



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

# **International Relations: Parliamentary travel**

## **By correspondence**

**Reference: SPCB (2025) Paper 31**

### **Executive summary**

1. The Code of Conduct requires Members to register and “provide details of visits outside the United Kingdom in certain circumstances.” However, some overseas visits are excluded from this requirement to register. The travel and other costs of a visit which are wholly met by the SPCB, or are approved by the SPCB prior to the visit, are exempt from registration as an overseas visit in the Register of Interests of Members of the Scottish Parliament.
2. The overseas visit outlined in this paper, to the 61st Canadian Regional Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) and the Canadian Region Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Conference, is being taken forward by the Parliament’s International Relations Office (IRO). Therefore, the paper invites the SPCB to confirm the travel is parliamentary in nature, therefore exempting it from registration. Upon approval, the IRO will inform Members that registration of this travel in the Register of Interests is not required.

### **Issues and options**

3. The Assemblée Nationale du Québec will be hosting the 61st Canadian Regional Conference of the CPA and the Canadian Region CWP Conference 20-24 July 2025, in the city of Québec.
4. The event will bring together parliamentarians and parliamentary staff from Canadian provincial and territorial legislative assemblies as well as from the federal Parliament. The conference will include sessions on modernisation of parliaments, challenges faced by persons with disabilities in a parliamentary context, and impacts of social media and the Internet on young people.

5. The host of the event can extend invitations to certain partner parliaments from other regions of the Commonwealth. Given the strong bonds of friendship that have existed between the Parliaments of Québec and Scotland for more than 20 years, the Scottish Parliament has been invited to send a delegation to participate in the conference as external guests.
6. The conference provides 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.
7. The delegation attending the conference consists of Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP and Roz McCall MSP, supported by an International Relations Officer. In addition, a carer will accompany Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP.

## **Governance**

8. Under the International Strategy, there is a requirement for IRO to outline to the SPCB why the visit is in person (as opposed to virtual) and the travel options and environmental impact considered by the delegation.
9. Participation of the 61st Canadian Regional Conference of the CPA and the Canadian Region CWP Conference is not possible online as the conference is in person only.
10. The only viable travel option between Scotland and Québec is by air. The individual CO<sub>2</sub>e footprint for flying economy class (return) to Québec from Edinburgh is 1,696CO<sub>2</sub>e KG. Business class travel was not considered for budget reasons.
11. The estimated cost for this parliamentary visit is £12,000, which covers economy class travel, accommodation, conference registration fees, meals and appropriate incidental expenses for two MSPs, one carer and one accompanying official. This cost is being met out of the IRO's budget, which has already been approved as part of the overall SPCB budget, and so no additional budget approval is required by the SPCB.

## **Publication Scheme**

12. This paper will be published in line with the SPCB's Publication Scheme.

## **Decision**

13. The SPCB is invited to consider the above travel and, in accordance with the Code of Conduct, approve the details of the travel provided, meaning it is exempt from registration as an overseas visit.

14. IRO will then notify the Members concerned they do not need to register this travel.

**International Relations Office**

June 2025