



INTERPARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITY REPORT

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59TH COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION (CPA) CANADIAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE AND COMMONWEALTH WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS (CWP) CANADIAN REGIONAL MEETING

Host	Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan
Location	Regina, Saskatchewan
Dates	July 22 to 29, 2023
Activity Type	Conference
Participants	2 Member of the Legislative Assembly, 1 Assembly support staff

PARTICIPANTS

- Hon. Raj Chouhan, MLA, Speaker
- Janet Routledge, MLA, Member of the CWP Canadian Region Steering Committee
- Jennifer Arril, Clerk of Committees, Delegation Secretary

PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) and Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Canadian Regional Conferences was held in Regina, Saskatchewan from July 22 to 28, 2023.

Hon. Raj Chouhan, Speaker, Janet Routledge, MLA, and Jennifer Arril, Clerk of Committees attended the CPA portion of the regional conference, and Hon. Raj Chouhan and Jennifer Arril attended the CPA-Canadian Branch Regional Council meeting.

The CPA-Canadian Branch provides an opportunity for parliamentarians and parliamentary staff to come together to collaborate on issues of mutual interest and to share good practices. Hon. Raj Chouhan, Speaker, Janet Routledge, MLA, and Jennifer Arril, Clerk of Committees attended. Business sessions included: the use of social networks and the effects of political engagement; women in the economy; orientation for Members; debate and decorum; and harassment in the workplace. There was also a roundtable session where each jurisdiction provided an update. Hon. Raj Chouhan chaired the session on social networks and the effects on political engagement and provided the BC jurisdictional update.

At the CPA-Canadian Branch Regional Council meeting, in addition to the consideration of routine administrative matters, preparations for the upcoming international conference in Ghana were discussed. It was decided that following the conference in Ghana, following the rotational list, Hon. Raj Chouhan will serve as a Regional Representative on the CPA Canadian Regional Council Executive Committee. In this capacity, he will represent the views and concerns of the CPA Canadian Region at the Executive Committee meetings of the international Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

Janet Routledge, MLA, and Jennifer Arril, Clerk of Committees, attended the CWP portion of the regional conference, including the CWP Steering Committee meetings.

The CWP-Canadian Region is composed of women parliamentarians of the provincial and territorial Canadian legislatures and the federal parliament. Its aims and objectives are to: provide opportunities for strategic discussion and development for future and current parliamentarians; increase female representation in our parliaments; foster closer relationships among Canadian women parliamentarians; foster relations with other countries having close parliamentary ties with Canada; and discuss, strategize, and act on gender-related issues in Canada and internationally.

In addition to routine administrative matters, the Steering Committee discussed and reaffirmed its commitment to the twinning program, which provides young women aged 17 to 25 with the opportunity to experience parliamentary life by accompanying women parliamentarians in their parliamentary activities. The purpose of the program is to generate political interest among young women and offer women parliamentarians an opportunity to have exchanges with young women regarding their concerns and interests. BC hosted a twinning event at the Legislative Assembly in March 2023. There is also an annual CWP outreach program hosted on a rotational basis. It was confirmed that the next outreach program would be hosted in New Brunswick in October 2023.

Steering Committee Members also agreed to send a letter to Minister Joly to inquire into the anti-LGBTQ bill in Ghana.

A new Chair and Vice-Chair of the Steering Committee were elected for three-year terms.

“Inspiration” was the theme of the CWP portion of the regional conference. Business sessions included the following topics: inspiring leadership; inspiring tools and supports for women interested in seeking elected positions; inspiring women by example; and inspiring the future. Presenters included elected women officials at the municipal and provincial levels, representatives of Equal Voice, and a young woman social media influencer. Janet Routledge, MLA, chaired the session on inspiring women by example.

STRATEGIC OUTCOMES

- The Speaker, Presiding Officers, and other Members expand their knowledge and understanding of parliamentary and procedural processes and practices.
- The effectiveness of the Legislative Assembly’s processes, procedures, practices, programs, and services are enhanced to meet the evolving needs of Members.

EXPENSE

The following combined expenses are for all participants.

Travel Expenses	\$4,183.29
Conference Fees	\$1,200.00
Subsidy	Nil
Total	\$5,383.29