



*Parliamentary Centre
Le Centre parlementaire*

**Study Visit to Canada by Commission Chairs of the Senate
and National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia
June 5-15, 2005**

Final Report
July 5, 2005

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Introduction and Background

The Cambodia-Canada Legislative Support Project (CCLSP) has its roots in efforts by Canada during the 1990s to support a sustainable transition to democratic government in Cambodia. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) funds this multi-year bilateral project. It is based on a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Governments of Cambodia and Canada on February 21, 2001.

The goal of the CCLSP is to contribute to good governance and democratic development in Cambodia through capacity development of the National Assembly and the Senate. With this in mind, the project has been designed to promote exchanges and cooperation between the parliaments of Cambodia and Canada in order to support Cambodia's efforts in the development of its legislative and democratic legal system. Since the program was designed in a participatory manner, the activities reflect the needs and interests of our Cambodian partners. Proposed activities include study visits to neighbouring countries and Canada on issues related to legislative analysis and drafting, consultation, human resource development within parliament, and the overall strengthening of Parliament as an institution.

Description and Objectives of the Study Visit

As a result of the great commitment that the various Commission Chairs of the Senate and National Assembly have shown for Project activities and the desire to exchange information about the Canadian and Cambodian Parliaments, a Study Visit to Canada was organized from June 5-15, 2005. The Study Visit was carried out in accordance with the *Fourth Annual Workplan (April 2005 to March 2006)*, and specifically to Output 125 (*Study tour on comparative lawmaking systems in Canada*). This Study Visit is one among many activities organized by the CCLSP to assist the Cambodian Parliament in efforts to improve and strengthen its institutional structure.

The delegation consisted of 6 Members of the National Assembly, 5 members of the Senate and 1 staff member.¹ The Field Office Manager of the CCLSP Project and a representative from the Parliamentary Centre accompanied the delegation to all meetings.

Through this study mission to Canada, the delegates were exposed to the Canadian parliamentary system and also had a chance to meet with their counterparts in the Canadian Parliament. The program for this Visit included an opportunity for the delegates to meet with a variety of MPs, Senators and officials in the Canadian House of Commons and Senate, as well as meetings with officials and counterparts at the provincial level in the Quebec National Assembly.²

¹ For a detailed list of participants, please refer to Annex A.

² For a detailed program of the Study Visit, please refer to Annex B.

The main purpose of this Study Visit was to *provide the delegates an opportunity to gain first-hand knowledge and experience on the policies, practices and legislative management and consultation systems in place in the Canadian and Quebec Legislatures.*

Outputs of the Study Visit

The meetings and discussions during the Study Visit gave the delegates an overview of the Canadian Parliamentary system at the federal and provincial levels, and allowed the delegates to gain a comparative perspective in relation to the Cambodian Parliament. The delegates expressed a great interest in meeting their counterparts and were enthusiastic about sharing their own experiences of the challenges that the Cambodian Parliament are facing, including sensitive issues such as parliamentary immunity and the exclusion of opposition from Commissions.

The Canadian Parliamentary System

Mr. Peter Dobell, Founding Director of the Parliamentary Centre, presented an overview of the Canadian political system with brief commentaries on each of the three pillars of our democracy – Parliament (Legislative), Government (Executive) and the Courts (Judiciary). Mr. Dobell also talked about the current state of the minority parliament and the push to change the way in which the Senate is appointed. The delegates outlined how Committees work in the Cambodian context, which resulted in exchanges on the similarities and differences in how committees operate in each country, including how the members of Committees are chosen.

Over the course of the next few days, the delegates had a chance to meet with senior parliamentary officials who provided them with a background on the legislative process within the Canadian Parliament, as well as insights into the various support mechanisms in place which enable parliamentarians to effectively carry out their work. One of these sessions included a meeting with two parliamentary staff that have been involved with the training of new MPs. This session demonstrated the importance that the Canadian Parliament places on ensuring that new MPs are provided with the skills that enable them to effectively carry out their responsibilities.

Another example of support mechanisms provided to parliamentarians includes that provided by the Library of Parliament. The meeting with Mr. Hugh Finsten, Associate Parliamentary Librarian, touched on the specific services the Library of Parliament offers Committees, Members of Parliament and Senators. Mr. Finsten indicated that a qualified, knowledgeable and politically neutral staff was imperative for the Library of Parliament to serve all parliamentarians equally and without bias. The latter is an important point that we wanted to emphasize in order to enhance the awareness of the benefits of a highly skilled and neutral support staff.

Meetings were also held with a Senator and Member of Parliament that focused specifically on the roles and responsibilities of each. The Honourable Bryon Wilfert, Member of Parliament for Richmond Hill, talked about the roles and responsibilities of a Member of Parliament in the Canadian context, and also described his work as Parliamentary Secretary for the Minister of the Environment. Mr. Wilfert then went on to discuss in detail the three functions of an MP in the Canadian context: legislative, representative and oversight roles.

A subsequent meeting involved discussions with Senator Raynell Andreychuk, in which she proved to be quite effective in outlining how she sees the role and responsibilities of appointed Senators. She concentrated more on the role of opposition Senators, as the delegates had had a chance to meet with Senator David Smith (Liberal appointed) the previous day. She was also very open on the image and widespread misunderstanding of the value of the Senate in the general Canadian population. Senator Andreychuk then went on to discuss the challenges that women parliamentarians face in Canada (discussed below).

The Work of Committees in the Canadian Parliament

In order to get a greater understanding of the work of committees, a meeting with Committee Clerks from the House of Commons and Senate was arranged. Both Ms Marie-Andrée Lajoie (HOC) and Ms Heather Lank (Senate) summarized how committees in both the Senate and House of Commons are organized, how they function and how they influence the legislative and oversight duties of parliamentarians. They talked about how committees have a very large role to play in terms of the development of legislation and how they may undertake special studies in their areas of expertise in order to trigger investigations under their mandate. One of the most interesting parts of this meeting was when the delegates found out that the quorum in the House of Commons was only 20 members, which sparked off a discussion as to why there was such a low quorum compared to what is required in Cambodia.

Throughout the week, the delegates had a chance to meet with various Committee Chairs, who were able to provide insight into their roles and responsibilities in the various areas in which they worked. Some of the Chairs of Committees that the delegates had a chance to meet included Mr. John Williams, Chair of the Public Accounts Committee in the House of Commons, and Senator David Smith, Chair of the Committee on Rules, Procedures and Rights of Parliament. While these two Chairs touched on their roles as Committee Chairs, they also talked more at length on other issues, with Senator Smith providing personal insight on his roles and responsibilities as a Senator and Mr. Williams talking widely on the issue of corruption and the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption. All delegates were quite responsive to Mr. Williams' views on corruption, especially the need to tackle the issue both within the country (despite party affiliation) and in cooperation with other countries.

Challenges faced by Women Parliamentarians & Women's Caucus' in Canada

As indicated above, Senator Raynell Andreychuk talked about the challenges that women parliamentarians face in Canada. She mentioned that the main challenge to the success of women parliamentarians is the lack of resources available for a woman when entering into politics (e.g. fewer resources to run an election campaign when compared to men). Nevertheless, Senator Andreychuk mentioned that if there is a will to have more women in Parliament, the lack of resources need not be an insurmountable obstacle. Women can be targeted and quotas developed to help increase women representation in Parliament. However, Senator Andreychuk admitted that such an approach is not considered "democratic" in Canada. She mentioned that unless women represent one-third of the representatives in Parliament, they will not make a substantial difference. Senator Andreychuk also talked about the challenges that women face in a system that was originally formulated by men and that how women act and react differently in this system. She also indicated that in Canada, women leaders rarely find themselves with economic portfolios and that they are heavily concentrated in the social sciences sphere. It was pointed out that the Chair of the Commerce Commission in Cambodia is a woman, H.E. Madam Ky Lum Ang (also a member of the delegation).

When arranging the agenda for this Study Visit, some of the parliamentarians that the CCLSP had been working with had requested that we organize a meeting with women parliamentarians in Canada so that the delegates could gain some insight as to how women's caucus' operate in the Canadian context. Therefore, we arranged a meeting with the Chair of the Standing Committee on the Status of Women and the Chair of the Liberal Party Women's Caucus. In Canada, there is no cross-party women's caucus, and something like this is particularly difficult to organize in the current minority Parliament context. However, in Cambodia, the women parliamentarians have taken the initiative to undertake activities across-party lines in order to strengthen the voice of women parliamentarians as a whole. It was indicated that the Standing Committee on the Status of Women is a means by which women from the various parties can get together to discuss issues of common concern. While a description of the work that is undertaken in the various Party Women's Caucus' allow women in each party to discuss issues of concern within the framework of their party platform.

Accountability Institutions in the Canadian Parliament

While the delegates had an opportunity to learn much about accountability measures through their meeting with the Chair of the Public Accounts Committee, Mr. Williams, they also had an opportunity to meet with the Ethics Officer of the Senate and the Ethics Commissioner of the House of Commons. The Senate Ethics Officer went over the "Conflict of Interest Code for Senators" article by article. Opportunity was provided for a brief question and answers period, with much of the concentration of questions focusing on the provision of gifts and what would be considered appropriate and what was not. The delegates also had a chance to visit the Ethics Commissioner of the House of Commons who was able to provide insight

into the work of the Office of the Ethics Commissioner and the guidelines that are used in ensuring that Members of Parliament carry out their work in an ethical manner.

The Role of the Opposition in the Canadian Parliament

In order to address some of the challenges that the opposition is facing in the Cambodian context, a meeting with the Honourable Ed Broadbent, former leader of the New Democratic Party (NDP) was organized. In this meeting, Mr. Broadbent discussed the role of the opposition in the Canadian context and the need for an opposition in order to hold the government accountable. He described how the formal role of the opposition in the Canadian Parliament had developed through practice over a number of years, and that it was a process that Canada had inherited from the United Kingdom. He mentioned that not much of the way in which the official opposition operates is written down anywhere, but is instead something that has evolved through practice. Mr. Broadbent also mentioned the role of the free press in holding the government accountable and how the opposition uses this as a means to get their point across in order to facilitate change. Mr. Broadbent asked whether Cambodia had a free press or whether the press was somehow tied to various political parties and whether this was evident. A number of delegates from all three parties mentioned that the press was tied to a particular party and that it was evident to Cambodian people which particular press agency represented which party. This was followed by an open discussion, where some of the delegates asked Mr. Broadbent whether it was right that the opposition was excluded from Committees, to which Mr. Broadbent mentioned that this would be unacceptable. Although one would tend to think that this type of conversation would be conducted in a tense atmosphere given the political context that exists between the three different parties in Cambodia, it was encouraging to see that all the delegates were discussing what would normally be sensitive issues in an amicable manner in order to gauge the views of their counterparts in Canada.

Meetings at the Quebec National Assembly

When the delegates arrived at the doors of the Québec National Assembly, they were surprised and touched to see the Cambodian flag flying side by side the Québec flag on the roof of the main National Assembly Building. The delegates were greeted by Mrs. Louise Cameron, protocol advisor for the remainder of our stay at the Québec National Assembly. Meetings started with an introduction to the structure of the provincial legislature by the Secretary General of the Quebec National Assembly, Mr. François Côté, who also described his roles and responsibilities as Secretary General and the reporting structures within the Assembly. Mr. Côté's presentation was followed by a presentation on the legislative process of the Québec National Assembly by Mr. Michel Bonsaint, Deputy Secretary of Parliamentary Affairs, and Mr. Siegfried Peters, Advisor on Parliamentary Procedure.

During the week of the visit, the Members of the Québec National Assembly were undertaking an intensive session, and so it was very difficult to get individual meetings with various Commission Chairs. Therefore, a two-hour lunch was held, where a number of Québec Commission Chairs were invited. The lunch was hosted by the Second Vice-President of the National Assembly, Mrs. Diane Leblanc. This forum provided a very open and casual atmosphere whereby both the Cambodian and Québec Commission Chairs could interact. The Committee Chairs on both sides addressed their questions and formulated answers with sincere interest and in the hope to learn more about the structure of the Cambodian and Québec Legislatures. Comparisons of similarities and differences between the Quebec and Cambodian National Assemblies were undertaken, which allowed the delegates to learn about the Quebec system and to also share their own experiences, which is always crucial when it comes to such high-level exchanges.

Following lunch, a meeting was held with Mr. Doris Arsenault, Director of the Secretariat of Commissions. This was a valuable meeting for the delegates, as they learned that the commission structure of the Quebec National Assembly had certain similarities to the Cambodian system. It was stressed that the Quebec National Assembly includes Members of the Opposition as members in commissions, as well as Independent Members. The meeting with Mr. Arsenault was followed by an information session on the Québec National Assembly's Library, which also included a tour of the Library and its various reference services. A final visit to an in-session commission meeting (Social Affairs Commission) ended the day.

The second day at the Québec Legislature included a tour of the National Assembly, followed by the observation of Question Period, in which the delegation was officially recognized. The delegation then had a chance to have a brief visit with the President of the National Assembly of Québec, Mr. Michel Bissonnet. This was followed by lunch, hosted this time by Mr. William Cusano, First Vice- President of the National Assembly, and attended by a different set of Québec Commission Chairs.

The final day of the Quebec visit included a formal session and informal lunch with the Director General of Elections Québec. At this session, Mr. Marcel Blanchet and his staff provided an overview of the electoral process in Québec and the roles and functions of the Director General. They also indicated that they had undertaken a number of training missions on election mechanisms in various developing countries. They said that they would be willing to assist Cambodia with similar trainings, if it was deemed appropriate or necessary.

During the meetings in Quebec, the delegates gained an increased appreciation of the manner in which the Canadian parliamentary structure works at the provincial level. The delegates were particularly impressed by how much more relevant their exchanges with the Quebec National Assembly were to the Cambodian situation given the size of the parliament and the ways in which the commissions of the Quebec National Assembly work. In the report of the Study Visit from the Head of the Delegation, H.E. Mr. Cheam Yeap, he states that the "structure and work

processes [of the Québec National Assembly] are quite similar to the Cambodian practices". As with the recent visit of the Secretary General of the Senate and Deputy Secretary General of the National Assembly to Québec, it was concluded that further learning experiences could be exchanged with the Quebec legislature.

Other Meetings and Activities

On the first official day of meetings, the delegation had an opportunity to meet with officials from CIDA and the Department of Foreign Affairs. During this meeting, the delegates became familiar with Canada's recently released International Policy Statement, especially as it relates to Canada's development priorities to Cambodia. It was indicated that at this point, CIDA is in the process of developing an interim country strategy that will focus on three areas, namely health (i.e. specifically maternal and child health); agriculture and rural development (i.e. focusing on private sector development of agriculture); and governance aspects of land administration and management. The CIDA officials indicated that this is just an interim strategy and that CIDA will be working on a longer term strategy as well. The delegates asked the CIDA officials to ensure that continued support to the Parliament of Cambodia be included in such long term plans.

The delegates also had a chance to meet with the Registrar of the Supreme Court, Ms Anne Roland, who described the functions and structure of the Supreme Court of Canada and also answered questions in relation to the wider judicial system in Canada. The meeting with Ms Roland was followed by a tour of the Supreme and Federal Courts.

The delegates also had a number of protocol meetings, including that with the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Honourable Peter Milliken. In this meeting the delegates asked about the issue of parliamentary immunity in Canada. The Speaker explained that in Canada parliamentary immunity is only confined to what is said in the House of Commons and does not protect any Member of Parliament that has committed a criminal act. It was also mentioned that in order to arrest an MP, the RCMP must ask the Speaker's permission. Speaker Milliken also talked about the historic tie-breaking confidence vote on the 2005 Budget that had occurred days before the delegation arrived.

In order to welcome the delegates to Canada, the Executive Director of the Parliamentary Centre, Mr. Robert Miller, held a welcome dinner for the delegation at one of Ottawa's famous restaurants, the Courtyard. It was a good chance for all of us to welcome the delegates to Canada. The Honourable Bill Blaikie, Member of Parliament and Member of the Parliamentary Centre's Board of Directors attended the Welcome Dinner and contributed to the lively debate on various issues, one of which was the controversial same-sex marriage legislation.

A lunch at the Parliamentary Restaurant was also organized. The Honourable Steven Owen, Member of Parliament and Minister of Western Economic Diversification was invited to the luncheon due to his past experience of working in

Cambodia. This was also a good opportunity for the delegates to see the way MPs, Senators, and parliamentary officials interact in a more social environment. It also provided a good forum to discuss a wide range of Canadian and Cambodian issues with Mr. Owen in a more informal setting.

Other activities also included a tour of the Canadian Parliament, Quebec National Assembly, and observing Question Period in both Ottawa and Québec. Activities not related to Parliament were also arranged for the delegates, in order to give them the sense of the history of Canada as a nation. The delegates had a chance to visit the Museum of Civilization and were given a VIP tour in Khmer. Other leisure activities also included visiting the various shopping centres and restaurants throughout Ottawa, Montreal and Quebec City.

Conclusions: A Forum for Constructive Dialogue

The Study Visit of Commission Chairs of the National Assembly and Senate of Cambodia was an activity that the CCLSP had planned in the Third Annual Workplan (April 2004-March 2005). However, due to the political deadlock and heavy legislative agenda following the resolution to the impasse, we were unable to carry out this Study Visit until spring 2005. Also, the minority parliament situation in Canada, especially the confidence vote on the 2005 Budget held on May 19th, threatened a further postponement of this Visit. Fortunately, we were able to carry out this Visit as scheduled in the Fourth Annual Workplan (April 2005-March 2006) and meetings were arranged with all the key people in order to address all the key issues requested by the delegates.

It is worthy to note that after the political deadlock, the opposition had faced many challenges such as being excluded from Commissions and the stripping of parliamentary immunity from three of its members. Although this Study Visit was meant for Chairs of Commissions, it was evident that we would need to make an exception with respect to Members of the Sam Rainsy Party (SRP), since their members were not included as part of any of the Commissions in the National Assembly. This also goes along with the agreement made at the most recent March 2005 Joint Project Steering Committee Meeting, which indicated that the CCLSP will continue to work with all three parties in all its activities in order to maintain its neutrality, whether their members are part of commissions or not.

Through participation in CCLSP activities, all parties will have a chance to discuss and debate on a number of issues. Throughout this Study Visit, issues such as parliamentary immunity and exclusion from commissions were addressed by all delegates. It was not only the SRP Members initiating these questions, but also members from the CCP and FUNCINPEC. Furthermore, these issues were raised in an amicable manner without any adversarial undertones. In one session with Mr. Broadbent, the issue of parliamentary immunity, boycotting the National Assembly, and being excluded from commissions were addressed, and varying responses were provided by Mr. Broadbent, some favourable to the opposition and others favourable to the governing party. At the end of the meeting, after everyone

walked out of what seemed to be a more heated debate than had occurred in any of the other meetings, the delegates continued to interact in a friendly and cordial manner. H.E. Mr. Kong Korm of the SRP put it best when he said, “We may tend to disagree on various issues, but the important thing is that we all came here on this Visit together”. During many meetings, H.E. Mr. Cheam Yeap proudly announced that “the delegation includes representatives from all three major political parties in Cambodia.” This was in reference to the fact that although the three parties may have their disagreements, they can still come together in order to learn from their counterparts. This may not necessarily change the position of their parties, vis-à-vis each other, but it does plant a seed of hope of the benefits of constructive dialogue.

Annex A - List of Participants

Study Visit to Ottawa by Commission Chairs of the Senate and National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia June 5-10, 2005

Parliamentarians:

1. **H.E. Mr. Cheam Yeap** – Chair of the Finance and Banking Commission, National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia (**Official Head of the Delegation**)
2. **H.E. Mr. Ouk Bunchhoeun**, Chair of the Legislation Commission, Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia
3. **H.E. Mr. Monh Saphan** – Chair of the Interior, Investigation, Anti-Corruption and National Defence Commission, National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia
4. **H.E. Mr. Chea Cheth** - Chair of the Interior, Investigation, Anti-Corruption and National Defence Commission, Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia
5. **H.E. Mr. Ek Sam Ol** – Chair of the Legislation Commission, National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia
6. **H.E. Madam Ho Naun** – Chair of the Social and Women Affairs Commission, National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia
7. **H.E. Madam Ky Lum Ang** – Chair of the Commerce, Industry, Energy, Public Works, Transport and Communication Commission, National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia
8. **H.E. Mr. Kong Korm** – Chair of the Education, Religious Affairs, Culture and Tourism Commission, Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia
9. **H.E. Mr. Sabu Bacha** – Chair of the Commerce, Industry, Energy, Public Works, Transport and Communication Commission, Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia
10. **H.E. Madam Pum Sichan** – Vice-Chair of the Finance and Banking Commission, Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia
11. **H.E. Mr. Ahmad Yahya** – Member of Parliament, National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia

Other Accompanying Participants:

1. **Mr. Prom Virak**, Director of the Department of Protocol and International Cooperation, National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia
2. **Mrs. Hak Chou**, Spouse of Official Head of Delegation, H.E. Mr. Cheam Yeap
3. **Mr. Bunleng Men**, Field Project Manager - Cambodia-Canada Legislative Support Project (also acting as Interpreter)
4. **Mr. Imran Arshad**, Senior Program Officer, Asia - Parliamentary Centre

**Study Visit to Québec by Commission Chairs of the Senate and
National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia
June 13-15, 2005**

Parliamentarians:

1. **H.E. Mr. Cheam Yeap** – Chair of the Finance and Banking Commission, National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia (**Official Head of the Delegation**)
2. **H.E. Mr. Monh Saphan** – Chair of the Interior, Investigation, Anti-Corruption and National Defence Commission, National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia
3. **H.E. Mr. Ek Sam Ol** – Chair of the Legislation Commission, National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia
4. **H.E. Madam Ho Naun** – Chair of the Social and Women Affairs Commission, National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia
5. **H.E. Madam Ky Lum Ang** – Chair of the Commerce, Industry, Energy, Public Works, Transport and Communication Commission, National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia
6. **H.E. Mr. Sabu Bacha** – Chair of the Commerce, Industry, Energy, Public Works, Transport and Communication Commission, Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia
7. **H.E. Madam Pum Sichan** – Vice-Chair of the Finance and Banking Commission, Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia

Other Accompanying Participants:

1. **Mr. Prom Virak**, Director of the Department of Protocol and International Cooperation, National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia
2. **Mrs. Hak Chou**, Spouse of Official Head of Delegation, H.E. Mr. Cheam Yeap
3. **Mr. Bunleng Men**, Field Project Manager - Cambodia-Canada Legislative Support Project (also acting as Interpreter)
4. **Mr. Imran Arshad**, Senior Program Officer, Asia - Parliamentary Centre

Annex B – Program Agenda

Study Visit to Ottawa and Québec by the Commission Chairs of the Senate and National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia

June 5-15, 2005

Sunday June 5

17:12 **3 Delegates arrive at Ottawa International Airport on Flight AC458**
18:12 **10 Delegates arrive at Ottawa International Airport on Flight AC460**

Delegation met at airport by the Parliamentary Centre

Transfer to hotel and check-in:

Sheraton Ottawa Hotel
150 Albert Street

Tel: 613-238-1500

Fax: 613-238-8497

Main Contact: Ms. Lea Bond, Director of Sales (Ext. 6630)

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Mr. Bunleng Men, CCLSP Field Office Project Manager
Mobile: (613) 808-3179

Ms. Louise McCoy, Administrative Officer, Asia
Tel: (613) 237-0143 (Ext. 367)

Monday June 6

Morning

Free time

14:00 – 15:15

Orientation Session at Parliamentary Centre – Overview of Canadian Parliamentary System

Purpose: Introduction to the Parliamentary Centre and overview of the Canadian parliamentary system (federal and provincial legislatures), including its legislative process, functions and procedures, organizational structure, history and trends

Speaker: Mr. Peter Dobell, Founding Director

Location: Parliamentary Centre Boardroom #806

15:30 – 17:00 **Meeting with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Department of Foreign Affairs**

Purpose: Overview of Canada's development priorities and Canada's future commitment to Cambodia, especially in relation to the recently released International Policy Statement.

Speakers: Ms Lynne Racine, Assistant Director of Planning, Mainland Southeast Asia Branch, CIDA
 Mr. Stuart Savage, Deputy Director, Southeast Asia Division, Department of Foreign Affairs
 Mr. Sam Matheson, Development Officer, Mainland Southeast Asia Branch, CIDA

Location: Parliamentary Centre Boardroom #806

18:00 **Welcome Dinner hosted by Mr. Bob Miller, Executive Director of the Parliamentary Centre**

Location: Courtyard Restaurant, 21 George Street

Tuesday June 7

9:00 – 10:30 **Session on the Canadian Legislative Process**

Purpose: Overview of the process by which laws are drafted, amended, adopted and reviewed; the procedures for Private Members Bills; and how legislative agendas are prepared. To be accompanied with a discussion on how the Standing Orders and parliamentary procedures guide these processes.

Speakers: Mr. Charles Robert, Principal Clerk, Procedure, Senate
 Mr. Jean-Francois Lafleur, Procedural Clerk, Legislative Services, House of Commons

Location: Parliament Hill – Room 213, Wellington Building

10:45 – 12:00 **Session on Training Programs for New Members of Parliament**

Purpose: Description of the various orientation programs and training resources for newly-elected Members of Parliament in Canada

Speaker: Ms Janice Hilchie, Principal Clerk, Information Management, House of Commons
 Ms Marie-Danielle Vachon, Deputy Principal Clerk, Parliamentary Associations, House of Commons

Location: Parliament Hill – Room 213, Wellington Building

12:00 – 14:15 **Lunch**

- 14:15 – 15:00 **Observe Question Period in the House of Commons**
- Location: Parliament Hill – Centre Block – Ladies Gallery
- 15:15 – 16:15 **Meeting with Member of Parliament**
- Purpose: Overview of the role and responsibilities of Canadian Members of Parliament and their experience and expertise in managing relationships with constituencies, media and staff
- Speaker: Hon. Bryon Wilfert, Member of Parliament (Richmond Hill) and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of the Environment
- Location: Parliament Hill – Room 112-N, Centre Block
- 16:30 – 17:00 **Meeting with the Honourable Peter Milliken, Speaker of the House of Commons**
- Purpose: Courtesy Visit
- Location: Parliament Hill – Room 224-N, Centre Block

Wednesday June 8

- 9:00 – 10:15 **Session on the Work of Committees**
- Purpose: Overview of committee procedures and the role and duties of committee staff in supporting parliamentarians in their committee work
- Speakers: Ms Marie-Andrée Lajoie, Clerk Assistant, Committees and Legislative, House of Commons
Ms Heather Lank, Principal Clerk, Committees Directorate, Senate
- Location: Parliament Hill - Room 625, Wellington Building
- 10:30 – 11:45 **Meeting with the Chair of the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee**
- Purpose: Overview of the work of the Public Accounts Committee as a case study to illustrate the oversight function of committees in inquiring, reviewing and making recommendations on matters assigned to the executive branch
- Speaker: Mr. John Williams, Chair of the Public Accounts Committee, House of Commons
- Location: Parliament Hill – Room 104, Justice Building
- 12:00 – 13:15 **Lunch on Parliament Hill with the Honourable Stephen Owen, Cabinet Minister (Western Economic Diversification)**

Location: Parliamentary Restaurant – Room 601, Centre Block

13:30 – 14:45

Meeting with the Senate Ethics Officer

Purpose: Overview of the roles and functions of the Senate Ethics Officer

Speaker: Mr. Jean T. Fournier, Ethics Officer, Senate

Location: Parliament Hill – Room 172E, Centre Block

15:00 – 16:00

Meeting with the Chair of the Senate Committee on Rules, Procedures and Rights of Parliament

Purpose: Overview of the work of the Senate Committee on Rules, Procedures and Rights of Parliament and discussion on the roles and responsibilities of the Chair of the Committee

Speaker: Senator David P. Smith, Chair of the Committee on Rules, Procedures and Rights of Parliament

Location: Parliament Hill - Room 263-S, Centre Block

Thursday June 9

9:15 – 10:15

Meeting with a Senator

Purpose: Overview of the roles and responsibilities of Senators in Canada

Speaker: Senator Raynell Andreychuk, Chair of the Human Rights Committee, Senate

Location: Parliament Hill – Centre Block, Room 172-E

10:45 – 11:45

Meeting with the Ethics Commissioner

Purpose: Overview of the work of the Ethics Commissioner in holding the government accountable

Speaker: Dr. Bernard Shapiro, Ethics Commissioner

Location: Office of the Ethics Commissioner – Conference Room, 22nd Floor, 66 Slater Street

12:00 – 13:00

Lunch

13:00 – 14:00

Meeting with the Chair of the Liberal Party Women’s Caucus and the Chair of the Standing Committee on the Status of Women

Purpose: Overview of the development and functions of the Liberal Party’s Women’s Caucus, including insight into current and previous initiatives in the development of an informal cross-party Women’s Caucus in Canada.

Speakers: Ms Anita Neville, Chair of the Standing Committee on the Status of Women
Ms Françoise Boivin, Liberal Party Women’s Caucus Chair

Location: Parliament Hill – Room 260, West Block

16:00 – 17:00

Meeting with the Library of Parliamentary Information and Research Service

Purpose: Presentation on the role of the Information and Research Service of the Library of Parliament in providing information, research and analysis services by assigning subject specialists to assist parliamentary committees as well as providing research services to individual parliamentarians

Speaker: Mr. Hugh Finsten, Associate Parliamentary Librarian

Location: La Promenade, 151 Sparks Street, Room 905

Friday June 10

9:00 – 10:00

Session on the Role of the Opposition in the Canadian Parliamentary System

Purpose: Overview of the role of the opposition in the Canadian Parliament, including practical insights and experiences of opposition MPs in holding the government accountable

Speaker: Hon. Ed Broadbent, Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee on Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics and Former Leader of the New Democratic Party

Location: Parliament Hill – Room 104, Justice Building

10:15 – 11:15

Tour of Parliament

Location: Parliament Hill – Centre Block – Meet in the Rotunda

11:30 – 13:00

Session on the Supreme Court of Canada

Purpose: Overview of the functions and legal authority of the Supreme Court of Canada, followed by a tour of the Supreme Court

Speaker: Ms Anne Roland, Registrar of the Supreme Court

Location: 301 Wellington Street, Room 95, Main Floor

13:00 – 14:30

Lunch

15:00

VIP Tour of the Museum of Civilization

Delegation greeted by Mr. Michel Chef, Director of Special Projects
Guided tour led by Sutheary (Khmer-speaking Guide)

19:30 Depart from Ottawa to Montreal on Flight AC496

20:10 Arrival at Montreal Airport on Flight AC496

Transfer to hotel and check-in:

Hôtel Terrasse Royale (5225 Côte-des-Neiges, Montréal, Québec)

Tel: 514-739-6391; **Fax:** 514-342-2512

Main Contact: Mr. Younés Abourachid, Manager

Saturday June 11

Free Time in Montreal

Sunday June 12

13:00 Depart from Montreal to Québec City on Flight AC8714 (10 Delegates)

13:48 Arrival at Québec Airport on Flight AC8714

Transfer to hotel and check-in:

Hôtel Delta Québec (690 Rene Levesque Blvd East, Québec City)

Tel: 418-525-6532/418-647-1717; **Fax:** 418-647-9573

Main Contact: Stéphanie Dufresne, Sales Manager - Meeting Express

22:30 3 Delegates Depart from Montreal to Phnom Penh on Flight AC866

Monday June 13 – Meetings at Québec National Assembly

Main Contacts at the Québec National Assembly:

Mr. Dominic Dumont, International and Inter-parliamentary Relations Advisor (Tel: 418-528-2949)

Ms Louise Cameron, Protocol Advisor (Tel: 418-528-7496; Cell: 418-998-0994)

9:15 Welcome by Mrs. Louise Cameron at Porte de la Famille-Américaine

9:30 – 12:00 **Meeting with Mr. François Côté, Secretary General of the Québec National Assembly, Mr. Michel Bonsaint, Deputy Secretary of Parliamentary Affairs, and Mr. Siegfried Peters, Advisor on Parliamentary Procedure** - Overview of the Parliamentary System and legislative process at the Québec National Assembly

Location: Salle des Premiers-Ministres de l'édifice Pamphile-Le May

12:15 – 13:45 **Lunch hosted by Mrs. Diane Leblanc, Second Vice-President of the Québec National Assembly**

Location: Salon Les Voltigeurs, Cercle de la Garnison

- 14:00 – 15:15 **Meeting with Mr. Doris Arsenault, Director of the Committees Secretariat** – Overview of Committee Work at the Québec National Assembly
- Location: Salle des Premiers-Ministres de l'édifice Pamphile-Le May
- 15:30 – 16:30 **Meeting with Mr. Daniel Allaire, Manager of the Reference Service at the Library of the Québec National Assembly** – Information Session and Tour of the Library
- Location: L'édifice Pamphile-Le May
- 16:30 – 17:00 **Observe Québec National Assembly Committee Meeting in Progress** – Social Affairs Committee
- Location: L'édifice Pamphile-Le May

Tuesday June 14 – Meetings at Québec National Assembly

- 9:10 Greeted by Ms Louise Cameron at Porte de la Famille-Américaine
- 9:15 – 10:00 **Guided Tour of the Québec National Assembly**
- 10:00 – 11:00 **Observation of Question Period in the Main Chamber**
- 11:15 – 11:45 **Meeting with Mr. Michel Bissonnet, President of the Québec National Assembly** – Protocol Visit
- Location: President's Office
- 12:00 – 14:00 **Lunch hosted by Mr. William Cusano, First Vice-President of the Québec National Assembly**
- Location: Salon Johnson, restaurant Le Parlementaire

Wednesday June 15 – Meetings at Québec National Assembly

- 9:30 – 12:00 **Meeting with Mr. Marcel Blanchet, Director-General of Elections in Québec** – Overview of the electoral process in Quebec and the roles and responsibilities of the Director-General of Elections Quebec
- Location: Édifice René-Lévesque, 3460, rue de La Pérade, Sainte-Foy
- 12:00 – 14:00 **Lunch hosted by Mr. Marcel Blanchet, Director-General of Elections in Québec**
- Location: Restaurant Le Bistango
- 17:20 **Delegates Depart from Quebec International Airport to Phnom Penh on Flight AC8725**