

LINKING THE DEMOCRATIC AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGENDAS: LEGITIMACY AND EFFECTIVENESS

Grace Skogstad
Department of Political Science
University of Toronto

Our working assumption in this final session is that the initiatives on intergovernmental relations and democratic reform represent a serious endeavour on the part of Canadian governments. Provincial and territorial governments are committed to cooperating with one another to improve the efficient and effective functioning of the federation. The Government of Canada shares this commitment and is-and will be in the future-more flexible, inclusive, and accommodating of the provinces and territories, even providing TJJT07of(brffend)TJT0.0008 Tc0.0006T wrephar9(eeratco)-4(nbe iJJ1.7a(mitrs)(s(a(ng oe t perhaps also in some provincial capitals), politicians will 'walk the talk' by giving legislators on both the governing and opposition benches more independence and legislative authority, and by making governing processes more open and transparent.

Members of this panel are not allowed to be doubting Thomases. We take politicians at their word. That word, as I understand it from the presentations of government spokesmen at this conference, is that governments are driven byt frnet alo swê upians atleygake goverac b.yGovernments at both orders are t same time? Second, what does the experience elsewhere tell us about the compatibility of strong executive federalism and democracy? And third, what are the components of a future reform agenda?

To address the first question, I will analytically separate the likely impacts on governing legitimacy and effectiveness of three sets of reforms: greater proportional representation in the electoral system, more autonomy and authority for legislators *vis-à-vis* executives within each order of government, and greater intergovernmental cooperation. I begin by clarifying my usage of the terms *democracy*, *legitimacy*, and

B. LESSONS FROM ELSEWHERE

If a major governing challenge of our current era is the reality of greater economic integration and supranational governance, the European Union offers an important lesson. The EU's ever closer economic and political integration has diminished the individual sovereignty of member state governments, creating in its wake a widely perceived democratic deficit. Addressing this legitimation imperative has required ancillary steps to strengthen the only chamber of direct citizen representation in the EU decision-making apparatus, the European Parliament. While some might contend that government executives in the European Union still really do

federalism—is to require more consensus-building across more political actors. The requirement of more consensus-building will likely result in less timely resolution of outstanding issues. Offsetting that cost is the anticipated gain of public policies that are more effective in domains of jurisdictional overlap as well as more responsive to a broader range of interests. The net effect then should be more legitimate governing in Canada.