



Campbell Strategies

What to look for this Winter in Ottawa

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On December 30, the Government *prorogued* Parliament, effectively suspending the sittings of the House of Commons and Senate until March 3. At that time, the Government will deliver a Throne Speech, and is expected to present its Budget immediately after.

With prorogation, Parliamentary business ceases: legislation on the Parliamentary Order Paper dies and committees are disbanded. When Parliament returns in March, legislation may be reinstated at the stage it was in the prior Session, but only with all-Party approval. Without that approval, legislative initiatives have to be reintroduced all over again and go through all regular stages to become law.

Whatever the tactical considerations around the decision to prorogue, the net effect is that no new legislative action will be taken until the Spring. The Spring sitting is short (ending in June) so it could be a very busy Parliamentary Sitting dealing with a backlog of legislation and new initiatives flowing from the Throne Speech and Budget. All of this assumes that the Government does not use the Throne Speech or Budget to engineer its own defeat or the Opposition does not choose to unite to bring down the Government at that time leading to a Spring election.

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With Parliament prorogued, the Prime Minister is expected to make a number of Senate appointments to replace several vacancies, which would mean that the Conservatives will become the majority party in the upper chamber. As well, there is some speculation that a federal cabinet shuffle could take place.

Contact us

If you have questions regarding the topics in this newsletter or related government matters, please contact our consultants.

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