



Press Release

Ottawa – November 23, 2011 – The XVIIIth Canada-Mexico Interparliamentary Meeting came to a conclusion after two days of meetings and discussions among more than 50 Canadian and Mexican parliamentarians.

These annual meetings, hosted by the Speakers from both parliamentary chambers in Canada and Mexico, have been held alternately in Canada and Mexico since 1975. They allow parliamentarians of both countries to exchange views and share ideas on key issues facing the two countries.

In opening this year's meeting, the Honourable Noël A. Kinsella, Speaker of the Senate of Canada, said "This XVIIIth Canada–Mexico Interparliamentary Meeting allows us to build on previous work. Each of the selected themes has both regional and global elements, and they are symbolic of how connected our two countries have become. In light of the interconnectedness of the North American continent, it is important that parliamentarians continue to discuss these complex issues."

The Honourable Andrew Scheer, Speaker of the House of Commons, declared "Mexico and Canada enjoy a close and friendly relationship. We share a continent together, have deep personal ties dating back more than a century, visit each other's country as tourists, and cooperate in a number of key social, economic, business, environmental and security partnerships. We, as parliamentarians, have an important role to play in this dialogue, and regular exchanges such as these are an essential component of our overall partnership."

His Excellency José González Morfín, President of the Senate of the United Mexican States, recalled the requirement of a visa for Mexican visitors to Canada stating that: "we must continue working on a comprehensive and long term solution to this issue, a solution that balances the legitimate interests of Canada to have an orderly and stable policy on migration with the reality of the intense economic, trade and social exchanges that are going on and will continue to go on in a natural manner between two countries that are friends, partners, allies, and brothers."

This year's discussions were centered on Canada-Mexico cooperation in three areas: security and justice, enhancing economic competitiveness, and international cooperation at the regional and multilateral levels.

In speaking about security and justice issues, Mexican and Canadian parliamentarians agreed that we need global solutions to what has become a global problem. The concept of security can be very broad, and includes issues like pandemics, transnational organized crime, trafficking of persons, drugs and firearms, and cybersecurity. Although increased cooperation among police and security agencies of Mexico, Canada and the United States would help in resolving some issues, the parliamentarians also agreed that there is a need for

new mechanisms to fight these problems and to make the lives of Mexicans and Canadians safer in each country. The best way to fight crime is through education and employment for our youth.

The second session, which focussed on economic competitiveness, touched on the economic progress that has been made between Canada and Mexico since the implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement. During this business session, parliamentarians discussed the opportunities for increased investment and noted the importance of maximizing human capital in addressing the migration between the two countries. Nearing the 20th anniversary of NAFTA, the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is seen as a new opportunity to achieve a better standard of living.

During the final session, on the topic of integration at the regional and multilateral levels, both delegations expressed a strong commitment to strengthen the existing relationship between Canada and Mexico in order to achieve common goals in global and multilateral organizations where both countries maintain leadership roles, such as the Group of Twenty Nations (G-20).

Both delegations agreed to meet in Mexico next January within the activities of the Mexico-Canada Friendship Group in order to follow up on this parliamentary dialogue.

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