

Canada - United States
Inter-Parliamentary Group
Canadian Section



Groupe interparlementaire
Canada - États-Unis
Section canadienne

N e w s R e l e a s e

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CANADA-U.S. IPG ATTENDS SPRING MEETING OF THE CAN/AM BORDER TRADE ALLIANCE

From May 5-7, 2013, members of the Canadian Section of the Canada-United States Inter-Parliamentary Group (IPG) attended the spring meeting of the Canadian/American Border Trade Alliance (Can/Am BTA) in Ottawa, Ontario. In particular, Mr. John Carmichael, M.P., Vice-Chair, Mr. Brian Masse, M.P., Vice-Chair, Mr. David McGuinty, M.P. and Mr. Bob Zimmer, M.P. represented the IPG. Mr. Gord Brown, M.P., Co-Chair and Senator Michael L. MacDonald, Vice-Chair spoke to the meeting's participants.

"I am always pleased to speak at the BTA's meetings, as it provides an important opportunity for the IPG's Canadian Section to share what we have done in the recent past and what we hope to accomplish in the near future," said Mr. Brown. "On this occasion, I was particularly happy to speak about the solid progress that is being made in preparing for the IPG's annual meeting, which we expect to be hosting in the fall. Members of the U.S. House of Representatives will travel to Canada's capital for discussions about a range of bilateral issues, and we are hopeful that some members of the U.S. Senate will be able to join us as well."

Senator MacDonald concluded: "I agree wholeheartedly with my colleague, Gord Brown. Certainly, members who attend the BTA meetings deal with border-related issues – delays, fees, inadequate infrastructure, insufficient staffing and others – at the shared border each and every day. It's important that they know what we're doing as we seek a seamless, yet secure, common border, and it's equally important that we learn from them – firsthand – about the challenges that they face. We need to have that knowledge in hand and uppermost in our minds when we meet with our federal and state counterparts, as well as with U.S. governors."

The Can/Am BTA holds two meetings each year: in the spring in Ottawa and in the fall in Washington, D.C. The BTA is a coalition of businesses, public-sector organizations and individuals with an interest in bilateral trade and tourism. Its mission is to maximize

commercial activity and ensure continued growth in cross-border trade, as well as efficient and productive border-crossing capabilities.

It should be noted that the views expressed in this news release are specific to the Canadian Section of the Canada-United States Inter-Parliamentary Group and, as such, may not reflect the views of our US counterparts.

The Canada-United States Inter-Parliamentary Group aims to find points of convergence in respective national policies, to initiate dialogue on points of divergence, to encourage the exchange of information and to promote better understanding among legislators on shared issues of concern. Additional information on the Group can be found at www.parl.gc.ca/iia/us.

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