



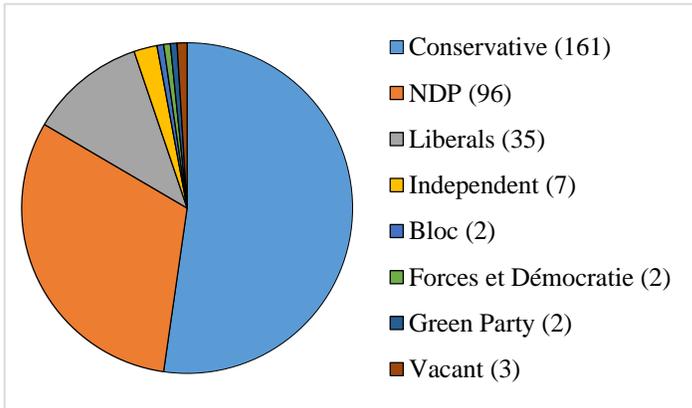
# Canadian Parliamentary Division Monthly Report

April 2015

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*The Composition of the House of Commons this month:*



**Minority Liberal Government**

Prime Minister: Stephen Harper

Leader of Opposition: Thomas Mulcair

Notable bills discussed:

Bill C-51 (Anti-terrorism Act, 2015), Bill C-42 (Common Sense Firearms Licensing Act), Bill C-636 (Interns Protection Act), Bill C-12 (Drug-Free Prisons Act), Bill S-219 (Journey to Freedom Day Act), Bill C-642 (An Act to Amend the Corrections and Conditional Release Act), and Bill C-46 (Pipeline Safety Act)

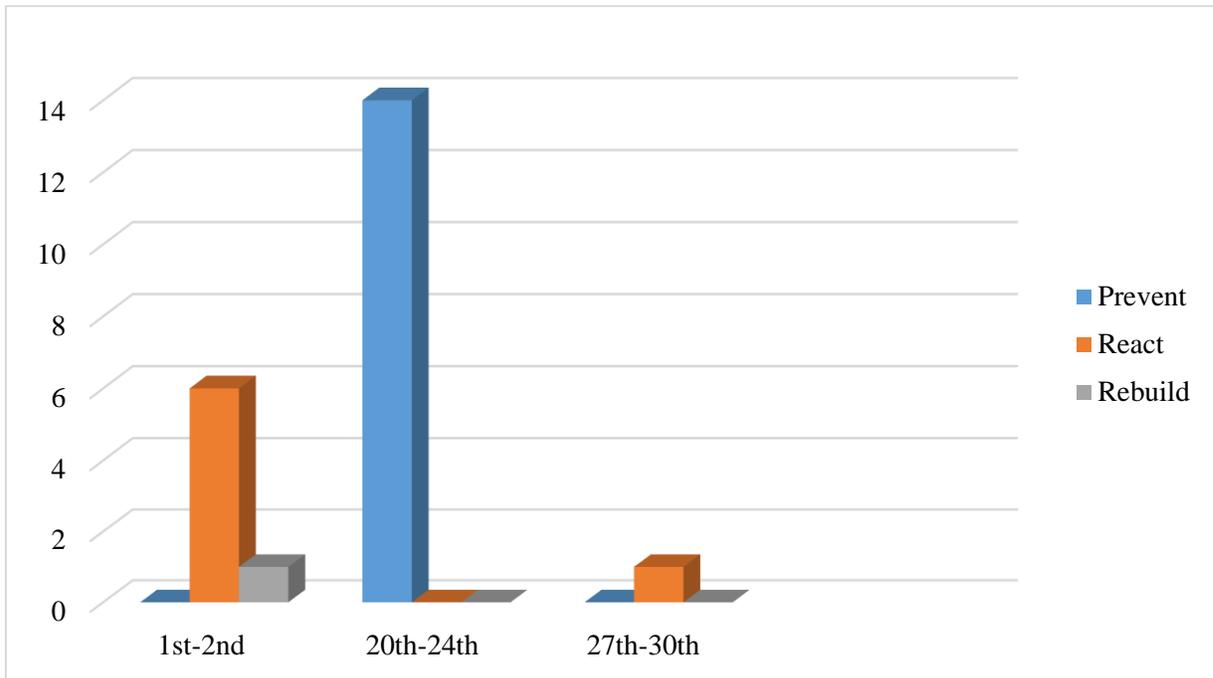
| April |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S     | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|       |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |
| 5     | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 12    | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19    | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26    | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |    |    |

*How Many Times R2P was mentioned weekly:*

**Explicitly:**

N/A.

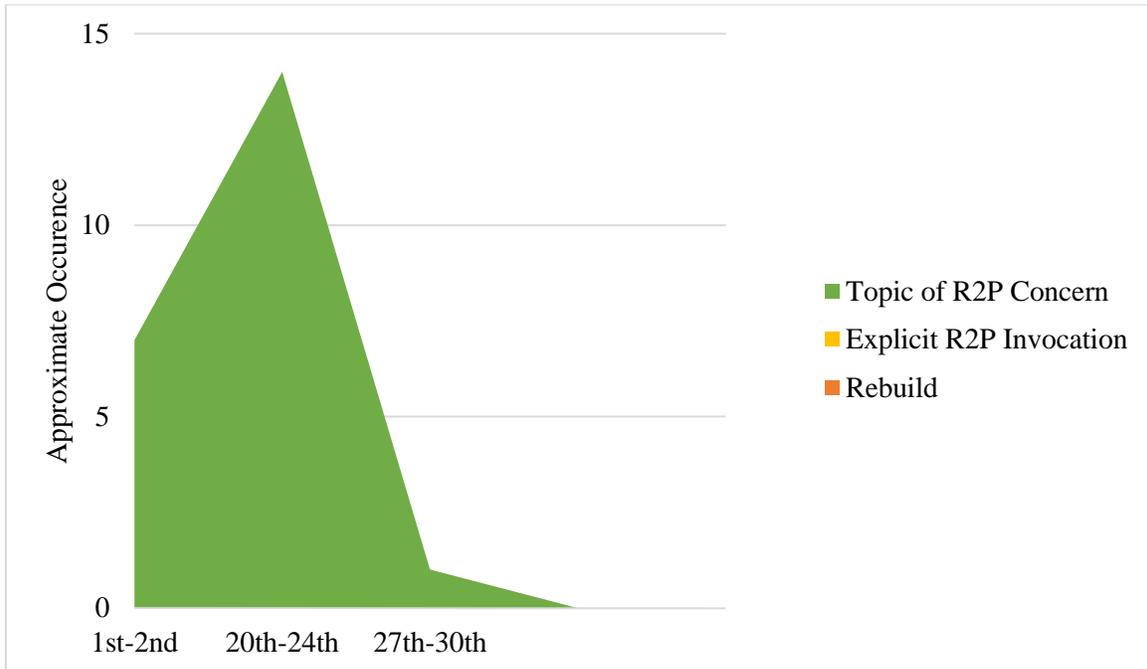
**Subject matters related to R2P:**



*Explanation of Findings:*

R2P was not explicitly mentioned during the month of April. The Prevent category from the 20<sup>th</sup> until the 24<sup>th</sup> scored high numbers due to the commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armenian genocide and the introduction of Motion No. 587 (Genocide Recognition) by Mr. Brad Butt (Mississauga-Streetsville, CPC). The React category scored relatively moderate numbers from the 1<sup>st</sup> until the 2<sup>nd</sup> due to discussions on whether there has been a prima facie breach of the privileges of the House by the Minister of National Defence and other CPC ministers for providing false and misleading information about Operation Impact to the House.

### Break Down of R2P's Explicit Use and Issues Relating to R2P:

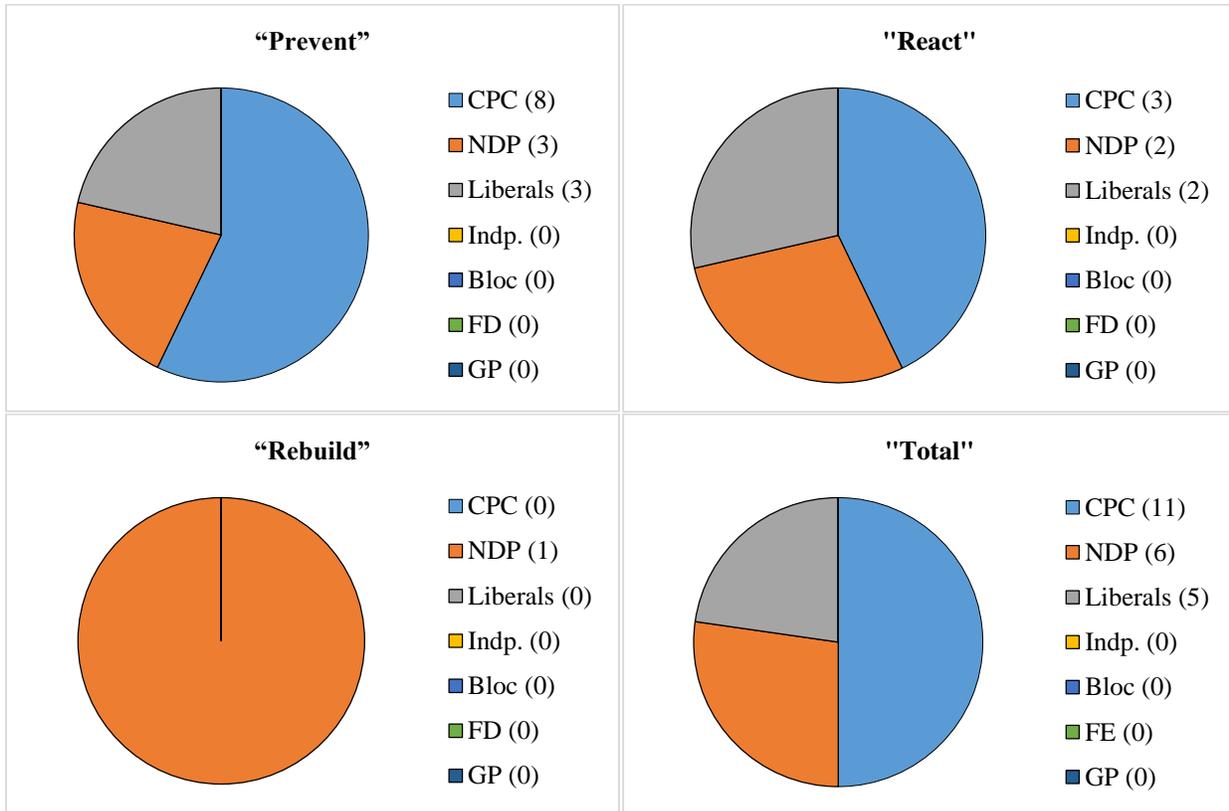


### Explanation of Findings:

Aforementioned, R2P was not explicitly mentioned during the month of April. However, in regards to the topics of R2P concern, from the 1<sup>st</sup> until the 2<sup>nd</sup>, the House discussed whether there has been a prima facie breach of the privileges of the House by CPC ministers who provided false and misleading information about Operation Impact to the House. Furthermore, from the 20<sup>th</sup> until the 24<sup>th</sup>, the MPs discussed Motion No. 587 (Genocide Recognition). Other topics of R2P concern included reminders of the Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) and Refugee Rights Day.

**Breakdown by Party:**

**\*Numbers represent the approximate number of individual times a party member spoke to a topic relating to the responsibility to prevent, react, or rebuild.**



**Explanation of Findings:**

Aforementioned, R2P was not explicitly mentioned during the month of April. However, on the topic of Operation Impact and Motion No. 587 (Genocide Recognition), the Conservatives, the New Democrats, and the Liberals all made contribution to the discussion. It should be noted that the Conservatives have a greater share of the “Total” pie chart than the other two parties largely due to the fact that these discussions involved the New Democrats and Liberals asking or criticizing the Conservatives. Therefore, a lot of Conservative statements below are responses to statements from NDP/Liberal MPs.

## *Prevention:*

On 21 April 2015, Mr. Mark Adler (York Centre, CPC) reminds the House of the Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) to remember the six million Jews who were murdered at the hands of the Nazis and their collaborators. He notes that this is a time to raise awareness about the Holocaust and to combat anti-Semitism.

On 24 April 2015, Hon. Irwin Cotler (Mount Royal, Lib.) reminds the House of the fifth anniversary of the unanimous adoption by this House of a resolution establishing a National Day of Remembrance and Action on Mass Atrocities, and as well as the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armenian genocide and last week's Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day).

On 24 April 2015, Mr. Joe Daniel (Don Valley East, CPC) reminds the House of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armenian genocide. He then celebrates the Canadian government's 2004 acknowledgement of the Armenian genocide of 1915 in 2004, and as well as the 2006 acknowledgement that 1.5 million Armenians who died in 1915 were in fact victims of genocide.

On 24 April 2015, Ms. Rathika Sitsabaiesan (Scarborough-Rogue River, NDP) reminds the House of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armenian genocide, and asks the MPs to "join with thousands of Canadians of Armenian origin to remember the victims of [the genocide] and to recommit to protecting fundamental human rights and dignity for all."

On 24 April 2015, Mr. Brad Butt (Mississauga-Streetsville, CPC) presents Motion No. 587 before the House: The Motion concludes that the House (a) re-affirm its support for (i) the Holocaust Memorial Day Act, (ii) the Armenian genocide recognition resolution adopted on April 21, 2004, (iii) the Rwandan genocide resolution adopted on April 7, 2008, (iv) the Ukrainian Famine and Genocide ("Holodomor") Memorial Day Act; (b) call upon the government to honour the victims of all genocides by recognizing the month of April as Genocide Remembrance, Condemnation and Prevention Month; and (c) acknowledge the associated commemorative days of (i) Yom ha-Shoah (Holocaust Memorial Day), as determined by the Jewish Lunar calendar, (ii) Armenian Genocide Memorial Day on April 24, (iii) Rwandan Genocide Memorial Day on April 7, (iv) Holodomor Memorial Day on the fourth Saturday in November.

He then proceeds to list Canada's past accomplishments and progress made on genocide commemoration and education.

He ends his statement by concluding that: "The motion we are debating today is in the spirit of ensuring that [Canada] continues to set an important international example. I call on all members of this House to support Motion No. 587."

On 24 April 2015, Mr. Alexandre Boulerice (Rosemont-La Petite-Patrie, NDP) congratulates Mr. Butt for his initiative. He then proceeds to ask Mr. Butt what Canada should do to honor

the international agreements and treaties on the prevention of future genocides, and what role Canada should play on the international scene in order to be more proactive and prevent such atrocities and horrors from happening again.

On 24 April 2015, Mr. Brad Butt (Mississauga-Streetsville, CPC) responds to Mr. Boulerice by noting that “[Canada is] playing a very significant role in making sure another genocide does not take place in Iraq and Syria by committing Canadian Armed Forces and providing humanitarian aid and assistance to Iraq and Syria to protect religious minorities in those countries, Yazidis, Christians, Chaldeans, and Syrians who are being slaughtered at the hands of ISIL.”

On 24 April 2015, Hon. Stéphane Dion (Saint-Laurent-Cartierville, Lib.) congratulates Mr. Butt for his initiative. He notes that the Canadian government should consider adding the Bosnian genocide to the motion.

On 24 April 2015, Mr. Brad Butt (Mississauga-Streetsville, CPC) responds to Hon. Dion by noting that: “...it is obvious that should this motion pass, the month of April would be known as the genocide prevention remembrance month. It would include all genocides, including Bosnia and the others that have taken place. I would expect that this would cover all of those, and that we would find an appropriate way to commemorate these horrific events in human history and include all of those other organizations that would also like to be part of this in the month of April.”

On 24 April 2015, Mr. Paul Calandra (Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister and for Intergovernmental Affairs, CPC) congratulates Mr. Butt for his initiative. He then proceeds to ask Mr. Butt if he could “speak more emotionally to how important it is to remember, not only for government and for us, but for the victims and the people who have suffered through this.”

On 24 April 2015, Mr. Brad Butt (Mississauga-Streetsville, CPC) responds to Mr. Calandra by noting that: “There is an old saying that time heals all wounds. I am not always sure that is completely true. If we do not continue to recognize these events that have taken place in the history of our world, which have been our darkest moments in what human beings have done to one another, we are unfortunately doomed to repeat them. Therefore, we must continue to recognize these events each and every year.”

On 24 April 2015, Mr. Alexandre Boulerice (Rosemont-La Petite-Patrie, NDP) congratulates Mr. Butt for his initiative. He then proceeds to note that: “Today, on behalf of the NDP, I am extremely proud to be in the House with my colleagues to support this motion and to remind everyone of the Armenian genocide in 1915, the Ukrainian genocide, the Holocaust and the Rwandan genocide. We remember. We will never forget, and we will do everything in our power to ensure that this does not happen again.”

On 24 April 2015, Hon. Irwin Cotler (Mount Royal, Lib.) congratulates Mr. Butt for his initiative, and mentions that he has also introduced a similar motion. The only difference being that his makes mention of the Srebrenica massacre.

On 24 April 2015, Mr. Brad Butt (Mississauga-Streetsville, CPC) thanks his colleagues for supporting this motion. He notes that he is prepared to work with Hon. Cotler about the Srebrenica massacre, and that there is certainly no reason why that situation could not also be included in the commemorations within the month of April.

### *Reaction:*

On 2 April 2015, Mr. Jack Harris (St. John's East, NDP) notes that the Minister of National Defence has provided misleading information “regarding the expansion and extension of the Canadian military engagement in Iraq and Syria, information meant to form the basis on which members of Parliament would decide, and decided, how to vote on one of the most important questions parliamentarians face: whether to put Canadian military personnel in harm’s way.”

He further notes that: “Sadly, the information provided by the government on the mission over the past six months has far too often been proven false. Just two short months ago, I asked the Prime Minister to be held to account for his misleading statements on the initial six-month deployment of our troops in Iraq. We remember that he told the House last year, in direct contradiction of the truth, that Canadian Armed Forces personnel would not be accompanying Iraqi forces to the front line. Of course, we now know that not only are Canadian military personnel accompanying local forces to the front line, they are also painting targets and taking fire on the front lines in direct combat with the ISIL forces, also contrary to the assertions of the Prime Minister.”

He then proceeds to make his case by providing the House with the instances of when the Conservatives provided false or misleading information about Operation Impact to the House.

He ends his statement by concluding that: “The most difficult element we face here today is that the House has already voted on the salient issue to which the minister's misleading comments apply... Surely this warrants a study by the appropriate committee of this House to hear from the minister, the Chief of the Defence Staff and others to determine exactly how members of Parliament could have been left in such a compromised position ahead of a vote to send Canada's brave men and women into battle in our names... Those are my comments in support of my request to have you, Mr. Speaker, determine that there has been a prima facie breach of the privileges of this House, and that it be studied by an appropriate committee of this House. I would be prepared to move the appropriate motion if you so find, Mr. Speaker.”

On 2 April 2015, Hon. Jason Kenney (Minister of National Defence and Minister for Multiculturalism, CPC) responds to Mr. Harris by noting that “there is nothing approaching a

prima facie case of privilege in the submissions that [Mr. Harris] has just made to the Chair.” He then proceeds to offer a brief summary of the relevant facts in response to claims made by Mr. Harris.

He ends his statement by concluding that: “In sum, I submit that there is no prima facie case of privilege here. I stood in this place and accepted responsibility for the errant information, which was not relevant to the government's or the House's decision in the vote earlier this week. I will certainly, in accepting that responsibility, work with my military advisors to be doubly sure of the veracity of any information we put into the public domain.”

On 2 April 2015, Mr. Kevin Lamoureux (Winnipeg North, Lib.) responds to Hon. Kenny’s answer to Mr. Harris by noting that: “There is reason to believe there is a prima facie case here, and there is a very strong argument that this matter should go to committee and that the House should in fact take it very seriously.”

He then proceeds to make his case by providing the House with the instances of when the Conservatives provided false or misleading information about Operation Impact to the House.

He ends his statement by concluding that: “The minister has to understand that he has an obligation—whether we are voting in favour or against the expansion into Syria—and a responsibility to be straightforward and honest not only to members of this chamber, because by speaking to this chamber he is speaking to all Canadians from coast to coast to coast, and he has not lived up to that responsibility. That is why Liberals believe that there is merit, that there is in fact a prima facie case to be made that this matter be referred to a standing committee where we could possibly entertain looking at hearing some of those individuals who were involved in this matter... Ultimately, Mr. Speaker, we will await your decision, and at some point in the future I suspect there might be a need to add further comment as we get a better understanding of just how the government is trying to twist its way through some form of justification that it has not been able to clearly demonstrate to Canadians by its behaviour in regard to this whole matter.”

On 2 April 2015, Hon. Peter Julian (Burnaby-New Westminster, NDP) notes that he agrees with Mr. Harris’ statements that there has been a prima facie breach of the privileges of this House, and that the comments from the Minister of National Defence were not helpful at all.

He further notes that according to the House of Commons Procedure and Practice, “the provision of deliberately misleading information constitutes a prima facie case of privilege.”

He ends his statement by concluding that: “Mr. Speaker, I think the case has been laid out by [Mr. Harris]. We respect the time you will take over the next two weeks to properly consider the evidence put forward by [Mr. Harris]. We look forward to your ruling in due time, in two or two and a half weeks, when we reconvene after the Easter break.

On 2 April 2015, Hon. Peter Van Loan (Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, CPC) refers to the “three-part test to determine if there has been a breach of privileges” and makes a case that Mr. Harris’ statement that there has been a prima facie breach of the privileges of this House is unwarranted.

On 2 April 2015, Ms. Joyce Murray (Vancouver Quadra, Lib.) notes that “it is simply not credible that the [Minister of National Defence] was inadvertently incorrectly briefed and did not know what he was saying.” She then proceeds to make her case by providing examples of why the minister’s defence is not credible.

On 29 April 2015, Mr. David Sweet (Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Westdale, CPC) introduces a petition from Canadians who are concerned about the violence Yazidis and other minorities are enduring in Iraq. He notes that “the petitioners are deeply grateful for the actions of the Government of Canada to date, and ask further that this House, among other things, provide military cover and equipment to help Yazidis stranded on Mount Sinjar and increase with the greatest possible urgency our Canadian efforts to help Yazidi people, as well as Baha’i, Chaldo-Assyrians, Christians, Mandaeans, Shabak, Turkmen and others against ISIS attacks.”

### *Rebuilding:*

On 2 April 2015, Ms. Lysane Blanchette-Lamothe (Pierrefonds-Dollard, NDP) reminds the House of the Refugee Rights Day and Canada’s humanitarian duties toward asylum seekers. She proceeds to state that: “When we know that the government has only now reached its 2013 objectives of just 1,300 refugees two years later than promised, we have reason to be concerned. On this Refugee Rights Day, the NDP urges the Conservative minister to present to us a credible plan to meet his promise to reach refugee targets.”

### *Summary of Findings:*

*The absence of R2P from the month of April is puzzling as the week from the 20<sup>th</sup> until the 24<sup>th</sup> saw a heavy discussion on Motion No. 587 (Genocide Recognition) which was introduced by Mr. Brad Butt (Mississauga-Streetsville, CPC). The motion intended to commemorate and educate on past genocides and strengthen Canada’s efforts and commitment to prevent any future mass atrocity crimes. The other major R2P-related discussion from the month of April focused on whether there has been a prima facie breach of the privileges of the House by Conservative ministers for providing false and misleading information about Operation Impact to the House. There were no other major R2P-related topics of concern discussed in the House in the month of April. Post-partum*

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