LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

INTERPARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITY REPORT

Published on February 26, 2026, in accordance with the *Interparliamentary Activities Framework*

42ND CANADIAN PRESIDING OFFICERS' CONFERENCE

Host	Legislative Assembly of Alberta
Location	Edmonton, Aberta
Dates	January 28 to 31, 2026
Activity Type	Conference
Participants	1 Member of the Legislative Assembly and 1 Assembly support staff

PARTICIPANTS

- Hon. Raj Chouhan, MLA, Speaker
- Kate Ryan-Lloyd, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

PROGRAM SUMMARY

The 42nd Canadian Presiding Officers Conference, hosted by the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, opened with a business session featuring a roundtable discussion with long-serving and newly-appointed Speakers to exchange perspectives on the responsibilities of and challenges faced by Presiding Officers. Experienced Speakers, including Hon. Chouhan and Hon. Shane Thompson (Northwest Territories) shared lessons from their time in the Chair, highlighting the importance of impartiality, procedural consistency, and navigating political pressures. Newer Speakers, Hon. Ric McIver (Alberta) and Hon. Sidney MacEwen (Prince Edward Island) offered insights into their early experiences, including transitioning into the role, establishing different working relationships with Members, and adapting to the procedural and administrative responsibilities of the position. The discussion emphasized mentorship, institutional memory, and the shared commitment of Presiding Officers to foster respectful debate.

Other business sessions focused on Chamber and Precinct modernization initiatives underway in multiple Canadian jurisdictions, featuring the Senate of Canada, House of Commons and the Québec National Assembly. These discussions highlighted technological upgrades and design improvements aimed at increasing accessibility, efficiency, and the integration of modernized functionality in support of parliamentary operations. Following a keynote address by Gary Mar, KC, President and CEO of the Canada West Foundation, reflecting on the important role of Speakers as guardians of democratic institutions, the final business sessions addressed topics relating to parliamentary security and public outreach programs. Both sessions generated good discussion on comparative best practices regarding current initiatives underway in first in Ontario and Manitoba, and subsequently, in Saskatchewan and Ontario.

All business sessions were attended by Speaker Chouhan and Kate Ryan-Lloyd, as British Columbia's representatives. Given that the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia will host the 43rd Presiding Officers Conference in January 2027, Speaker Chouhan extended an official invitation to next year's conference to all delegates.

EXPENSE

The following combined expenses are for all participants.

Travel Expenses	$2,120.00
Conference Fees	$700.00
Subsidy	Nil
Total	**$2,820.00**