REPORT OF THE VISIT BY THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT DELEGATION TO WINNIPEG, OTTAWA AND NEW YORK

1-9 APRIL 2017

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Introduction

1. This is the report of the visit by the Scottish Parliament delegation to the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba in Winnipeg and the Parliament of Canada in Ottawa in addition to its participation in the Tartan Day Parade in New York. The delegation comprised:

- Rt Hon Ken Macintosh MSP, Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament
- Clare Adamson MSP, Convener of the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee
- Edward Mountain MSP, Convener of the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee

2. The purpose of the visit was to meet with Canadian parliamentarians and hold discussions on parliamentary activities and policy issues directly relevant to the core parliamentary roles of each Member of the delegation. Specifically, the primary area of interest for the Presiding Officer was parliamentary reform while both Conveners held discussions on matters directly related to the work programmes of their respective committees.

3. In addition, as 2017 is the 150th anniversary of the Canadian Confederation, the delegation was keen to visit Canada and strengthen further the friendship and links at a parliamentary level and between both countries.

4. The delegation also participated in the Tartan Day Parade in New York. Since 1998, Tartan Day has been recognised by the US House of Representatives as an official celebration of the contribution of American-Scots to US culture and life. Fifty million people across the world claim Scottish heritage, the majority being in America and Canada.

5. The Scottish Parliament’s budget for Scotland Week has been capped at £30,000 since 2009. The cost of this visit was £22,011.66 which covered the cost of travel, accommodation and expenses for the three parliamentarians and two accompanying staff.

6. The delegation wishes to thank all those who facilitated the meetings and engagements across this visit, and for the time and information they so willingly shared. There was genuine warmth and friendship across all programme activities which contributed to reinforcing the strong bond between Scotland and Canada and with the USA.

Purpose

7. Specific areas of interest for members of the delegation are detailed below.

Winnipeg:

- Presiding Officer: visit the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba and meet with the Speaker and other elected Members of the Legislative Assembly to discuss matters relating to parliamentary procedure, parliamentary outreach; and parliamentary reform
• Clare Adamson MSP: discuss with parliamentarians and officials the oversight by the Assembly of lobbying; lobbying and ethics in Manitoba; the establishment and oversight of cross party groups; Assembly procedures
• Edward Mountain MSP: discuss with parliamentarians and officials the oversight by the Assembly of agriculture, agricultural policy, trade and subsidies in Manitoba; and encouraging innovation and productivity in the sector

Ottawa:
• Presiding Officer: visit the Parliament of Canada and meet with the Speakers of both the Senate and the House of Commons and other Senators and MPs to discuss matters relating to parliamentary procedure and parliamentary reform
• Clare Adamson MSP: discuss with parliamentarians and officials the oversight by the Parliament of lobbying; lobbying and ethics at a federal; encouraging young people into the science, technology, engineering and mathematics communities
• Edward Mountain MSP: discuss with parliamentarians and officials the oversight by the Assembly of aquaculture and the support and regulation of the sector; meetings with aquaculture bodies

New York:
• participate in the Annual Tartan Day Parade and associated engagements
and generally:
• enhance the Scottish Parliament’s institutional and international reputation through meetings with other parliamentarians; and
• support and promote, through the Scottish Parliament’s participation, activities which could bring wider economic benefit and added value to Scotland

8. The approach to such outward visits has been to better link the purpose to the Scottish Parliament’s International Strategy which identifies activities and countries it considers as strategically important. The Strategy states, in respect of Canada:

• the Scottish Parliament has maintained strong friendships and links with Canadian parliaments, both federal and provincial, since 1999
• we will seek to build on these links to further strengthen and find further opportunities, for example through the work of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, to share knowledge and experiences of core parliamentary issues
• we will seek to utilise the opportunity which outward visits provide to meet with Canadian parliamentarians and integrate the work of parliamentary committees, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (Scotland Branch), and the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body as the focus for such discussions

Programme
9. In addition to the issues highlighted above, the delegation also participated in discussions across the visit relating to current policy and political issues in Scotland
and the UK. In addition, the delegation took the opportunity to meet with Scottish societies in Canada.

10. A copy of the visit programme is annexed to this report. The following summarises key issues arising from the various meetings.

**Sunday 2 April 2017**

**Canadian Museum of Human Rights**

11. The delegation visited the Canadian Museum of Human Rights. The Museum is the first museum solely dedicated to the evolution, celebration and future of human rights with the aim of building a national hub for human rights learning and discovery and a new era of global human rights leadership.

12. It was established by Parliament through amendments to the Museums Act in 2008 and is seen as a national and international destination centre of learning where people from around the world can engage in discussion and commit to taking action against hate and oppression.

13. The delegation received a tour of this most impressive museum and met with John F Young, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Museum. Members were shown a number of key exhibitions, including one which featured people speaking about their own perspectives on human rights; Our Canada, My Story; Examining the Holocaust; Breaking the Silence which focussed on the Holodomor in Ukraine; and Rebellion and Confederation.

14. Many of the exhibitions feature interactive elements which encourage visitors to not only look and listen but make assessments and decisions based on information presented through the displays. One example was the video display highlighting the case of Tawney Meiorin, the British Columbia firefighter who was dismissed from her job after failing a newly instituted fitness test and challenged her case all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada.

15. In response to this visit, the delegation agreed that there was scope for future MSP outward visits to better promote cultural links between Scotland and the visiting country, e.g. museum to museum, promoting or hosting events or exhibitions in that country or in Scotland. This matter would be discussed with relevant offices in the Scottish Parliament and with the Scottish Government where appropriate.

16. Creating such opportunities would also contribute to the ‘supporting Scotland’ and ‘partnership’ outcomes in the International Strategy.

**St Andrew’s Society of Winnipeg**

17. The delegation met with members of the St Andrew's Society of Winnipeg. The Society is the oldest continuously active Scottish society in Western Canada, founded in 1871, the year after Manitoba became a province. At its inception the Society had two objectives: the care and welfare of immigrant Scots; and the promotion and preservation of Scottish culture in Manitoba. Over time, immigration
from Scotland to Canada declined and government policy developed to ensure that current immigrants do not require such assistance. The modern role of the Society is primarily as a financially sustainable Scottish cultural, philanthropic organisation which is reflected in the current Mission of the Society "to promote and preserve Scottish culture and tradition for the people of Manitoba".

18. It accomplishes its mission by creating and promoting fund-raising projects and events, the proceeds of which support a variety of Scottish activities and programmes. The Society does not engage in party politics.

19. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss informally current policy and political matters in Manitoba, Canada and Scotland. The meeting also emphasised the strong historical and family connection which many Canadians feel with Scotland and Scots with Canada.

Monday 3 April 2017

Assembly Rule changes
20. The delegation met with Patricia Chaychuk, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba; Hon. Kelvin Goertzen MLA; Hon. Jon Gerrard MLA; and Andrew Swann MLA to discuss the Assembly’s Rule Changes made in 2015. These Members sat on the Rule Changes Committee when it recommended changes aimed at organising the Assembly’s business more effectively. Some of these changes came into effect in October 2015 while others (more technical corrections or deletion of rules and practices no longer in use) came into effect in April 2016 following the Assembly elections.

21. The delegation discussed with the Members the background to these changes and the nature of the debate which took place in the Assembly. The delegation was referred to the debates by the Standing Committee on Rules of the House:


22. The management of time across Assembly business was a key area of discussion and one issue which arose was the right of a member of the public to make a presentation to a committee for 10 minutes which can result in committees sitting for very long hours, into and through the night and throughout the year. Before the rule changes, the Assembly sat for nine months uninterrupted, but now committees cannot sit in June, July or August. The opposition would often speak on certain Bills throughout July as a way of forcing the government to pull or negotiate some of their Bills by August.

23. MLAs’ time to speak was truncated as it was felt this would be more ‘acceptable’ than reducing the amount of time for the public to present in committee. Around 50 Bills are tabled each year and committees only meet to consider legislation but most of the time is taken up on public presentations. The relevant Minister must attend committee but other MLAs can be substituted on and off.
24. Improvements were therefore made to the Sessional calendar and to limit the time available for the public to make presentations before committees.

25. A summary of the rule changes from June 105 and April 2016 was provided to the delegation and these can be accessed via the links below:


26. Clare Adamson MSP, as Convener of the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee, has discussed this information with the clerks to the Committee as part of any future consideration it gives to the working procedures and practices of the Scottish Parliament for example, in light of the report by the Commission on Parliamentary Reform.

27. The Presiding Officer indicated he would send a copy of the report by the Commission on Parliamentary Reform to the Speaker once published.

Business planning and agreement

28. Following a tour of the Assembly and its Chamber by the Speaker where logistical issues relating to the layout of the Chamber, access for disabled Members, and public access were discussed, the delegation met with the Hon. Andrew Micklefield MLA, Government House Leader; Jim Maloway MLA, Official Opposition House Leader; and the Hon. Jon Gerrard MLA, Liberal Party, to discuss how Assembly business is planned and agreed.

29. The Government House Leader gives other house leaders 24 hours' notice of business for the day. The leaders tend not to meet formally but discuss business in the House (and during the discussion with the delegation, had a short discussion about the approach to that afternoon's business).

30. Question periods are held on each sitting day and last for 40 minutes. Questions and answers are limited to 45 seconds each, or 60 seconds for party leaders. Official opposition have the majority of the questions.

31. Any member has up to 30 minutes to speak on a Bill within the Bill timetable. Government and opposition house leaders discuss which Bills are to be debated that day but do try to give some advance notice, but MLAs need to be ready to speak on any of the Bills. Whips decide who can speak. Five Bills can be held over by the opposition but, with a government majority, this is often used just as a delaying mechanism.

32. Procedures state that 90 minutes’ notice before the sitting day starts must be given of any Ministerial Statement to be made that day. There would be a ‘reaction’ from the opposition if there was a lack of notice on an important issue. Both the Minister and questioner have equal time to speak and, although most are around two minutes long, the Speaker times the contribution to ensure exact timings.
33. Under Members’ Statements, any member can speak in the House about something that’s happening in their constituency for two minutes. Five of these statements are held each day, on a rotation basis.

34. Petitions can be raised by members in the House, also as an outlet for constituency issues, and can be used to slow down business. The Presiding Officer gave an outline of the Scottish petitioning process.

35. The other item of business discussed in the House is Grievances, which allow MLAs to voice their opposition to Government policy within the 10 minutes allocated to do so. Each MLA is able to raise one Grievance per year but, as there is no response from a Minister, few MLAs use this procedure.

Question Period
36. The delegation observed Question Period and was formally welcomed by the Speaker and by the Chamber.

Public engagement and tour programme
37. The Presiding Officer met with the Speaker and staff from the Assembly’s public engagement office working in the areas of education and visitor tours. This was an issue which Speaker Driedger had discussed when she visited the Scottish Parliament in October 2016.

38. A comprehensive teacher and student programme had recently been developed based around the school curriculum. Two or three classes are accommodated in the Assembly learning room each sitting day but staff also visit schools throughout the province. MLAs spend time with visiting schools. Two-day teacher programmes are held over the summer recess, involving consultants who help teachers draw up ‘democracy work plans’.

39. Seven visitor tours a day are held in the summer. As there are only two permanent staff and four extra in the summer, the Assembly is not looking to increase demand, although numbers are monitored. The Government owns the Assembly building so there are also two commercial tour operators working in the building. The events co-ordinator is from the Government and so any events held in the building tend to be government or commercial events.

Conflict of Interest
40. Clare Adamson MSP and the Presiding Officer spoke with Jeffrey Schnoor QC, the Conflict of Interest Commissioner, on the conflict of interest guidelines for MLAs.

41. An extract from a report by the Manitoba Law Reform Commission on the Legislative Assembly and Conflict of Interest commented that the purpose of conflict legislation is:

"Most commentators would agree that the majority of public office holders are decent, hard working men and women who do their best to serve the public interest as they understand it. Conflict of interest legislation is largely intended to assist elected representatives, by providing an objective understanding against which they
gauge their actions, and satisfy themselves and the public that they are acting appropriately.”

42. In Manitoba, the primary conflict legislation is the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Conflict of Interest Act including the Legislative Assembly Act which precludes MLAs from holding certain government jobs and positions. Members are required to produce a disclosure statement of interests within 15 days of being elected and are obliged to meet with the Commissioner within 60 days of their disclosure statement. They are required to disclose any conflict of interests when considering relevant issues, and must withdraw from a meeting if they have a pecuniary interest. There are special rules for Cabinet meetings.

43. Under the lobbying legislation the obligations fall on the lobbyists rather than the MLAs. The legislation relates more to transparency rather than enforcement. The Commissioner has no investigative powers and a person would have to pay $300 for court costs to bring forward an action. There have been no prosecutions to date.

44. Further details about the work of the Commissioner is available via its website: www.mbcoic.ca/index.html

45. Clare Adamson MSP, as Convener of the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee, has discussed this information with the Lobbying Registrar and the clerks to the Committee as part of the continuing development of the role of the lobbying system in Scotland and for the future consideration which the Committee will give to its operation.

Agriculture
46. Edward Mountain MSP met with the Hon Ralph Eichler MLA, Minister for Agriculture and Dori Gingera-Beauchemin, Deputy Minister for Agriculture who gave an overview of agriculture policy in Manitoba and how that fits within the wider Canadian agriculture sector.

47. Mr Mountain's considered that regulation of agriculture in Manitoba is undertaken by the industry and not the state. Whilst there are no direct grants to farmers, the Government does help in providing insurance to limit the effects of market price reductions. Mr Mountain noted that the state supervises approximately 10,000 agricultural tenancies on land owned by the Government. Mr Mountain discussed broadly some of the possible implications of Brexit on the Scottish agriculture sector and which was an area of interest to the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee.
Seperation between the Legislative Assembly and the Government

48. The Presiding Officer met with the Speaker to discuss the distinction between the Assembly and the Government.

49. The building itself is owned by the Government and so the Assembly has limited say on its use. The Government is in charge of building security as a whole whereas the Speaker is responsible for security in the Chamber and in MLAs’ offices. The Speaker’s Office has taken on responsibility for the Library (similar to the Scottish Parliament Information Centre) from the Government which is now in the process of being digitised.

50. A view expressed is that some MLAs see themselves as parliamentarians but others are perhaps more partisan. As the Government decides the business of the day by speaking to house leaders 24 hours in advance, there is a lack of transparency and an inability to properly plan ahead. The media has to keep a close eye on what’s happening as there is a lack of notice.

51. Like in the Scottish Parliament, the Public Accounts Committee is chaired by an opposition member. The Government used to control the frequency of its meetings, and it would tend to meet around twice a year, but it now holds a minimum of nine meetings each year.
52. The Speaker has developed a leadership programme for her 15 managers to encourage a team ethic and collaborative working. **The Presiding Officer agreed to share this information with the Clerk/Chief Executive of the Scottish Parliament as an issue which could be followed up at official level.**

Role of committee chairs
53. The Presiding Officer met with Matt Wiebe MLA, Chair of the Public Accounts Committee; Dennis Smook MLA, Chair of the Social and Economic Development Committee; and Monique Grenier, Committee Clerk to discuss their role and Assembly business more generally. Chairs are not elected and change often, along with membership on committees.

54. On questions, backbench government speakers are allocated very little time to ask questions. Caucus meetings are held each morning to decide which MLAs get to ask questions that day. The Presiding Officer outlined the Question Time procedures in the Scottish Parliament and the changes he had introduced, for example, featuring more backbench questions on constituency and topical issues during First Ministers Questions.

55. MLAs use FOI requests as a way of getting information from the Government into the public domain. Written questions are not used.

Lobbying process in Manitoba
56. Clare Adamson MSP met with Holly Mackling, Deputy Lobbyist Registrar to discuss the lobbying process in Manitoba. As part of the development of the lobbying process in Scotland and considering any oversight role by the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee, it was useful to better understand the oversight of the Manitoba process, concerns about the process, requirements and obligations on lobbyists, exemptions and prohibitions, reviewing the system and system development and scope for change.

57. The Deputy Registrar provided a comprehensive overview of these issues and written material. Mention was made of an annual discussion by the lobbying registrars from across the Canadian provinces at a federal level, which provides a useful opportunity to exchanges experiences and discuss areas where the lobbying processes require amendment.

58. Clare Adamson MSP, as Convener of the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee, has discussed this information with the Lobbying Registrar and the clerks to the Committee as part of the continuing development of the role of the lobbying system in Scotland and for the future consideration which the Committee will give to its operation.

59. The Convener has also forwarded contact details of the Deputy Lobbyist Registrar to the Lobbying Registrar for him to make contact for future information gathering.
Role of committees

60. Clare Adamson MSP met with Mrs Sarah Guillemard MLA, Chair of Standing Committees on Legislative Affairs and Andrea Signorelli, Committee Clerk to discuss the operation of the Assembly’s Committees. The main area of discussion was the legislative role of Committees which was their primary role.

61. Citizens interested in making a public presentation relating to a particular Bill referred to a committee may register on a ‘presenters list’ by contacting the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

62. Following Second Reading (similar to Stage 1 in the Scottish Parliament) the Bill is referred to a Standing or Special Committee or a Committee of the Whole House for further consideration (equivalent of Stage 2). At this committee stage, the public has the opportunity to have direct input into the Bill process and can present oral and written submissions. Further information about the Bill process, public presentations and committees is available in How Standing Committees Operate.

63. Ms Adamson gave an overview of the Scottish Parliament committee process and its direct role in the scrutiny of Bills. It was highlighted that committees could initiate their own legislation and would also scrutinise Members Bill (in addition to those from the Scottish Government). She also highlighted the other main role of committees in undertaking inquiries and how the work programme assists in timetabling a committee’s activities in both the short and long term.

Agriculture issues

64. Edward Mountain MSP met with Dan Mazier, President, and James Battershill, General Manager, of Keystone Agricultural Producers. This is a general farm policy organisation which seeks to ensure that the primary production in Manitoba remains profitable, sustainable and globally competitive. It works with governments, industry and stakeholders on issues which affect all farmers; acts as a spokesperson for Manitoba’s farmers and promotes agriculture and its contributions to the Manitoba and Canadian economies.

65. Mr Mountain gave an overview of agricultural policy and support in Scotland and some of the issues affecting the sector, in particular, Brexit. The representatives of Keystone made it clear that the agriculture industry in Manitoba is finding it hard economically and their view was that new markets and increased prices remain vital.

66. He then met Brian Lemon, General Manager, Manitoba Beef Producers (MBP) a non-profit organisation which represents roughly 7,000 beef producers across Manitoba. It seeks to ‘represent all beef producers through communication, advocacy, research, and education within the industry and to governments, consumers and others, to improve prosperity and ensure a sustainable future’.

67. The MBP said that beef producers in the province faced many challenges, not least the long cold winters. The MBP felt that regulation of the sector in the province was driven by the market and not by government. The impression was that self-regulation is the bedrock of the agriculture sector in Manitoba and across Canada which was an interesting comparison to the regulatory framework which exists in the Scottish agricultural sector.
68. In relation to both discussions, Mr Mountain indicated that the information gathered would be very useful to him in the future consideration which the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee will be giving to agricultural matters in the comings months e.g. the Common Agricultural Policy and in the context of discussions around Brexit.

69. The delegation later transferred to Ottawa.

**Wednesday 5 April 2017**

British High Commission

70. The delegation met with Howard Drake OBE, British High Commissioner, who gave a broad overview of political and other events in Canada, including the possible implications of Brexit. There was a discussion on the wider programme and the individuals and organisations with whom the members of the delegation had met and were due to meet.

Mayor of Ottawa

71. The delegation met with the Mayor of Ottawa, Jim Watson. This provided an opportunity to discuss the role and powers of the Mayor, his plans for the city of Ottawa as well as Scottish connections with Ottawa.
House of Commons Speaker

72. The delegation met with the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Hon Geoff Regan MP. The Speaker asked about the delegation’s programme, its purpose and about policy and political events in Scotland. There was also discussion around procedural matters in the respective parliaments and the Speaker mentioned that of the 338 members, 200 were newly elected (in 2015). Since 2011, there has been a much larger intake of young members and so more of a drive to achieve a work/life balance, including some bringing infants into the Chamber. Although there is a ‘no stranger’ rule in the Chamber, Speakers have ‘looked away’ rather than enforcing this. There is a long waiting list for the crèche, which is not open to visitors. A new visitor centre being planned. The Presiding Officer outlined the situation with regards these matters in the Scottish Parliament.

73. In the Chamber, the government doesn’t tend to applause or heckle, whereas the opposition and third party do. There are times when the behaviour can become quite “boisterous”, as the delegation later observed during questions to the Prime Minister.

Senate Speaker

74. The delegation met with the Speaker of the Senate, the Hon George J. Furey QC. The Presiding Officer had previously met the Speaker during his visit to the Scottish Parliament in October 2016.
75. The Speaker mentioned that Canada has been watching with interest developments with the UK’s withdrawal from the EU and the possibility of an independence referendum. The Presiding Officer highlighted the possible implications for the Scottish Parliament arising from Brexit including capacity issues and the process for scrutinising legislation.

76. In a joint meeting with both Speakers, the Presiding Officer presented to the Parliament of Canada a gift of a decanter set from the Scottish Parliament. The decanter was engraved with the message:

‘To our friends in the Parliament of Canada from the Scottish Parliament to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Canadian Confederation’

77. The presentation was attended by a number of MPs and Senators and provided a further opportunity for the delegation to meet with Canadian counterparts and to discuss policy and political events in both countries.
78. The delegation observed proceedings in both chambers and were formally welcomed by the respective Speakers. In the House of Commons, they observed the hour long question period to the Prime Minister where the issue of parliamentary reform was a recurring and topical issue in questions from MPs.

79. The Presiding Officer indicated he would forward a copy of the report by the Commission on Parliamentary Reform to both Speakers once published.

80. In the House of Commons, a number of MPs, who had visited the Scottish Parliament in March, sought out the delegation to welcome them to their Parliament. The delegation met some of these MPs at subsequent meetings across the visit.

Atlantic Salmon Federation
81. Edward Mountain MSP met with Charles Cusson, the Director of Quebec programmes and who is a ‘veteran’ of the Atlantic salmon world and has given testimony in Ottawa to the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans regarding modernisation of the Fisheries Act and was involved in the development of a new 10-year management plan for the recreational Atlantic salmon fishery in Quebec.
82. Mr Mountain discussed a range of issues around regulation, commercial opportunities, disease (including sea lice), pollution and escapees in both Canada and Scotland and was able to draw comparisons across the aquaculture sector.

83. Mr Mountain was presented with a copy of the Federation’s international regulatory review of the aquaculture industry which it commissioned and released in 2016. It also made available a dossier of its research and a short selection of other papers on wild and farmed salmon interaction and ecosystem effects. Mr Mountain has shared this material with the Clerk to the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee.

International Relations
84. The Presiding Officer met with senior officials from the International and Interparliamentary Affairs Directorate, a joint directorate supporting both Speakers across both Houses. This is the only function that works in this way. Speakers need to report to both Parliaments on their visits and costs.

85. The focus of their work is on supporting the 12 associations (e.g. the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association) which receive funding from Parliament and are accountable to a joint committee. They don’t engage in any development programmes with other countries. They are currently looking at being more proactive with social media and a website, rather than just reacting to press enquiries. The Presiding Officer highlighted the recent joint visit to the Scottish Parliament by the Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association and the Canada-UK Parliamentary Association.

86. The Presiding Officer discussed how the Directorate identified and secured outcomes from outward visits. Key to this was clear briefing on the purpose of the visit and what objectives have been set by the Parliament. While the objectives for outward visits will differ, there are shared similarities in that they:

- promote the country’s interests abroad on a continuing basis;
- operate on multilateral and bilateral levels;
- are composed of members of the Senate and of the House of Commons; and
- meet at annual general meetings where they elect their executive committees, as well as at other meetings to coordinate and direct activities with their bilateral counterparts or with the international secretariats of the multilateral organizations to which they belong.

87. Further discussion took place arising from the latest parliamentary associations’ activities and expenditure report of the Joint Interparliamentary Council and in respect of the approach to hosting inward visits.

88. The Presiding Officer forwarded a copy of the Scottish Parliament’s International Strategy to the officials.

Senate Modernisation Committee
89. The Presiding Officer met with the Chair and members of this Committee which is undertaking an inquiry into methods to make the Senate more effective within the
current constitutional framework. It has already published its Part 1 *Moving Forward* report in October 2016 and is now in the Part 2 phase.

90. There was a discussion on chairs and deputy chairs of committees, who are paid. One view was that this had led to a diminution of quality as the incentive was payment rather than working as a parliamentarian. There was a discussion on the re-establishment of the Scottish Parliament, its founding principles, and its approach to parliamentary procedures. The Presiding Officer also discussed the approaches taken during question time periods in the Scottish Parliament and that taken by both Speakers in the Parliament of Canada.

91. The Presiding Officer forwarded the following material to the Committee to assist in its inquiry:

- Standing Orders of the Scottish Parliament
- Checks and Balances in Single Chamber Parliaments: A Comparative Study Stage 1
- Checks and Balances in Single Chamber Parliaments: A Comparative Study Stage 2

92. The Committee followed up this meeting with a request for the Presiding Officer to give evidence via videoconference. The Presiding Officer and Sir Paul Grice, Clerk/Chief Executive of the Scottish Parliament subsequently gave video evidence to the Committee at its meeting on 17 May 2017. The issues covered in that session were:

- How debates are organized for (a) Bills; (b) inquiries; (c) resolutions; and (d) other business?
- How the opposition is determined (is there an official opposition? Is there a leader of the opposition?)
- How the government is determined (is there a leader of the government? Is there a government caucus or grouping?)
- Presence of caucuses or groupings; How these are established; How they are recognized in standing orders or rules
- Functions and mandate of the business committee
- The rapporteur process: when is it used? How are rapporteurs selected/appointed?
- The process of passage of Bills
- Structure of the committee system: how many committees; how membership is determined; how chairs and deputy chairs allocated

93. In advance of that videoconference, the Presiding Officer submitted a written statement giving information on the Scottish Parliament approach to these issues.

94. The Presiding Officer indicated he would send a copy of the report by the Commission on Parliamentary Reform to the Chair once published.
Procedures and House Affairs Committee
95. The Presiding Officer met with the Chair and Members of the House of Commons Procedure and House Affairs Committee.

96. The Committee studies and reports on the rules and practices of the House and its committees, electoral matters, questions of privilege, MP conflicts of interest, internal administration of the House, and services and facilities for MPs.

97. The Members were interested in how the Scottish Parliament had been developed, including its Standing Orders, the work of the Consultative Steering Group report and electronic voting. There was also a discussion around the proceedings during question periods in the respective parliaments. For example, in the House of Commons 35 seconds were allowed for questions and answers. Members can request at the end of the question period an adjournment if they feel the Minister hasn’t answered their question. This allows a further time to discuss the issue at the end of the day and can work for lower-profile issues rather than more significant issues.

98. As part of the Committee's work the Presiding Officer has forwarded to it the same material as made available to the Senate Modernisation Committee (see above).

99. The Presiding Officer indicated he would send a copy of the report by the Commission on Parliamentary Reform to the Chair once published.

Office of the Commissioner of Lobbying of Canada
100. Clare Adamson MSP met with Karen E. Shepherd, the Canadian Commissioner of Lobbying to discuss the lobbying process in Canada. This provided an opportunity to hear more about the process, the differences between the federal and provincial lobbying systems and the newly established process in Scotland.

101. The Office of the Commissioner of Lobbying was established in July 2008 under the Lobbying Act to support the Commissioner. The Commissioner is an independent Agent of Parliament, appointed by both houses of the Parliament for a term of seven years. The Act seeks to ensure transparency and accountability in the lobbying of public office holders in order to increase the public’s confidence in the integrity of government decision-making. The Commissioner's mandate is threefold:

- maintaining the Registry of Lobbyists, which contains and makes public the registration information disclosed by lobbyists;
- developing and implementing educational programs to foster public awareness of the requirements of the Act; and
- conducting reviews and investigations to ensure compliance with the Act and the Lobbyists' Code of Conduct

102. The Commissioner reports annually to both houses of the Parliament. Reports on Investigation conducted in relation to the Code are tabled in Parliament as they are completed.
103. Ms Adamson had a very informative meeting with the Commissioner and her officials on the history and development of the Lobbying Register and legislation. The legislation in Canada covers a much wider remit than the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016 and includes written and electronic communications and phone calls. Breaches are also heard in court with a Judge making the ruling and imposing sanctions rather than the Commissioner.

104. Ms Adamson was particularly interested in how the Commissioner promoted the legislation on websites, and what information was available to members of the public and potential lobbyists. The Commissioner was able to provide a number of USB Credit Card size sticks that contains all of the legislation and guidance in one place. This is distributed widely by the Commissioner to keep lobbyists and representatives aware of their responsibilities.

105. **Ms Adamson shared this model with the Lobbying Registrar and the Clerk to the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee.**

**House of Commons Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology**

106. Clare Adamson MSP observed a meeting of this Committee and then met with the Chair and Committee Members (Ms Adamson had met the Chair, Dan Ruimy MP, when he visited the Scottish Parliament in March as part of the Canadian parliamentary delegation.

107. The Committee studies and reports on legislation, the activities and spending of Industry Canada and its portfolio members, and other issues related to industry and technology capability; scientific research and development; telecommunications policy; investment, trade, small business and tourism; and rules and services that support the effective operation of the marketplace.

108. Ms Adamson is Convener of the [Cross Party Group on Science and Technology](https://www.parliament.scot/ParliamentaryBusiness/CrossPartyGroups/Cross-Party-Group-on-Science-and-Technology/) and was interested in discussing the opportunities for young people, and in particular young women, to enter the science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine communities.

109. Ms Adamson had a wide ranging and varied discussion with the Committee Members covering the potential impacts of Brexit on scientific research, the Scottish Parliament’s proportional representation model, global challenges to the steel industry in Scotland and Europe, and the challenges of rural digital connectivity.

110. **Ms Adamson forwarded to the Committee a copy of the recently updated Scottish Government document [Realising Scotland’s full potential in a digital world: A Digital Strategy for Scotland](https://www.gov.scot/Publications/Digital-Strategies-Scotland/)**.

**House of Commons Committee on Fisheries and Oceans**

111. Edward Mountain MSP met with Members of this Committee which studies and reports on matters related to the federal role in the management of Canada’s fisheries and the safeguarding of its waters.

112. Mr Mountain explained the scrutiny function of his Committee and the consideration which it has given to aquaculture matters. He gave a broad overview
of the sector in Scotland and highlighted some of the key issues facing the industry e.g. pollution, disease, escapees. There was a general discussion of the sustainability of the industry. In response, the report in 2016 on Wild Atlantic Salmon in Eastern Canada was highlighted.

113. It was agreed that the Canadian and Scottish aquaculture industries faced similar issues and that both Committees could work together to consider this global matter further. Mr Mountain has confirmed that he will discuss this further with his fellow Committee members should the Committee agree to undertake any future work in respect of the aquaculture sector in Scotland.

Canadian Aquaculture Industry Alliance
114. Edward Mountain MSP met with Ruth Salmon, the outgoing Executive Director, and Tim Kennedy, the incoming Executive Director of the Alliance which is the ‘national association that speaks for Canada’s seafood farmers, representing their interests in Ottawa to regulators, policy makers and political leaders’:

115. In his discussions with the Alliance, Mr Mountain said that the Canadian aquaculture industry faces similar issues to the Scottish industry in relation to disease, pollution and escapees. Several points discussed were consistent across the aquaculture meetings which Mr Mountain held.

116. The Alliance was keen to point out the importance of the industry to Canada.

117. It was agreed to liaise further with the Alliance as part of any future consideration to be given to this matter by the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee and identify areas of common interest. Mr Mountain has confirmed that he will discuss this further with his fellow Committee members should the Committee agree to undertake any future work in respect of the aquaculture sector in Scotland.

Canada-UK Interparliamentary Association
118. The delegation met with members of the Association who had visited the Scottish Parliament, along with the Canada-Europe Association, in March to discuss the impact of Brexit. The delegation was able to discuss events and proceedings they had observed during their time in the Parliament, including Prime Minister’s Questions the previous day, and other policy and political events in Canada and Scotland. It was also a further opportunity to strengthen the friendship and links between both parliaments and countries.

Tour
119. The delegation received a guided tour of the Parliament building which allowed an opportunity to hear about the experience of visitors to the building and how the Parliament seeks to encourage people to visit and the services and tours it provides. The guide from the Parliament’s Library department gave an interesting overview of the building’s history but also explained some of the services which are provided to MPs as well as administrative matters associated with booking tours, tour types, visitor security etc.
120. During a subsequent visit to the Scottish Parliament the official had a meeting with the Visitor Services office about the respective services the two parliaments provide. This provided a useful opportunity to exchange ideas and information around the processes and approaches they each take.

Scottish Society of Ottawa
121. The delegation met with members of the Scottish Society of Ottawa. Its mission is:

‘to better promote an awareness and appreciation of Scottish culture, and its significant contribution to the fabric of Canadian society and identity through widespread public engagement among as many Canadians of all backgrounds as possible’.

122. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss informally current policy and political matters in Ottawa, Ontario Canada and Scotland. As with the meeting with the St Andrew’s Society of Winnipeg, the meeting emphasised the strong historical and family connection which many Canadians feel with Scotland and Scots with Canada.

Friday 7 April 2017
123. The delegation transferred from Ottawa to New York.

Scottish University Alumni reception
124. The delegation attended a reception facilitated by the Scottish Government for Scottish university alumni now living in the United States.

125. The delegation was delighted to meet with many alumni from academia and banking including RBS employees based in the New York Nat West office. There was great interest in the constitutional impact of Brexit and how that might impact on Scottish universities and, more generally, the work of the Scottish Parliament.

126. The Presiding Officer asked officials to consider whether events such as this provide a useful opportunity to promote links between Scotland and the country concerned and that discussions are taken forward with the Scottish Government, where appropriate, to consider what role MSPs on future outward visits might play. Such opportunities would be in line with the ‘supporting Scotland’ and ‘partnership’ outcomes in the International Strategy.

Saturday 8 April 2017
127. The delegation attended the St Andrew’s Society of the State of New York Kirkin’ of the Tartan service at St Agnes Church. The service (non-denominational) was conducted by Society member, the Reverend George William Rutler. The service is a traditional prelude to the Tartan Day Parade. The Presiding Officer was pleased to be asked to give a reading at the service. The delegation met with members of the Society and others attending the service.

128. The Tartan Day Parade is seen as a high point of Scotland Week and a large number of participants took part in the Parade itself along with an enthusiastic crowd lining Sixth Avenue. The Presiding Officer, Clare Adamson MSP and Edward
Mountain MSP walked behind the Scottish Parliament banner near the front of the Parade. Prior to the start of the Parade, the delegation attended events at Bryant Park where the Presiding Officer gave a speech of thanks to the organisers of the Parade and met with pipe bands from St Columba’s School, Lathallan School, and Oban High School.

129. The delegation met with many people attending the Parade, keen to say hello. One discussion with the Presiding Officer has led to a meeting later this year between officials from the climate policy and programmes office of New York City and the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee and the Scottish Government’s climate change minister to discuss climate change policies.

L-R: Edward Mountain MSP; Rt Hon Ken Macintosh MSP, Presiding Officer; and Clare Adamson MSP: New York Tartan Day Parade

130. Following the Parade the delegation attended receptions hosted by the America Scottish Foundation and the New York City Tartan Day Committee where the Presiding Officer again thanked, on behalf of the Scottish Parliament, everyone involved with the organisation of the Parade and for involving the Scottish Parliament.
PROGRAMME

Sunday 2 April (Winnipeg)
- Visit Canadian Museum for Human Rights
- Meeting with St Andrew’s Society of Winnipeg

Monday 3 April 2017

All
- Meeting with Patricia Chaychuk, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba; Hon. Kelvin Goertzen MLA; Hon. Jon Gerrard MLA; and Andrew Swann MLA: Parliamentary Rule Changes 2015
- Tour of Building and Chamber
- Meeting with Hon. Andrew Micklefield MLA, Government House Leader; Jim Maloway MLA, Official Opposition House Leader; and Hon. Jon Gerrard MLA, Liberal Party: How Assembly business is planned and agreed
- Observe Question Period

Presiding Officer
- Meeting with Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, Hon Myrna Driedger MLA; and JoAnn McKerlie-Korol, Director, Teachers Institute and Legislature Classroom: Public engagement work of the Assembly
- Meeting with Speaker Myrna Driedger MLA; and Vanessa Gregg, Visitor Tours Manager: Visitor tour programme
Clare Adamson MSP
- Meeting with Patricia Chaychuk, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba; and Andrea Signorelli, Rules Committee Clerk: Rules of the House
- Call with Jeffrey Schnoor, Conflict of Interest Commissioner: Conflict of Interest Guidelines for MLAs

Edward Mountain MSP
- Meeting with Hon. Ralph Eichler MLA, Minister of Agriculture; and Dori Gingera-Beauchemin, Deputy Minister of Agriculture: Overview of the Department of Agriculture

Tuesday 4 April 2017

Presiding Officer
- Meeting with Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, Hon Myrna Driedger MLA: Separation between the Legislative Assembly and the Executive
- Meeting with Matt Wiebe MLA, Chair, Public Accounts Committee; Dennis Smook MLA, Chair, Social & Economic Development Committee; Monique Grenier, Committee Clerk: Role and power of committee chairs

Clare Adamson MSP
- Meeting with Holly Mackling, Deputy Lobbyist Registrar: Lobby process in Manitoba
- Meeting with Mrs Sarah Guillemard MLA, Chair of Standing Committees on Legislative Affairs; Doyle Piwniuk MLA, Rules of the House Committee member; and Andrea Signorelli, Committee Clerk: Committees

Edward Mountain MSP
- Meeting with Dan Mazier, President; and James Battershill, General Manager, Keystone Agricultural Producers: Agricultural issues
- Meeting with Brian Lemon, General Manager, Manitoba Beef Producers: Agricultural issues

Transfer to Ottawa

Wednesday 5 April 2017 (Ottawa)
All
- Meeting with Howard Drake OBE, British High Commissioner
• Meeting with His Worship Jim Watson, Mayor of Ottawa
• Courtesy call with Speaker of Commons, Hon Geoff Regan PC MP
• Courtesy call with Speaker of the Senate, the Hon George J Furey QC
• Presentation of 150th anniversary gift to the Parliament of Canada
• Attendance in Senate to observe proceedings and recognition from Speaker
• Attendance in House of Commons to observe proceedings and recognition from Speaker

Thursday 6 April 2017

Presiding Officer
• Meeting with Gerald Lafrenière, Principal Clerk, and Danielle Labonté, Deputy Principal Clerk, International and Interparliamentary Affairs Directorate
• Meeting with Chair and members of the Special Senate Committee on Modernisation
• Meeting with Chair and members of the House of Commons Committee on Procedure and House Affairs

Clare Adamson MSP
• Meeting with Commissioner of Lobbying, Karen E. Shepherd: Lobby process in Canada
• Meeting with the Chair and members of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology
• Meeting with Mr Hughes La Rue, Committee Clerk, and Ms Chloe Forget, Analyst, to the House of Commons Committee on Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics

Edward Mountain MSP
• Meeting with Chair and members of the House of Commons Committee on Fisheries and Oceans
• Meeting with Ruth Salmon, Executive Director (outgoing) and Tim Kennedy, Executive Director (incoming), Canadian Aquaculture Industry Alliance
• Meeting with Charles Cusson, Atlantic Salmon Federation

All
• Meeting with Members of the Canada-UK Interparliamentary Association
• Tour of the Parliament
• Meeting with the Scottish Society of Ottawa
Friday 7 April 2017 (transfer to New York)

All
• Attend Scottish University Alumni reception

Saturday 8 April 2017 (New York)

All
• Attend Kirkin’ of the Tartan service
• Participation in New York Tartan Day Parade
• Attend American Scottish Foundation reception
• Attend New York Tartan Day Committee dinner

Sunday 9 April 2017
• Depart New York