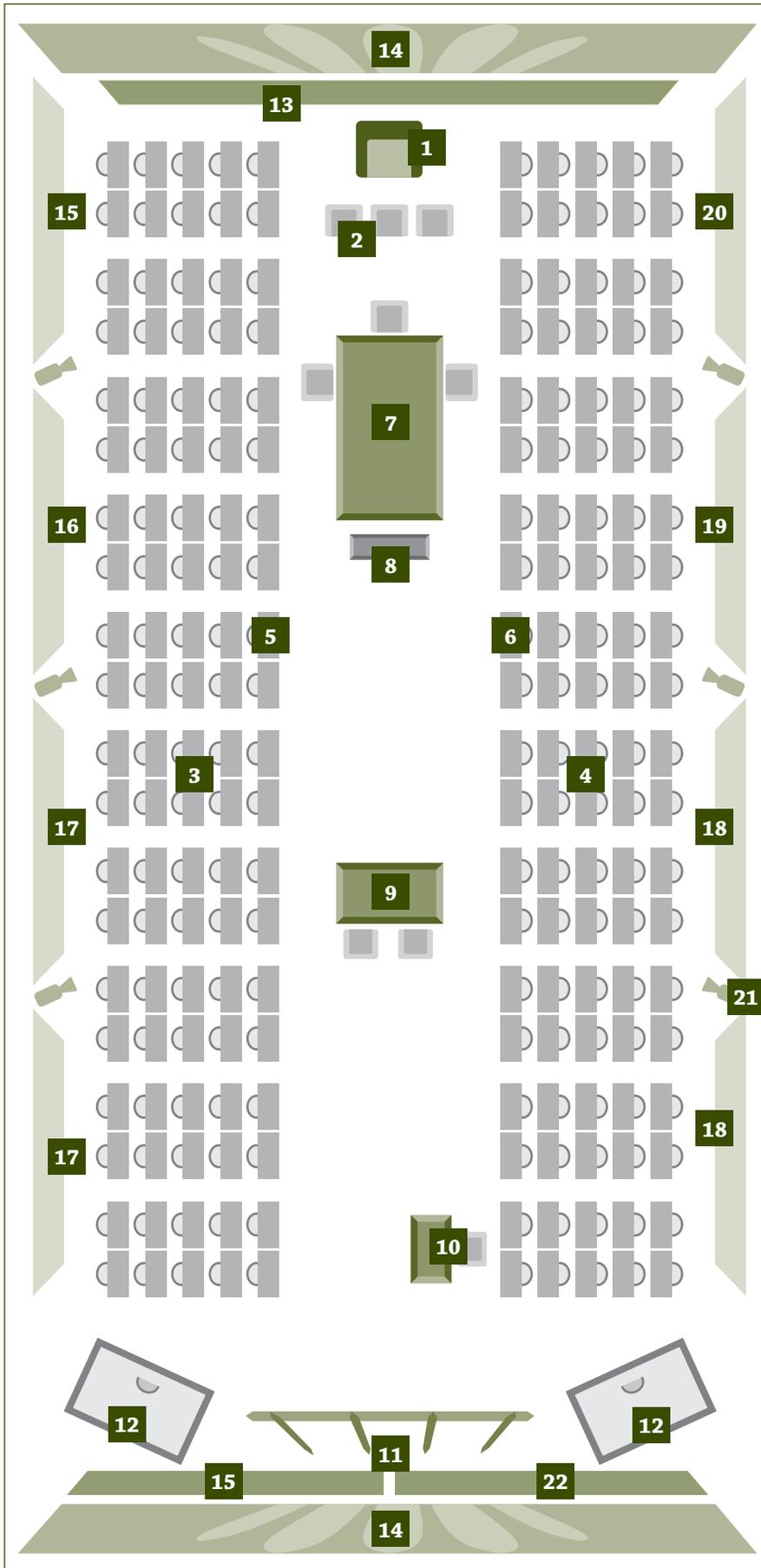
The average age of Members of the 40th Parliament is 52 years, with the youngest being 21 and the oldest 71. At the dissolution of the 39th Parliament, women held 21 percent of the 308 seats in the House of Commons. That number increased to 22 percent in the 40th Parliament.

The House of Commons

### FACTS ABOUT MEMBERS

	39th	40th
Average age	54	52
Youngest Member	29	21
Oldest Member	75	71
Number of Members elected for the first time	70	68
Number of seats in the House of Commons	308	308
Number of seats held by women	65	68
Number of seats held by Members born outside of Canada	42	36
Number of seats held by Members of Inuit, Métis or First Nations origin	5	5
Number of seats held by Members from four most prevalent occupations		
Businessman/business woman	78	72
Lawyer	49	51
Consultant	38	46
Teacher	28	33

# House of Commons



- 1** Speaker
- 2** Pages
- 3** Government Members\*
- 4** Opposition Members\*
- 5** Prime Minister
- 6** Leader of the Official Opposition
- 7** Clerk and Table Officers
- 8** Mace
- 9** Proceedings and Verification Officers
- 10** Sergeant-at-Arms
- 11** The Bar
- 12** Interpreters
- 13** Press Gallery
- 14** Public Gallery
- 15** Officials' Gallery
- 16** Leader of the Opposition's Gallery
- 17** Opposition Members' Gallery
- 18** Government Members' Gallery
- 19** Speaker's Gallery
- 20** Senate Gallery
- 21** T.V. Cameras
- 22** Diplomatic Gallery

\* Depending on the number of MPs elected from each political party, government Members may be seated on the opposite side of the Chamber with opposition Members (or vice versa).

# Work in the House of Commons

The House of Commons follows a parliamentary calendar with a schedule of sittings and adjournments running from mid-September through late June. The fiscal year 2008–2009 marked the end of the 39th Parliament and the beginning of the 40th Parliament.

In 2008, the House continued its work as part of the second session of the 39th Parliament, until rising for the summer break on June 20, 2008. On September 7, 2008, before the House resumed for the fall sitting, the Prime Minister asked the Governor General to dissolve Parliament and call an election. Following the general election on October 14, 2008, the 40th Parliament was summoned to meet on November 18, 2009.

## The House of Commons in Session

Meetings of the House of Commons are known as sittings and follow a prescribed format. They are overseen by the Speaker, who is responsible for managing debate and preserving order in accordance with the written rules (Standing Orders) and practices of the House. The Speaker is an elected Member of Parliament who, in a secret ballot, is chosen to be Speaker by the other Members.

At the beginning of the 40th Parliament, the Hon. Peter Milliken was elected Speaker for the fourth consecutive time, a record. Mr. Milliken is a member of the Official Opposition but, as Speaker, he does not attend caucus meetings.

In addition to presiding over the Chamber, the Speaker is Chair of the Board of Internal Economy, which oversees the administration of the House. He is also the spokesperson and formal representative of the House when conducting business outside the House of Commons.

The Speaker is assisted by three deputies selected from among the Members: the Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees of the Whole, the Deputy Chair of Committees of the Whole, and the Assistant Deputy Chair of Committees of the Whole. In those positions during the 39th Parliament, respectively, were the Hon. Bill Blaikie, Mr. Royal Galipeau and Mr. Andrew Scheer. At the beginning of the 40th Parliament, Mr. Andrew Scheer, Ms. Denise Savoie and Mr. Barry Devolin, respectively, were elected to those positions by motions adopted in the House.

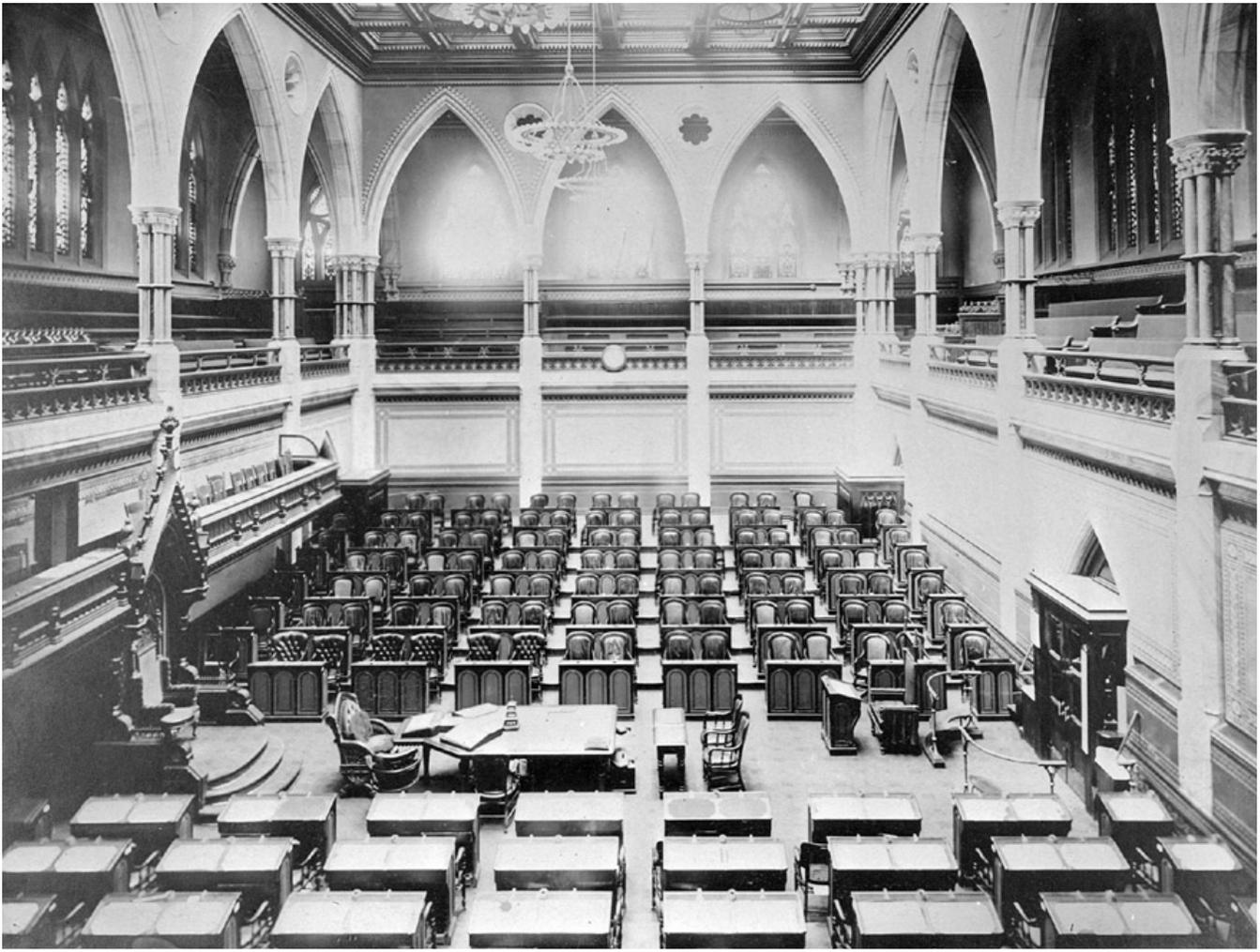
The Clerk of the House of Commons is the senior permanent official and chief executive of the House Administration. She advises and supports the Speaker, the other Chair occupants, the House and its committees in all procedural and administrative matters. She also keeps the official record of proceedings.

## Making Laws

Lawmaking is one of the most important functions of the House of Commons. Laws start out as bills, which are proposals to either create new laws or amend existing ones. A bill must be approved by the Senate and the House of Commons and receive Royal Assent before it becomes law. The time required to pass a bill can vary depending on the urgency, the complexity and the degree of consensus among Members of both the Senate and the House.

There are two main types of bills: public and private. Public bills concern matters of public policy, such as finance or national security, while private bills, which are rare, deal with private interests. Public bills can be divided into Government Bills and private Members' bills. The former are those sponsored by the government and introduced by a Cabinet Minister, and the latter are sponsored by a Member who is not a Minister or a Parliamentary Secretary.

Bills may be introduced in the House of Commons or the Senate. However, all those that involve raising or spending public funds must be introduced in the House of Commons.



Interior of Chamber, 1916

Photo: D.A. McLaughlin/Library and Archives Canada/C-003913

Over the past fiscal year, a combined total of 44 Government Bills were introduced in the 39th Parliament and the 40th Parliament. These bills covered a wide range of social, economic and political issues, including:

- » limiting credit for time spent in pre-sentencing custody;
- » organized crime and protection of justice system participants;
- » protection of the environment;
- » civil liability and compensation for damage in case of a nuclear incident; and
- » family homes situated on First Nation reserves.

From April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009, 199 private Members' public bills were introduced in the House of Commons. These focused on a range of issues, such as:

- » amendments to the *Criminal Code*;
- » amendments to the *Employment Insurance Act*;
- » amendments to the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*;
- » establishing an Economic Development Agency of Canada for the Region of Northern Ontario;
- » providing certain rights to air passengers;

- » amendments to the *Competition Act* and the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999*;
- » amendments to the *Income Tax Act*;
- » amendments to the *Supreme Court Act*;
- » the *Italian-Canadian Recognition and Restitution Act*;
- » amendments to the *Canadian Forces Superannuation Act* and the *Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act*; and
- » amendments to the *Official Languages Act*.

In the legislative process, Members have opportunities to propose amendments to bills under consideration. In the period covered by this report, Members proposed more than 400 motions of amendment at the committee and report stages of the process.

## Seeking and Providing Information

An important function of the House of Commons is to provide an opportunity for Members to question the government about its actions and policies. During the daily 45-minute Question Period, members of the opposition parties can ask questions of the Prime Minister or Cabinet Ministers on matters within the administrative responsibility of the government. When detailed, lengthy or technical information is being sought from the government, questions can be submitted in writing. The government's replies are later tabled in the House of Commons.

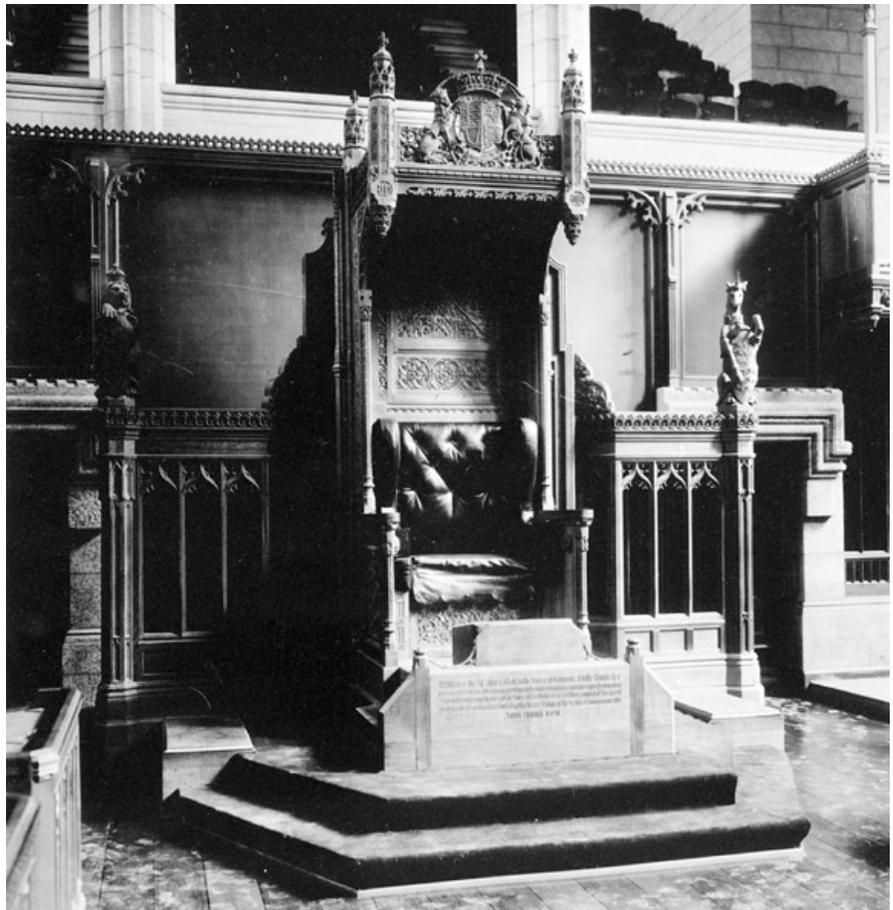
In the last fiscal year, during both the 39th and 40th Parliaments, a total of 3,622 oral questions were asked and 178 written ones were submitted. During the year, an average of 39 questions were asked per Question Period.

Opposition parties can also raise issues of concern by selecting topics for the House to debate on allotted days known as opposition days or supply days. In each calendar year, 22 days are set aside for consideration of motions sponsored by members of the opposition parties. The number of days for each party is allocated based on party representation and through consultations among the

opposition parties. For example, during the 39th Parliament, some opposition days were devoted to compliance with the Charter of the French Language by enterprises under federal jurisdiction located in Quebec, corporate tax cuts, the creation of a special committee on the Canadian mission in Afghanistan, Elections Canada, general interest television licence holders, economic policy and the *Conflict of Interest Code for Members of the House of Commons*. And during the 40th Parliament, opposition days were used to discuss such issues as Canada–United States relations, establishing a national securities commission, amending the equalization formula, municipal infrastructure, employment insurance, science, research and innovation, and the forestry industry.

## Tabling Documents

Tabling a document in the House of Commons is a formal way of presenting information and putting it on the official public record. A variety of documents must be tabled, such as annual reports of departments and agencies, non-judicial Order-in-Council appointments, government responses to committee reports and other papers concerning matters related to the administrative responsibilities of the government (for example, treaties with other countries). These documents are called sessional papers.



Speaker's Chair, 1921

Photo: Library and Archives Canada/C-001973

In the fiscal year 2008–2009, 714 sessional papers were tabled during the 39th Parliament and 809 were tabled during the 40th Parliament.

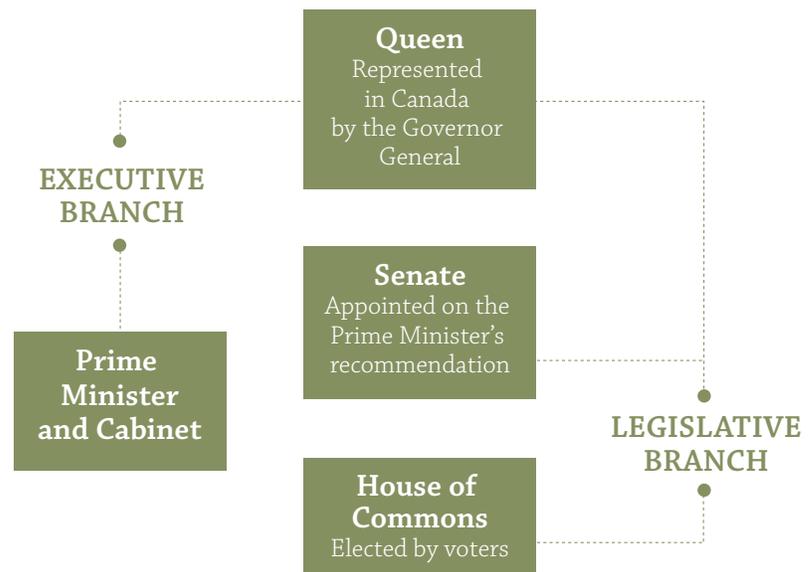
## Following the Rules

The daily activities in the Chamber are governed by a set of written rules called the Standing Orders as well as by a set of practices and traditions, some of which have been handed down through hundreds of years and others developed more recently. The House of Commons continues to develop and modify its rules and practices. In 2008–2009, the House of Commons made amendments to Standing Order 104(2) in relation to the number of members on certain standing committees, which provided that committees chaired by an opposition member would be reduced from 12 to 11 members; to Standing Order 108(3)(b) concerning the mandate of the Standing Committee of Citizenship and Immigration; and to Standing Order 108(3)(d) concerning the mandate of the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities.

Another way House practices change and evolve is through decisions by the Speaker, called rulings. These rulings involve the Speaker’s interpretation of the rules and precedents of the House. Sometimes the Speaker delivers these rulings immediately from the Chair on a point of order being raised in the House. In other cases, if the situation demands a more in-depth examination of the facts and review of precedent, the Speaker takes the matter under advisement and a detailed ruling is delivered.

In the past year, the Speaker delivered more than a dozen rulings in response to points of order raised in the Chamber. These rulings touched on such matters as the admissibility of a committee report, the use of House resources, parliamentary language, departmental advertising and a report of the Ethics Commissioner.

## Canada’s Parliamentary System



### Legislative Statistics for 2008–2009

Government Bills introduced: 44  
Private Members’ public bills introduced: 199

### Come and See

Canadian and international visitors learn about the heritage buildings, parliamentary tradition and the modern workings of Parliament through tours and interpretive programs.

### Tour Statistics for 2008–2009

Total Centre Block tours: 11,318 (344,347 visitors)  
Total East Block tours: 1,274 (12,372 visitors)  
Total school group visits to Centre Block: 1,366 (51,090 visitors)  
Total visitors to the Peace Tower and Memorial Chamber: 240,833

# Work in Committees

Committee work is an important component of a Member of Parliament's duties. In committee meetings, Members study proposed legislation, amend bills and examine departmental spending plans. Committees can also initiate inquiries or study issues referred to them by the House. They examine a wide variety of topics such as those related to defence, agriculture, food, environment and finance.

So that they will be well informed on their subject of study, committees can ask interested parties and subject experts to appear and submit briefs. They may also travel across Canada and abroad to gather information and hear from a wider segment of those who are interested and/or have expertise. At the conclusion of a study, the committee may present a report to the House with its views and recommendations.

The House of Commons has 24 standing committees in the 40th Parliament, as it did in the 39th Parliament, each with 11 or 12 members. Two standing joint committees are composed of both Senators and Members of the House of Commons. A number of committees have also struck subcommittees to study specific issues.

## Selecting Committee Members

Representation on parliamentary committees is based on party standings in the House of Commons. To determine committee membership, party whips submit lists of candidates to the Standing

Committee on Procedure and House Affairs, which sends a final list to the House of Commons for approval. Many Members sit on more than one committee.

Most standing committees are chaired by members of the governing party. The Vice-Chair, who is a member of the Official Opposition, assists the Chair, and a second Vice-Chair is designated from an opposition party other than the Official Opposition. The Standing Orders governing committees provide for several exceptions to this rule. The following committees are chaired by a member of the Official Opposition, with a Vice-Chair from the governing party:

- » Public Accounts;
- » Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics;
- » Government Operations and Estimates;
- » Status of Women; and
- » the Standing Joint Committee on Scrutiny of Regulations.

## Working on a Committee

Because a committee is comprised of a small number of Members, it provides an opportunity for parliamentarians to study matters in detail and learn in depth about issues of public policy. Committees investigate current issues, study proposed new legislation and policies, and can request input from subject experts and have this information placed on the public record.

A committee does not make final decisions. When it has finished considering a matter, it presents its findings and recommendations in a report to the House. Committees can influence policies and decision-making, and their reports may include a request that the government provide a comprehensive response within 120 days.

## Studying Issues in Committee

Over the 2008–2009 fiscal year, committees held 911 meetings totaling more than 1,469 hours, heard 2,618 witnesses and produced 136 reports. The following are examples of the subjects investigated by parliamentary committees of the 39th and 40th Parliaments:

- » “Product of Canada” claims on food products;
- » veterans’ health care;
- » Passport Canada’s services in the regions;
- » Employment Insurance premiums;
- » the forestry industry;
- » rail safety;
- » the crisis in the automotive sector;
- » free trade with Colombia; and
- » conductive energy weapons.

## Organizing the Work of Committees

Committee members elect their Chairs and Vice-Chairs. The Chair presides over committee meetings and speaks on behalf of the committee. The Chair only casts a vote when there is a tie and is responsible for maintaining order and ruling on questions of procedure.

Each committee has a clerk, who is a non-partisan officer serving all members of the committee equally. The clerk is an expert on the rules of committees and may be asked to advise on procedural matters. The clerk also has a coordinating, organizing and liaison role and is in frequent contact with committee members.

One or two analysts from the Library of Parliament are assigned to each committee. They prepare background research documents and draft reports for committees.

## Types of Committees

**Standing committee**—A permanent committee that oversees the activities of government departments and studies proposed legislation and estimates.

**Special committee**—Appointed by the House of Commons to inquire into specific matters; a special committee ceases to exist after it presents a final report to the House.

**Legislative committee**—Studies a bill referred to it by the House and reports the bill back to the House, with or without amendments; a legislative committee ceases to exist once it has submitted its report to the House.

**Joint committee**—Consists of a proportionate number of Senators and Members of the House of Commons.

**Subcommittee**—A standing committee may delegate any or all of its powers to a subcommittee, except the power to report directly to the House of Commons.

## Standing Committees of the House of Commons for the 39th and 40th Parliaments

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development  
Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics  
Agriculture and Agri-Food  
Canadian Heritage  
Citizenship and Immigration  
Environment and Sustainable Development  
Finance  
Fisheries and Oceans  
Foreign Affairs and International Development  
Government Operations and Estimates  
Health  
Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities  
Industry, Science and Technology  
International Trade  
Justice and Human Rights  
National Defence  
Natural Resources  
Official Languages  
Procedure and House Affairs  
Public Accounts  
Public Safety and National Security  
Status of Women  
Transport, Infrastructure and Communities  
Veterans Affairs

## Standing Joint Committees of the 39th and 40th Parliaments

Library of Parliament  
Scrutiny of Regulations



### Special Committee on the Canadian Mission in Afghanistan

Canada's mission in Afghanistan received considerable attention from parliamentary committees. Via the adoption of a motion in the House, a Special Committee on the Canadian Mission in Afghanistan was created during the Second Session of the 39th Parliament and again in the Second Session of the 40th Parliament. The committee received regular briefings on Canada's involvement in that country. The Standing Committee on National Defence visited Canadian troops in the region and the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development studied the mission and made recommendations.

*Photo: © National Defence*

# Representing Canada Abroad

Another facet of the role of Members of Parliament is that of representing Canada. Parliamentary diplomacy takes Members to international meetings and on visits to promote democracy, trade and social ties. It also brings foreign parliamentarians and dignitaries to the House of Commons.

## Welcoming Foreign Parliamentarians and Dignitaries

The Parliament of Canada hosted the following official visits by foreign Speakers and delegations during 2008–2009:

» May 26 to 30, 2008—His Excellency Dr. Gundars Daudze, Chairman of the Parliament of the Republic of Latvia (Saeima); and

» May 12 to 15, 2008—Mr. William Hay, MLA, Speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

In keeping with their diplomatic function, the Speakers of the Senate and the House of Commons were involved with high-level state visits.

On May 26, 2008, His Excellency Viktor Yushchenko, President of Ukraine, was welcomed to Parliament and addressed

Senators and Members of the House of Commons in a rare joint session of Parliament.

Parliament Hill's Centre Block was also chosen as the location for the first foreign visit of United States President Barack Obama on February 19, 2009. The intense media and public interest in this very successful visit required extraordinary logistical and security arrangements.



United States President Barack Obama visits Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper on February 19, 2009.

Photo: © House of Commons/Chris Diotte

The Speakers of the Senate and the House of Commons also build parliamentary relationships with other countries by receiving courtesy calls from foreign dignitaries as well as from newly accredited ambassadors to Canada and those leaving the country. In 2008–2009, the Speaker received 31 such visits.

## Representing Canada's Interests and Sharing Our Experience

The Speaker and Members are frequently invited to visit other legislatures—both at home and abroad—to discuss common issues, foster relationships and share knowledge and expertise. At the invitation of his counterparts in other countries and legislatures, Speaker Peter Milliken led official delegations to the following countries and legislatures during 2008–2009:

- » March 16 to 19, 2009—Edmonton, Alberta, and Regina, Saskatchewan;
- » August 22 to 31, 2008—Australia; and
- » April 18 to 27, 2008—Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Croatia, and Republic of Macedonia.

Also, the Speaker participated in the following parliamentary conferences:

- » January 22 to 26, 2009—26th Canadian Presiding Officers' Conference, Regina, Saskatchewan;
- » January 4 to 7, 2009—Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth, Mozambique;
- » August 31 to September 2, 2008—G8 Speakers' Conference, Japan;

- » July 2 to 5, 2008—Conference of presiding officers of the *Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (APF)*, Quebec City, Quebec; and
- » May 22 and 23, 2008—European Conference of Presidents of Parliament, France.

## Visiting and Hosting: Parliamentary Diplomacy at Work

By visiting colleagues abroad and by serving as hosts to foreign visitors, parliamentarians share ideas with their counterparts from around the world, exploring common concerns. Frequent topics of discussion include global economy, parliamentary democracy, international security, agriculture, immigration, environment, trade and international development.

The Parliament of Canada is also a member of various parliamentary associations. Each of these holds conferences and meetings. These events offer Canadian parliamentarians further opportunities to promote Canada's interests abroad and to maintain relationships with other countries.

Many issues that concern Canadians go beyond national borders, especially in this era of globalization. It is important for Canadian parliamentarians to understand the views and interests of other countries when decisions of those countries and international organizations can affect the daily lives of Canadians. Members of Parliament undertook a number of activities in the last fiscal year to gain understanding of some international issues.

Participating in parliamentary conferences is one manner by which Canadian parliamentarians have direct contact with their foreign counterparts. For example, in January of 2009 the Canada-China Legislative Association, in conjunction with the Canada-Japan Inter-Parliamentary Group sent a delegation of parliamentarians to the 17th Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum, held in Vientiane, Laos. The yearly Forum is one of the most significant and diverse gatherings of parliamentarians from the Asia-Pacific region. Canadian delegates participated in discussions of topics affecting the region, including climate change, the global financial crisis and the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.



Viktor Yushchenko, President of Ukraine, addresses a joint session of Parliament, May 26, 2008.

Photo: © House of Commons

Hosting seminars and events in Canada is another method by which Canadian perspectives and expertise can be shared. In June of 2008, the Canadian Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) hosted the 20th Commonwealth Parliamentary Seminar. The event provided parliamentarians from around the Commonwealth, many from emerging democracies, with the opportunity to exchange best practices in strengthening parliamentary democracies.

Acting as international election observers is another activity that Canadian parliamentarians are often requested to undertake. The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA) is very active in this domain. Its long-term objective is to further global security and promote democracy. To that end, in May of 2008 a Canadian Member of Parliament was sent to Georgia to observe the parliamentary elections in that country.

Finally, in keeping with its practice of holding international conferences, in September 2008 the Parliament of Canada hosted the Fall Meetings of the OSCE PA. Held in Toronto, the conference's theme was *OSCE in an Open World: Trade, Security and Migration*. While originally a total of 250 delegates (parliamentarians, staff and observers) were expected from the 56 member countries, more than 400 actually

participated, due in large part to a change in the conference program. Specifically, the agenda was modified given the crisis in Georgia; the keynote address by the Foreign Minister of Georgia at the conference prompted an increased number of parliamentarians to attend and to speak about conflict resolution, an important issue for the OSCE PA.

### **Parliamentary Associations**

The Parliament of Canada belongs to five bilateral associations and seven multilateral associations.

#### **Bilateral associations:**

- Canada-China Legislative Association
- Canada-France Interparliamentary Association
- Canada-Japan Inter-Parliamentary Group
- Canada-United Kingdom Inter-Parliamentary Association
- Canada-United States Inter-Parliamentary Group

#### **Multilateral associations:**

- Canada-Africa Parliamentary Association
- Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association (including the delegation to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly)
- Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie
- Inter-Parliamentary Union
- NATO Parliamentary Association
- Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas
- Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

### **Interparliamentary Groups**

The Canadian Parliament is involved in official interparliamentary groups with Germany, Ireland, Israel and Italy. These groups promote cooperation and understanding among nations and strengthen relations between Canadian parliamentarians and their counterparts in other parliaments. Membership fees from individual parliamentarians support the groups' activities.

# Behind the Scenes: The House of Commons Administration

## Building on the Past to Shape the Future

Taking inspiration from the venerable buildings of the Parliamentary Precinct, employees of the House of Commons Administration take great pride in their role of supporting the work of parliamentarians as they oversee the governance of our country. Employees work in traditional and diverse roles, combining a respect for past accomplishments with preparation for the future.

The professional support provided by the House Administration falls into six areas: Procedural Services; the Office of the Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel; Information Services; Parliamentary Precinct Services; Finance Services; and Human Resources, Corporate Planning and Communications Services.

The House Administration staff is accountable to the Clerk of the House of Commons, who reports to the Speaker and serves as Secretary to the Board of Internal Economy. The Board governs the House Administration. Chaired by the Speaker, it is composed of Members

from all recognized political parties and is responsible for all matters of financial and administrative policy that affect the House of Commons.



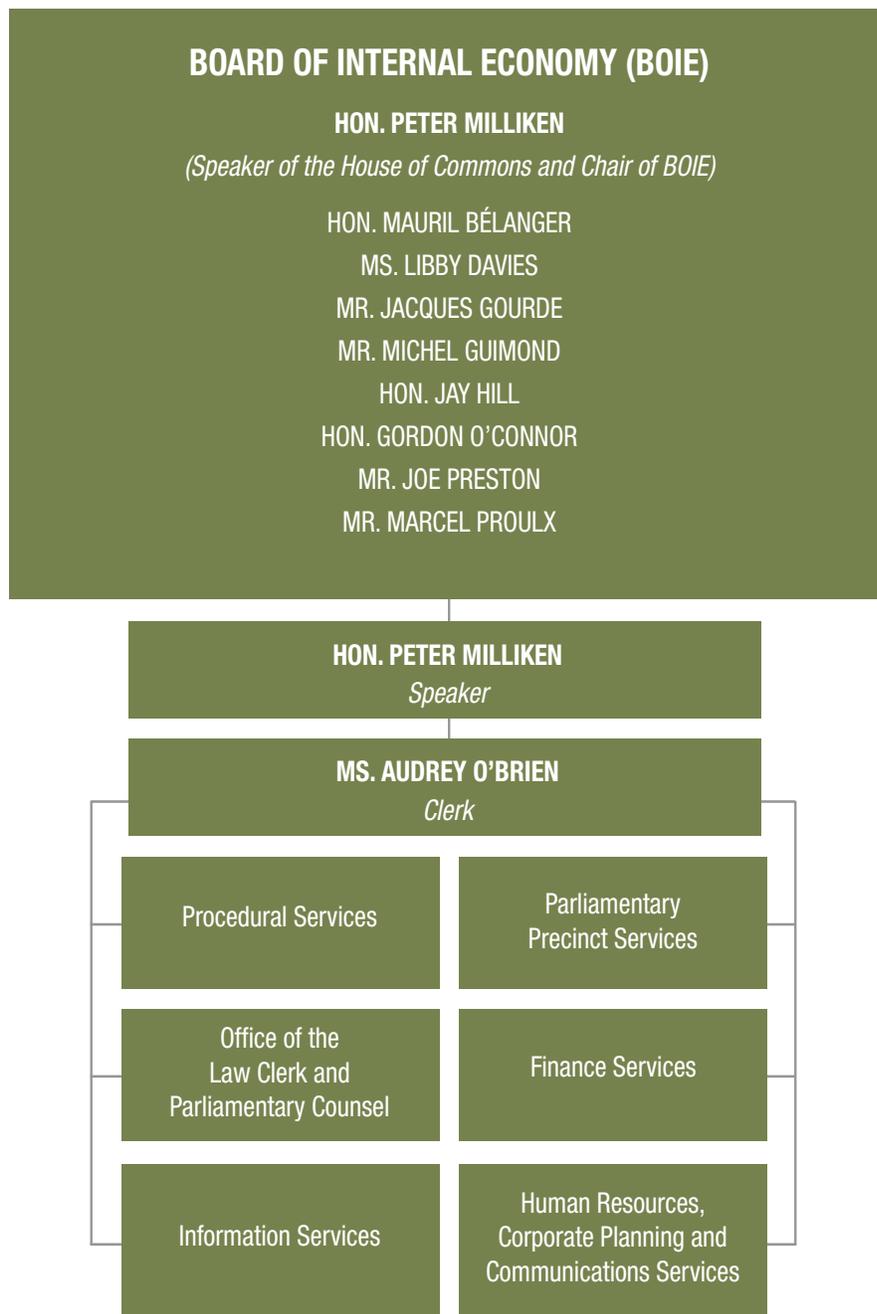
## Members of the Board of Internal Economy

**Standing from left to right:** Mr. Marcel Proulx, M.P., Deputy Opposition Whip; Mr. Jacques Gourde, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Works and Government Services and to the Minister of National Revenue; Hon. Gordon O'Connor, M.P., Minister of State; Hon. Mauril Bélanger, M.P. (Lib); Hon. Jay Hill, M.P., Leader of the Government in the House of Commons; Mr. Joe Preston, M.P. (CPC); Mr. Michel Guimond, M.P., Whip of the Bloc Québécois.

**Sitting from left to right:** Ms. Audrey O'Brien, Clerk of the House of Commons; Hon. Peter Milliken, M.P., Speaker of the House of Commons; Ms. Libby Davies, M.P., House Leader of the New Democratic Party.

Photo: © House of Commons/  
Bernard Thibodeau

# House of Commons Administration Organization Chart



# Supporting Strategic Objectives

The House Administration has established four strategic objectives that reflect its vision, values and mandate. These objectives provide a focus for its efforts and serve as a guide for activities during the 39th Parliament and into the 40th Parliament.

## The House Administration's Strategic Objectives

1. To respond to the evolving role of Members and the institution;
2. To enhance ongoing services to Members and sustain the institution;
3. To promote understanding and to support the advancement of legislative institutions;
4. To apply the highest standards of public sector governance in a parliamentary context.

This section of the *Report to Canadians* describes the House Administration's accomplishments during the 2008–2009 fiscal year in support of those objectives. It also identifies the Administration's major commitments for 2009–2010.

## 1. To Respond to the Evolving Role of Members and the Institution

### Supporting the Evolution of Parliamentary Practices and Rules

The House Administration staff drafts amendments to the Standing Orders of the House in accordance with instructions from Members of

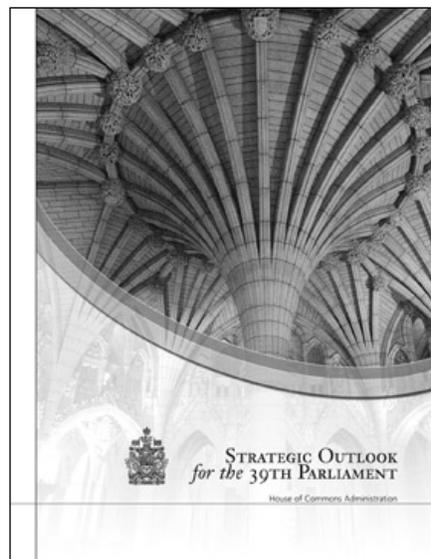
Parliament and then updates the procedural reference works made available to Members of Parliament for Chamber and committee work. To that end, the *Compendium of House of Commons Procedure* is regularly updated to integrate changes to practices and usages in the House, as procedures continue to evolve. In addition, a duty-clerk is always available to respond to procedural questions from Members of Parliament, their staff or members of the public.

Following the election held in the fall of 2008, the House Administration staff updated publications for distribution to new and returning Members of Parliament. Staff also responded to telephone calls seeking information on procedural questions from Members of Parliament, their staff and members of the public.

### Ensuring a flexible technology infrastructure

The Parliamentary Precinct's information technology network has been upgraded in Precinct buildings to ensure a more reliable and manageable platform for the delivery of information services. In 2008–2009, the House Administration completed the implementation of a secure, reliable and central information-storage environment for Members. In addition, it renewed network services for Members' constituency offices to provide fast and flexible communications services.

In 2008–2009, the House Administration completed the migration of the desktop environment to the new platform. The project is part of an ongoing software and hardware lifecycle program. These tools will enable the House of Commons Administration to take full advantage of the latest technology to respond to the ever-evolving needs of its clients and the institution.



Cover of Strategic Outlook

### **Improving Members' Access to Parliamentary Information**

In 2008–2009 the House Administration provided Members and the public with live and on-demand audio access to all public committee events. ParlVU is an Internet portal where Canadians and the media can see and hear Parliament live and on demand, in both official languages. Building on investments made in the House of Commons IT and broadcasting infrastructure, rich media (i.e., media that include advanced technologies such as streaming video) can be repurposed, linked contextually to published text and provided on demand. Whether it is parliamentary schedules acting as virtual gateways or video clips that tell a story, ParlVU provides an information service that is relevant to Canadians.

The House Administration will introduce new services to improve Members' access to parliamentary information. Transcripts of parliamentary proceedings will be available to add context within the ParlVU portal.

In the past fiscal year, the House Administration introduced a new service to improve access to the voting records of Members of Parliament. The Parliament of Canada Web site can be used to access information by vote, by bill, by political party or by individual Member.

Just prior to the end of the 39th Parliament, the House Administration made enhancements to the committees section of the Web site. The improvements provide Members, staff and the public with better access to information regarding committee members and witnesses and also offer improved subscription features that enable users to follow the work of committees. Over the

40th Parliament, it is expected that usage of these features will increase. This will permit further refinements to better serve parliamentarians and members of the public alike.

A software tool for publishing both paper and electronic documents and improving document workflow is being used to improve the process supporting the publication of documents for the International and Interparliamentary Affairs Directorate, specifically to electronically track a report from start to finish. Such a tool will facilitate the entire publishing process from the draft stage to the final step of tabling a report. It will also be used to manage and publish articles for the *Compendium of House of Commons Procedure*, making it easier to update and maintain this important online resource.

The administrations of the House of Commons, Senate and Library of Parliament continued to be governed by a common long-term vision and strategy for the enhancement of parliamentary information services throughout Parliament. In the fiscal year 2008–2009, the Parliamentary Information Management (PIM) Committee, representing all three institutions, developed a governance model that clearly defines roles and responsibilities, thereby enabling all participants to work together effectively. In addition, it established a tri-institutional group that began examining information on legislation, one of the priorities established by PIM.

In the coming year, PIM will continue its efforts towards the goal of producing more integrated and coherent information services for clients. In particular, a tri-institutional project team will work towards building on recommendations that would result in increased efficiencies and eliminate redundancies.

In the coming year, the House Administration will undertake a review of its procedural publications, specifically their content and the processes used to produce them. In an effort to increase efficiency and to offer the most accurate and timely procedural information to Members, staff will focus on developing a living-documents strategy.

## **2. To Enhance Ongoing Services to Members and Sustain the Institution**

### **Renovating the Parliamentary Buildings**

The Long Term Vision and Plan for the Parliamentary Precinct ensures that the Parliament Buildings and grounds are preserved as heritage assets and national symbols of Canada and meet the accommodation and operational requirements of Parliament.

Working in collaboration with Public Works and Government Services Canada, custodian of the buildings, the House Administration staff, in its role as knowledgeable client, continued to ensure that the planning, design and installation of facilities, information technologies and infrastructure meet the requirements of Members of Parliament, their staff and parliamentary functions.

Planning continues on the major rehabilitation of the West Block, with restoration work under way on the north towers. To enable the rehabilitation of the building to proceed, interim spaces are being created in the Wellington, La Promenade and the former Canadian Museum of Contemporary Photography buildings for committee rooms, Members' offices and support functions displaced from the West Block. Interim spaces have been created for the administration functions that have been moved out of the Wellington Building.

### No Room of Their Own

When the first Centre Block was designed in 1859 to house the Parliament of the Province of Canada, the architects, the Department of Public Works and even parliamentarians themselves assumed Members would require little more than the basic amenities of a desk, a chair, a wardrobe and reading lounges. Only the Speakers of the two Houses had their own offices.

### Improving Information Technology Services

Using voice-recognition technologies, the House Administration now offers real-time closed captioning of Question Period in both official languages. In addition, closed captioning is now available for special events in the Chamber, such as the budget speech and economic statements.

Providing Members with accurate and high-quality information and services is of paramount importance to the House Administration. An upgrade of the Financial Management System



### Parliament under construction, 1863

*View of Main Front and Entrance Towers.*

*Photo: Samuel McLaughlin/Library & Archives Canada/C-000773*

is well under way and scheduled for deployment in late 2009. The upgrade will provide additional functionality to both Members and the House Administration. As part of the Finance Data Quality Program launched in early 2009, an assessment of financial-system controls showed a high level of integrity and security.

A purchasing tool has been developed that is integrated with the House Administration's financial system. It will allow Members to purchase supplies online and have their financial information updated simultaneously. The House Administration will launch it as a pilot in early 2010 and, once the pilot results have been assessed, will deploy it to all Members.

### **Refining the Business Continuity and Resumption Plan for the House of Commons**

Ongoing planning ensures that the vital business of the Chamber and committees can continue in the event of an emergency situation requiring the House of Commons to relocate. The House Administration has identified critical service needs for all the areas of the House of Commons.

Over the past year, staff defined, designed and tested a Business Continuity Management (BCM)–Alternate Chamber Plan for the moving of the Chamber to a different location within the existing Parliamentary Precinct boundaries. In addition, staff developed a BCM–Alternate Centre Block design plan that, within 48 to 72 hours of a declared event affecting the usability of Centre Block, would enable the House of Commons to operate essential services in an alternate location outside of the existing Parliamentary Precinct boundaries.

### **Training and Orientation for Members and Their Staff**

The Members' Orientation and Election Readiness Program assists new Members of Parliament as they assume their new functions by ensuring that Members have

the administrative, financial and procedural information and services they need.

As an innovation this past fiscal year, the program introduced the concept of Liaison Officers. Assigned to new Members of Parliament, the Officers assist them in navigating their way around the shoals of the first few weeks in their new functions.

In addition, the administrative orientation component of the program was redesigned to make it more targeted, with improved documentation for Members. Staff also improved services offered to Members of Parliament who are transitioning to private life.

The House Administration also designed a tracking and reporting system to identify milestones, document processes and improve the quality and timeliness of the information provided to management.

During the fiscal year 2008–2009, a risk assessment was undertaken to clarify the processes and accountability for the Members' Orientation and Election Readiness Program. In 2009, staff will develop the results of that assessment into a risk-mitigation plan.

The House Administration provided training sessions to Members and their staff on the subject of Members' allowances and services, and will be putting into place a formal program whereby training sessions will be offered on a regular basis.

### **Keeping the House of Commons Secure**

The Master Security Plan (MSP) was completed during the last fiscal year. It outlines the strategic security direction for the Parliamentary Precinct for the next several years. This comprehensive plan will see the security services of both the Senate and the House of Commons working with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) toward maximizing their interoperability. It proposes a series of strategic initiatives to evolve security practices on Parliament

## **Cutting-edge Information Technology Right from the Start**

The roots of information technology go much further back than the appearance of computers in the House. The Parliamentary Precinct boasts a number of firsts.

1867—Electric (battery-powered) call bells were installed in the original Centre Block.

1877—Prime Minister Alexander Mackenzie made the first commercial telephone call in Canada from room 310 West Block to the Governor General's residence.

1927—The first-ever nationwide radio broadcast originated on Parliament Hill.

1928—The first Canadian transatlantic telephone call was made from the Centre Block to Cardiff, Wales.

1957—The opening of Parliament by the Queen was the first time Her Majesty had used live television to address citizens in any country of the Commonwealth.

1959—Simultaneous translation (interpretation) was introduced to the floor of the House of Commons and the press gallery.

1977—Regular TV and radio broadcasts from the Chamber began.

1995—The Parliament of Canada Web site was launched to provide worldwide access to parliamentary information.

2004—ParlVU Service was launched to provide worldwide access to live video and audio proceedings.

Hill based on the predominant themes of incident prevention and security integration. Central to the plan is recognition that the MSP will strengthen security and safety in the Parliamentary Precinct while it promotes a welcoming environment for all those who visit.

### 3. To Promote Understanding and to Support the Advancement of Legislative Institutions

#### Updating Major Publications on Parliamentary Procedure

Work is under way on the final stages of the drafting, review, translation and design of the second edition of *House of Commons Procedure and Practice*. Originally published in 2000, this book is a comprehensive study of the House of Commons jurisprudence that examines the forms, customs and procedures established since

Confederation. This new edition, to be published in the fall of 2009, will take into account changes to the Standing Orders and practices of the House since the release of the first edition. It will also include a number of revised and reorganized chapters, several new graphics and a more complete bibliography that lists reference works by chapter.

Over the last fiscal year, the House Administration also published a number of other procedural works, including the *Selected Decisions of Speaker Gilbert Parent* and updates to the *Guide for the Speaker and Chair Occupants*, the *Glossary of Parliamentary Procedure*, the *Private Members' Business Practical Guide*, the *Committees Practical Guide*, the *Petitions Practical Guide*, *Amending Bills at Committee and Report Stages* and the *Guide for Witnesses Appearing before House of Commons Committees*.

#### Providing Learning Opportunities for Parliamentarians and Legislative Officials from jurisdictions in Canada and Abroad

Staff offered numerous information and training sessions on procedural topics to Members of Parliament, their staff, employees of the research services of the various caucuses and the House Administration. Of particular note is the ongoing seminar series geared specifically to new Members of Parliament and their staff on general topics such as the parliamentary cycle.

Partnering with the Senate and the Library of Parliament, the House of Commons hosts its Parliamentary Officers' Study Program two to three times a year. This two-week program affords an opportunity for senior parliamentary staff from foreign legislatures and Canadian jurisdictions to learn about procedural, administrative and research practices and services provided to parliamentarians.

#### Even security is a tradition

Barracks Hill was chosen for the Parliamentary Precinct because it provided a natural boundary, with protective topography along the east, north and west perimeters. Designers equipped the south boundary of the new precinct with a continuous fence featuring clearly defined entry points for pedestrians and vehicles, and all entrances had wrought iron gates that could be closed in emergencies. The wide expanse of open lawn was itself a security feature.

To improve the ongoing training of procedural staff, the House Administration will undertake a review of the monthly sessions offered by Table Research Branch, which provides information and advice on parliamentary procedure. The goal will be to evaluate whether the subject matter is suitable and appropriate, and whether improvements are necessary.

### 4. To Apply the Highest Standards of Public Sector Governance in a Parliamentary Context

#### Strengthening House of Commons Management Practices

In 2008–2009, staff in the Committees Directorate undertook a detailed review of practices and processes related to committee travel to ensure they were clear, up-to-date, effective in mitigating risk and consistent with other policies. Staff developed an action plan to modify a number of processes, in concert with partners in Finance Services and at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.



Detail of iron gates, west entrance of Parliament Hill

Photo: © House of Commons/Holly Loranger



## Parliamentary Officers' Study Program, February 2009

**Back row from left to right:** Mr. Hrvoje Sadarić (Croatia – Parliament); Mr. Chandradasa Kuruppu (Sri Lanka – Parliament); Mr. Lacille De Silva (Sri Lanka – Parliament); Mr. Suzaul Islam (Bangladesh – Parliament); Mr. Richard Sono Agyapong (Ghana – Parliament); Mr. Claus Dieter Koggel (Germany – Federal Council); Mr. Simon J Uirab (Namibia – National Assembly); Mr. Takeaki Yaoita (Japan – House of Representatives); Mr. Nicolas Besly (United Kingdom – House of Lords); and Mr. Montree Rupsuwan (Thailand – Senate).

**Front row, from left to right:** Ms. Anne Stokes (Ontario – Legislative Assembly); Mrs. Nataliya Kozlovska (Ukraine – Parliament); Ms. Susan Sourial (Ontario – Legislative Assembly); and Ms. Fay Paterson (New Zealand – House of Representatives).

Photo Credit: © House of Commons

Promoting sound stewardship and effective management of public resources is a priority for the House Administration. The following initiatives are directly aligned with meeting the objectives of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Model—a more strategic approach to financial and resource management that promotes responsible stewardship of resources, accountability and transparency.

The House Administration is implementing an integrated investment-planning framework to enhance the planning process and ensure investments continue to be made strategically. As part of a formal cycle of integrated investment planning, now in its second year, priority investments for achieving the House Administration's strategic objectives in support of the work of

Members were confirmed. With respect to financial reporting, the House Administration's financial statements continue to be audited by an external firm. In 2008, the auditors issued an unqualified report.

The House Administration also launched a procurement manual and training program to ensure that goods and services essential to supporting the work of Members are acquired in a fair

and cost-effective manner. In addition, it updated the *Procurement Policy* and began work on updating the *Asset Management Policy*, the *Prepaid Expenses and Deferred Charges Policy* and the *Recovering Property and Privileges of Departing Employees Policy*.

The House Administration will begin implementation of an automated procurement-management system in late 2009 that will reinforce sound financial-management practices and strong stewardship of public resources, key elements of the CFO Model.

### **Managing Parliamentary Information**

As the foundation is laid for the upcoming PRISM migration, the House Administration has moved integral parts of the Journals Plus application to a new platform where the updated Procedural Review and Libraries modules have been created. This provides the House Administration with an improved and flexible system for recording and sharing information on procedural events and

also enables the use of a standardized vocabulary when describing these events. The advantage is that the same vocabulary will be used when describing procedural events.

### **Sustaining a Motivated and Effective Workforce**

The House of Commons, like many employers, will be facing challenges in the coming years to recruit and retain talent at a time when the Canadian workforce is experiencing an increase in retirements and as the market for skilled employees becomes more competitive. To address these challenges, the House Administration has developed a corporate human resources strategy that will position the House to recruit strategically, retain new employees by means of engagement and training strategies, and provide support and development to leaders so that they are well equipped to carry out their roles. These strategic initiatives will ensure that the House of Commons continues to have an engaged and ready workforce to support the work

of Members in committees, in the Chamber and in the constituencies and that the organization is regarded as a best employer in a competitive marketplace.

The corporate human resources strategy includes initiatives such as the development and alignment of competency models in all service areas, which emphasize competency evaluation and learning and development needs, and the implementation of corporate succession planning across the House Administration. The development of the succession-planning program is under way and will be aligned with a leadership-development program to ensure that the organization's leaders have the knowledge and skills they need to support and lead a complex and multi-generational workforce.

An integral part of the human resources strategy will be to provide performance statistics to measure the success of initiatives in the areas of retention and employee satisfaction. As part of its goal of managing talent, the strategy includes the creation of an employer

**PRISM** is a House of Commons technology program for managing procedural information, publishing parliamentary publications and supporting the planning of parliamentary events. Representatives from the service areas of the House Administration currently using PRISM will work to establish business-led governance to support ongoing investments. In the coming year, consultations will be undertaken with users, and processes will be developed to initiate, review and approve projects, as well as to validate and deploy solutions. Within the updated PRISM framework, these solutions will facilitate the production of parliamentary publications and allow information to be retrieved in a more timely and efficient manner.

**Journals Plus** is a database application that was originally developed to help Procedural Services manage publications and information (Standing Orders, Questions of Privilege, Table Research Branch library files). Many of its modules, along with their relevant information, have been migrated to PRISM's Procedural Review and Libraries module, a more stable and flexible platform.



Audrey O'Brien, Clerk of the House of Commons, speaks to employees during an Open House event

*Photo: © House of Commons*

brand to enhance the recruitment and retention of our key asset, the staff of the House Administration.

### **Improving Environmental Management on the Hill**

The House Administration participates in Partners for a Green Hill, an active environmental committee that includes representatives from the House Administration, the Senate, the Library

of Parliament and Public Works and Government Services Canada. The committee is finalizing a sustainable-development strategy designed to ensure the continuous improvement of the environmental programs in the Parliamentary Precinct.

In the development of renovation and construction plans under the Long Term Vision and Plan for the Parliamentary Precinct, the House Administration continued to integrate best practices and standards of sustainable development in the context of a heritage setting.

# Conclusion

Members of Parliament uphold and draw strength from the values Canadians cherish. They voice those values when they engage in earnest debates in the Chamber, seek understanding in the committee rooms, listen to the concerns of individual constituents and communicate with representatives of other countries.

The 1,300 local workers who began construction of the Parliament Buildings 150 years ago started a tradition of public engagement with the Parliamentary Precinct. The thousands of Canadians who visit each year experience not only the beauty of the setting but also a unique sense of place that brings us together and connects us to our country's government. Members and staff find the atmosphere inspiring, as they perform their varied work on our behalf. Likewise, the tradition of the House of Commons provides stability and support for the often-challenging role Members play.

These foundations—both built and inherited—form a steady base from which to move forward, to make the changes necessary to take our country into a future that holds many new and exciting challenges.

The House Administration, while making sure the people and infrastructure are in place to sustain Members in their ongoing work, always bears in mind that the role of Members and the institution are perpetually evolving. The House Administration continues to find

innovative new tools and ways of working, to prepare for the future and to shape the talent required for high standards of public sector governance.

Members and staff at the House of Commons are proud to work for all Canadians in an institution rooted in the long-standing traditions that the Parliamentary Precinct provides. They are very much aware that those components of the past provide the base on which to shape the future.



**View of Parliament Hill**

*Photo: © House of Commons/Bernard Thibodeau*

# Financial Report\*

## Planned Versus Actual Spending by Authority

(in thousands of dollars)

		2008-2009				
Vote	Program Name	Main Estimates	Supplementary Estimates and Adjustments	Total Authorities	Actual Spending	Variance
5	Program expenditures	277,094	2,579	279,673	271,145	8,528
(S)	Members of the House of Commons**	113,014	378	113,392	113,392	0
(S)	Contributions to employee benefit plans	34,944	(2,301)	32,643	32,643	0
	SUBTOTAL OF STATUTORY ITEMS	147,958	(1,923)	146,035	146,035	0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>425,052</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>425,708</b>	<b>417,180</b>	<b>8,528</b>

\*\* Salaries and allowances of Officers and Members of the House of Commons under the Parliament of Canada Act and contributions to the Members of Parliament Retiring Allowances Account and the Members of Parliament Retirement Compensation Arrangements Account

## Planned Versus Actual Spending by Program Activity

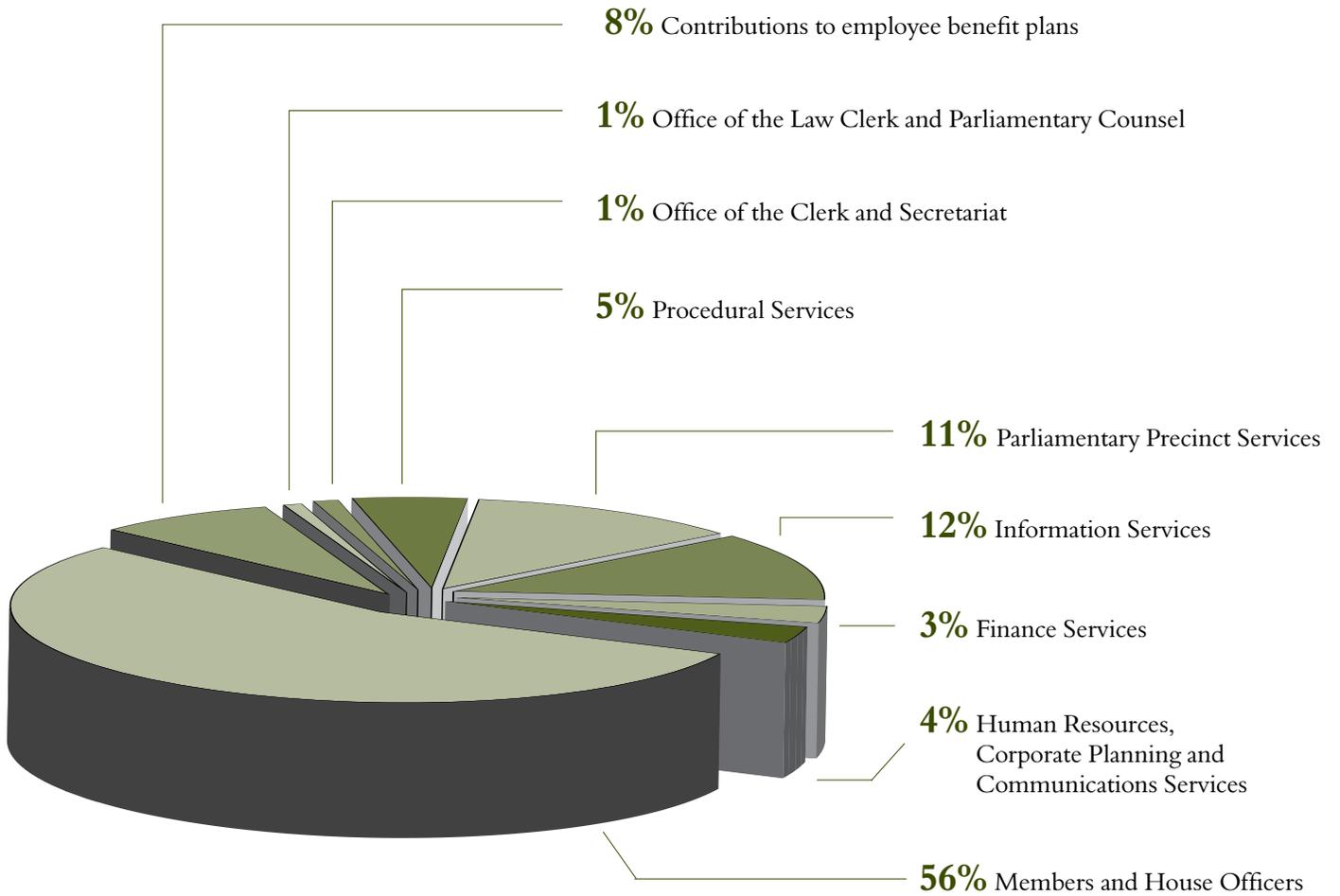
(in thousands of dollars)

		2008-2009				
Program Activity	Main Estimates	Supplementary Estimates and Adjustments	Total Authorities	Actual Spending	Variance	
Members and House Officers	237,829	(348)	237,481	233,454	4,027	
House Administration						
Office of the Clerk and Secretariat	1,899	(378)	1,521	1,521	0	
Office of the Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel	2,716	362	3,078	3,078	0	
Procedural Services	16,984	(389)	16,595	16,063	532	
Standing Committees	5,250	0	5,250	1,634	3,616	
Parliamentary Associations	3,094	(70)	3,024	2,671	353	
Parliamentary Precinct Services	48,471	(676)	47,795	47,795	0	
Information Services	47,376	4,782	52,158	52,158	0	
Finance Services	13,636	(2,280)	11,356	11,356	0	
Human Resources, Corporate Planning and Communications Services	12,853	1,954	14,807	14,807	0	
SUBTOTAL	152,279	3,305	155,584	151,083	4,501	
Contributions to employee benefit plans	34,944	(2,301)	32,643	32,643	0	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>425,052</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>425,708</b>	<b>417,180</b>	<b>8,528</b>	

\* Financials results may be subject to minor revisions.

# 2008–2009 Actual Spending by Program Activity

(Percentage)



Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

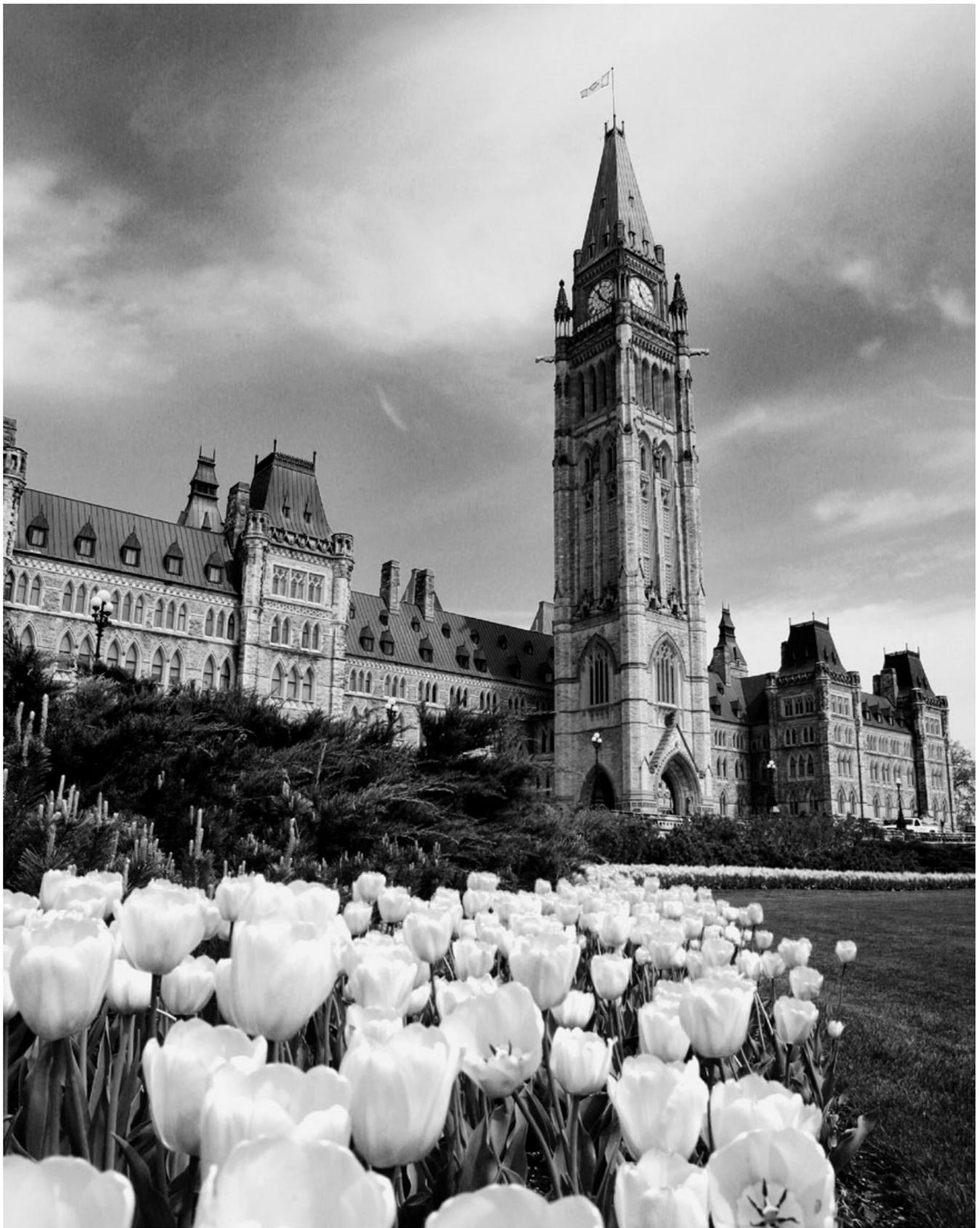
## Increase in Main Estimates Over Previous Year

(in thousands of dollars)

Vote	Program Name	Main Estimates		
		2008-2009	2007-2008	Variance
5	Program expenditures:			
	Members and House Officers	124,815	121,986	2,829
	Office of the Clerk and Secretariat	1,899	1,714	185
	Office of the Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel	2,716	2,641	75
	Procedural Services	25,328	23,349	1,979
	Parliamentary Precinct Services	48,471	45,216	3,255
	Information Services	47,376	44,336	3,040
	Finance Services	13,636	12,447	1,189
	Human Resources, Corporate Planning and Communications Services	12,853	11,951	902
	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>277,094</b>	<b>263,640</b>	<b>13,454</b>
(S)	Members and House Officers	113,014	111,844	1,170
(S)	Contributions to employee benefit plans	34,944	35,047	(103)
	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>147,958</b>	<b>146,891</b>	<b>1,067</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>425,052</b>	<b>410,531</b>	<b>14,521</b>

## Full-Time Equivalents—House Administration

Program Sub-activity	Main Estimates	
	2008-2009	2007-2008
Office of the Clerk and Secretariat	13	19
Office of the Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel	32	25
Procedural Services	219	219
Parliamentary Precinct Services	823	822
Information Services	522	520
Finance Services	136	125
Human Resources, Corporate Planning and Communications Services	126	115
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,871</b>	<b>1,845</b>



View of Peace Tower, May 2009

*Photo: © House of Commons/Bernard Thibodeau*