



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Report of the 61st Canadian Regional Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) and the Canadian Region Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Conference

20 to 24 July 2025, Québec City, Canada



Photo: Assemblée nationale du Québec

Introduction

1. The [Commonwealth Parliamentary Association](#) (CPA) is divided into nine geographic regions: Africa, Asia, Australia, British Islands and Mediterranean (BIM), Canada, the Caribbean, the Americas and Atlantic (CAA), India, the Pacific and South-East Asia.
2. The 61st Canadian Regional Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and the Canadian Region [Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians](#) (CWP) Conference was hosted by the Assemblée nationale du Québec in Québec City, Canada 20 to 24 July 2025.
3. The event brought together 81 parliamentarians and parliamentary staff from Alberta, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Nunavut, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories, Yukon, Québec and the Federal Parliaments. It included sessions on work-family balance; combatting harassment in parliament; Parliamentarians' role in protecting human rights; meeting the challenges of the internet and social media; removing obstacles and strengthening inclusion; modernising parliaments; and parliamentary procedures.
4. The Scottish Parliament was invited to attend the conference as international guests, given the strong bonds of friendship that have existed between the Parliaments of Québec and Scotland for more than 20 years. The cross-party delegation from the Scottish Parliament consisted of Roz McCall MSP and Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP. They were supported by Charlotta Craig from the International Relations Office (IRO) and Jennifer Haddock also travelled with the delegation to assist Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP.
5. The conference allowed the delegates to benefit from peer-to-peer exchanges on issues affecting parliaments and parliamentarians in Canada and Scotland, strengthen the Scottish Parliament's relations with Canadian legislatures and promote the work of the Scottish Parliament.
6. A copy of the programme is attached at Annex A.



Recommendations

7. The IRO has shared information on the Canadian CWP Network's twinning programme with colleagues in the Scottish Parliament.
8. Roz McCall MSP will investigate if it is possible to enact something like the twinning/mentoring programme in the Scottish Parliament. She would be interested in seeing if a work experience/buddy system or formulated 'big sister' programme would work in Scotland with the Scottish Youth Parliament. Especially with the new session rapidly approaching and many female MSPs standing down. This would also complement a workstream of the BIMR CWP Network steering committee, which she is a member of.
9. The IRO will pass on the suggestion that CPA members should be invited to remotely join the Scottish Parliament's Summit to Mark International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 6 December 2025.
10. The IRO has shared information on the Assemblée nationale's day care service, family room and nursing room with colleagues across the parliament.
11. Roz McCall MSP will utilise the upcoming [Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference's roundtable 'Overcoming the Barriers to the involvement of](#)

[Women with Disabilities in Politics'](#) to expand the work being done to support disabled Parliamentarians.

12. The IRO has asked the Canadian Parliament for a briefing on the 'good maps' app.
13. The IRO has shared the link to the short documentary titled "Équilibre", highlighting family friendly policies at the Assemblée nationale du Québec, with colleagues across the parliament.
14. During the conference, IRO shared a briefing on the social media monitoring service with the editor of the [Canadian Parliamentary Review](#), who expressed an interest in publishing a short article on the initiative.
15. Roz McCall MSP will continue her work promoting online safety, especially given the work the Scottish Parliament have done on the Social Media Monitoring Service. There is international interest in this issue, and she believes we can put forward a comprehensive 'best practice' process.
16. Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP will share the information learned on the Commission on Screen Use in Québec with colleagues in the Education, Children and Young People Committee.
17. Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP will share information heard about clearing debt of human trafficking victims with colleagues in the Equality and Human Rights Committee.
18. The IRO has shared a link to the [Commonwealth Parliamentary Research Service \(CPRS\)](#) with Members of the Scottish Parliament.

Programme

Monday 21 July 2025

Report from the Chair of the CWP – Canadian Region

1. The first session was a report of the CWP business provided by Susan LeBlanc MLA, the CWP Canadian Regional representative.

1st session: Women speakers of parliaments

2. Susan LeBlanc MLA chaired the session as the CWP representative of the Canadian Region. The panel was made up of the four female speakers in the region: Hon. Danielle Barkhouse MLA, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Nova Scotia; Madame La Présidente Nathalie Roy MNA, Speaker of the Assemblée nationale du Québec; Hon. Francine Landry MLA, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick; and Hon. Donna Skelly MPP, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

3. The panellists spoke about the challenges of being a speaker and the importance of giving women a place in parliament. One speaker mentioned that it is a lonely job to be a speaker, while another said that she has an open-door policy and now feels she is able to engage with colleagues from other parties as well.
4. They spoke about the need to develop self-confidence of elected members, and that the Canada region uses the regional strengthening fund to support a twinning programme.
5. The IRO has shared information on the Canadian CWP Network's twinning programme with colleagues in the Scottish Parliament.
6. They also discussed the role of women in the workplace and that both men and women need to appreciate women's competence, for example inviting them to join a board, not because they are a woman, but because of their capability.
7. "I particularly enjoyed an all women panel. It was refreshing. But I also appreciated the reflection that men are welcome allies. This is crucial in all aspects of equality but with the women in the lead, and men supporting, it was powerful.
8. One Speaker's reflection that becoming a speaker was isolating was interesting. I hadn't thought about that but when she explained that you are removed from your Party and in some ways therefore your networks, I could see why this could be the case. Having an open-door policy was a good way to combat it, serving to both provide connectivity for the speaker and a route into her in an open and welcoming way for parliamentarians.
9. All Speakers noted that they are tough on 'incivility' in their Chambers which I liked. Addressing this, what could be considered low level sexism, is essential to setting the tone of what behaviour is acceptable and makes for better debate. This was particularly important since it was acknowledged that you can't take 'confrontation' out of politics/debate. You must therefore ensure it is civil.
10. I felt that it seems there are clear actions that can be taken in a Chamber where rules can be set and applied, but this is less easy to do outwith them, in more informal spaces e.g. campaigning, or in corridors of parliaments. That's an area we need to consider further.
11. I was particularly struck by the concept that 'social media is as deadly as a gun'. This is a strong statement but the experience of abuse and the impact of misogyny spreading via social media was clear to see and widely recognised." Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP

12. "The main highlight for me was the recognition that actions and conversation regarding the concerns and issues surrounding support for women within a Parliamentary process must include men as an ally.
13. Women must develop a self-confidence which, as much as I believe we need to work on how we operate in what has been a primary male driven environment it begs the question... Why are women less confident than their male counterparts? And given the first point how should men be involved in the restructure of legislatures to ensure actual tangible outcomes and changes to the process it follows on with the work we're looking at in BMIR region on mentoring and including men in that process.
14. I was interested in the Twinning Programme highlighted by President Roy. Little detail was given but my understanding of the translations was that it allows youth members and interested young people to work directly with members helping to empower young women and understanding the job. I think this has merit given the Scottish Parliaments links with the Youth Parliament.
15. I would like to see and will work to enact something like this in the Scottish Parliament. There is scope for a mentoring system to be inhouse especially with the new session rapidly approaching and many female MSPs standing down.
16. I would be interested in seeing if a work experience/buddy system or formulated 'big sister' programme would work in Scotland with the Scottish Youth Parliament." Roz McCall MSP



Photo: Assemblée nationale du Québec

2nd session: Work-family balance at the Assemblée nationale

17. The second session was on the work-family balance at the Assemblée nationale. In 2019 the Assemblée nationale du Québec implemented several recommendations on how to make parliament more accessible, including how to make it easier for family members of Members to access parliament and installing changing tables in all bathrooms, both male and female.

18. The delegates then visited the Assemblée nationale's day care service, family room and nursing room. IRO has shared information on these facilities with colleagues across the parliament.
19. "The outside space caught my attention first. It was relaxed and well used by a mix of parliamentarians, children, staff and others. It created a sense of balance that we don't have in Scotland I don't think. We should consider using our outside space more.
20. The creche was excellent. The flexibility of it and that it is available for parliamentarians, staff and visitors was clearly of huge benefit. Especially that it was open when parliament was." Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP
21. "The site tour of the childcare facilities was excellent and that overall childcare had obviously been well considered by the Parliament structure. It is worth noting that the facility is paid for by those who use it and it begs the question 'What members utilise the facility from outwith Quebec City?'
22. I was interested to hear that legislation had to be changed to allow the parliament to create the facility and I wonder if that is something that could be done to support business to provide creche facilities as a basic support for working parents. I intend to explore the current system in Scotland to see if there could be additional support provided by legislative changes." Roz McCall MSP

3rd session: Combatting harassment in parliament

23. During this session the delegates discussed how to manage harassment in parliaments and the role of the Commissioner for Respect. In the interactive session case studies were given as examples and the delegates were asked to discuss them with their neighbours.
24. "I thought the session on the impact of harassment on an organisation was really insightful. We talk often of the individual impact, which of course is significant, but the way that it stifles opportunity and productivity on an organisational level provides a new perspective. The rationale for addressing it becomes stronger and is likely to attract support from more people when they can see the collective impact of it.
25. Recognition that politics is not a normal environment was a key theme, and one I had never heard articulated in this context before. But it was obvious when described. The relationship between staff and elected member, the relationships between and within offices, between political and non-political staff creates a particular type of dynamic that is unique to politics. The presenters argued, correctly I believe, that this means we need a unique approach to it that considers this sensitively. The role of parliament HR was considered crucial. I think more support for new members would be useful, so that all members are able to manage this dynamic and environment.

Crucially, they should be supported to set, understand and clarify expectations and culture, from day one.

26. The role of Commissioner for Respect was interesting. I wondered how it interacted with HR because a lot of the role appeared to be about relationships in the 'workplace'. There are similarities with our Standards Commission I think, however, it might be useful to connect them so that they can learn from each other." Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP

27. "I noted that the Respect commissioner is not too dissimilar to our processes with the Standards Commission and Ethical Standards Commission but with the addition of this being an enhanced HR role to support members and staff. I believe this is an interesting concept that would be worth exploring.

28. It is my experience the Scottish Parliament is well structured to support with HR needs. The session highlighted the possibility of an imbalance between supporting the member or ensuring the reputation of the Parliament which could form a conflict of interest. I believe this is something we should be considering within our internal processes." Roz McCall MSP



Photo: Assemblée nationale du Québec

Tuesday 22 July 2025

Opening ceremony of the Canadian Regional Conference

29. During the opening ceremony Madame La Présidente Nathalie Roy MNA, Speaker of the Assemblée nationale du Québec welcomed delegates to the 61st Canadian Regional Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. They then played a short documentary titled [Équilibre: family friendly policies at the Assemblée nationale du Québec](#).

30. The IRO has shared the film with colleagues across the parliament.



Photo: Assemblée nationale du Québec

Session 1: Jurisdictional Reports

31. This round table discussion allowed each branch to present the political and parliamentary news that has marked its parliament over the past year.

32. The session was chaired by Madame La Présidente Nathalie Roy MNA, Speaker of the Assemblée nationale du Québec. Following the Canadian Branches, Jarvis Mاتيya, Deputy Secretary-General of CPA HQ presented the latest and upcoming CPA activities; David Rees MS, Deputy Presiding Officer of the Senedd (also an international guest at the conference) provided an update on the Welsh Parliament's upcoming election and reforms planned; and Roz McCall MSP gave an overview of recent work of the Scottish Parliament, including the social media monitoring service, respectful debates, some of our recent bills and the upcoming election in 2026.

33. Following this update, IRO shared a briefing on the social media monitoring service with the editor of the [Canadian Parliamentary Review](#), who expressed an interest in publishing a short article on the programme.
34. “I was delighted to deliver the representation from the Scottish Parliament highlighting the excellent work we have done to support members with the worrying trend of social media and online harassment with the Social Media Monitoring Service. This service is recognised to be at the forefront of member and staff protection across the regions as it not only looks to prosecute where necessary but has an aftercare process to ensure the mental health and wellbeing of staff and members is also covered.
35. I was also delighted to mention some of the legislation taken through the Parliament showing the Scottish Parliament in all its glory. The Education Bill, ASN and Assisted Dying being of particular notice.
36. I concluded by highlighting the work done to recognise disability by focusing on our first [Summit to Mark International Day of Persons with Disabilities](#) held in November 2023. The invitation to disabled people to attend the Parliament to discuss equality and the issues they have to contend with on a daily basis focuses the need for more to be done. This event excellently shows the Scottish Parliament’s dedication to work on equality.
37. I am delighted that further to this presentation the Canadian equivalent of the Parliamentarian requested further information on the Social Media Monitoring Service highlighting the international interest in this issue.” Roz McCall MSP
38. “This was, I thought, one of the most useful sessions in terms of understanding what other legislatures do in general. I was struck by the level of similarity in terms of issues faced – addiction, social media, cost of living all featured heavily – and procedural inconveniences, like rushing through bills, or having too many amendments (Ontario had a bill with 4000!).
39. Alberta’s bill designed to protect people with addictions from harming themselves I think is a concept worth exploring more in Scotland. It takes a public health approach and starts from the perspective of harm reduction.
40. Ontario has introduced time limits for questions and answers in the chamber which I think could be useful for us. Whilst we have session times, the rules on lengths of questions and answers are less clear. I was also struck by the response of the Ontario legislature to vandalism of a statue. When they repaired it, they included a plaque explaining that this parliament is a place of debate, and respect. Asserting this is, I think, a useful way to reassert the value of civility in debate and public discourse.

41. The Commission on Screen Use in Quebec I think was an excellent initiative. The need to include parents, schools and young people was central and key to buy in to the recommendations. We should learn more about this and consider it in Scotland. I suggest this could be progressed via the Education, Children and Young People Committee (ECYP) Committee.
42. I was pleased to hear the CPA be afforded formal status internationally and can see huge benefit in collaborating on a parliamentary, as opposed to overtly political as is the case in other similar international organisations. I was also pleased to hear their renewed focus on disability rights. We should invite them to the summit in December. I also think the research/info service the CPA provide that can help parliamentarians find out how others do things, is crucial and we should promote its use more among our members.” Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP



Photo: Assemblée nationale du Québec

Session 2: Parliamentarians’ role in protecting human rights

43. This session looked at parliamentarians’ role in promoting and protecting human rights. The session was chaired by Hon. Tom Lindsey MLA, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, and was divided into two sections. The first topic was on human trafficking and what parliaments can do to assist. Delegates heard from Hon. Donna Skelly MPP, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and two police officers. They discussed the impact of social media, financial implications of human trafficking and language barriers.
44. The second topic was on the defence of the rights of LGBTQ+ communities and Senator Kristopher Wells, Parliament of Canada gave a talk about the situation in Canada and legislative inclusion.
45. “It is of great concern that human trafficking is such a global concern. I think that this is an issue that follows out with the scope of the CPA and the

CWP but there is some ground to be covered utilising the connections given that in many cases it involves women and children.” Roz McCall MSP

46. “The scale and impact of human trafficking always shocks me, but I was particularly shocked to hear about the prevalence of very young children, and of organ trafficking.
47. The ‘whole city approach’ taken in Ontario I think is excellent. They work with hotels, which is crucial. Hotels are trained to identify triggers for possible trafficking and alert authorities. This is something we should embed in our strategy. They also wipe debt of trafficked people as they’ve often accrued it for their traffickers and it can lead to a viscous circle of dependency and isolation. Again, we should consider that, perhaps via the Equality and Human Rights Committee.
48. The session on LGBT rights and polarisation highlights the commonality of regression and threats of rights in this area.
49. Polarisation and algorithms on social media that create self-fulfilling filters were considered the ‘biggest threat to democracy’. We should consider this in our upcoming elections, and consider carefully whether there is a role for the Electoral Commission in monitoring this?” Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP

Session 3: Elected representatives’ responsibilities in the digital age: meeting the challenges of the Internet and social media

50. In this session, participants reflected on elected representatives’ responsibilities with regard to digital transformations. They discussed the impacts of the Internet and social media on democratic life as well as young people’s exposure to screen time and issues related to disinformation.
51. The session was chaired by Hon. Danielle Barkhouse MLA, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Nova Scotia and panellists included Suzanne Tremblay and Elisabeth Prass from the Assemblée nationale du Québec, who spoke about the Select Committee on the Impacts of Screens and Social Media on Young People’s Health and Development. Senator Andrew Cardozo, Parliament of Canada, gave a talk on the funding of media and legislatures’ role. Finally, Iqra Khalid MP, House of Commons of Canada, spoke about the challenge of misinformation and disinformation and digital responsibility.
52. “The concerns around social media access for young people and balancing the need for a rounded education including AI against the mental health concerns seems to be a global issue.

53. This has been discussed many times within the BIM region and it is apparent that Canada has similar concerns especially around the speed of technological advancements happening faster than educational processes can keep up.
54. I intend to take this back to the work that we're doing with the Youth Parliament as their contribution to our BIM CWP conference highlighted an entirely different perspective around social media." Roz McCall MSP
55. "The Commission on Screen Use considered screen time, exposure, addiction mechanisms, cyber bullying, minors accessing pornography and control measures. It toured schools for views and recommendations. It also took evidence from national and international experts. The need to include parents, schools and young people was central and key to buy in to the recommendations. The recommendations covered prevention, awareness, regulation and inter-governmental relations to make it all work. Specifically they included; wider access to alternative free provision to occupy young people (access to sports, activities, games etc.), parents should be supported to set good examples of acceptable screen use/time, avoid the systematic use of screens, and ban mobile phones in class. I think the wider availability of free alternatives came across as the most important and effective aspect of all of it. They also highlighted the issue of 'Influencers' and that they are now prevalent influences on young people, sometimes displacing the influence of parents. This they suggest should be monitored. We should learn more about this and consider it in Scotland. I will encourage my committee (the ECYP) to do work on screen use, and do a session with Québec on it.
56. One way to address the impact of social media, it was suggested, is to support traditional media. I think this is crucial in Scotland as we have seen journalism face cuts and threats. There is a need I think, for parliament to protect and promote good, generalist (as opposed to narrowly focussed) news and journalism. This will serve not just to provide another source of news, but will ensure the narrative in society is broad enough to support pluralism I believe.
57. I found the distinction between misinformation (e.g. rumour) and disinformation (targeted and strategic spreading of hostile messages) important. I think Parliament and parliamentarians have a role in correcting misinformation, and I think they also should set the tone, culture and expectations around the use of disinformation. I think though that this also requires a regulated, monitored and 'policed' approach and suggest maybe that the Electoral Commission could be brought into the conversation on how to address this at the upcoming elections." Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP

Wednesday 23 July 2025

Session 4: Disabilities and parliamentary life: removing obstacles, strengthening inclusion

58. The fourth session examined the accessibility and inclusion of persons with disabilities in parliaments. Discussions focused on the obstacles encountered and best practices for full and equitable participation.
59. The session was chaired by Hon. Shane Thompson MLA, Speaker of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly and panellists included Jeffrey Hyland from CPA HQ; Alexandra Mendès MP, Assistant Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons; and Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP.
60. Mr Hyland provided an overview of the [Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities Network](#) and speaking about the toolkits, funding and publications available through the CPA.
61. Assistant Deputy Speaker Mendès informed delegates of the work on improving accessibility at the House of Commons, including training and adaptations made by parliament. For example, the parliament has introduced “good maps”, allowing users to navigate through the parliament online, seeing points of interest and indicating accessible routes. The Speaker’s chair is also adapted to change the height to allow it to be fully accessible, while still preserving its heritage.
62. The IRO have asked officials from the House of Commons for more information on the “good maps” app and will share this with colleagues across parliament.
63. Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP gave a presentation of her experience becoming a parliamentarian, accessible adaptations made by parliament and the [Access to Elected Office Fund](#) in Scotland.
64. “I enjoyed this session immensely. I learned of many new initiatives, including the navigation app being trialled in the Parliament of Canada. This app is designed to help disabled people navigate the parliament. We should ask for a deeper briefing on this.
65. I will also ask that we invite CPA members to join (remotely) our disability summit.” Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP
66. “An excellent session due primarily to the presentation by Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP. A definite recognition that Parliaments have to enact the change for disabled people, both in parliament and in the countries we serve.
67. I have the pleasure of taking part in a workshop in Barbados on [Overcoming the Barriers to the involvement of Women with Disabilities in](#)

[Politics](#). There I hope to broaden best practice and utilise the work done in Canada and in Scotland on continually assessing the work we are doing to ensure equal access for disabled representation.” Roz McCall MSP



Session 5: Modernisation of parliaments

68. The fifth session focused on modernising parliaments. Whether it be through new technologies, improved physical and digital accessibility, renovations or new sustainability initiatives; to enables parliaments to meet the democratic challenges of today and to remain efficient and connected to citizens.
69. The session was chaired by Hon. Francine Landry MLA, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick and panellists included Madame La Présidente Nathalie Roy MNA, Speaker of the Assemblée nationale du Québec and Stephanie Kusie MP, House of Commons of Canada.
70. Madame La Présidente Roy gave a presentation of the restoration work of the Blue Chamber of the Assemblée nationale du Québec and the delegates were then given a tour.
71. “The work in the National Assembly of Quebec is starting from a position of inclusion which is a refreshing approach to architecture and upgrades. I was struck by the care and attention applied to preserving the character and architecture of the building and think it could be useful to suggest that relevant people from Westminster meet them to help inform the repair work/updating planned for the Houses of Parliament.” Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP
72. “The building within Quebec City, whilst regal and impressive, is old and has been well adapted and extended to create a modern and open accessible parliament.
73. As our building and technology is both newer and has modern advanced access I think it is essential that we don’t rest on our younger state which could lead to complacency.
74. I am delighted that we are going through the process of an Accessibility Audit to ensure we are as advanced and accessible as possible.” Roz McCall MSP

Session 6: Parliamentary procedure in practice. Casting votes: A Speaker's Perspective

75. This session focused on challenges and best practices related to casting votes.
76. The session was chaired by Hon. Ric McIver MLA, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta and Hon. Raj Chouhan MLA, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of British-Columbia was a panellist.
77. Speaker Chouhan spoke about the recent election in British Columbia, which has resulted in an equal number of government and opposition members.
78. “It was fascinating to hear the differing approaches, but also the similarities in the principle of not letting anything pass without a majority.” Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP



Thursday 24 July 2025

Special session: Canada-U.S. Relations: Provincial and Territorial Cooperation and Leadership

79. The final session was on Canada-U.S. Relations: Provincial and Territorial Cooperation and Leadership. In the current political and economic context, marked by trade tensions, border issues and a reconfiguration of strategic alliances, this session featured a panel discussion on the state and evolution of Canadian-American relations.
80. The session was chaired by Madame La Présidente Nathalie Roy MNA, Speaker of the Assemblée nationale du Québec and panellists included Geneviève Dufour, professor of law, specialising in international trade law, University of Ottawa; Luc Laliberté, historian, columnist and political analyst; and Christophe Cloutier-Roy, deputy director of the Observatoire sur les États-Unis de la Chaire Raoul-Dandurand.

81. "The notion that Trumpism will outlast Trump is one I think we must reflect on. It is akin to the role of Reform in our politics. Whilst personalities are becoming a more prevalent feature of democracies, we must not lose sight of the need to recognise and respond to the underlying issues that attract supporters to movements like Trumpism.
82. The scale and depth of disappointment (and anger) in the degradation of the Canada-US relationship was palpable. One women parliamentarian described it to me as 'like losing your best friend, when she finds a new group to hang out with. You're left isolated and betrayed'.
83. I think their reflection that one response could be to enhance inter province trade and relations, given they already account for much of Canada's trade and relations was important." Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP
84. "Very interesting given the trade tensions between America and Canada. The session was, understandably, very locally focused highlighting the issues of tension with America as it is Canada's biggest and nearest trading Partner.
85. I questioned the broader, global issues regarding a move to the right within some European countries that are having an effect on not only trade but immigration and if the panel thought that this global shift would minimise the possible ability to circumvent America as their biggest trade partner. The issue of Immigration was considered but more from an indigenous perspective." Roz McCall MSP

Feedback

86. "I learned so much! From practical tools to managing the job, to the commonalties of issues and concerns across the globe. I also learned a lot about the work and the huge value of the CPA. I will update my group on this experience, including by sharing these reflections." Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP
87. "Overall it was a fantastic experience. Understanding the issues in other regions is an essential part of supporting and progressing best practice across the Commonwealth for the many varied Parliaments we attend.
88. What was more apparent, given most of my meetings prior to attending the conference have been online, was the realisation that most of the work is done after the sessions. The sessions being restricted to timeframes often minimise the chance to delve into discussions. It is fundamental for the work we are trying to advance to be in a 'face to face' environment, to make these connections, and to actively support and share common ground to better our Parliamentary roles." Roz McCall MSP

Conclusion

89. The 61st Canadian Regional Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) and the Canadian Region Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Conference was hosted by the Assemblée nationale du Québec in Québec City, Canada 20 to 24 July 2025.
90. The Scottish Parliament was invited to take part in the conference as an international guest and was represented by Roz McCall MSP and Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP.
91. The conference provided delegates with the unique opportunity to benefit from peer-to-peer exchanges on issues affecting parliaments and parliamentarians in Canada and Scotland, strengthen the Scottish Parliament's relations with Canadian legislatures and promote the work of the Scottish Parliament. Sessions covered a wide range of topics including combatting harassment in parliament, Parliamentarians' role in protecting human rights, meeting the challenges of the internet and social media, removing obstacles and strengthening inclusion, modernising parliaments and parliamentary procedures.
92. The conference brought together 81 delegates from the 13 branches of the Canada region of the CPA, Scotland, Wales and CPA HQ.
93. The CPA Scotland Branch would like to thank our hosts the CPA Québec Branch for their very warm welcome and kind hospitality.

International Relations Office

September 2025

Annexes

Annex A: Programme



61^e CONFÉRENCE RÉGIONALE CANADIENNE
de l'Association parlementaire du Commonwealth

—
61st Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
CANADIAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Sunday 20 July

18:00 CWP reception hosted by the Assemblée nationale

Monday 21 July

- 09:00 Official opening of the CWP Canada Region Conference
- 09:15 Report from the Chair of the CWP – Canadian Region
- 10:00 1st session: Women speakers of parliaments
- 11:30 2nd session: Work-family balance at the Assemblée nationale
- 12:30 Luncheon hosted by the Assemblée nationale
- 13:50 Official photograph
- 14:00 3rd session: Combatting harassment in parliament
- 18:00 Welcome dinner reception hosted by Ms. Nathalie Roy, President of the Assemblée nationale

Tuesday 22 July

- 09:00 Opening ceremony of the Canadian Regional Conference
- 10:00 Session 1: Jurisdictional Reports
- 12:00 Official photograph
- 12:15 Luncheon hosted by the Assemblée nationale
- 14:00 Session 2: Parliamentarians' role in protecting human rights
- 15:30 Session 3: Elected representatives' responsibilities in the digital age: meeting the challenges of the Internet and social media

Wednesday 23 July

- 09:00 Session 4: Disabilities and parliamentary life: removing obstacles, strengthening inclusion
- 10:45 Session 5: Modernization of parliaments
- 12:15 Luncheon hosted by the Assemblée nationale
- 12:30 Open visit of the Salon bleu construction site for delegates
- 14:00 Session 6: Parliamentary procedure in practice. Casting votes: A Speaker's Perspective
- 19:00 Speakers' dinner hosted by Ms. Nathalie Roy, President of the Assemblée nationale

19:00 Clerks' dinner hosted by Mr. Siegfried Peters, Secretary General of the
Assemblée nationale

Thursday 24 July

09:00 Special session: Canada-U.S. Relations: Provincial and Territorial
Cooperation and Leadership

12:45 Luncheon hosted by the Assemblée nationale

14:30 Gourmet tours and tastings

19:30 Closing dinner hosted by Ms. Nathalie Roy, President of the
Assemblée nationale