

5-29-2019

C-Dem Partners Meeting Minutes May 29, 2019

Consortium on Electoral Democracy

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C-DEM Partner Meeting Minutes

May 29, 2019

Agenda

12-1pm: Arrival and light lunch

1:00-1:30: Words of Welcome, C-Dem Co-Directors
Global Centre for Pluralism, Nathan Bowers-Krishnan
Partner Introductions

1:30-2:00: Overview of Project
Democracy Checkup Tool
2019 Canadian Election Study Consultation

2:00-2:45: Roundtable Discussion
Topics: What about C-Dem is the most exciting for your organization?
What do you hope to achieve by being part of the consortium?
Are there new initiatives the network can partner with you on?

2:45-3:00: Coffee Break

3:00-3:30: Small Group Discussion
How can C-Dem address threats to Canadian democracy today?
How do we make this network relevant to policy-makers and the public?

3:30-4:00: Report from small groups, closing remarks and departure

Attendees:

Aaron McGlyn Williams, Elections Ontario
Alain Pelletier, Elections Canada
Allison Harell, C-Dem
Amie Foster, Elections BC
Angelo Elias, Elections Canada
Antoine Vandemoor, Elections Ontario
David Ott, Democratic Institutions Secretariat, Privy Council Office
Greg Lyle, Innovative Research Group
James Howard, C-Dem
John Beebe, Democratic Engagement Exchange
Larry MacNabb, Statistics Canada
Laura Stephenson, C-Dem
Leslie Seidle, IRPP
Lori Chambers, IRCC
Marc-Andre Roy, IRCC
Marie-Michèle Laferrière, Forum for Young Canadians
Matthew Burkard, Global Centre for Pluralism
Mete Pamir, IRCC
Michael Morden, Samara Centre for Democracy
Miriam Lapp, Elections Canada
Nathan Bowers-Krishnan, Global Centre for Pluralism
Peter Loewen, C-Dem
Poorvi Chitalkar, Global Centre for Pluralism
Samantha Reush, Apathy is Boring

Online Attendees:

Anton Boegman, Elections BC
Jessica Simpson, Tłıchǵ Government
Michael Boda, Elections SK

Minutes

1. Words of Welcome

C-Dem Co-Directors
Global Centre for Pluralism, Nathan Bowers-Krishnan
Partner Introductions

2. Overview of Project

Democracy Checkup Tool
2019 Canadian Election Study Consultation

- See PartnerPresentationMay 20(Final).pptx slides 1 - 17

Discussion

- Challenges for democracy:
 - Low levels of turnout comparatively
 - Populism is on the rise. Both a backlash to diversity as well as feeling that government is not affected. Good and bad to this, challenging for governments.
 - We don't know how democracy will unfold in digital times. How people get information and how that matters for views of democracy are not yet known and need to be explored.
 - We don't know enough about how democracy works between elections, and how it is changing. This is a black box we hope to explore.

3. Roundtable Discussion

What about C-Dem is the most exciting for your organization?
What do you hope to achieve by being part of the consortium?
Are there new initiatives the network can partner with you on?

- (see PartnerPresentationMay 20(Final).pptx slide 18

Summary of Round Table Discussion

- Need to consider permanent residents or soon-to-be-Canadians in our research, at all levels.
- Address challenges of bringing in Indigenous collaborators and perspectives on electoral participation.
- Need to identify disengagement barriers, understanding where disengagement comes from, and where engagement can emerge.
- There is a need to understand what democratic action looks like when establishing research agendas and claims.
- Questions asked in different ways that provide comparisons between jurisdictions on the issues of trust in institutions, barriers to voting and integration, and introduction of technologies to understand sentiments are of interest.
- We need to build methodological capacity among Electoral Management Bodies, breaking down results by province.
- There is a need for inclusive language with respect to questions in Democracy Checkup Survey around civic participation.
- Key administration questions for EMBs ought to be considered.

4. Small Group Discussion (notes not taken)

Question 1: How can C-Dem address threats to Canadian Democracy today?

Question 2: How do we make this network relevant to policy-makers and the public?

5. Group Summary from Discussions

Key points

- Administrative health of democracy is a key area for research
- Threats to democracy impact participation
- Data is needed to address threats