



INTERPARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITY REPORT

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43RD COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION CANADIAN REGIONAL PARLIAMENTARY SEMINAR

Host	Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Location	Toronto, Ontario
Dates	October 12 to 15, 2023
Activity Type	Conference
Participants	2 Members of the Legislative Assembly, 1 Assembly support staff

PARTICIPANTS

- Hon. Raj Chouhan, Speaker and President, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, B.C. Branch
- Jackie Tegart, MLA, Assistant Deputy Speaker
- Kate Ryan-Lloyd, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Secretary, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, B.C. Branch

PROGRAM SUMMARY

The 43rd annual session of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Canadian Regional Seminar was hosted by the Ontario Legislative Assembly in Toronto from October 12 to 15, 2023. It was attended by Hon. Raj Chouhan, MLA and Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Jackie Tegart, MLA and Assistant Deputy Speaker and Kate Ryan-Lloyd, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, as British Columbia's representatives.

The seminar theme was *Representative Government: Cultivating Inclusive Parliaments*. The main objective of this annual gathering is to provide a forum to discuss and consider Canadian parliamentary, legislative, and policy developments and best practices relevant to Canadian parliamentarians. Given the seminar theme, the program featured a series of business sessions and presentations on topics such as reconciliation, accessibility, diversity, equity and inclusion within legislative institutions.

All business sessions were attended by the three delegates:

- Accessing Parliament—Accessibility Efforts at the Ontario Legislature
- Reconciliation Work in the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia
- Cultivating Inclusive Parliaments: PEI's 1st Black Parliamentarian's Experience in the Legislative Assembly
- Roundtable on Indigenous Symbols/Representation in Parliament
- Cultivating inclusive spaces

Speaker Chouhan was the featured presenter at the second business session on 'Reconciliation Work in the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia'. Speaker Chouhan's presentation described the Legislative Assembly's commitment to reconciliation, the development of the *Paddling Together* discussion paper and the current external outreach and engagement work with First Nations.

Speaker Chouhan also served as Chair of the fourth session ‘Roundtable on Indigenous Symbols and Representation in Parliament’. During this roundtable, Jackie Tegart, MLA presented on the history and status of Indigenous artwork and symbols within the British Columbia Parliament Buildings and noted considerations for the creation of more inclusive spaces and practices in the future.

Throughout the seminar, many delegates shared their own personal experiences in elected office and reflected on the role of parliamentarians in leading and championing reconciliation and diversity initiatives within their respective institutions. Best practices to promote reconciliation and diversity and equity initiatives were shared and discussed, as well as specific supports required from legislative administrations and the value of communities of practice to support Members from diverse backgrounds.

EXPENSE

The following combined expenses are for all participants.

8203	\$7,899.80
Conference Fees	\$900.00
Subsidy	Nil
Total	\$8,799.80