

## INTERPARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITY REPORT

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### 40TH AMERICAS REGIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE FRANCOPHONIE | 40E ASSEMBLÉE RÉGIONALE AMÉRIQUE DE L'ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA FRANCOPHONIE

Host	National Assembly of Quebec
Location	Quebec, Quebec
Dates	September 9 to 12, 2025
Activity Type	Conference
Participants	1 Member of the Legislative Assembly, 1 Assembly support staff

#### PARTICIPANTS

- Amna Shah, MLA, Chair of the B.C. Section of the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie)
- Artour Sogomonian, Deputy Clerk of the Legislative Assembly | Secretary to the B.C. Section of the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie)

#### PROGRAM SUMMARY

The 40th annual session of the Americas Regional Assembly of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie was hosted by the National Assembly of Quebec in Quebec City from September 9 to 12, 2025. It was attended by Amna Shah, MLA and Artour Sogomonian, Deputy Clerk, as B.C.'s representatives.

The main objectives of this annual gathering are to promote the use of the French language in the Americas where there is a Francophone presence; encourage the strengthening of ties among Francophone communities in the Americas; and exchange information and debate issues of common interest, particularly to parliamentarians. This year's theme was *Foreign Interference and Mechanisms to Guard Against It*. The theme was selected by the National Assembly of Quebec to promote dialogue and learning between experts and parliamentarians given evolving geopolitical context marked by increasing external pressures on democracies.

The annual session began with the Meeting of Section Chairs, attended by MLA Shah and Artour Sogomonian. An overview of the work of the Americas Region over the prior year was provided and a roundtable took place with jurisdictional updates, with B.C.'s provided by MLA Shah. Various administrative matters were discussed, including financial planning and revisions to the Americas Region operating rules.

All business sessions were attended by MLA Shah and Artour Sogomonian and were on:

- Foreign Interference in Electoral Processes and Democratic Institutions (with the Commissioner of Canada Elections and a Director General with the Canadian Security Intelligence Service);
- The Many Facets of Foreign Interference: From Scientific Research to Diasporas (with academics from the Université de Montréal and the Université de Sherbrooke);

- New Technologies, Digital Disinformation, and Foreign Interference (with academics from Cégep Garneau and the Université de Montréal).

The business program concluded with a panel on the Francophonie in the Americas – looking at challenges and various lived realities in Francophone majority and minority settings.

## EXPENSES

The following combined expenses are for all participants.

Travel Expenses	\$5,928.87
Conference Fees	\$600.00
Subsidy	Nil
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,528.87</b>