

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

Overview

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) consists 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 pursuit of the positive ideals of parliamentary democracy. Canada was one of six original member countries of the CPA when it was formed in 1911 under the name 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.



The Lord Strathcona's Horse Ceremonial Mounted Troops Musical Ride.

President's Report

Speaker Ken Kowalski of the Alberta Branch of the CPA

The Future of Canadian Parliamentary Democracy remains strong and evolutionary, as was evident through the thought-provoking discussions centering around the theme of the same name during the Canadian Parliamentary Association's (CPA) 40th Canadian Regional Conference, July 17 to 22, 2001.

We were proud to host the conference in Alberta and, as always, welcomed the opportunity for the free exchange of ideas among fellow parliamentarians on the common issues and challenges faced nationwide.

Discussions were broken into eight business sessions:

- Future Challenges to Parliamentary Procedure
- Future of Electoral Systems
- Impact of Globalization and Information

Technologies on Canadian Federalism
e-Government: How Legislatures and Governments Inform Citizens
Impact of Demographics on Services/Voting Trends
The Virtual Assembly
Citizens and Their Representatives
The Informed Member

Each of these sessions provided delegates with tremendous learning opportunities borne of the wide-ranging views, backgrounds and experiences of the more than 100 parliamentarians and parliamentary officials who participated in the regional conference.

While the specific expectations placed upon individual parliaments by their publics may differ greatly, the essential issues tend to transcend geographical boundaries.



<p>It is through the CPA that we are afforded the opportunity to discuss these issues in hopes of learning from the experiences of those who have travelled the path before.</p> <p>There is no doubt that the social, economic, technological and legislative issues that shape each parliament will continue to change in adaptation to public needs. As effective parliamentarians, our goal is to continually rise to the challenge of meeting these needs in a responsive and responsible manner.</p>	<p>It is our greatest hope that through open discussions, we are able to gain focus on the impact local issues have on global priorities. That hope was realized both through the success of the 40th Canadian Regional Conference and the accomplishments of the many other CPA activities that Alberta had the fortune of attending in 2001.</p> <p>Just as we take away many valuable lessons from our colleagues, we hope that they too benefit from our experience and that these exchanges continue to enhance our parliaments.</p>
<p>Secretary's Report</p> <p>W.J. David McNeil, Secretary of the Alberta Branch of the CPA and Clerk of the Legislative Assembly</p>	
<p>The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's 40th Canadian Regional Conference was held in Edmonton, Alberta, in July of 2001. The event was well attended with 95 participants attending from 16 different jurisdictions, including the United Kingdom and CPA headquarters. The theme of the 2001 business sessions was <i>The Future of Canadian Parliamentary Democracy</i>.</p> <p>The fundamental relationship in Canadian parliamentary democracy between those who govern and the governed is changing dramatically due to innovations in technology, the trend towards globalization and the changing demographics of the population. These changes affect every aspect of the way legislators and governments do business, including the operation of the institutions established to give effect to governing in Canada. The conference provided delegates with an opportunity to examine the changes and the impact of those changes on the way the people's business is done. In addition to the business sessions, social activities for the</p>	<p>delegates, their guests and families provided many opportunities to re-establish previous relationships and form new friendships.</p> <p>In addition to hosting the 40th Canadian Regional Conference, the Alberta branch of the CPA participated in a number of interparliamentary activities. Among those activities, I had the great fortune of taking part in the CPA's 47th annual conference in Australia.</p> <p>Staff of the Legislative Assembly Office continued to represent Alberta well in interparliamentary activities at the staff level. In 2001 a new organization of parliamentary administrators was formed, and the first meeting of the Canadian Association of Parliamentary Support Services (CAPSS) was held in Edmonton (this organization has subsequently been renamed the Canadian Association of Parliamentary Administration). This new organization has already served well to provide a forum for knowledge sharing and to develop contacts with all participating parliaments.</p>

18th Canadian Presiding Officers Conference

Fredericton, New Brunswick, January 25-28, 2001

Agenda

- 1 Opening Remarks
- 2 Changing Procedural Authorities
- 3 The Functioning of Boards of Internal Economy
- 4 Declaration of Outside Interests
- 5 Round Table: Developments in Jurisdictions
- 6 A Speaker's Alternative to Findings of Privilege
- 7 Does Imposing the Rule Limiting Debate during Consideration of a Bill Threaten Parliamentary Democracy?
- 8 Round Table: Developments in Jurisdictions

Alberta Delegation

The Honourable Ken Kowalski, Speaker Mr. Don Tannas, Deputy Speaker
Dr. W.J.David McNeil, Clerk

Delegate's Report (Edited for length)

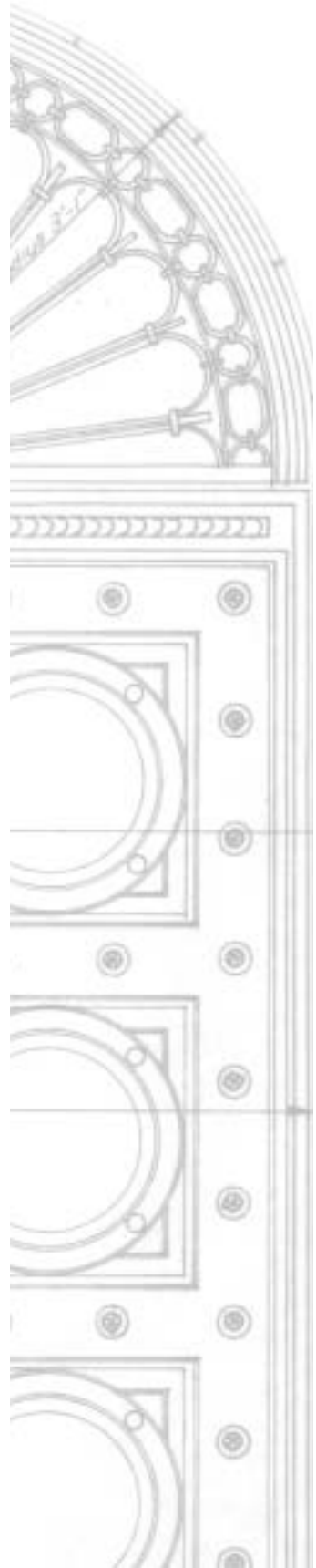
In our first session, Deputy Clerk Bev Bosiak of Manitoba outlined her investigation into the growing use of the *House of Commons Procedure and Practice* as additional reference for rulings in Canadian Legislatures. A lively discussion followed.

In the second session, Speaker Mildred Dover reviewed the Function of the Board of Internal Economy in PEI. I was surprised to learn that the Treasury Board treated the Legislative Assembly as a "department of government". The discussion that followed revealed a wide range of control over the financial states of the Legislatures: from dependency on government to being, like Alberta, masters of their own financial affairs.

During the fourth session Round, seven Legislatures gave reports on their Assemblies for the past year. Many of the Legislatures highlighted similar problems.

This was a most worthwhile, informational and thought-provoking conference.

Don Tannas





Council of State Governments-West (CSG-WEST) Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) Annual Meeting

Whistler, British Columbia, July 25-29, 2001

Agenda

- 1 Future of the North American West: Three Nations, One Region
- 2 NAFTA and the New Economy
- 3 Health Care Quality and Access in the 21st Century: U.S. and Canadian Perspectives
- 4 Free Trade in the Americas: A Congressional Perspective
- 5 Legislating in a Parliamentary System: Differences and Similarities with the State Experience
- 6 Powering Up: A New Era of Energy Reliability and Efficiency
- 7 North American Intellectual Exchanges: Perspectives on Higher Education

Alberta Delegation

The Honourable Ken Kowalski, Speaker
The Honourable David Coutts
Mr. Richard Marz, MLA
Mr. Ivan Strang, MLA
Ms Alana DeLong, MLA
Mr. Mel Knight, MLA

The Honourable Halvar Jonson
Mr. Rob Renner, MLA
Mr. Drew Hutton, MLA
Mrs. Cindy Ady, MLA
Mr. Broyce Jacobs, MLA

Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie

Quebec City, Quebec, (APF)XXVII Ordinary Session of the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie, July 6-11, 2001 and Regional Session of the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie, July 11-15, 2001

Agenda

- 1 Presidents' Meeting
- 2 Plenary Session
- 3 Parliamentary Diplomacy
- 4 The role of American Parliaments towards cultures in a free trade globalization environment
- 5 Intergenerational dialogue; the future of Francophonie
- 6 Closing remarks and comments

Alberta Delegation

Mr. Denis Ducharme, MLA

Mr. Hector Goudreau, MLA

Mrs. Louise Kamuchik,

Administrative Secretary to the section

Delegate's Report (Edited for length)

It was our pleasure as representatives of Alberta's Legislature to attend the 18th session of the Assemblée régionale Amérique de l'APF (Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie).

The APF's purpose is to foster all initiatives promoting a dialogue of cultures through the use of the French language and to study parliamentary, cultural, economic and social issues of interest.

The session addressed three major themes: parliamentary diplomacy, the role of parliaments concerning free trade, and inter-generational dialogue with emphasis on the future of Francophonie.

After considerable discussion, resolutions were brought forward, debated, and approved for all three areas. To highlight the importance of parliamentary diplomacy it was agreed that Parliaments should make human and financial resources available to its members to increase their international participation at sessions where Francophone issues are discussed. It was strongly felt that there was an increased need for elected officials to play a greater role at many international activities.

The second resolution invited members of the APF to study and document the impact of the Free Trade Agreement on the French language and culture. It was recognized that the role of



APF continued

parliaments will change as America becomes more integrated, making national and regional borders more porous.

The third resolution encouraged the development of ideas and activities that would enhance our youth's involvement and interest in the parliamentary process. It was recognized that our future lies in our youth and that it is our responsibility as elected officials to encourage their involvement in the democratic process. Mr. Ducharme referred to the youth activities occurring in our Legislature and in our schools.

Denis Ducharme and Hector Goudreau

National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)

San Antonio, Texas, August 11-15, 2001

Agenda

- 1 Legislative Institution
- 2 Commerce and Communications
- 3 Criminal Justice
- 4 Education
- 5 Environment, Energy and Transportation
- 6 Fiscal Affairs
- 7 Health Care
- 8 Human Services
- 9 Agriculture and International Trade
- 10 Federal Budget and Taxation

Alberta Delegation

Mr. Wayne Cao, MLA
Mr. Harvey Cenaiko, MLA

Rev. Tony Abbott, MLA
Mr. George VanderBurg, MLA

Delegates' Reports (Edited for length)

The NCSL was an excellent professional development opportunity for Alberta MLAs. The conference had a special program for international guests that focused on the differences of the United States' legislatures and how bills, policies and regulations are formed through an intricate process of checks and balances.

NCSL continued

Some of the sessions that I found most interesting were the ones on NAFTA, Initiative and Referendum, Health Care, Education, and Electrical Deregulation. Most memorable for me were the plenary sessions on the Economy and the Public Perception of Politicians.

It was a pleasure to meet our Canadian Consul General from Dallas, who flew in to host a dinner for the Canadian delegates.

I learned some valuable information and made some excellent contacts. I look forward to using this knowledge as I serve the people of Alberta.

Tony Abbott

The convention center was an immense facility – Texas-style large. The National Legislatures Conference was well organized and well run. The number of delegates and attendees were in the thousands.

I met delegates from Australia, Germany, Argentina, Scotland, Japan, South Africa, El Salvador and Mexico, to name a few. We exchanged information about our respective democratic processes and institutions.

On the second day, the Canadian Consul General in Texas invited us to a Canadian hosted dinner for the Chairs of Committees in the House of Representatives.

The sessions were mostly for legislators, senators and representatives. Also in attendance were people from special interest groups, such as business associations, professional associations and lobbyist groups.

A Senator or Representative, who is the Chair of a National Legislature Committee, chaired each session, which started with a panel of several speakers who presented their own research, experience and views. This was followed by questions and an open discussion with all attendees' participation.

The conference provided many sessions of my interest, but due to them running concurrently I, unfortunately, couldn't attend them all.

Wayne Cao



40th Canadian Regional Conference

Edmonton, Alberta, July 17-21, 2001

Agenda

- 1 Future Challenges to Parliamentary Privilege
- 2 Future of Electoral Systems
- 3 Impact of Globalization and Information Technologies on Canadian Federalism
- 4 E-Government: How Legislatures and Governments Inform Citizens
- 5 Impact of Demographics on Services/Voting Trends
- 6 The Virtual Assembly
- 7 Citizens and Their Representatives
- 8 The Informed Member: The Knowledge Base for Members

Alberta Delegation

The Honourable Ken Kowalski, MLA, Speaker	Rev. Tony Abbott, MLA
Ms Debby Carlson, MLA	Mr. Harvey Cenaiko, MLA
Ms Carol Haley, MLA	Mr. Denis Herard, MLA
Mr. Hugh MacDonald, MLA	Mr. Ian McClelland, MLA
Mr. Barry McFarland, MLA	Mrs. Mary O'Neill, MLA
Mr. Shiraz Shariff, MLA	Mr. Lloyd Snelgrove, MLA
Mr. George VanderBurg, MLA	

Delegate's Report (Edited for length)

I enjoyed learning from both members across our country as well as members from outside of Canada. I have definitely picked up points that were discussed in the business sessions and will include them in my daily role as an MLA.

The social events were absolutely outstanding, well organized, and enjoyed by both Liz and me. We both had the opportunity to meet other couples in politics and learn from them.

George VanderBurg

CRC continued

I am truly grateful to have participated in the 40th Canadian Regional Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, which provided an overall view of concerns, issues, and the various parliamentary and legislative review processes across our country. The interactive session format was very beneficial, allowing various levels of feedback from all attendees.

I personally benefited from attending and look forward to seeing these new friends in the years to come, both as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta and informally.

Harvey Cenaiko

Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees (CCPAC) and Conference of Legislative Auditors (COLA)

Cancelled.

47th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference (CPA)

Melbourne, Australia, September 7-14, 2001

Agenda

- 1 Strengthening Parliament's Oversight Role in the Battle Against Corruption
- 2 Poverty Alleviation
- 3 Gender-sensitizing Parliaments in the Commonwealth
- 4 Towards Being a Professional Knowledge-based Parliamentarian
- 5 Combating International Trafficking of People
- 6 Should Scientific Advances be Subject to Legislative and Regulatory Measures?

Alberta Delegation

Dr. W.J. David McNeil, Clerk



24th Canadian Parliamentary Association (CPA) Regional Seminar

Regina, Saskatchewan, October 18-21, 2001

Agenda

- 1 Electoral Systems and Democratic Change
- 2 Committee Reform: What Does it Take to Make it Work?
- 3 Round Table: Issues in Education
- 4 The Power Shift from Elected Representatives to Global Organizations

Alberta Delegation

The Honourable Ken Kowalski, MLA, Speaker Mrs. Janis Tarchuk, MLA
Mr. Richard Marz, MLA

Delegates' Reports (Edited for length)

I appreciated the opportunity to attend the 24th Canadian Regional Seminar of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in October and meet with elected officials from across the country.

The province of Saskatchewan and the city of Regina did a wonderful job hosting the delegates. Their Legislature was truly a beautiful location.

The thought-provoking presentations and discussions covered a broad range of topics relevant to the duties and functions of legislators, including democratic change, committee reform, and political power shifts. Networking with our counterparts and discussing issues of common interest is always a valuable and positive time investment.

I believe it helps us become better and more effective representatives for our constituents and I thank the organizers for their planning efforts and warm hospitality.

Janis Tarchuk

CPA continued

I was pleased to have the opportunity to attend the 2001, Canadian Regional Seminar in Regina, Saskatchewan.

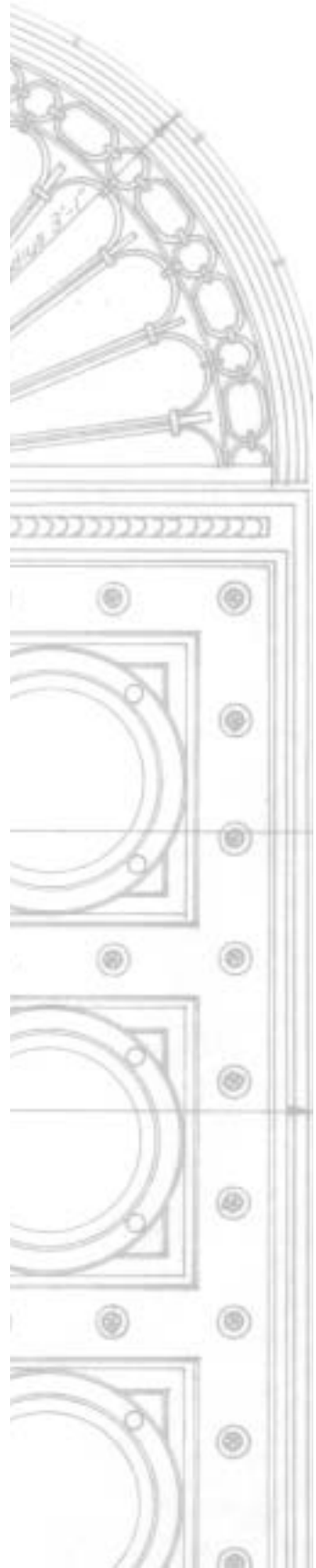
The Honourable Claude Richmond, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, who presented the session entitled Electoral Systems and Democratic Change, chaired the first day of the seminar.

Presenters included Gary Levy, Editor of the *Canadian Parliamentary Review*; Nick Loenen, former MLA and a member of Fair Voting BC; Minnesota Senator Steve Kelly; and the Honourable Bev Harrison, Speaker of the New Brunswick House of Assembly.

Topics of discussion included committee reform and what it takes to make it work; security and dissent and global changes as a result of the September 11 attack on the U.S.; and health reform, in particular the Romanow Commission on Health Care.

The seminar provided an excellent opportunity to share views with fellow elected representatives from across Canada, as well as some U.S. representative, and I appreciated the opportunity to participate.

Richard Marz





Council on Governmental Ethics Laws (COGEL)

Lexington, Kentucky, December 2-5, 2001

Agenda

- 1 Campaign Finance
- 2 Media: An Ally of Ethics Agencies
- 3 You're a Commissioner-Now What?
- 4 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)-Legislative Update
- 5 Clean Money
- 6 Effective Training and Education
- 7 Ethics Update
- 8 FOIA-Political Interference
- 9 You've Been Charged with an Ethics Complaint-Now What?
- 10 Lobbying Update
- 11 Electronic Filing Update
- 12 Effective Public Speaking
- 13 What Every Investigator Needs to Know about High Technology
- 14 Revolving Door
- 15 FOIA: What it Means to Freedom of Information, Data Practices, and Data Privacy
- 16 Issue Advocacy, Soft Money, Third Party Advertising
- 17 Corporate Ethics Programs-What Can We Learn From Them?
- 18 Administration of Electronic Filing Laws
- 19 Election Update
- 20 A View from the Lawmakers

Alberta Delegation

Ms Marlene Graham, MLA
Mr. Brian Fjeldheim, Chief Electoral Officer
Mr. Frank Work, Acting Information and
Privacy Commissioner

Mr. Bob Clark, Ethics Commissioner
Mr. Bill Sage, Deputy Chief Electoral Officer

COEGEL continued

Delegate's Report (Edited for Length)

It was my pleasure to attend the 2001 COGEL conference as a delegate and a panel presenter.

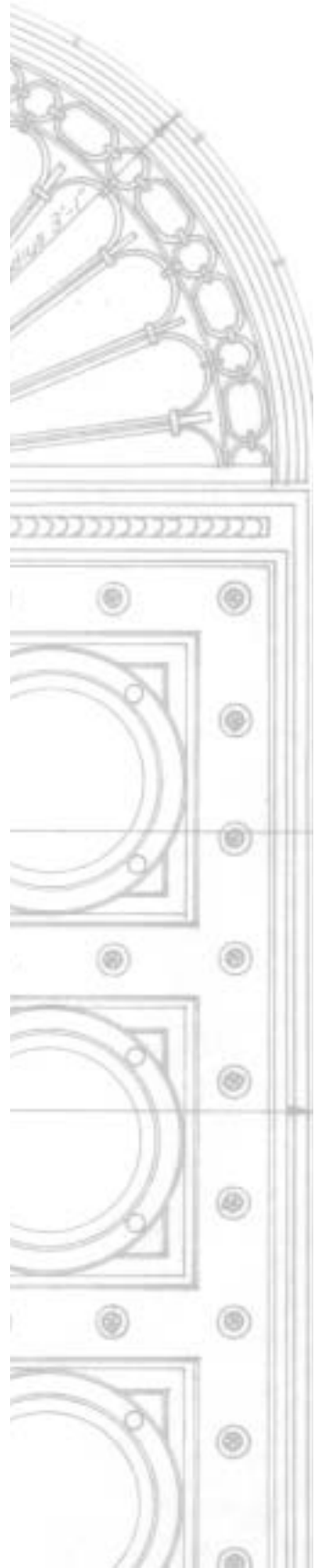
The mission of COGEL is to provide members with avenues for the exchange and dissemination of up-to-date information in the areas of ethics, elections, campaign finance, lobbying, and freedom of information. It is considered the leading membership organization for professionals working in these areas.

This year's conference attracted nearly 300 delegates from all over North America, including federal and state agencies in the U.S. and federal and provincial agencies in Canada.

Overall, I thought the program was well done. Session topics touched on all of the subject areas referred to above, but approached them from various angles, such as political interference in FOIP matters, electronic filing of disclosure statements, comparison to corporate ethics programs, whether media serves as an ally to ethics agencies, et cetera. Lastly, comprehensive legislative and case updates were provided in all areas.

All in all, I believe the conference benefited me as a member of the Standing Committee of Legislative Offices, and I hope to share this experience with my colleagues.

Marlene Graham



Interparliamentary Relations

The honourable Ken Kowalski; Speaker, Don Tannas, Deputy Speaker; Shiraz Shariff, Deputy Chair of Committees; and the Staff of the Legislative Assembly Office are involved in ongoing liaison with members and staff of other parliaments and other representatives of foreign countries. In 2001 they hosted and/ or met with the following visitors and events:

April 5	His Excellency Wendelin Ettmayer, Ambassador of the Republic of Austria
April 6	Hokkaido Legislative Assembly Delegation
April 26	His Excellency Pawel Dobrowolski, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland
May 2	Forum for Young Albertans
May 14	Her Excellency Geethangani de Silva, High Commissioner for the Republic of Sri Lanka
May 22	Ukrainian Canadian Congress and Polish Canadian Congress
May 23	Mr. Hans Ockermueller, Honorary Consul General of Austria
May 24	His Excellency Ingvard Martin Arne Havnen, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway
May 30	His Excellency Svend Roed Nielsen, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark

June 19	His Excellency Dato' Seri Dr. Lim Keng Yaik, Minister of Primary Industries Malaysia His Excellency Datuk A.W. Omarin, High Commissioner of Malaysia
June 21	Mr. Frank Carruet, Consul General of Belgium
June 21	His Excellency Vitaly Churkin, Ambassador of the Russian Federation
July 4	Mr. Pavlo Pavel Alexeevich, MP, Samara, Oblast, Russia
July 16	2001 Alberta Summer Research Institute Canadian Studies Delegation
July 23	His Excellency Hjalmar Hannesson, Ambassador of Iceland
August 1	His Excellency Urs Ziswiler, Ambassador of Switzerland
August 4	Their Royal Highnesses the Earl and Countess of Wessex
October 3	His Excellency Wade Armstrong, High Commissioner of New Zealand
October 3	Honourable Vasily Rogovy, Vice Prime Minister of the Ukraine



An ensemble from the Salvation Army Temple Corps Band at the Remembrance Service in the rotunda.



October 23	His Excellency Anthony John Hely, High Commissioner of Australia	
November 5	His Excellency Dr. Mohammed R. Al-Hussaini Al-Sharif, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	
November 14	His Excellency Christian Friedman Pauls, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany	
November 21	Her Excellency Maria Teresa Garcia Segovia de Madero, Ambassador of the United Mexican States	
December 6	Province of Mpumalanga, South Africa–Delegation	