



B.C. MP Peter Julian has biggest mouth in Parliament, study finds

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The NDP's [Peter Julian](#) is the most loquacious MP on Parliament Hill, uttering approximately 226,027 words last year in the House of Commons, according to a recent study.

“That’s our responsibility,” the Opposition MP said. “It’s what we get elected for, to speak up on behalf of our constituents.”

As the NDP’s energy critic, Julian likely earned the top spot because of his outspoken opposition to the [Chinese takeover of Nexen Inc.](#)

“That was a big issue last year,” he said. “And in light of what we’ve seen from the budget bill, we took the opportunity to speak out.”

And speak they did. Although the NDP represents only a third of the house, their MPs spoke almost half of the time— and nearly 10 per cent more often than the majority Conservatives.

The numbers come courtesy of [Samara Canada](#), a non-profit thinktank working to improve political participation in Canada. With Canadians less satisfied with their democracy than ever before, and voter turnout continuing to drop, co-founder Alison Loat says it’s vital that voters reflect on what their MPs are doing in Ottawa.

“It is only one place an MP does their job, but it’s the most high-profile place and it’s ostensibly where decisions are made,” Loat said. “But not all MPs prioritize speaking in the House of Commons. There’s a lot that frankly don’t whisper a poem over the course of the whole year.”

Loat hopes her group’s research can encourage citizens whose MPs are not speaking up to “demand a little better” from their representatives.

<http://metronews.ca/news/canada/670264/b-c-mp-peter-julian-has-biggest-mouth-in-parliament-study-finds/>



To see where your MP ranks, visit [Samara's website](#).

The study also showed how speaking time in Parliament breaks down [along age and gender lines](#). MPs under the age of 35 comprise a mere nine per cent of the house, but received 11 per cent of the airtime. And while only a quarter of MPs are women, they represented nearly a third of the speakers.

“I was encouraged to see that women are speaking more. It shows that maybe our officials understand that certain groups are underrepresented in the House,” Loat said, although she conceded Green Party Leader Elizabeth May — the third most prolific politician — brought up the average significantly.

In order to foster a more equitable discussion in Parliament, Samara has put forth a number of fixes, including removing desks in the House to keep MPs focused and calling on MPs to refrain from parroting talking points.

For his part, Julian felt the kind of information compiled by Samara should be made publicly available on government websites.

“Every Canadian should be able to access and find out how active their MP is and what they’re speaking out on,” he said.