

OTTAWA UPDATE...

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS DEPARTMENT - CREDIT UNION CENTRAL OF CANADA
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39TH PARLIAMENT RESUMES – WHAT SHOULD CREDIT UNIONS EXPECT?



On September 18, MPs and Senators returned to Ottawa following a 12-week summer recess. Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservative minority Government returned to Parliament under some challenging circumstances. Faced with mounting pressure to engage Parliament in further debate over Canada's role in Afghanistan and opposition to repealing the gun registry, PM Harper may need to re-work his government's fall strategy. The Conservatives had planned to focus on ratifying the softwood lumber deal with the United States, introducing an environmental protection plan, holding a free vote on the same-sex marriage issue, and democratic reform as key items. Now, in light of rising Canadian casualties in Afghanistan and a tragic shooting incident in Montreal, PM Harper must show Canadians how he can operate when national agenda items do not match the government's planned priorities.

Seats by Political Party as 39th Parliament Resumes

Conservatives	125
Liberals	102
Bloc Québécois	50
New Democratic Party	29
Independent	1
Vacant	1
Total	308

On national issues, the early fall is the Government's opportunity to make headway in the polls before the Official Opposition Liberals elect a new leader in early December. The opposition parties will all attempt to leverage recent developments and magnify weaknesses in the current government.

For credit unions, this fall may hold several opportunities. The Government is expected to introduce legislation that will elaborate proposals outlined in June's White Paper on federal financial institutions legislation. The Government proposes to make *it easier for credit unions to establish cooperative credit associations* as a means of expanding their business opportunities. More specifically, the Federal Government is seeking to decrease to two the number of credit unions required for the incorporation of an association and introduce a deposit insurance opt-out regime for associations that are not accepting retail deposits. Canadian Central will be closely following legislative developments in this area to ensure that the Government best serves the interests of the credit union system. Along with financial institutions legislation, Canadian Central will closely monitor any legislative initiatives the Government may bring forward on anti-money laundering/anti-terrorist financing and reforms to criminal interest rate regime.

This fall, Canadian Central is also representing credit union system views on issues such as identity theft, bio-fuels, the social economy, agricultural financial support programs and privacy legislation. Canadian Central's Legislative Affairs Committee will play a central role in formulating and shaping credit union system input on many of these files. The Committee will hold a full day meeting in Ottawa on November 21.

STATUS OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

House of Commons

S-2 Hazardous Materials Information Review Act (second reading)
C-6 Aviation Safety Bill (second reading)
C-7 Military Justice Bill (second reading)
C-9 Conditional Sentencing Bill (committee)
C-10 Minimum Sentences for Firearms Crimes Bill (Committee)
C-11 Transportation and Railway Safety Act (second reading)
C-12 Emergency management Bill (second reading)
C-14 Adoption Bill (committee)
C-16 Fixed Election Date Bill (second reading)
C-17 Judges' Salary and benefits Bill (second reading)
C-18 DNA identification Bill (second reading)
C-19 Street Racing Bill (second reading)
C-20 Airports and Transportation Appeal Tribunal Bill (second reading)
C-21 Firearms Centre and Gun Registry Bill (second reading)
C-22 Age of Sexual Protection Bill (second reading)
C-23 Criminal Procedure Bill (second reading)

Senate

C-2 Federal Accountability Act (second reading)
C-3 International Bridges and Tunnels Bill (first reading)
S-3 Military Sex Offenders Bill (third reading)
S-4 Senate Tenure Bill (second reading)
C-5 Public Health Agency of Canada Bill (first reading)
C-13 Budget Implementation Bill (third reading)

Adopted / Royal Assent

C-4 Elections Canada Act Mandatory Review
C-8 Money for the Public Service of Canada
C-15 Agricultural Marketing Programs Act

(Source: *The Hill Times*, (Sept. 18) No. 855)



HOUSE OF COMMONS FINANCE COMMITTEE - PRE-BUDGET CONSULTATIONS

On October 17, Canadian Central will represent the credit union system before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance during its pre-budget consultations. The theme of this year's consultations is "Canada's Place in a Competitive World". Canadian Central's draft submission has been distributed to the Legislative Affairs Committee and will be finalized shortly. In addition this year, Canadian Central along with other groups from the co-operative sector, including the Canadian Co-operative Association, le Conseil Canadien de la Coopération, The Co-operators Group, Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada, Canadian Worker Co-op Federation, and Groupe Desjardins have worked to submit a one-page sheet of shared recommendations on behalf of the co-operative sector. The Legislative Affairs Committee is also reviewing this one-page submission.

PARLIAMENTARY RECEPTION, OCTOBER 17

Also on October 17, Canadian Central will jointly host a Parliamentary Reception in Ottawa with the Canadian Co-operative Association and the Conseil Canadien de la Coopération. The Parliamentary Reception will be held between 5:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. in the Commonwealth Room in Centre Block on Parliament Hill. The purpose of jointly hosting the reception this year is to profile the co-operative sector as a whole in celebrating and strengthening the relationships the credit union system and the broader co-operative sector have developed over the years with MPs, Senators, and senior officials in Ottawa. Canadian Central has sent invitations to all members of the Board, CEO Committee, Legislative Affairs Committee, and Special Strategy Committee. The members of the Credit Union/Caisse Populaire Stabilization Funds of Canada have also received an invitation to attend the reception.

AGRICULTURE SUB-COMMITTEE, OCTOBER 4TH

On October 4, a meeting of the Agriculture Sub-Committee of the Legislative Affairs Committee will take place in Ottawa. The Committee is scheduled to include presentations on the Federal Government's approach to agriculture from Conservative MP David Anderson, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-food (Cypress Hills – Grasslands, SK) and Claire Bartley Director General, Agriculture and Agri-food Canada - Agriculture Transformation Programs Directorate. Issues to be discussed at the meeting include, among other things, the Federal Government's emerging bio-fuels strategy, anticipated reforms to the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization Program and improvements to the Farm Improvement and Marketing Cooperatives Loans Act/Program.

APPOINTMENT: SERGE DUPONT – ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER, DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

Serge Dupont was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister, Financial Sector Policy Branch on June 30, 2006. He joined the Branch as General Director in April 2005. In his position, he advises the Deputy Minister and the Minister of Finance on the full range of financial sector policy issues, including the regulatory framework for Canada's financial sector and the management of the Government of Canada's financial assets and liabilities. In so doing, he interacts closely with counterparts in other federal agencies including the Bank of Canada, the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions, the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada and the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada.

Since joining the federal public service in 1983, Mr. Dupont has held positions covering a wide range of economic and financial policy issues, including energy policy, the privatization of federal Crown corporations, introduction of the federal GST, and Canada's participation in the G7, corporate governance, and intellectual property policy. Before joining Financial Sector Policy, he was Director General Tax Policy where he worked on the development of tax policy proposals for four consecutive federal budgets. He served as Finance Counsellor in Canada's mission in Paris, advisor to the Minister of Finance, and Corporate Secretary and special advisor to the Deputy Minister at Industry Canada. He holds a B.Sc. (University of Ottawa) and M.A.Sc. (University of Waterloo) in Management Sciences and a Diplôme international d'administration publique from l'École nationale d'administration (Paris).

FALL AGENDA

National Credit Union Lenders Conference –
Westin Hotel (Ottawa)
Sept 30 - Oct 3

Ag Sub-Committee Mtg
Westin Hotel (Ottawa)
October 4

Finance Committee Pre-Budget Appearance,
Parliament Hill (Ottawa)
October 17

Parliamentary Reception
Commonwealth Room,
Parliament Hill (Ottawa)
October 17

Stabilization Funds of Canada Meeting
Westin Hotel (Ottawa)
October 18

Legislative Affairs Committee Meeting
Westin Hotel (Ottawa)
November 21

