



## INTERPARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITY REPORT

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### 45TH COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION CANADIAN REGIONAL PARLIAMENTARY SEMINAR

Host	Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick
Location	Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada
Dates	September 25 to 28, 2025
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
- Lorne Doerkson, MLA, Assistant Deputy Speaker
- Darryl Hol, Committee Clerk

#### PROGRAM SUMMARY

The 45th annual session of the Canadian Regional Seminar of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) was hosted by the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick in Fredericton from September 25 to 28, 2025. It was attended by Hon. Raj Chouhan, MLA and Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Lorne Doerkson, MLA and Assistant Deputy Speaker, and Darryl Hol, Committee Clerk, as British Columbia's representatives.

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. All business sessions were attended by the three delegates, including:

- *The Impact of Tariffs and Interprovincial Trade: The New Brunswick Experience*
- *Misinformation, Social Media, and the Challenge to Democratic Leadership*
- *Innovative Approaches to the Work of Members, Committees and Parliament*
- *Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Work of Parliamentarians*
- *Intimate Partner Violence / Gender-Based Violence*

Speaker Chouhan moderated the business session on *Innovative Approaches to the Work of Members, Committees and Parliament*. This session included a presentation from Kevin Deveaux, a former Nova Scotia MLA and expert in innovative approaches to increasing public participation in democratic institutions. He shared examples of Parliamentary institutions from around the world that are increasing citizen engagement in their processes, which led to a lively discussion amongst delegates about what may be possible in their own jurisdictions.

Assistant Deputy Speaker Doerkson shared British Columbia's perspective as part of the roundtable on *Generative Artificial Intelligence and the Work of Parliamentarians*. Many delegates acknowledged that British Columbia seemed to be ahead in some regards, having developed its own *Guide to Using*

*Generative AI*, but it was also identified that more work was needed to ensure such guidance remains relevant and up-to-date. The opportunities for Parliamentarians in creating legislation to ensure AI is used in a responsible manner was also discussed.

Finally, Speaker Chouhan used the opportunity to invite delegates to the forthcoming 62nd Canadian Regional Conference of the CPA to be hosted by British Columbia in July 2026.

#### **EXPENSE**

The following combined expenses are for all participants.

Travel Expenses	\$7,578.75
Conference Fees	\$900.00
Subsidy	Nil
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,478.75</b>