



The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

Report of the Parliamentary Delegation to Canada

6 to 12 June 2015

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Members of the Delegation

Mrs Natasha Griggs MP
Leader of the Delegation

Mr Laurie Ferguson MP
Deputy Leader of the Delegation

Mr Bert van Manen MP

Senator Zed Seselja

Ms Stephanie Mikac
Delegation Secretary

Canada: Visit Purpose

The delegation's visit to Canada formed part of the official program of bilateral parliamentary visits in 2015. The purpose of the visit was to continue to strengthen parliamentary links between, and discuss issues of mutual importance and benefit to Australia and Canada. The delegation visited Ottawa, Ontario and Vancouver and Victoria, British Columbia to meet with:

Members of Federal and provincial Parliaments, including the Presiding Officer of the Federal Parliament, public servants at the forefront of policy making, law enforcement and defence officials and business representatives.

Matters discussed during the visit included: citizenship, immigration and multiculturalism, First Nations policies, defence, cyber security, and parliamentary security, policing illicit drugs and organised crime, tourism and economic exchange, trade and investment in Asia, and preserving the environment.

Bilateral Relationship

Australia and Canada have a close, long standing and mutually beneficial relationship which started in 1895 with the visit of Canada's first trade commissioner to Australia. Since then, trade between Australia and Canada has grown to approximately \$3.4 billion in 2014, comprising \$2.1 billion in imports to Australia and \$1.2 billion in exports to Canada.

Both countries also have a shared history of cooperation on defence matters, participating in global military campaigns and in peacekeeping operations.

Australia and Canada experience similar challenges in regard to their respective economies, health and transport

systems, regional development and indigenous issues.

Having similar systems of government, geographic dispersal of population and diversity, as well as a similar standard of living, there continues to be cooperation and an ongoing exchange of ideas and people between parliaments, government agencies, universities, and in the private sector.

These exchanges are assisted through the Canada-Australia Public Policy Initiative (CAPPI), launched in 1997 by the then respective Prime Ministers. The initiative enables Australian and Canadian senior officials to meet biennially for wide-ranging public policy discussions.

More formally, cooperative arrangements are assisted by a comprehensive range of bilateral agreements in areas such as: trade, social security, air services, consular services abroad and co-location of overseas missions, and mutual assistance in criminal matters including taxation.

The signing of the Glasgow-Burchell Declaration on diplomatic cooperation in July 2015 established a formal framework for existing cooperation between Australia and Canada and identifies future areas of close cooperation and collaboration.¹

Discussions in relation to Australia and Canada's bilateral relationship were prevalent in all discussions the delegation had with various groups and individuals. In particular, in discussions related to defence, policing, health,

¹ Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Canada Country Brief, 2015.

education, tourism and immigration matters.

Immigration, Citizenship and Multiculturalism

Australia and Canada are close partners in the areas of: Citizenship, immigration, border management, security and defence. Both countries have similar immigration and border protection policies and management protocols in place. There are however, two main differences: mandatory detention (which Canada does not have in place for illegal arrivals, foreign fishers, visa over stayers and non-visa holders) and, significant investment visas (which Australia has in place to attract wealthy investor immigrants particularly from China).

Both Australia and Canada are increasingly focused on attracting economic migrants, particularly skilled workers and professionals.

Multicultural Canada

Canada, similarly to Australia is an increasingly diverse society. In 2011, Canada had a foreign-born population of approximately 6.8 million or approximately 21 percent of the population, representing the highest proportion among G8 countries. In addition, Canada has people from over 200 ethnic origins and increased multiple origins with 70 percent of visible minorities living in three census metropolitan areas (Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver). Rising from 4.2 percent in 2001 to 7.2 percent in 2011, in Canada there was a growth in non-Christian religions. Projections to 2031 based on the 2006 Canadian Census estimated there will be between 25 percent and 28 percent of the population foreign born, with between 29 percent and 32 percent belonging to

a visible minority group and 14 percent expected to belong to a non-Christian religion.²

Among policies to enhance multiculturalism in Canada, CAD\$8.5 million is allocated annually for community-based events which promote: intercultural understanding, interfaith understanding, civic memory and pride and respect for core democratic values. Other initiatives include: public education activities, an annual report and work with federal institutions in line with the Canadian Multiculturalism Act, work with key non-governmental organisations, and networks with provincial/territorial governments.³

Canada's key indicators of a successful multicultural society are: its high rate of citizenship and civic participation coupled with the highest rates in the OECD of educational outcomes of the children of immigrants. In addition, elected bodies are relatively representative of the immigrant population in Canada.⁴ Combined, these indicators show Canada to have a highly integrated society.

The delegation met with representatives of Citizenship and Immigration Canada and multicultural services agencies (the Association of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies of British Columbia, Immigrant Services Society of British Columbia and Multilingual Orientation Service

² *Australia and Canada: A Comparative Primer*, January 2015.

³ Presentation by Citizenship and Immigration Canada, *Multiculturalism Program*, 8 June 2015.

⁴ Presentation by Citizenship and Immigration Canada, *Multiculturalism Program*, 8 June 2015.

Association of Immigrant Communities) to discuss the continuing economic, social and cultural influence of immigration on Canadian and Australian societies.

Of particular interest to the delegation were the current rules around entry and exit requirements for both countries. The varying roles of the Canadian provinces in respect to the federal jurisdiction in encouraging and accepting skilled migration and the new rules around Canadian residency and sponsorship were also discussed.

Discussions with multicultural service agencies centred on the growing need to raise awareness about and assist newly arrived (usually non-English speaking) immigrants, including refugees to Canada with: accommodation, visa application, education, cultural awareness and integration, and in most cases attaining sponsorship to receive basic services. Multicultural service agencies highlighted their role in promoting an understanding in the wider community about the difference between humanitarian and immigration issues, which often tended to get bundled together and confused.

Discussion with the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada about the broader role that immigration has had on the changing Canadian demographic was raised in the context of increased avenues for trade and investment between Canada and countries such as China, Japan, South Korea and India. Current free trade agreement trends between Australia and Asian countries were put forward as a successful way to encourage sustainable trade, as were government to government partnerships to facilitate cross-border education programs. While Canada is engaged with its trading partners in

Asia, additional initiatives are being investigated to enhance its bilateral relationships.

Current immigration trends and increased opportunities for trade and investment into and from Canada were also highlighted in discussions with the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and for International Human Rights, and the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for International Trade.

Small Business and Tourism

More specifically, the delegation was introduced to the ways in which Australia and Canada undertake routine exchange through people-to-people contact through business exchange and tourism.

Increasingly Australian businesses are being encouraged to operate in and from Canada, being assisted through organisations such as the Canada-Australia-New Zealand Business Association and more formally through a Trade Commission operating out of Australian Consulates. The Canadian Government also has programs in place to assist with advice on requirements for establishing a small business in Canada.

Tourism initially entices Australians to Canada with 268 000 Australians visiting Canada in 2014, contributing CAD\$400 million to the Canadian economy. In addition, many Australians undertake working holidays in Canada, with the snowfields being particularly popular. Another popular attraction is sports tourism such as the Calgary Stampede.

Defence Matters

The delegation met with the Chair of the Canadian House of Commons

Standing Committee on Defence and the Member for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke to discuss defence and defence-related matters.

In particular, discussions centred on issues relating to: defence spending, outreach and medical services and programs for returned soldiers displaying post-traumatic stress disorders, conduct within the armed forces, defence procurement spending and legislative requirements around shipping lanes.

Following these discussions, the delegation was privileged to be able to tour the HMCS Calgary at the Canadian Forces Base at Esquimalt, Victoria. In a private briefing the delegation was introduced to the operational work of the Canadian fleet pacific officers and crew with a number of areas of discussion about training requirements, armed forces structure and governance arrangements, the types of operations which may be undertaken such as ensuring maritime border security, routine deployments and regional defence cooperation between Australia and Canada.

Policing Drugs

As an easy access gateway to the United States of America through the West Coast and using strong Pacific Rim connections, illegal drugs have become a major issue for Canada. Combating drugs is a joint effort by Canadian law enforcement and defence. The delegation was introduced to the types of illegal narcotics and the negative economic and destructive social impact the sale and use of such drugs has on individuals and their families. A particular focus of discussions was the rampant rise in the sale and use of crystal methamphetamine or 'ice' and

the highly potent fentanyl, which is a synthetic opiate. Equally as much of an issue is the more regular sale and use of high-potency, hydroponically-grown Marijuana.

The Canadian Government's response to illegal drug sale, the 2007 National Anti-Drug Strategy (NADS) was canvassed in regard to three main areas: a prevention action plan, a treatment action plan and an enforcement action plan.

In addition to NADS is the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) led 2009 Domestic Response to Synthetic Drugs (SDI). The SDI is aimed at impeding the illegal synthetic drug industry and inhibiting the diversion of precursor chemicals from foreign and domestic sources. The SDI has established programs under three main approaches: prevention, deterrence and enforcement. Under Project CATALYST, the RCMP and Canada Border Services Agency collaborate around drug enforcement at ports of entry across Canada. Through CATALYST, the illegal importation of synthetic drugs and the importation of the chemicals used to make these drugs are impeded by sharing intelligence information between the two agencies. In addition to this role, the RCMP focuses on preventing, detecting and disrupting organised crime groups that pose a high risk for illicit drug production and trafficking.

The National Chemical Diversion Program monitors the prevention of the flow of precursors from legitimate industry to drug traffickers through a process of outreach and education for chemical producers, retailers and distributors. Under this program, chemical suppliers and producers are encouraged to report suspicious

transactions to law enforcement authorities.

In addition to these initiatives, the RCMP also discussed its active involvement in developing cross-country partnerships such as the 2010 Canada and China Memorandum of Understanding which enabled Project STEADFAST to address intelligence gaps related to precursors leading to creating opportunities to conduct parallel investigations and encourage information sharing between countries.

First Nation, Inuit and Metis Peoples

The delegation met with Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada in British Columbia and discussed its work in improving services and facilitating better lifestyle outcomes for Canada's First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples. The delegation similarly met with the Public Health Agency of Canada in Ottawa and gained an insight into the health policies and issues relating to Canada's First Nations People.

There are 4.6 million First Nation, Inuit and Metis people in Canada which accounts for 13 percent of Canada's population. Approximately a third of Canada's First Nation communities are located in British Columbia, with 127 of the 198 First Nations in British Columbia having communities of less than 300 residents, and 52 communities have less than 100 residents. Most First Nations people live in reservations which are self-governing. There are currently 2982 reservations in Canada, with 57 per cent of these located in British Columbia.⁵

⁵ Presentation by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, September 2014.

There is some overlap in territory between reservations and non reservation land and sufficient land and resources remain a critical concern. Reservation land is held via treaty, with First Nation communities usually negotiating treaties.

Areas of policy focus to improve the lifestyle of First Nations, Inuit and Metis is: education, health, community development, child and family services and income assistance. Possible areas of future economic opportunity are: tourism, real estate, energy infrastructure, mining and shipbuilding.

Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder

Canada's methods to address the regular occurrence of Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder (FASD) are based on program-specific funding which includes mechanisms for home visits for vulnerable mothers and also providing health, education and community support services for children who were born with FASD. The condition of FASD was identified as more often occurring within First Nations communities.

The Public Health Agency of Canada expressed that a longitudinal study undertaken since 2002 has shown that the rate of FASD in Canada has now halved. A more serious issue is now children born with addiction to prescription drugs. This is particularly an issue for fly-in or remote First Nations communities. In addition, in First Nations communities the rate of HIV infections has sky-rocketed due to intravenous drug use. There was discussion about how the Canadian Government has used Australia's *Closing the Gap Report* to develop similar health indicators for Canada's First Nations Peoples in an effort to improve health outcomes.

Environment Matters

The delegation was interested to meet with the Head of the Climate Action Secretariat to learn more about what Canada is doing to meet its targets under its Climate Action Plan.

In Canada, some environmental policy is in the purview of the Federal Government, with responsibility for natural resource policy falling mainly to provincial governments. Provincial governments are taking responsibility for meeting climate action targets set in 2008 with a target date of 2050.

Under the Climate Action Plan, the delegation heard about renewable energy options being undertaken and considered by governments, such as: harnessing hydro, wind and solar energy, alternative fuels, rebates for electric cars, and electric car recharging infrastructure.

An overarching component of the Climate Action Plan is the basic pollution clean-up which looks at land based and aquatic environmental management. For each specific environmental area, there is a management plan.

The Canadian Government were proud of their achievement in environmental management initiatives undertaken including the introduction of a carbon tax in British Columbia. The point was made that this specific initiative was revenue neutral and had gained some positive attention from some international commentators .

Strengthening Parliamentary Links

The delegation was warmly welcomed by the Hon Andrew Scheer MP, Speaker of the House of Commons. Discussions were centred around the role of and election process for the Speaker of Canada's House of Commons, Speaker's panel arrangements, and arrangements in place which call Members to the respective chambers.

The delegation also met with the Members and supporting secretariat of

the Canadian Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and discussed progress on a number of ongoing initiatives.

In British Columbia, the delegation met with the Deputy Clerk and Clerk of Committees of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia and was shown the new digital touch screens used by the Speaker, and the monitors in the chamber. Of particular interest were the ICT devices placed into a historical setting with the Chamber dating back more than one hundred years.

The delegation also met with Provincial Members of Parliament and discussed local government issues in British Columbia.

Finally, the delegation received a confidential briefing from Parliamentary Security staff in relation to the terrorist attack which occurred in the Canadian Parliament on 22 October 2014.

Conclusion

During the delegation, Members were able to take stock in considering the similarities in Australia and Canada's geographic and demographic diversity and discuss the similarities and differences of the administration and policies in place in regard to topical issues as presented in this report.

The program of meetings included considerable parliament-to-parliament contact of renewing relationships and forming new relationships.

I would like to thank the Australian High Commissioner and his staff for welcoming and assisting the delegation during its visit. I would also like to especially thank all the individuals who gave their time so generously to meet with Members.

Mrs Natasha Griggs MP

Delegation Leader

18 March 2016

Parliamentary Delegation to Canada

Official Visit Program

6 to 10 June 2015

Saturday and Sunday, 6 and 7 June 2015

Delegation arrives in Ottawa, Ontario

Monday, 8 June 2015 (Ottawa, Ontario)

Meeting with Citizenship and Immigration Canada

Participants:

- *Mark Davidson, Director General - International and Intergovernmental Relations*
- *Mathew Graham, A/Director, Permanent Economic Policy and Programs*
- *Kayla Estrin, Deputy Director, International Policy Coordination*
- *Elaine Lachance, Senior Policy Analyst, Citizenship and Multiculturalism*
- *Gene Rudyk, Senior Policy Analyst, International Policy Coordination.*

Meeting with Hon Peter Kent PC MP, Chair of the House of Commons Standing Committee on National Defence and Ms Cheryl Gallant MP, Committee member

Working lunch hosted by Joe Preston MP, Chair, Canadian Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

Participants:

- *David McGuinty MP, Member of CPA Canada Branch Executive*
- *Russ Hiebert MP, Member of CPA Canada Branch Executive*
- *Chris Charlton MP*
- *Susan Truppe MP*
- *Elizabeth Kingston, Secretary, Canadian Branch of CPA*

Meeting with Public Health Agency of Canada

Participants:

- *Krista Outhwaite, President, Public Health Agency of Canada*
- *Dr Gregory Taylor, Chief Public Health Officer*
- *Sylvain Segard, A/Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Policy, Planning and International Affairs Branch*
- *Valerie Gideon, Assistant Deputy Minister, Regional Operations, First Nations and Inuit Health Branch, Health Canada*
- *Stephen Bent, Executive Director, Division of Seniors, Children and Healthy Development, Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention Branch*
- *Brianne Rossi, Manager, Bilateral Engagement and Horizontal Policy Division, Office of International Affairs for the Health Portfolio*

Meeting with Hon Deepak Obhrai PC MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and for International Human Rights

Meeting with Hon Andrew Scheer MP, Speaker of the House of Commons

Meeting and dinner function hosted by HE Tony Negus APM, Australian High Commissioner to Canada

Participants:

- *Commander Brad Vizard, Australian Defence Advisor to Canada*
- *Stephanie Aeuckens, First Secretary (Political / Economic)*
- *Lucas Robson, Second Secretary (Political / Economic)*

Tuesday, 9 June 2015 (Ottawa, Ontario)

Meeting with Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Meeting with Industry Canada

Participants:

- *Deborah Levy, Chief of Staff, Office of the Minister of State (Small Business and Tourism)*
- *Shereen Benzvy Miller, Assistant Deputy Minister, Small Business, Tourism and Marketplace Services Sector*
- *Christopher Reed, Policy Advisor, Office of the Minister of State (Small Business and Tourism)*

Working lunch hosted by Ryan Leef MP, Chair of the Canada-Australia-New Zealand Parliamentary Friendship Group.

Attend Senators' Statements and House of Commons Question Period, followed by tour of Parliament.

Meeting with Parm Gill MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Trade.

Other Participant:

- *Peter MacArthur, Director General, South, Southeast Asia and Oceania, Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development*

Briefing from Superintendent Michel Denault, Special Events and Emergency Planning, House of Commons Protective Service, on Parliamentary Security and the attack on 22 October 2015

Wednesday 10 June 2015 (Vancouver, British Columbia)

Delegation travels to Vancouver, British Columbia

Briefing from Vancouver Police Department

Participants from the Investigation Division, Organised Crime Section

Meeting with Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, British Columbia Region

Participants:

- *Allyson Rowe, Associate Regional Director General*
- *Jody Kaden, Director, Programs and Partnerships Directorate*

Meeting with multicultural service agencies

Participants:

- *Lynn Moran, Executive Director, Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies of BC*
- *Chris Friesen, Director, Settlement Services, Immigrant Services Society of BC*
- *Sherman Chan, Director, Settlement Services, MOSAIC (Multilingual Orientation Service Association for Immigrant Communities)*

Meeting with Kevin Lamb, Honourary Consul and Post Manager, Australian Consulate and Trade Commission, Vancouver

Thursday 11 June 2015 (Victoria, British Columbia)

Delegation travels to Victoria, British Columbia

Meeting with Susanna Laaksonen-Craig, Head, Climate Action Secretariat, British Columbia

Tour of British Columbia Legislature and visit to Legislative Chamber for discussion of parliamentary procedure with Kate Ryan-Lloyd, Deputy Clerk and Clerk of Committees

Tour and working lunch at Butchart Gardens

Participants:

- *Rick Los, Director of Horticulture*
- *Dave Cowan, General Manager, Butchart Gardens*

Briefing from Canadian Maritime Forces Pacific (MARPAF) and Joint Task Force Pacific

Participants:

- *Commodore Bob Auchterlonie, Commander, Canadian Fleet Pacific*
- *Captain Dave Mazur, Chief of Staff Plans and Operations, Maritime Forces Pacific/Joint Task Force Pacific*
- *Captain Doug Young, Maritime Forces Pacific/Joint Task Force Pacific Chief of Staff*
- *Dr James Boutilier, Special Advisor, International Engagement, Maritime Forces Pacific Headquarters*
- *James Webb, Senior Protocol Officer*

Tour of HMCS Calgary with Canadian Fleet Pacific officers and crew

Delegation returns to Vancouver, British Columbia

Friday, 12 June 2015 (Vancouver, British Columbia)

Tour of University of British Columbia's Museum of Anthropology and discussion of Aboriginal Canadian culture and history with Dr Anthony Shelton, Director, Museum of Anthropology, UBC

Meeting with Sam Sullivan MLA, Member for Vancouver-False Creek (Legislative Assembly of British Columbia) and former Mayor of Vancouver

Working lunch with Nerella Campigotto, President, Canada-Australia-New Zealand Business Association, Vancouver

Meeting with Stewart Beck, President, Asia-Pacific Foundation of Canada

Other participant:

- *Dr Eva Busza, Vice-President (Research)*

Delegation returns to Australia