

The Role Of Constituency Offices In Enhancing Democracy

The British House of Commons has entered a period of substantial change, moving from a state of party cohesion and party leadership toward a more individualistic and active policy-making role. In the dynamic look at the British Parliament and its members, Philip Norton and David M. Wood highlight that change to more intensive constituency response and service on the part of individual members. Like members of the U.S. Congress, British Members of Parliament (MPs) are elected to represent geographical districts. The relationship between the MP and the constituency in Britain has become more important in recent years, but the major changes that have occurred in the relationship since the late 1960s have not been matched by extensive scholarly study. Some pathbreaking work has been done on the subject, but it remains overshadowed by the wealth of material focusing on MPs' activities within the legislative chambers at Westminster. This volume seeks to fill the gap by sketching and assessing the electoral significance of the MPs' constituency work and the broader political ramifications for the workings of the British Parliament. Its findings allow the MP to be seen in full.

Norton and Wood argue that the constituency role has gained in importance in recent decades as MPs have become more career-oriented than their forerunners in mid-century. But a by-product of greater professionalism and careerism has been an expanded job description that may take MPs' time and energies away from playing a more effective role in helping to shape the broader policy alternatives for the United Kingdom.

Review of Allowances : Third report of session 2007-08, Vol. 2: Papers from the Department of Resources

A Guide for Better Engagement with Constituents

Constituency Office Guidelines for Members of the British Columbia Legislature, April 1, 1984

Third Report of Session 2007-08, Vol. 2: Papers from the Department of Resources

Parliamentary Regional Offices Manual

A Guide for Members of the House of Commons

How to Be a Parliamentary Researcher

In this study of grass-roots election campaigning, the authors survey the evolution of campaigning over the past century and describe how the parties organized their constituency campaigns in the 1992 election. They examine and evaluate the campaign techniques used.

This report is into the investigation by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration of a complaint that Sir Bob Russell, the Member for Colchester, made claims against parliamentary allowances for the rental of his constituency office from 2002-03 to 2009-2010 when that accommodation was owned by company in which he and a family member held shares. The Commissioner did find that Sir Bob Russell was in breach of the rules, that there was a misreading and misunderstanding of the rules. However the seriousness of the breach was strongly mitigated by findings in relation to disclosure. The Committee agrees with those conclusions and has recorded the breach. No further action is recommended.

First Report of Session 2012-13, Report and Appendices, Together with Formal Minutes

Back from Westminster

The Parliamentary Mandate

Access and Privacy Guide for Saskatchewan MLA Constituency Offices

Establishing Your Constituency Office

Ministerial Code

To some, they are the graduates grasping the first rung on the ladder to power, to others, the unsung heroes of the British parliamentary system. But whether your notion of parliamentary researchers is more The Thick of It than The West Wing, more Yes Minister than House of Cards, there is no doubt that these individuals play an essential role in keeping the giant (and, let's be honest, slightly creaky) machine that drives British politics from juddering to a halt. Branded bag-carriers while actually performing vital duties like drafting speeches and Parliamentary Questions, handling the media and engaging with constituents online, parliamentary researchers do the dirty work behind the scenes, allowing their bosses to focus on their main job - performing. With the help of case studies and guest writers, Robert Dale, himself a former parliamentary researcher, tells the fascinating story of how the MP's office has developed over recent decades, and combines practical advice with acute personal observations on how to get ahead as a researcher. If you're a graduate looking to take your first step into politics, or simply interested in the job around a third of our current Cabinet had before becoming an MP, How to Be a Parliamentary Researcher offers a compelling insight into how the British political system really operates.

The review of constituency allowances for members of the Legislative Assembly began in July 1992. The review was conducted to develop permissible spending criteria and to determine the adequacy of the current spending level of these allowances, appropriate methods of claiming from and payment by the government, a method of accountability, ownership and disposition of investment income earned, and the disposition of all allowances unspent at year end. The report also includes an historical perspective of the allowances and the need for them.

Constituency Office

A New (Political) Front-Line of Canadian Immigration Processing

Saskatchewan MLA Constituency Office Access & Privacy Guide

Former Members of Parliament Speak Out about Canada's Failing Democracy

Local Campaigning in the 1992 General Election

Research Report on

Despite Canada's reputation as a welcoming host-country, changes to immigration processing in the past twenty years have increasingly forced frustrated immigration applicants to seek assistance at their MP's constituency office (MacLeod 2005). Due to an indirect decentralization of some aspects of immigration processing towards these offices, this immigration casework now accounts for 60 to 80% of urban MPs' offices' work (Rana 2016b). Despite this volume, and the documented importance of studying the discretionary decision-making practices of other actors in the immigration processing system (Bouchard & Wake Carroll 2002; Satzewich 2015a), the literature has never before considered constituency offices' role in the Canadian immigration system. Thus, how do constituency assistants (CAs) exercise discretion in their immigration casework activities? And what variables influence this discretion? This dissertation draws on a qualitative analysis of semi-structured interviews with 15 current and former CAs in four provinces. We find that CAs' discretion is not bounded to the same degree by official procedures or standards as in the immigration bureaucracy. Rather, CAs' discretion leads to significant variations in service provision from office to office and even within offices. Furthermore, these variations stem from the influence of variables that would be considered inappropriate in the bureaucracy: CAs' micro-level discretion rooted in their personal characteristics (Satzewich 2015a), and electoral considerations. CAs' 'flexibility' can be seen as a necessary response to an unresponsive bureaucracy, but also highlights the politicization of immigration applications going through these offices, and raises important equity issues around access to the immigration bureaucracy in Canada.

European Union institutions have been notoriously criticized for their lack of day-to-day linkage with European citizenry. The European Parliament as the only directly elected EU institution is logically one of the 'closest' linkage institutions to the European electorate. However, little is known about how its representatives - Members of the European Parliament (MEP) - connect, service and cultivate relations with their constituencies between two elections points. This thesis attempts to fill in this missing link. Using original data from the author's self-administered 2009 MEP survey (N=145), this thesis empirically traces MEP's constituency orientations in three steps. It first maps out MEP constituency orientations in terms of MEP's attitudes / how they think about a their constituencies, the importance they attach to constituency work and the types of activities they pursue in their constituency work. Given that MEP function in an ICT era, in addition to mapping MEP's constituency outreach offline, as part of the second step, the thesis also evaluates how MEP incorporate ICTs and Internet platforms in their constituency outreach. Could it be that the various interactive, transactional and asynchronous features that the Internet provides prompt MEP to use their websites, blogs or social networking sites as quasi virtual constituency offices? In view that a fair degree of variation was found in MEP's constituency outreach, the third last step looks at the determinant of this variation. Overall, the thesis' findings demonstrate that in spite the low institutional and electoral incentives for them to engage in constituency work, MEP conduct a wide range of constituency outreach activities both offline and online. Moreover, citizens contact MEP with diverse types of casework. At the same time data also showed that majority of MEP still prioritize and attach more importance to their legislative duties as oppose to their constituency work. With respect to MEP's Internet usage, the thesis findings further suggest that it is yet premature to conclude that the 'virtual constituency office' is replacing the conventional constituency (offline).

Congressional Offices and the Treatment of Constituent Opinion

Closing a Member's Parliamentary and Constituency offices

Post-election ND Constituency Office Staffing Process

Congress and Constituency Service

Representation in Action

A Guide to Good Practice

Lundberg critically examines the claim that party list-elected members of Britain's devolved assemblies, in Wales and Scotland, are somehow 'second-class' representatives. Although list-elected representatives in Britain have a different constituency role, these representatives add an important element of pluralism to Britain's politics.

Canadian members of Parliament (MPs) are often dismissed as "trained seals," helpless to do anything other than take commands from party leaders. Representation in Action challenges this view of MPs and shows that the ways they represent their constituents are as diverse as Canada itself. Royce Koop, Heather Bastedo, and Kelly Blidook examine the activities MPs engage in to represent their ridings and determine what accounts for differences in style and agency. Drawing on original observational and interview research and featuring detailed in-depth case studies, this is the first book using intensive participant-observation methods to study Canadian MPs and representation.

Closing Your Ottawa and Constituency Offices

Forced Marriage Case Handling Guide for MPs and Constituency Offices

Comment Mettre Sur Pied Votre Bureau de Circonscription

Citizens Getting Help

British Members of Parliament and Their Constituents

Service to Constituency Offices

Former Members of Parliament from Canada's House of Commons discuss their political careers and Canadian politics in general is examined.

Undersøgelse af parlamentsmandatet baseret på svar på IPU-spørgeskema fra 134 parlamenter. Svarene er sammenlignet systematisk med de respektive forfatninger, lovgivning og parlamentsforretningsordener.

Règlement, statuts et ordonnances du métier d'estainmier plombier en Normandie

Proportional Representation and the Constituency Role in Britain

A Global Comparative Study

Third Report of Session 2007-08, Vol. 1: Report

Discretionary Decision-Making in Constituency Offices

Legislative Correspondence Management Practices

"The thrust of this research is to examine the role of legislative constituency offices in the area of aggregating electorates' opinion and presenting them for debate and consideration by the executive arm of government. This study will further conduct a survey to ascertain the total number of legislators at state and federal levels who have functional constituency offices in Adamawa, Zamfara, Enugu, Nasarawa, Lagos and Cross River states. The study will also conduct an enumeration of constituency projects undertaken by the legislators in each of the six states between 1999 and 2013 and whether such projects are maintained, existing or non-existent. The research will also evaluate the activities of the following political parties namely; the People's Democratic Party (P.D.P), Action Congress of Nigeria (A.C.N)/APC, Congress for Progressive Change (C.P.C)/APC, All Nigeria Peoples Party (A.N.P.P)/APC, to ascertain whether they have functional party offices before and after the conduct of elections in Nigeria."--Page 2.

In contrast with most literature on Canadian politics, this book resurrects the relevance of Canada's Parliament by examining what MPs do, why they do it, and what effect it has. Constituency Influence in Parliament examines the rules and conduct of Private Members' Business to assess the complex relationship between constituency representation and policy proposals. This revealing study shows that Members of Parliament pursue various types of goals in the legislature - not all of which focus upon parties or leaders - and each MP plays an important representative role in shaping policy.

Parliament and Democracy in the Twenty-first Century

Tragedy in the Commons

Review of Allowances

To Serve the People

Review Report

Report of the Public Appointments Committee to National Assembly in the ... Session

Some of the most far-reaching and innovative parliamentary reform is occurring in Africa. While these reforms are not yet widespread across the continent, parliaments in some African countries are asserting their independence as policymakers, as overseers of government and as the guardian of citizens' rights and needs. This book presents recent reforms in selected African parliaments - Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Benin, Zambia, Ethiopia, Liberia and Nigeria. It also presents cross-cutting innovations by African parliaments - in fighting corruption, in providing development to constituents and in combatting climate change. Many of the chapters are authored by African MPs themselves, making this a book 'by MPs for MPs', as well as being of interest to students and scholars of African Politics, and to those international institutions that support parliamentary development. African Parliamentary Reform is a joint initiative by the World Bank Institute, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and the Parliamentary Centre (Africa).

This report starts with the Committee's top priority - improving public confidence in the House of Commons by better systems of financial assurance. The House must introduce a robust system of scrutiny for parliamentary allowances. It then sets out the six main categories in which Members' work is supported by the taxpayer: employment of staff; office costs; communicating with constituents and the public; travel; overnight costs; redundancy. In each section, the report describes the current system, proposals for change, experience elsewhere, and the views and advice received. Each section ends with the opinion of the Committee and recommendations for the House to decide. Recommendations include: members should no longer be able to claim reimbursement for furniture and household goods or for capital improvements; the Additional Cost Allowance would be replaced by an overnight expenses allowance of £19,600 a year for accommodation; £30 a day subsistence allowance without receipts, up to a maximum of £4,600 every year; MPs would have to provide receipts for all other expenses from 1 April next year (at the moment they can claim for items up to £25 without receipts).

Comparative Dimensions of MEPs' Offline-online Constituency Orientations

Constituency Office Tax-related Workloads : Telephone Survey Results

Approved Recommendations on Reforms in the Zambian Parliament

Modern Constituency Electioneering

Countering the Centre

Constituency Office Funding