



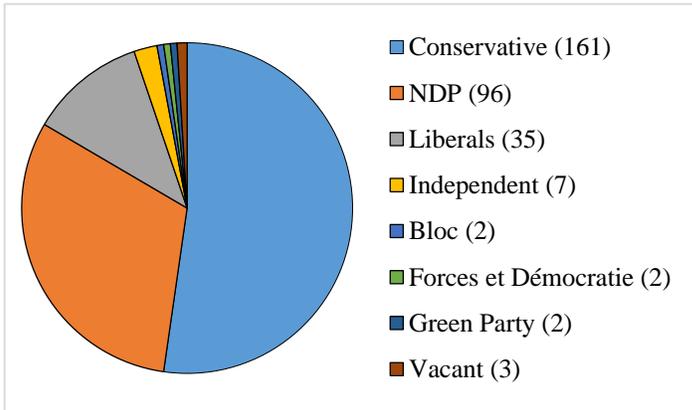
Canadian Parliamentary Division Monthly Report

May 2015

Authors:

Daniel C. Park, Research Analyst
Amy Barlow, Managing Director

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-50 (Citizen Voting Act), Bill C-23 (Fair Elections Act), Bill C-641 (United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act), Bill C-51 (Anti-terrorism Act, 2015), Bill C-46 (Pipeline Safety Act), Bill C-638 (An Act to Amend the Canada Shipping Act, 2001), Bill C-52 (Safe and Accountable Rail Act), Bill C-58 (Support for Veterans and Their Families Act), Bill C-59 (Economic Action Plan 2015 Act, No. 1), and Bill C-42 (Common Sense Firearms Licensing Act)

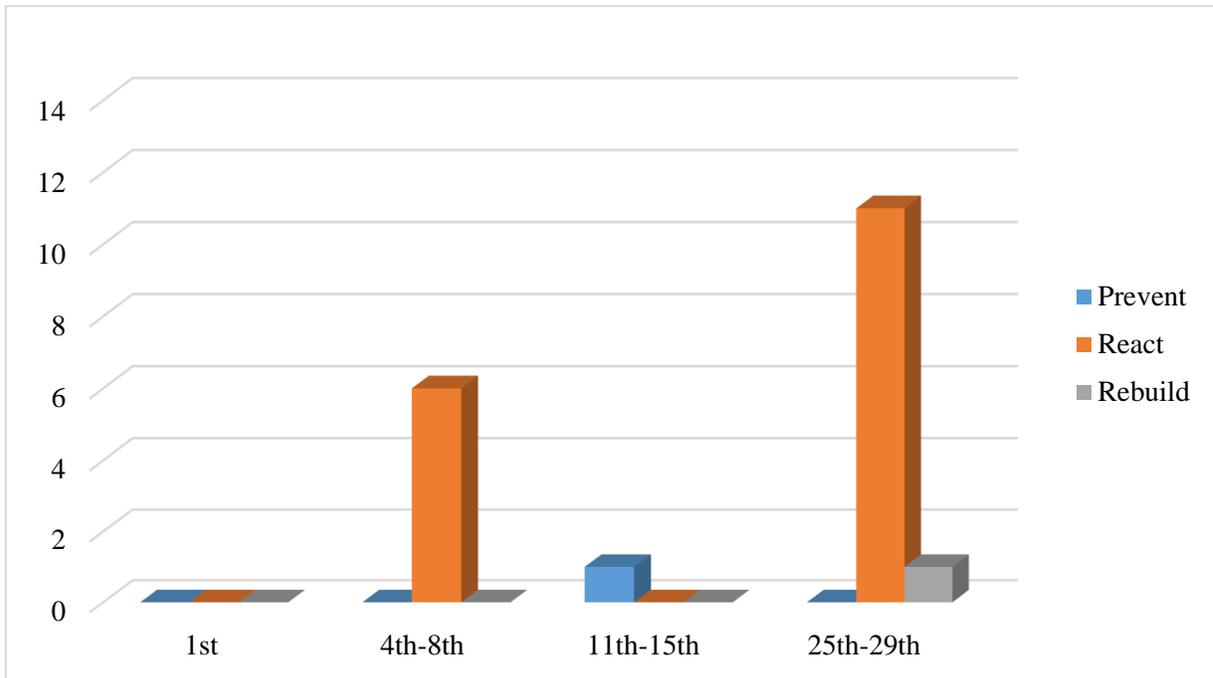
May						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

How Many Times R2P was mentioned weekly:

Explicitly:

N/A.

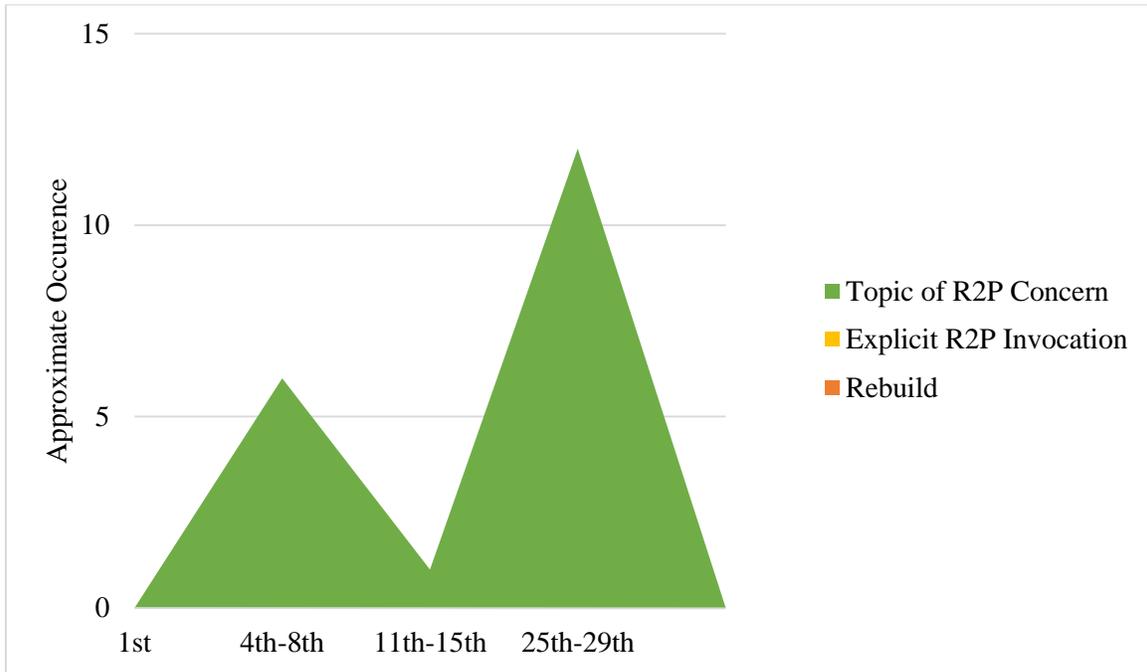
Subject matters related to R2P:



Explanation of Findings:

R2P was not explicitly mentioned during the month of May. The React category from the 4th until the 8th and from the 25th until the 29th scored high numbers largely due to: (1) the discussions on the future of Operation Impact, and (2) debates on whether the Conservative government has failed to be transparent about Canada's humanitarian assistance aid budget for the Middle East.

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

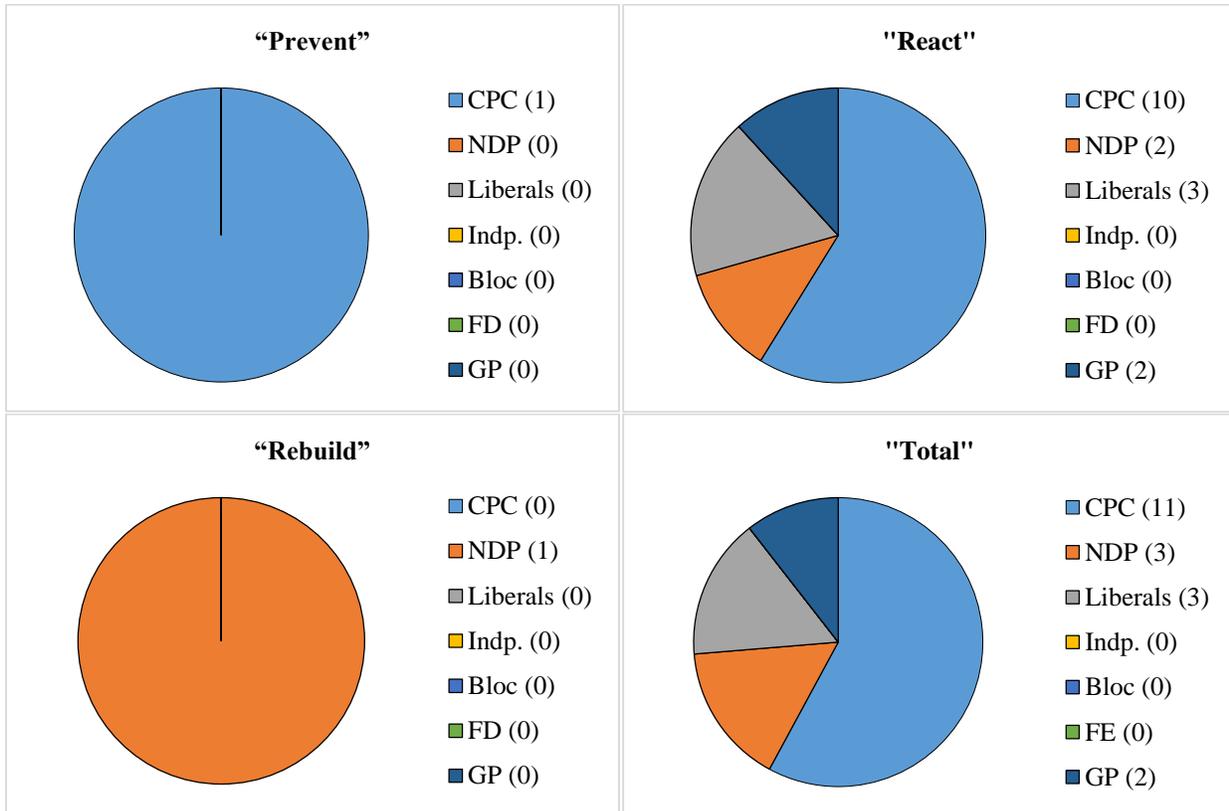


Explanation of Findings:

Aforementioned, R2P was not explicitly mentioned during the month of May. However, in regards to the topics of R2P concern, from the 4th until the 8th and from the 25th until the 29th, the MPs largely discussed the future of Operation Impact and Canada's aid budget towards the Middle East. Other topics of R2P concern included the introduction of petition to help Christians and Syrian refugees in the Middle East.

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 May. However, on the topic of the future of Operation Impact and Canada’s aid budget towards the Middle East, the Conservatives scored the highest count relative to the other two parties. It should be noted that in the case of latter, the debate was exclusively between Elizabeth May (Saanich-Gulf Islands, GP) and Mr. Scott Armstrong (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Employment and Social Development and Minister of Labour, CPC).

Prevention:

On 12 May 2015, Mr. Leon Benoit (Vegreville-Wainwright, CPC) introduces a petition calling on Parliament to do everything it can to protect Christians in areas of Iraq where they are being particularly targeted.

Reaction:

On 4 May 2015, Ms. Megan Leslie (Halifax, NDP) notes that while the Prime Minister was traipsing around Baghdad and Kurdistan, coalition bombs killed 52 civilians, including seven children, in northern Syria. She also notes that since the start of the aerial offensive, the bombings have killed more than 2,000 people. She then proceeds to ask: “Can the Prime Minister finally tell us how and when he intends to get our troops out of this war?”

On 4 May 2015, Hon. Rob Nicholson (Minister of Foreign Affairs, CPC) responds to Ms. Leslie by noting that the Canadian government have indicated that Canadian troops would be deployed in Iraq for up to 12 months. He then proceeds to note that: “[Ms. Leslie] should take at least some comfort in knowing that we are doing the right thing. We are standing up to ISIL, which is a threat in that region and a threat to Canada.”

On 4 May 2015, Mr. Jack Harris (St. John’s East, NDP) notes that this weekend in Kuwait, the Prime Minister said that we cannot know whether or not the military bombing mission in Iraq is effective. He also notes that, despite that comment, the Prime Minister has ordered the Canadian Forces to bomb in both Iraq and Syria. He then proceeds to ask: “Why is the Prime Minister focused more on campaign-style photo ops than on answering to Canadians about the war in Iraq and Syria?”

On 4 May 2015, Hon. Rob Nicholson (Minister of Foreign Affairs, CPC) notes that Operation Impact is a “precision mission” that Canada is carrying out in concert with its allies. He notes that Mr. Harris should be thanking the men and women in uniform and all those who are standing up for what is right in this world.

On 4 May 2015, Mr. John Weston (West Vancouver-Sunshine Coast-Sea to Sky Country, CPC) notes that the Prime Minister and the Minister of National Defence were recently in Iraq, where they met with Iraqi and Kuwaiti leaders about the challenges in the region and reaffirmed Canada’s role in the fight against ISIS. He then proceeds to ask: “Can the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Defence give this House an update on our mission against ISIS death cult?”

On 4 May 2015, Mr. James Bezan (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Defence, CPC) provides the update requested by Mr. Weston.

On 25 May 2015, Mr. Rick Norlock (Northumberland-Quinte West, CPC) notes that ISIS and jihadi terrorism is a threat to Canada. He then proceeds to ask: “Can the Minister of National Defence update the House on the mission to degrade ISIS?”

On 25 May 2015, Hon. Jason Kenney (Minister of National Defence and Minister for Multiculturalism, CPC) provides the update requested by Mr. Norlock.

On 26 May 2015, Ms. Elizabeth May (Saanich-Gulf Islands, GP) makes note of the Canadian government’s lack of commitment towards humanitarian assistance, and its failure to be transparent about Canada’s aid budget for the Middle East. She mentions that the Minister of International Development has stated that humanitarian assistance has increased in the Middle East. To this, she asks: “What are we spending on development assistance? What is the total amount? How are we accommodating the various humanitarian crisis?”

She also makes note of the high demand of aid from Syrian refugees who are in Lebanon, Turkey, and Jordan, and that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has made it clear that there is a total lack of resources.

She then proceeds to ask: “How much money are we spending on development assistance in total? How are we going to accommodate the various humanitarian crises? What will we spend on Iraq and Syria?”

On 26 May 2015, Mr. Scott Armstrong (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Employment and Social Development and Minister of Labour, CPC) responds to Ms. May’s comments by noting Canada’s recent efforts to help the crisis in Iraq and Syria: “Already in 2015, Canada has allocated \$80 million in humanitarian assistance funding in response to the crisis in Iraq. Since the beginning of 2014, we have committed \$107.4 million to respond to the needs of Iraqis affected by the violence, and this makes Canada the fifth largest humanitarian donor to this crisis—the fifth largest, from a country with a small population like Canada’s. Specific to Syria, as of May 2015, Canada is the sixth largest single country donor to the humanitarian response. Since the onset of the crisis, Canada has allocated over \$503 million in support of the humanitarian response, with the most recent funding announced earlier this month by the Prime Minister himself.”

He ends his statement by concluding that: “Canada has been at the forefront of the international response to the crisis in Iraq, as well as Syria and the surrounding area, since the beginning of each crisis. We will remain at the forefront.”

On 26 May 2015, Ms. Elizabeth May (Saanich-Gulf Islands, GP) responds to Mr. Armstrong’s answers by noting that: “...it is reasonable, since the fundamental principle is that Parliament controls the public purse, that a document that is ostensibly the budget – not really a budget, as it does not give us the numbers – should be able to tell us how much money in total we are putting to overseas development assistance and what portion of that is going to the humanitarian crises in Syria and Iraq.”

She ends her statement by concluding that: “I agree that it is not either/or, but it is not unreasonable to ask how much the total budget is for overseas development assistance.”

On 26 May 2015, Mr. Scott Armstrong (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Employment and Social Development and Minister of Labour, CPC) responds to Ms. May by noting that: “Mr. Speaker, the estimates contain all of government spending. All one has to do is check the estimates to see how much money the government is spending. Budget 2015 reaffirms our government's commitment to helping people who live in poverty and responding to humanitarian crises, and this response has been strong.”

On 28 May 2015, Hon. Mauril Bélanger (Ottawa-Vanier, Lib.) notes of the current crisis in Burundi, and the Canadian government's recommendation for all Canadian citizens to leave Burundi. He then proceeds to ask: “Why has our government not taken steps to speed up processing of family reunification and immigration applications as it did previously under similar circumstances? Also, why has the government not stopped deporting people to Burundi?”

On 28 May 2015, Hon. Chris Alexander (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, CPC) responds to Hon. Bélanger by noting that the Canadian government is aware of the current crisis in Burundi. He further notes that the Department of Citizenship and Immigration is monitoring the situation and working to improve its refugee repatriation programs. Currently, the department is concentrating on the African Great Lakes, Rwanda, Burundi, and other areas in the African region

On 29 May 2015, Hon. Irwin Cotler (Mount Royal, Lib.) notes of the current crisis in Burundi, and that there are more than 100,000 refugees, as well as hundreds injured and dozens dead. He further notes that a number of countries and international organizations have already cut off their financial aid to the Burundian government and are calling for the Burundian elections to be postponed. He then concludes that: “Canada must fast-track family reunification and immigration applications, stop deportations to Burundi, and join in the efforts of the international community to ensure that human rights are being respected in Burundi.”

On 29 May 2015, Hon. Mauril Bélanger (Ottawa-Vanier, Lib.) notes about a young woman who was deported to Burundi from Canada. He then proceeds to ask: “At a time when they are asking Canadian citizens in Burundi to leave the country immediately, how can they justify deporting a young woman to that country? Will she be allowed to return to Canada where she will be safe, and will the government stop deportations to Burundi at least temporarily?”

On 29 May 2015, Mr. Costas Menegakis (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, CPC) responds to Hon. Bélanger by noting that these decisions are made by highly qualified officials after extensive review of the individual's file. He then ends his statement by stating that: “I believe if the member feels strongly about this, he could speak to me for further details after question period.”

Rebuilding:

On 27 May 2015, Mr. Pat Martin (Winnipeg Centre, NDP) introduces a petition calling upon the House of Commons to take note that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee has asked for further help to settle 100,000 Syrian refugees.

Summary of Findings:

The month of May consisted of relatively low counts of discussions of topics of R2P-related concerns. Regardless, the two topics of R2P-related concerns that scored high counts were: (1) the discussions on the future of Operation Impact, and (2) debates on whether the Conservative government has failed to be transparent about Canada's humanitarian assistance aid budget for the Middle East. There were no other major R2P-related topics of concern discussed in the House in the month of May.

*Daniel C. Park, Research Analyst and
Amy G. Barlow, Managing Director*