

Point of Privilege: Parliamentary Democracy

From: **Elizabeth May, MP** (admin@elizabethmaymp.ca)

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To: bluegreen1965@live.com



Point of Privilege: Parliamentary Democracy

House of Commons
March 26, 2013



Elizabeth May: Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my hon. colleague from Langley, as well as the hon. member for Vegreville—Wainwright. As a specific case, may I say this is one of the most important points of privilege I have heard in the brief two years, almost, that I have been serving here? It cuts to the core of what is wrong with parliamentary democracy that the hon. government House leader could put before you a sports metaphor that we are here as teams, as brands or colours, and we are all to take instructions from our team boss.

We are not here as teams. The principle of Westminster parliamentary democracy is that we are here as representatives of our constituencies and our constituents. We are merely incidentally members of political parties. Political parties do not exist in our Constitution. They are not an essential part of our democracy. They have grown to be seen to be the most interesting thing going on, and we have grown to see politics as some sort of sport. However, democracy is not a sport.

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CONTACT



BLOG

CONSTITUENCY OFFICE

1 - 9711 Fourth Street
Sidney, BC V8L 2Y8

Phone: 250-657-2000
Fax: 250-657-2004

elizabeth.may.c1a@parl.gc.ca

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518 Confederation Building
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Phone: 613-996-1119
Fax: 613-996-0850

elizabeth.may@parl.gc.ca

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Mailing Address

518 Confederation Building
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
Canada