



## **Opening Presentations**



*James Baker, Western KY University, explains the Canadian Parliamentary Internship Program*

### **Academic Support**

*Dennis Moore*

Guidelines for the 2004-05 Canadian Embassy grant program are available at the following website: <http://www.canadianembassy.org/education/canadianstudies-en.asp>. Dennis encouraged attendees to apply and offered assistance from Consulate staff if needed.

*Tim Rogus*

Tim described grant support available from Québec and offered assistance as well.

### **Canadian Parliamentary Internship Program**

*James Baker*

Several participants of the Canadian Parliamentary Internship program attended the Roundtable and were introduced by Dr. Baker. Fifteen to twenty students are chosen each year to participate in this five-week program. Students are placed with a member of the Canadian Parliament and perform a variety of tasks. Baker asked faculty to share internship information with students and encourage them to apply. The application deadline is December 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Guest Presentation “Canada’s Changing Electoral Terrain”**

*Munroe Eagles*

Canada’s fourth party system came into being in 1993 with an earthquake election result. In place of the previous 2½ party system comprised of the Progressive Conservatives, Liberals, and the NDP, the fourth party system saw the emergence of two regional parties, Reform (after the

2000 election, the Canadian Alliance) in the West and the Bloc Québécois in the province of Québec. Dividing the electorate five ways, the fourth party system saw the Liberal party able to govern with majorities in the House of Commons despite winning only about 40 percent of the popular vote.

As Canada approaches its next federal election, there are strong reasons to expect that it will register another major transformation of the party system. Most obviously, the merger in late 2003 of the Canadian Alliance and the Progressive Conservatives (to form the Conservative Party of Canada) ensures that support for the political right in Canada will no longer be split between two parties. Compounding the uncertainty going into the next election, all the other major parties except the Bloc Québécois (BQ) have new leaders. The ‘sponsorship scandal’ currently plaguing the governing Liberals has caused their popularity to slide to new lows. Unless this changes soon, the next Canadian government may well be a minority government led by the Liberals and most likely supported by the NDP. If this is the case, the fourth party system that came in with a bang may be fading out with a whimper.



## **Interest Group Discussions**

### **Election Prospects: National and Provincial**

*Moderator: Donley Studlar*

*Notes: Scott Piroth*

#### Topics:

- Relationship between provincial election results and national election results.
- Electoral prospects of the new Conservative Party.
- Likely impact of the elections on U.S.-Canada relations.
- How changes in the laws on party funding may change the Canadian political landscape.



#### Highlights:

The disjuncture between provincial and national party politics in Canada was noted. For example, despite the recent electoral victories of provincial Liberals in Québec and Ontario, the federal Liberals seem unlikely to gain seats in either province. Similarly, although the New Democratic Party (NDP) governs several provinces, the NDP seems unlikely to make a major breakthrough at the federal level. Also, the strength of the Bloc Québécois (BQ) in Québec removes large numbers of Québec ridings from the contest for control of the House of Commons.

Participants expressed skepticism that the newly united Conservative Party would be able to challenge the dominance of the federal Liberals. It was noted that many former Progressive Conservatives (PC) feel betrayed by the merger—which is widely seen as a Reform/Alliance takeover of the PC. Also, Steven Harper, the new Conservative leader, seems unable to inspire Canadians and reach out beyond the party's western base.

Most agreed that the Paul Martin government will have better relations with the Bush Administration than did the Chrétien government. The huge economic importance of trade with the United States has made improving relations a priority for Martin. Similarly, Steven Harper has advocated closer ties between Canada and the U.S. Nevertheless, disputes over trade, immigration, and national defense are likely to continue.

Finally, it was noted that new restrictions on campaign spending by political parties may have unintended consequences. The influence of interest groups, which are not subject to spending limits, is likely to increase. The long-term result may be that parties—particularly at the local level—will become weaker and more vulnerable to the influence of interest groups.

## **Recent Literature and Film**

*Moderator:* Roy Wortman

*Notes:* Jason Herbeck

### Topics:

- Suggested book and film titles for library inclusion.
- Possible sources for title lists and purchases.
- OhioLINK.

### Highlights:

Introductory remarks were made by all participants. Evron Collins strongly encouraged all interested to take advantage of the Canadian government library matching grants program. Such grants may be used for updating or expanding library collections. New purchases must have primarily Canadian content. In response to a question about titles considered “musts” for a library, the following are a few that were mentioned:

- Godbout, Jacques. *Salut Galarneau*.
- Hébert, Anne. *Premier Jardin*.
- Proulx, Monique. *Aurores montréalaises*.
- Tremblay, Michel. *Les Belles-sœurs*.
- Miller, J.R. *Skyscrapers Hide the Heavens – A History of Indian-White Relations in Canada*.
- Sioui, Georges and Jane Brierley. *Huron-Wendat – The Heritage of the Circle*.
- Sioui, Georges. *For an Amerindian Autohistory – An Essay on the Foundations of a Social Ethic*.
- Trigger, Bruce. No specific book named.
- Chen, Ying. *Lettres chinoises*.
- Martel, Yann. *Life of Pi*.
- Agnant, Marie-Célie. *La maison face à la mer*.
- Lalonde, Michèle. “Speak White”
- Micone, Marco. “Speak What”

Film titles suggested include:

- Arcand, Denys. *Barbarian Invasions*.
- ---. *Jesus of Montreal*.
- Godbout, Jacques. *Le Sort de l'Amérique*.
- Pouliot, Jean-François. *La Grande séduction*.
- Taylor, Drew Hayden. *Redskins, Tricksters and Puppy Stew*.
- Kunuk, Zacharias. *Atanarjuat (Fast Runner)*.
- *Daughters of the Country*. A series on the CBC.
- Beresford, Bruce. *Black Robe*.
- Shum, Mina. *Double Happiness*.

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Given the clear diversity and depth of possible titles, suggestions were made regarding the acquisition of book and film lists. Some options for acquiring such lists were:

- Canadian Embassy — lists of Anglophone and Francophone works by Canadian authors.
- Amazon.ca — a search for any book on this website will often give an “other books purchased by people who bought this book” list, thereby establishing a way to explore possible further titles.
- BGSU Canadian Studies website — <http://www.cba.bgsu.edu/cast/html/welcome.html>
- Governor General Literary Award website — [http://www.gg.ca/governor\\_general/index\\_e.asp](http://www.gg.ca/governor_general/index_e.asp) — the exact address was not given, but this source will provide a list of past and present book winners.
- National Film Board of Canada — [http://www.pch.gc.ca/pc-ch/ac-os/film\\_e.cfm](http://www.pch.gc.ca/pc-ch/ac-os/film_e.cfm) — film resources.
- Cinémathèque québécoise in Montréal — <http://www.cinematheque.qc.ca/> — film resources.
- Archambault — <http://www.archambault.ca/store/dept.asp?dept=43000> — a website for purchasing (including downloading) music.
- CBC Stratford program: theater and music.
- A June 2002 article in *Harpers* magazine was suggested. The article deals with Canadian fiction.

Also discussed were:

- The valuable asset provided by OhioLINK regarding digitizing capabilities of video archives (possibilities of using the Digital Media Center across Ohio).
- Copyright issues related to diffusion of materials; fees for multiple use, etc.
- The importance of remaining sensitive to Francophone issues even when applying for a grant in a part of Anglophone Canada.
- The Manitoba Glenbow museum in Calgary (Ojibwa information).

### **Social Policy: Health Care, Marriage, Marijuana**

*Moderator: Bruce Way*

*Notes: Rebecca Mancuso*

#### Topics:

- Health care reform in Canada and the U.S.
- Acceptance of social policy changes – comparing the U.S. and Canada.

#### Highlights:

The Roundtable discussion provided an opportunity for attendees to share their knowledge about events and perceptions that shape policy formulation in Canada and the United States. To open the discussion, Moderator Bruce Way remarked that the United States is finally looking north and paying attention to recent policy developments in Canada and reacting to the apparent divergence of social values. U.S. notions that Canada is staid and boring are being challenged.

The majority of the session time was spent discussing healthcare reform in Canada and the United States. While a portion of time was saved for same-sex marriage and the

decriminalization of marijuana, participants regarded healthcare funding and accessibility as the most urgent issues. Participants noted that Americans are becoming more open to healthcare reform, but misunderstand the Canadian system, both its good points and weaknesses. Healthcare systems in both nations are surrounded by myth, which has prevented objective analysis and has led to an entrenched opposition to change on both sides of the border. It was agreed that both nations are hurt by a lack of communication. Because both nations have a great deal to learn from one another, more impartial analyses would enable them to examine positive and negative aspects of one another's systems.

Regardless of participants' opinions on same-sex marriage or marijuana decriminalization, all agreed that it was refreshing to see Canadian politicians engaging in an open dialogue on these topics, unlike American leaders. The discussion turned to a comparison of U.S. and Canada, with greatest attention focused on the United States' moral and punitive approach to social policy compared to Canada's less judgmental approach. Several participants reminded others that the media in Canada and the U.S. has tended to downplay Canadian opposition to proposed policy changes; by no means do Canadians uniformly support legal changes in these areas.

### **Border Security**

*Moderator: Christine Drennen*

*Notes: Bruce Way*

#### Topics:

- Student groups at border crossings.
- Environmental/health security.
- Effects on the economy/trade.

#### Highlights:

Discussion took a non-traditional track on this topic.

We opened with concerns about students, individually and particularly in larger study groups (with camping gear, going for an extended visit), being able to cross the border under tighter security structures. Dennis Moore suggested organized study trips contact the Consulate prior to departure.

Under the general heading of environmental/health security, problems with mad cow quarantine and river pollutants were mentioned. Mad cow may be considered a different kind of border threat. Waterborne pollutants know no borders. When considered for non point-source pollutants, the Detroit River is cleaner than it has been in a long time. When considered for point-source pollutants, the river probably faces greater hazards than ever before.

The dilemma posed by balancing border security with optimum traffic flow for economic purposes will be around for a long time. Security questions aside, it will likely take ten years or more to alleviate the congestion at the Ambassador Bridge and tunnel crossings between Detroit and Windsor. Conventional designations of economic or trade areas still split by the border may become less functional. Reverse inspections, now dependent on each country's agents operating on the other's territory, may help with truck backups but pose sovereignty questions.

Scenarios, for planning purposes, of a terrorist strike on the bridge are in place but so far there doesn't seem to be sufficient political will or public support on either side to make significant changes in how the bridge is owned and monitored.

### **Teaching Canada**

*Moderator: David Jackson*

*Notes: Jason Herbeck*

#### Topics:

- Student field trips to Canada.
- Resources for Canadian Studies courses.
- Canadian guest speakers at American universities.
- Academic scholarship with a Canadian perspective.

#### Highlights:

The session began with discussion of all the wonderful places to take students in Canada. Too many museums, historical sites, government buildings, churches, and special tours were mentioned to name them all. Everyone seemed to agree there is no shortage of interesting and educational places to see north of the border.

Discussion then focused on resources available for Canadian Studies courses. These included books, videos, and magazines. Several participants noted student subscriptions to *Maclean's* magazine are easily available and useful in the classroom. Likewise, it was noted that edited versions of the Canadian newscast, *The National*, are also available for classroom use.

Tim Rogus, from the Québec delegation in Chicago, discussed how to arrange for guest speakers (such as authors and movie producers) through his office. He suggested representatives from various universities work together to coordinate events for a single guest speaker.

Finally, concern was expressed about the difficulty in obtaining scholarly materials on Canada written from a distinctly Canadian perspective rather than from an American perspective minimally adapted to include Canadian content.

### **NAFTA After 10 Years**

*Moderator: Tom Blaha*

*Notes: Evron Collins*

#### Topics:

- Job loss in the U.S.
- Prescription drugs.
- Values systems.
- Unions.
- Environmental Issues.

Highlights:

The session began with a discussion on job loss created by NAFTA. Opinions expressed include:

- Is NAFTA responsible for moves to Mexico but not the rest of the world? Is it North America vs. the rest of the world?
- Job loss seems to be moving beyond manufacturing into white collar areas.
- There are increased exports to Mexico which do create more U.S. jobs. Mexico is worrying about job loss and people loss to the U.S.

Is there real data to support any of these ideas? Reality and perception sometimes differ. A majority of job loss is due to technology improvements etc. rather than outsourcing. Jobs created in other countries are not necessarily taken from the U.S.; they could be newly developed jobs or an expansion of services. Some group members are not concerned about job loss to Canada as labor costs are approximately the same; but Mexico is different. Originally, the reasons Canada entered into agreements with the U.S. concerned markets and products, not jobs. Many of the objections to NAFTA today are political in nature, not economic.

The U.S. and Canada buy their drugs from the same companies, so why is the pricing different? Could this and the increase in business from the U.S. to Canada have implications for the Canadian system in the future? How will the doctor's groups deal with the problem of unacceptable drugs?

There are different ways of dealing with social problems (including gay marriage and treatment of gays, drugs, etc.) in Canada and the U.S. Some think Canada is going in the same direction as the U.S., but is slower getting there.

Cultural values can cause a convergence or divergence between the U.S. and Canada depending on the area. Points noted include:

- Mosaic vs. melting pot thinking affects all areas of culture.
- It is more difficult to have a protective stance in a global situation. NAFTA promotes global thinking. There are still differences, however, in the way countries approach problems, i.e. health care, human rights focus on individuals vs. groups. If the Canadian courts use U.S. precedents, it could change these relationships.

Discussion focused on unions and whether NAFTA undermines unions in the U.S. and Canada? Unions are declining in both countries although they are spreading into white collar and service areas. Because of the declining numbers, union clout is less and political contributions are on the decline.

Environmental issues are becoming global, not just continental. The U.S. and Canada have taken different positions on some of these, i.e. Kyoto. People are losing control over their environment; governmental control and company decisions are affecting environmental issues.

To summarize:

- Growth of Ohio exports is very high and would not be as good if not for NAFTA.
- Loss of jobs is probably not due to NAFTA but to technology.

- Expanding NAFTA into other areas would depend on the stability of the countries and what could be gained from such agreements. NAFTA countries are watching the European developments to see what happens.
- Some of the NAFTA questions are more nationalistic than political or economic.
- In some ways NAFTA has forced Canada to become more competitive.



**Closing Session:**

Participants enthusiastically endorsed the value of the Roundtable and urged that it continue on an annual basis. While various venues were considered, such as holding the event at different Ohio campuses, the value of the centrally-located Columbus area was compelling. The current location has served the Roundtable well but may be prohibitively expensive. Other sites in the Columbus area (primarily at colleges and universities) will be explored.

Appreciation was expressed to Gail Garbrandt and Mark Kasoff and their respective universities for organizing the event.



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