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# Commonwealth Parliamentary Association – Alberta Branch

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2000 Annual Report



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# Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

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## Overview

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*The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) is an association of members of Commonwealth parliaments who, irrespective of race, religion, or culture, are united by community of interest, respect for the rule of law, and individual rights and freedoms, and by pursuit of the positive ideals of parliamentary democracy. Canada was one of the six original member countries of the CPA when it was formed in 1911 under the name of the Empire Parliamentary Association. Association branches now exist in 134 national, state, provincial, and territorial parliaments with a total membership of over 14,000 parliamentarians. Each provincial and territorial Legislative Assembly in Canada as well as the federal Parliament comprises a branch of the CPA. All Members of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta are members of the Alberta branch of the CPA.*

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## President's Report

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Speaker Ken Kowalski, President of the Alberta Branch of the CPA

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*The Hon. Dave Hancock (left), representing Alberta, presents a carving of the Northwest Territories Coat of Arms to the Hon. Kevin O'Brien, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. John Quirke, Clerk of Nunavut, is behind the Speaker. The gift was for the official opening of the NWT Legislative Assembly Building.*

As parliamentarians we all need to look beyond our familiar precincts. Sometimes we get so involved with our own challenges at home that we forget how much we can learn from other Assemblies around the world.

How can information technology best transform the way a parliament works? How can parliamentarians contribute to the prevention of environmental degradation? How do we promote cultural diversity, deal with globalization, enhance the role of Private Members, and improve the public image of Parliament and parliamentarians?

Those were only a few among the dozens of key topics discussed during 2000 at interparliamentary meetings attended by members of the Alberta branch of the CPA. As I told the organization's 46th annual conference in Britain last September, the CPA is, to my knowledge, the only international organization that affords Private Members, backbenchers, opposition Members, government

Members, and all parliamentarians an opportunity to meet in an environment of peaceful harmony and ask these kinds of questions.

We come to these meetings with open minds, not with fixed agendas. We come to listen and learn. We come away as more effective representatives of our constituents.

We did this in 2000 not only at the CPA meeting in Britain but also at meetings across North America that enabled us to address common issues from a wider perspective. For example, legislatures almost everywhere are encountering both the opportunities and challenges of new technology. In Alberta we've now using web technology to provide *Hansard* to readers on the same day as the debate. We've implemented gavel-to-gavel live audio coverage of proceedings. We've made it easier for Members and their staff to do research using on-line databases and other web technologies.



You can't argue against making the information available as thoroughly and as fast as possible. What does challenge us, however, is the use that some people might make of this instant knowledge base. Some think it should lead to a form of "direct democracy" via referendum-style voting. Some are concerned that technology may be pushing us to make decisions too quickly. All that was the focus of a fascinating discussion at the 23rd Canadian regional seminar of the CPA in Halifax. We'll be hearing a lot more on this issue.

Technology challenges were also on the agenda at the meeting of the National Conference of State Legislatures in Chicago, attended by Alberta MLAs. Similarly, the Pacific Northwest Economic Region summer conference talked about progressing towards a "cyber smart

region," and the 22nd annual conference, Council on Governmental Ethics Laws in Tampa, Florida, last December discussed cybervoting and cybercampaigning, an interesting topic in light of disputes over the presidential vote in that state.

All these interparliamentary discussions on so many social, technical, and legislative issues help to give participating Alberta MLAs an awareness of the global context in which their decisions are made. We come together for these meetings without political party labels but simply as concerned parliamentarians to share experiences and solutions. The result for all of us is a deepening appreciation of our parliamentary democratic institutions and a desire to continually look for ways to make them function even more effectively.

## Secretary's Report

WJ. David McNeil, Secretary of the Alberta Branch of the CPA and Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

The Alberta branch of the CPA participated in 11 interparliamentary activities in 2000, including five involving organizations outside the Commonwealth. These included the 11th General Assembly of the Parliamentary Conference of the Americas in Puerto Rico, where delegates took a hemispheric approach to parliamentary issues. A team of 15 German state parliamentarians visited Alberta in June as part of the Partnership of Parliaments program that is designed to further contacts between Germany, the United States, and Canada. Alberta plans to send a delegation to Germany in 2001 as part of this regular, ongoing exchange.

Our close links with the United States were fostered by Alberta's participation in the National Conference of State Legislatures in Chicago, the Pacific Northwest Economic Region summer conference in Post Falls, Idaho, and the 22nd annual conference, Council on Governmental Ethics Laws in Tampa, Florida. As well, Alberta continued its connections with the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (APF) by participating in its regional conference in Fredericton.

The CPA conferences are the heart of our interparliamentary activities, and I was pleased to attend the CPA's 46th annual

conference in London. The Legislative Assembly Office will host the CPA's 40th Canadian regional conference in 2001. LAO staff worked through 2000 to prepare for the event.

Staff of the Legislative Assembly Office represented Alberta well in

interparliamentary activities at the staff level. They collaborated with each other and with their counterparts in other jurisdictions to share knowledge and develop contacts from which all participating parliaments will benefit.

## Conferences and Meetings

### *17th Canadian Presiding Officers' Conference*

Winnipeg, Manitoba, January 20 to 23, 2000

#### **Agenda**

- 1 Regional Representative
- 2 Rules of the Canadian Region
- 3 2004 Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference

#### **Alberta Delegation**

The Honourable Ken Kowalski, Speaker  
Mr. Don Tannas, Deputy Speaker

#### **Delegate's Report (edited for length)**

I particularly enjoyed the roundtable reports from all of the territories, provinces, Senate, and House of Commons, which in a few hours provided us with a quick synopsis of recent events in each jurisdiction.

The presentation by Speaker Molgat of the Senate, The Royal Recommendation: A Case Study of a Ruling, brought forward an issue to which I had not given much consideration. Dr. McNeil's presentation, as always, was most worth while, and Speaker Kowalski's presentation on the

Partnership of Parliaments and State Leaders' Foundation was most appreciated. Question Period and the New Speaker, presented by the Speaker from Nova Scotia, triggered memory flashbacks for many of us.

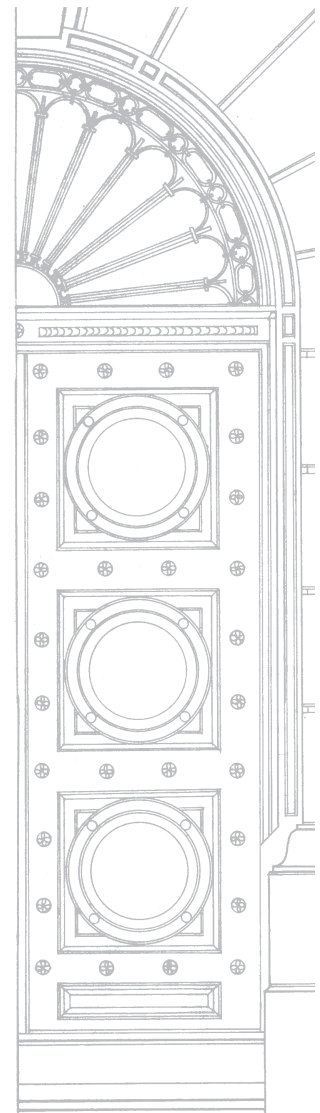
All in all, a very good conference that dealt with all the joys and vicissitudes of being a presiding officer in a legislative body in Canada.  
– Don Tannas

### *Partnership of Parliaments*

Edmonton, Jasper, Lake Louise, Banff, and Canmore, Alberta, June 20 to 24, 2000

#### **Summary**

A team of 15 German state parliamentarians visited Alberta in June 2000 and had the opportunity to meet with the Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations, other MLAs and representatives of civic and First Nations governments, and other dignitaries. Other provinces involved in the partnership while the delegation visited Canada included Quebec and Newfoundland.





The Partnership of Parliaments wants to further contacts between Germany, the United States, and Canada. The organization's interests lie in fiscal and economic challenges, social and cultural issues, energy and environment, and with political and parliamentary relations.

*Pacific Northwest Economic Region  
(PNWER) Summer Conference*

Post Falls, Idaho, June 25 to 27, 2000

**Agenda**

- 1 Progressing Towards a Cyber Smart Region
- 2 PNWER's New Alternative Dispute Resolution Service
- 3 Status of Inland Corridors Initiative
- 4 Corridor and Border Initiatives
- 5 Rails to Resources
- 6 Working sessions on topics including transportation, workforce training, the cattle and agriculture summits, and tourism

**Alberta Delegation**

The Honourable Shirley McClellan,  
Minister of International and  
Intergovernmental Relations  
The Honourable Ty Lund, Minister of  
Agriculture, Food and Rural Development  
Mr. David Coutts, MLA  
Mr. Bill Bonner, MLA  
Ms Debby Carlson, MLA  
Mr. Ron Hierath, MLA

*39th Canadian Regional  
CPA Conference*

Brudenell, Prince Edward Island,  
July 15 to 21, 2000

**Agenda**

- 1 The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
- 2 Globalization
- 3 Technology and the Legislature
- 4 Taking Forward the Role of Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians
- 5 Public Perceptions of Elected Office Holders
- 6 Enhancing the Role of Private Members
- 7 Parliamentary Reform – Going It Alone
- 8 Building Stakeholder Support in Formulating Public Policy: A New Fiscal Regime for Oil Sands Development
- 9 State-Sanctioned Gambling and Revenue Windfalls – Public Policy Conflict?

**Alberta Delegation**

The Honourable Ken Kowalski, Speaker  
Mr. Richard Magnus, MLA  
Mr. Guy Boutilier, MLA  
Mrs. Yvonne Fritz, MLA  
Dr. Don Massey, MLA  
Ms Laurie Blakeman, MLA

**Delegate's Report (edited for length)**

I was pleased to have the opportunity to meet with elected officials from the 10 provinces, three territories, the House of

Commons and the Senate, as well as other leading Commonwealth politicians in Brudenell, Prince Edward Island. The location chosen for the conference was truly beautiful.

The agenda covered a broad range of topics and presentations, followed by question-and-answer sessions and informed debate. I found it interesting to learn from our new parliamentary colleagues how they are dealing with political, constitutional, and procedural challenges within a new government.

– Richard Magnus

### *National Conference of State Legislatures*

Chicago, Illinois, July 16 to 20, 2000

#### **Agenda**

There were more than 160 informational sessions offered on such issues as health care, economics, education, technology, and the Internet.

#### **Alberta Delegation**

Mr. Albert Klapstein, MLA

Ms Karen Kryczka, MLA

Mr. Bill Bonner, MLA

#### **Delegate's Report (edited for length)**

The National Conference of State Legislatures works to help legislatures have a strong voice in the federal system. At the July 2000 annual meeting there were more than 160 information sessions offered on topics relevant to the duties and functions of legislators. Prominent guest speakers, including U.S. Presidential candidate George W. Bush and Chicago's Mayor Richard Daley, gave presentations on health care, education, and federal/state relations.

The conference format allowed an opportunity for discussion, feedback, and question-and-answer sessions. In addition to dealing with familiar issues such as budgeting, staffing, and strategic planning, the presentations also offered insight into emerging economic challenges, growing human service demands, and technology concerns.

One session focused on aboriginal affairs and highlighted tribal government, aboriginal legislation, and the importance of communication and co-operation between the various levels of government. There was also discussion of solutions to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in health care and quality of life.

The closing plenary session offered a glimpse into future youth involvement through the Project Citizen program, a civic education program cosponsored by NCSL that helps prepare middle-school students for their role as responsible citizens participating in society. The students gain valuable knowledge and skills needed to monitor and influence public policy as the citizens of tomorrow.

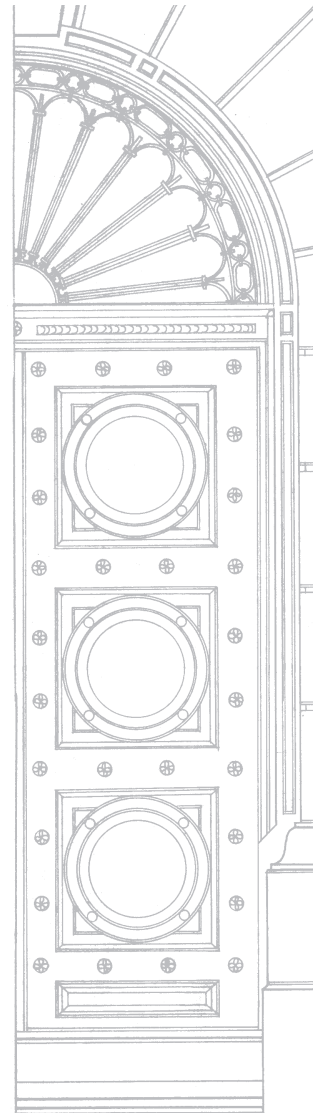
– Karen Kryczka

### *11th General Assembly of the Parliamentary Conference of the Americas (COPA)*

Rio Grande, Puerto Rico, July 19 to 23, 2000

#### **Agenda**

- 1 Meeting of Provisional Executive Committee
- 2 Meeting of Network of Women Parliamentarians
- 3 Meeting of Heads of Delegations





- 4 Eradicating Poverty for a Fair and Prosperous Community of the Americas
- 5 Public Policy and the Control of Corruption
- 6 Inter-American Co-operation and the Fight against Drug Trafficking: the Role of Parliamentarians
- 7 Education: the Driving Force for Equity and Prosperity

#### **Alberta Delegation**

Mr. Glen Clegg, MLA

Mr. Greg Melchin, MLA

#### **Delegates' Reports (edited for length)**

Conference attendees included elected members of national and provincial legislatures from North America and South America. Topics of discussion were limited to issues that are relevant to everyone, including free trade, education, poverty, crime, and drugs.

The intent of the conference was to make respective assemblies aware of the need for all parliamentarians of the Americas to participate in the follow-up to the decisions made by the heads of state and of government and to underline the importance of the regional parliaments in the integration process of the American hemisphere.

I appreciated the opportunity to represent Alberta in these discussions.

– Greg Melchin

The main theories of the conference were, firstly, how this organization should be structured and how it would best

meet the needs of the population of the western hemisphere; secondly, the need to cut down on poverty; and thirdly, that poverty can only be eliminated by all countries having a better education system, the purpose being to train and educate individuals and to ensure that they have jobs, something we all strive to achieve. Greg Melchin was elected as a member of the executive for Western Canada.

– Glen Clegg

#### *21st Annual Conference of the Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees (CCPAC)*

Halifax, Nova Scotia, September 17 to 19, 2000

#### **Agenda**

- 1 Jurisdictional Reports
- 2 John J. Kelly Forum – Ethics and Ethical Leadership
- 3 Public Performance Reporting Program (Performance Reporting and Governance – Creating the Culture: The Impact of the Human Dimensions and the Role of Elected Officials)
- 4 Globalizing Accountability: Reaching Beyond National Borders to Promote Democratic Governance (Combating Bribery, Fraud, and Corruption)
- 5 Open Discussion
- 6 Challenges in Determining and Evaluating the Value for Money in Health Care



- 7 Follow-up Process for Public Accounts Committee Reports. What Happens after Six Months?

- 8 Council Business

### **Alberta Delegation**

Mr. Lance White, MLA, Chairman, Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Mr. Shiraz Shariff, MLA, Deputy Chairman, Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Mr. Paul Langevin, MLA, Chairman, Standing Committee on Legislative Offices

Mrs. Mary O'Neill, MLA, Member, Standing Committee on Legislative Offices

Ms Sue Olsen, MLA

### **Delegates' Reports**

As chairman of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts I always find it interesting to hear the jurisdictional reports and opinions about operations of public accounts committees nationally and internationally. Discussing these similarities and differences formally and informally provides me with insight into the operations of our own committee and is a very worthwhile component of this conference.

– Lance White

I had the pleasure of being part of the delegation representing our Standing Committee on Public Accounts at this conference. The exchange of ideas from representatives across our country and from Tasmania fostered a better understanding of systems for scrutinizing the public accounts.

The joint session with the Auditors General on ethics and ethical leadership was most insightful. The opportunity to discuss issues of common interest with other members of public accounts committees is always a valuable part of this conference.

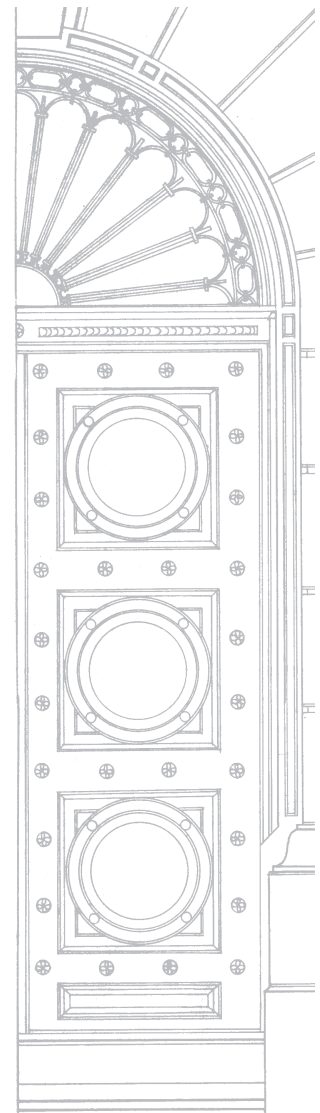
– Shiraz Shariff

### *46th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Conference*

London, England, and Edinburgh, Scotland, September 20 to 29, 2000

### **Agenda**

- 1 Meeting of Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians
- 2 Meeting of Society of Clerks-at-the-Table
- 3 How Can Information Technology Best Transform the Way Parliament Works?
- 4 Programs for Poverty Reduction, Literacy, and Persons with Disability
- 5 Debate on resolution: that Commonwealth countries should ratify the statute of the International Criminal Court and accept the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court
- 6 How Can Parliamentarians Contribute to the Prevention of Environmental Degradation?
- 7 Workshop on Parliament and the Media
- 8 Creating an International Parliamentary Voice in World Trade Organization Decision-Making







9 How Can Parliamentarians Modify Attitudes, Customs, and Practices that are Barriers to the Political, Social, and Economic Development of Women?

10 The Commonwealth's Role in Combating the Economic, Social, and Political Threats of HIV/AIDS

### **Alberta Delegation**

The Honourable Ken Kowalski, Speaker

### **Summary of Alberta Presentation**

The Future of the Commonwealth by The Honourable Ken Kowalski, Speaker.

This question must always be asked, as we must always challenge our reason for being.

By way of background to this question: we have ties, in varying degrees, to a modicum of similarity in our pasts, a tie with Great Britain. There is acceptance that English is the medium for our exchanges. There is considerable similarity with the form of parliamentary practice that we follow, the Westminster model.

The reality is one could probably argue that there are more reasons for us not to be here than there are reasons for us to be here. We come from 163 regions of the world, and few, if any, would receive top marks in a geography test that we could have. Our histories, despite a British tie in varying degrees, have been dramatically different. Our current economies, needs, and priorities cover the full range of such for the world.

At this point in this brief statement I could convince myself and my branch that

my presence here is a waste of my personal time, a fundamental waste of precious public funds, and a sad avoidance of my responsibility to my constituents as their representative, and I could conclude that from this perspective there is not much hope for the future of the Commonwealth. We are here, however, and I believe that our attendance here is a positive investment of our time, a positive usage of public funds, and will help us become better and more effective representatives of the people.

To my knowledge the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association is a reflection of the Commonwealth and is the only international organization that affords private members, backbenchers, opposition members, government members – parliamentarians all – to meet in an environment of peaceful harmony for the sole purpose of meeting, discussing, and networking. I have come here to learn, to make new friends, to harmonize, for my professional development, so that I can become a more informed child of the world and a more effective representative for my constituents.

I am not here representing an official position of my government; I am not here advocating for a specific target as we work towards international protocols; I am not here with an inflexible, closed-minded agenda that I need to get others to agree to. I am here to learn. I am here to listen. I am here to make a new friend. I want peace, and I believe that we can end poverty if we have peace. I want all people to be literate so that they can learn about me as I have learned about them. I want others to trust me

and like me not because I come from the rich north but because I am a human being with empathy for the concerns of others.

I can do none of this if I have no opportunity and no medium to meet and learn as an individual elected person. The Commonwealth, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, gives me this opportunity. It is important that you and I have such an opportunity. It is important that we take advantage of our unique similarities and the thin bridges that bring us together so that we truly can make life better for increasing numbers of our citizens.

The Commonwealth must have a future, and we, all of us, must do all that we can to make it so.

*Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie Régionale Amérique Presidents' Conference*

Fredericton, New Brunswick,  
September 29 to October 1, 2000

**Agenda**

- 1 Report on Activities of the America Region
- 2 Update on XXVI Ordinary Session held in Yaoundé, Cameroon
- 3 The Situation in Haiti
- 4 Regional Bulletin
- 5 Youth Participation in Political Activities
- 6 The Promotion of Cultural Diversity in the Framework of Economic Integration of the Americas

7 Accessibility to Justice for Francophones in North America

**Alberta Delegation**

Mr. Paul Langevin, MLA

Mr. Denis Ducharme, MLA

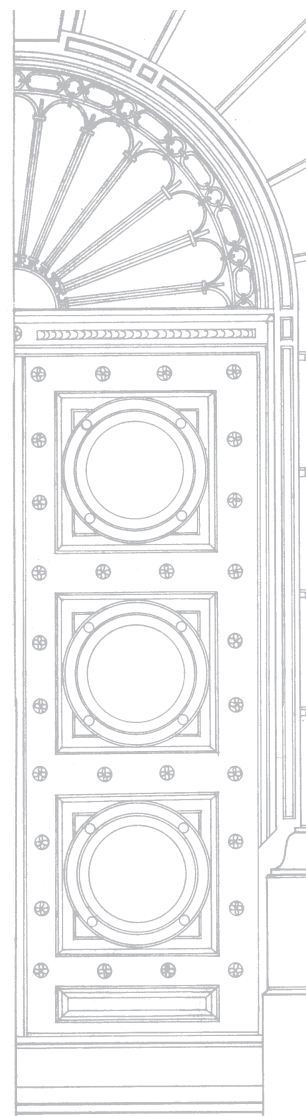
**Delegates' Report** (edited for length)

As part of his report as Chargé de mission, M. Simard highlighted the activities of an APF reflection group given the mandate of coming up with recommendations that would better involve women in politics and provide a network for Francophone women parliamentarians.

Discussion on Haiti's May 2000 elections brought forth a resolution that the APF manifest to the concerned Haitian authorities its profound disappointment and displeasure regarding the process in those legislative elections and to continue monitoring closely the political situation there.

There was extensive discussion on ways to promote youth participation in politics, with Mr. Langevin outlining Alberta's youth model parliament program. As well, there was consensus on the importance of reaching students at a young age through these types of programs and in a family environment to instill an avid interest in the political process.

The promotion of cultural diversity, of the French language, and the protection of authors' rights were topics of discussion, covering such issues as culture as a commodity, whether globalization represents an opportunity or a threat to culture, and how artists and their works could be promoted while still





protecting the rights of authors and intellectual property. The role of parliamentarians in the promotion of culture was also examined.

In the session on the accessibility for Francophones to the justice system, delegates heard presentations on statutes protecting the rights of Francophones in various Canadian jurisdictions. There was also roundtable discussion on the need for Ottawa to amend the laws dealing with divorce, family law, contravention law, and the Criminal Code to guarantee linguistic rights for Canadian Francophones.

Much knowledge was gained through the business sessions of this conference, and the social functions are a wonderful opportunity to exchange ideas and discuss similar experiences with colleagues from across Canada and Europe.

– Paul Langevin and Denis Ducharme

*23rd Commonwealth  
Parliamentary Association  
Canadian Regional Seminar*

Halifax, Nova Scotia, October 19 to 22, 2000

**Agenda**

- 1 The Consequences of Underfunding Our Postsecondary Educational Institutions
- 2 Does Religion Have a Role in Politics?
- 3 Enhancing the Public Image of Parliament and Parliamentarians
- 4 On Youth and Government

5 Quebec's Family Policy

6 The Use of Technology in Legislatures

**Alberta Delegation**

The Honourable Ken Kowalski, Speaker  
Mr. Barry McFarland, MLA

**Delegate's Report (edited for length)**

Six topics for discussion were presented by MLAs, legislative staff, and Speakers from across Canada. Of particular interest were the various points of view expressed by representatives from the different provinces. By and large, very few references were made to political parties or philosophies. In fact, it appeared to me that there was a genuine concern and appreciation for differing approaches across our nation.

Speaker Kowalski, in a most articulate and challenging manner, presented the potentials and pitfalls of today's knowledge base when laptops, instant reporting, and computer capabilities are put into action. The ensuing discussion pointed out many advantages and downsides, from direct democracy via referendum-style voting to the potential for a permanently damaged image of elected officials courtesy of digital alterations.

During this conference all delegates had the opportunity to exchange ideas, to meet others from across Canada and better understand our parliamentary system, which we take for granted.

– Barry McFarland

*22nd Annual Conference, Council on  
Governmental Ethics Laws (COGEL)*

Tampa, Florida, December 3 to 6, 2000

**Agenda**

- 1 Municipal Ethics: Past, Present, and Future
- 2 Cybervoting and Cybercampaigning
- 3 A Great Juggling Act: Perspectives on the Politics of Data Privacy and Freedom of Information
- 4 Developing a Code of Ethics for Lobbyists
- 5 Hard Facts About Soft Money
- 6 FOI and Privacy: From the 20th to the 21st Century
- 7 Investigating and Prosecuting in a Fishbowl
- 8 Spreading the Word: Innovations in Training
- 9 Insulating Board Members from Political Pressure
- 10 Writing to Persuade
- 11 I'm from the Federal Government and I'm Here to Help: Federal Investigations of State and Local Public Corruption
- 12 Campaign Finance: From Advocacy to Administration
- 13 Preventing Voter Fraud while Enforcing the National and State Voter Registration Acts
- 14 Is Diamond a Lobbyist's Best Friend? An Analysis of Sun-Diamond's Impact on Gifts and Gratuities
- 15 Political Money: Free Speech, Corruption, and Third-Party Spending
- 16 Financial Disclosure in the Internet Age: Are Changes Needed?
- 17 Elections 2000: An Analysis

**Alberta Delegation**

Mr. Paul Langevin, MLA

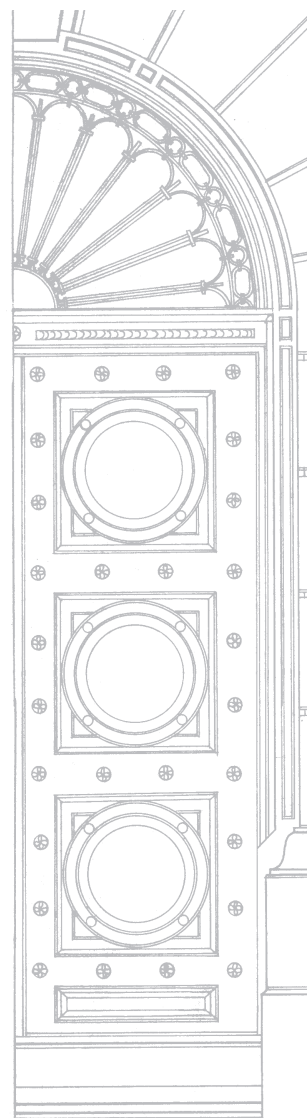
Mr. Gary Dickson, MLA

**Delegate's Report (edited for length)**

The conference featured presentations dealing with ethics-related matters such as the European Commission resignation scandal as well as freedom of information matters such as Supreme Court of Canada rulings on privacy issues. There were discussions of various aspects on the right to privacy versus the right of access, including the perceived and real conflict between the two concepts. In the session FOI and Privacy, panel members discussed the progressive changes made to related legislation over the years.

In the session Insulating Board Members from Political Pressure, Mr. Langevin presented the appointment, budget approval, reporting, and appeals processes for officers of Alberta's Legislative Assembly as well as the process for conducting special investigations. He discussed whether officers could be insulated from political pressure and also pointed out that in Alberta officers work with elected officials in areas such as filing disclosure statements.

Other sessions dealt with writing legal documents, financial disclosure as a key component of effective ethics laws, and a panel discussion on the update of the 2000 U.S. presidential election.





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## Bursaries

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### Grade 6 Essay Contest

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Bursaries are presented annually to nominees from Tuxis Parliament of Alberta and the Alberta Girls' Parliament to increase interest in the parliamentary process among young Albertans. On May 29 Speaker Kowalski awarded bursaries to Joanna Pickerl of Edmonton from Tuxis, and to Michelle Trommelen of Stony Plain and Jenny Smith of Edmonton from the Alberta Girls' Parliament.

A provincewide essay contest is held annually for grade 6 students to encourage greater awareness of the Commonwealth and the parliamentary system. This year the grand prize went to Sarah Cormier of Fort McMurray.

# Interparliamentary Relations



*Speaker Ken Kowalski  
with the Speaker of the  
UK House of Commons,  
the Rt. Hon. Betty  
Boothroyd at the 46th  
annual conference of  
the Commonwealth  
Parliamentary  
Association.*

The Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Deputy Chairman of Committees, and staff of the Legislative Assembly Office are involved in ongoing liaison with members and staff of other parliaments and with other representatives of foreign countries. In 2000 they hosted or met with the following visitors:

March 2	Russian Parliamentary Delegation Canadian Parliamentary Centre
March 9	Mr. Aart Jan Verdegaaal Consul General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
March 27	The Honourable Bill Hartley Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia
April 5	Forum for Young Albertans
April 12	His Excellency Green Josiah High Commissioner for the Republic of Kenya
May 1	Senator the Honourable Maxine Henry-Wilson Minister of Information in Jamaica
May 1	His Excellency Raymond Wolfe High Commissioner for Jamaica, Ottawa
May 3	Her Excellency Danièle Smadja Ambassador of the European Commission
May 9	His Excellency Dr. Yuri Scherbak Ambassador of Ukraine

May 10	Mr. Peter Felix Consul General of Switzerland, Vancouver  Russian Delegation The Rotary Foundation Group Study Exchange 2000
May 11	Miss Lisa Bobbie Schreiber Hughes Consul General of the United States of America, Calgary
May 15	Russian Parliamentary Delegation Canadian Parliamentary Centre
May 16	His Excellency Dato Seri Laila Jasa Lt. Col. (Rtd.) Jocklin Bin Kongpaw High Commissioner of Brunei, Dar es Salaam
May 24	Mrs. Guadalupe Albert Consul General of the United Mexican States, Vancouver
May 24	Colorado Senator Ray Powers President, Council of State Governments-West
May 31	Mr. Klaus Kröger Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany, Vancouver
June 1	His Excellency Kim Sam-hoon Ambassador of the Republic of Korea
June 5	His Excellency Miroslav Mikolasik Ambassador of the Slovak Republic



June 7 His Excellency Krunoslav Vasilj  
Ambassador of Bosnia and  
Herzegovina

June 13 Dr. Desmond Tutu  
Emeritus of the Diocese of  
Cape Town, South Africa

June 21 Mr. Meir Romem  
Consul General of Israel

June 26 Mrs. Eleni Lianidou  
Consul General of Greece,  
Vancouver

June 27 Commonwealth Permanent  
Secretaries Seminar

July 5 Mr. John Medeiros  
Former Senator  
Asia-Pacific Public Affairs  
Forum

September 7 The Honourable Toshio Yusa  
Speaker of the Hokkaido  
Assembly

September 18 Representative Gail Phillips,  
Delegation Leader  
Drue Pearce, President of the  
Senate  
Alaska State Legislature  
Delegation

September 21 His Excellency Rajnarine Singh  
High Commissioner for the  
Co-operative Republic of Guyana

September 14 Her Excellency Marianela Diaz  
Ambassador of the Republic of  
Panama

September 19 Mr. B. Jaishankar  
Consul General of India,  
Vancouver

September 24 Provincial Police/Peace Officer  
Memorial Day  
Alberta Legislature Grounds

September 27 Mr. Raul (Roy) Chavera  
Consul General of the United  
States of America

September 28 His Excellency Paul Dempsey  
Ambassador of Ireland

October 30 Honourable Franco Danieli, MP  
Under-Secretary of State,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
Republic of Italy  
His Excellency Roberto Nigido  
Ambassador of Italy