

Legislation Advisory Committee Seminar



Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives

Overview of legislative system

- **Update on changes to legislative process in 50th Parliament**
- **Assess their impact so far**
- **Influencing legislative capacity**

Legislative business

	Oct 2011	June 2012
Bills before House	109	98
Government bills	95	81
	6 months average	6 months to 30 June
Bills assented to	40	51

Standing Orders Committee 2011 Review

Themes

- **Government's need for more House time to advance its policy platform with less resort to urgency**
- **Need to improve legislative scrutiny**

Balanced package of reforms

- **Extended sittings**
- **Urgency only to fast-track urgent bills**
- **More effective management of House time through negotiation in Business Committee**
- **Debating matters of importance in committee of the whole House**
- **Instructions to select committees to reduce time for consideration of bills to be debated**
- **Government enhance pre-introduction scrutiny of legislative proposals**

Impact on legislative capacity

- **Most significant changes since 1996**
- **Concerns over lack of legislative capacity**
 - **Increasing sitting time**
 - **Committee of the whole House sitting concurrently**
- **Business Committee management of House business the key**

Influencing legislative capacity

- **Legislating to be seen to do something**
- **Uncoordinated legislative proposals**
- **Confidence and supply agreements**

**House time a scarce commodity
– use wisely**

Questions?