



NEWS RELEASE

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October 18, 2017

Canada's Parliament hosted ParlAmericas Conference on Legislative Openness

OTTAWA – On 16 and 17 October 2017, the Parliament of Canada hosted a ParlAmericas' Open Parliament Network conference promoting legislative openness.

Parliamentarians from eight countries of the American hemisphere joined Canadian senators and members of Parliament to discuss increasing citizen participation in decision-making, making information held by public institutions open by default, and modernizing governmental accountability.

The event was timely as Canada was recently elected to a seat on the Open Government Partnership Steering Committee, a group dedicated to making all governments more open and accountable, and will take on the role of lead co-chair in 2018-19.

The two-day event included discussion panels and featured presentations made by [Ms. Mary Dawson](#), Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner, [Mr. Jean-Denis Fréchette](#), Parliamentary Budget Officer and [Ms. Karen E. Shepherd](#), Commissioner of Lobbying. The [Hon. Robert D. Nault](#), P.C., M.P., Chair of the Canadian Section of ParlAmericas, served as honorary host for the gathering.

"It was an honour and a pleasure to host the Open Parliament Network conference on legislative openness here in Ottawa. As a government, we pride ourselves on our transparency and accountability, so it was an opportunity to showcase our progress to the ParlAmericas partner countries," stated Nault.

Founded 15 years ago in Ottawa, [ParlAmericas International](#) is the only inter-parliamentary secretariat headquartered in Ottawa. Since the beginning, the Canadian section of ParlAmericas has worked closely with the ParlAmericas International and plays a key role in furthering dialogue by bringing together parliamentarians and hemispheric observers from across the Americas and the Caribbean.

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To arrange an interview with the Hon. Robert Nault, please contact:

Julian

613-222-6123

bob.nault.a1@parl.gc.ca

Morelli

Melissa

613-996-1161

bob.nault.a2@parl.gc.ca

Dawe