



CROSS-PARTY COLLABORATION

What cross-party collaboration looks like

- ✓ Focus on the administration of policy, not its merits.
- ✓ Reach unanimous committee decisions.
- ✓ Focus on ability to strengthen public administration.
- ✓ Work collaboratively on questioning.
- ✓ Support the implementation of audit recommendations.

 **Public money has no party**

 **Members should present a united front**

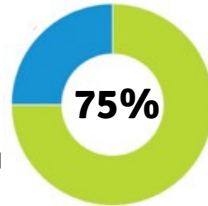
Ways to promote collaboration



- Ensure consistent committee membership.
- Treat other members respectfully.
- Avoid having ministers as members or witnesses.
- Focus on the committee's ability to strengthen public administration.
- Agree on principles for speaking order and timing.

When asked to identify barriers to their committee's effectiveness:

75% of members raised issues related to partisanship on the committee.*



*Source: *Measuring Accountability - CAAF's 2018 Survey of Public Accounts Committees in Canada*





What should committees avoid?

- Members blocking motions.
- Preventing meetings from being held or hindering witnesses from being called/re-called.
- Being disrespectful to fellow members on the committee.
- Lobbing “softball questions” to witnesses.
- Using the committee as a platform for “gotcha” style politics or scoring political points.

Barriers to effectiveness in committee members' own words*



“Partisan politics on all sides has limited our ability to work together. Government members protect the government and opposition members sometimes focus on political targets instead of sincerely exploring or fixing things.”

“Partisanship and government members receiving marching orders from the Premier’s Office. No individual Member autonomy on the committee.”

“Some members have used the meetings to attempt to score political points rather than remain non-partisan in their role.”

“Government members mostly lob softball questions to use up their time and propose topics that are ‘good news’ rather than that require examination.”

**PACs that
collaborate
make an
impact.**

**Source: Measuring Accountability - CAAF's 2018 Survey of Public Accounts Committees in Canada*

