



## INTERPARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITY REPORT

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### 60TH COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION (CPA) CANADIAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE AND COMMONWEALTH WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS (CWP) CANADIAN REGIONAL MEETING

Host	Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Location	Toronto, Ontario
Dates	July 21 to July 27, 2024
Activity Type	Conference
Participants	3 Members of the Legislative Assembly, 1 Assembly support staff

#### PARTICIPANTS

- Hon. Raj Chouhan, Speaker and President, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, B.C. Branch
- Janet Routledge, MLA, B.C. representative on the CWP Canadian Regional Steering Committee
- Jackie Tegart, MLA, Assistant Deputy Speaker
- Kate Ryan-Lloyd, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and Secretary, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, B.C. Branch

#### PROGRAM SUMMARY

The 60th annual CPA Canadian Regional Conference was hosted by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario in Toronto, Ontario from July 21 to 27, 2024. It was attended by Hon. Raj Chouhan, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Janet Routledge, MLA, Jackie Tegart, MLA and Kate Ryan-Lloyd, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, as B.C.'s delegation.

In addition, MLA Routledge, MLA Tegart and Kate Ryan-Lloyd attended the pre-conference days featuring the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Steering Committee Meeting on July 21 and Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Regional Conference on July 22.

On Sunday, July 21, the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Steering Committee Meeting met for a full day to review the work of the Steering Committee during the 2023-24 year, share jurisdictional updates and consider the forthcoming annual work plan. The British Columbia delegation participated in and observed these deliberations, and Janet Routledge, MLA provided the jurisdictional report.

Of particular interest were the experiences of British Columbia and other jurisdictions who have previously participating in the CWP twinning program and the Steering Committee discussions focused on a desire to ensure sustainable CWP activities throughout the year with ongoing project funding, and sharing lessons learned on how to best support Canadian jurisdictions to successfully participate in the CWP regional strengthening work and outreach programs. These discussions were particularly helpful given that that British Columbia is scheduled to host the CWP Canada Outreach program in 2025.

On Monday, July 22, the CWP regional conference included a brief business session, followed by three business sessions reflecting the conference theme "Women in Action" highlighting the experiences and

impact of women as candidates for elected office, enhancing their representation within parliamentary institutions and supporting them as elected Members able to affect positive change within parliamentary institutions, and as policy advocates.

On Tuesday, July 23, the plenary session of the 60<sup>th</sup> CPA Canadian Regional Conference opened, with addresses from Hon. Ted Arnott, Speaker of the Ontario Legislative Assembly, and Stephen Twigg, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Secretary General. The plenary sessions over the remainder of the week included presentations and deliberations on the promotion of influential political roles for women, public outreach programs in Newfoundland and Labrador (mace tour), opportunities and risks with respect to the use of artificial intelligence in legislatures, challenges to news media and the industry's role in democracy, and general jurisdictional reports.

During a business session on CPA Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures, each delegation participated in an informal self-assessment of the functions, processes and practices of their respective institutions. In addition, Speaker Chouhan presented, along with Kate Ryan-Lloyd, at a business session on healthy and inclusive workplace cultures, highlighting the Reconciliation Action Plan and the report on the Working Group on Parliamentary Culture. MLA Tegart chaired a business session on a recent study into the political impact and experiences of women as Premiers and Prime Ministers in Canada.

The conference concluded on the afternoon of Friday, July 26, with the annual meeting of the Canadian Regional Council which focused on the consideration of administrative business, financial reports, and future planning. The National Assembly of Quebec will serve as host of the forthcoming 2025 Regional Conference, and the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia will serve as host of the 2026 Canadian Regional Conference. At the conclusion of the conference, Speaker Chouhan and Assistant Deputy Speaker Tegart reflected upon the importance of building relationships with other presiding officers, given the unique work and responsibilities held by these positions and the exceptional value of discussion and conference meetings amongst Canadian and international colleagues.

## EXPENSE

The following combined expenses are for all participants.

Travel Expenses	\$17,596.72
Conference Fees	\$1,600.00
Subsidy	Nil
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$19,196.72</b>