

Canada - United States  
Inter-Parliamentary Group  
Canadian Section



Groupe interparlementaire  
Canada - États-Unis  
Section canadienne

**Report of the Canadian Parliamentary Delegation  
to the Council of State Governments – West:  
60th Annual Meeting**

**Canada-United States Inter-Parliamentary Group  
Jackson Hole, Wyoming, United States of America  
September 16-19, 2007**

# Report

From 16-19 September 2007, members of the Canada-United States Inter-Parliamentary Group attended the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Council of State Governments – WEST in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. This report summarizes the discussions at the plenary and selected concurrent sessions.

## SECURING ENERGY SUPPLY WORLDWIDE

**General Charles F. “Chuck” Wald (Ret.), Former Deputy Commander, Headquarters U.S. European Command**

- the North Atlantic Treaty Organization provided Europe with security and stability, while the Marshall Plan created the conditions for economic recovery
- 23 of the 27 countries in the European Union have negative population growth
- the world is totally dependent on traditional sources of energy
- global oil trends include:
  - rising consumption
  - reduced spare capacity
  - instability in some important oil-producing countries
- oil is a fungible, global commodity, and world price shocks are a function of the amount of oil consumed rather than the ratio of domestic to imported product
- there are two ways in which vulnerability to oil price volatility and source disruptions might be reduced:
  - increase supply and/or reduce demand, including through greater energy efficiency, which also helps the environment
  - protect and defend the global supply chain
- China and India will continue to have monumental growth in oil demand
- according to some estimates, 90% of oil and gas reserves are held by national oil companies that are either partially or fully controlled by governments; only one of the world’s top ten oil and gas firms – Exxon Mobile – is privately owned
- the United States’ extreme dependence on oil is an unacceptable threat to national security and prosperity
- considerations related to the geo-strategic importance of energy include:
  - oil is the lifeblood of the U.S. economy

- oil dependence exposes Americans to risks associated with oil price changes
  - oil assurance is a national security issue, since oil revenues fund Islamist terrorism, provide vast amounts of money to unstable and undemocratic governments, increase the likelihood of international conflict and put American troops in harm's way
  - the world needs a new energy security model
- in terms of a new energy security model, the current situation is that oil companies alone are expected to secure their assets, unless there is a situation of extreme duress, in which case the U.S. military may become involved; in the future, oil assurance and security should be the responsibility of industry, the military, law enforcement agencies and government officials worldwide
- the United States uses approximately 25% of global daily demand for oil, amounting to about 22 million barrels daily; U.S. oil imports account for 58% of total domestic consumption
- transportation accounts for 68% of U.S. oil consumption, and 97% of transportation in the United States is fuelled by oil
- by 2025, U.S. oil demand is expected to grow by 23% and world demand by 25%; demand in China and India is expected to increase 92% by that year
- the United States imports about 11 million barrels of oil daily, and 9 out of 15 of the major sources of oil supply are unstable/hostile to the U.S.; by 2020, 83% of all oil producers will be in Islamic countries
- 25% of U.S. oil imports are from the Middle East, and most of the United States' closest allies are dependent on oil from the Middle East
- regimes in the Middle East that are friendly to the United States are increasingly at risk from terrorists
- 80% of the global oil trade flows through unstable countries
- oil can be used as a weapon against the West
- Iran and other countries are using oil to place a wedge between U.S. and Chinese relations as well as between U.S. and Russian relations
- experts estimate that a 10-15% oil shortfall is sufficient to "shatter" an oil-dependent economy; oil shortfalls affect virtually all sectors of the economy
- an oil price of \$200 per barrel could devastate economies and change the global balance of power
- critical oil assets are protected by such initiatives as:
  - the Caucasus Hydrocarbon Security Initiative
  - the Caspian Guard Initiative

- the Gulf of Guinea Initiative
- the U.S. imports more oil from the continent of Africa than from any single importing country, and African oil will become more critical to the U.S. economy; Libya and Nigeria have as much oil as the United States
  - the National Commission on Energy Policy identifies and addresses political and analytical barriers to energy policy reform, and conducts outreach to government, business, non-governmental organizations and other communities
  - Securing America's Future Energy (SAFE), a non-partisan organization that aims to reduce U.S. dependence on oil, has several primary recommendations:
    - reduce oil consumption
    - provide energy alternatives, including renewable sources of energy
    - expand supply
    - manage risks
  - SAFE's Energy Security Leadership Council (ESLC) advocates the following steps:
    - improve vehicle efficiency
    - increase supply
    - accelerate near-term alternative energy
    - conduct a vulnerability analysis of the supply chain
    - appoint a Senior Department of Defense Energy Security Officer
    - pass appropriate legislation that includes timely and achievable milestones
    - foster security arrangements on a multi-lateral, bilateral and regional basis
    - reassess the multiple dimensions of the strategic reserve policy
    - ensure a comprehensive, multi-faceted approach to oil assurance involving top government, military and industry officials
  - the development of alternative fuels must be accelerated; at present, the United States has several alternative energy technologies that are grossly under funded
  - the United States will benefit from the Alberta oil sands, which are about as large as the oil reserves in Saudi Arabia and have investments approaching about \$100 billion
  - the United States has abundant lignite, which is a great source for synthetic fuel

- the rich harvests of soybeans, canola and corn in the United States can be turned into economically feasible sources of ethanol
- the coal resources in the United States make the construction of natural gas-to-liquid (GTL) plants attractive; natural gas can be easily converted to liquid fuel at a plant or micro-unit, and liquid natural gas can be derived from coal, natural gas and biomass products

## **WHAT WOMEN (AND MEN) REALLY WANT FROM POLITICS**

### ***Celinda Lake, Lake Research Partners***

- today, unmarried America dominates, with implications for society and the formulation of public policy; marriage is no longer the threshold to very other decision, such as those related to children, home ownership, retirement savings, etc.
- we live in two Americas now, one unmarried and the other married, although there are issues that unite them, such as health care
- in part because economic security can disappear overnight, the economic agenda is very important to unmarried Americans
- increasingly, marriage and children are viewed as two separate choices
- unmarried America tends to be relatively more blue collar
- 50% of unmarried Americans move every five years, which is a frequency much higher than married Americans
- religiosity, which differs from religion, is a fairly good predictor of behaviour
- equal pay is not just a women's issue, especially for dual-earner families
- most Americans believe that the United States will be in a recession within the next two years
- the gender gap (females vote Democrat, males vote Republican) is muted by the marriage gap (married people vote Republican, unmarried people vote Democrat)
- women are really driving the agenda, especially in respect of economic and security issues and especially at the local and state levels; for them, key issues include health care, education and retirement security
- although women used to want time, the #1 thing women want now is control over time, their money, relationships, health care, retirement, etc.
- the "control," "alt" and "delete" buttons are important: what do I want to control? What do I want to alter? What do I want to delete from my life?
- although voters will reward experience, they do not want the status quo; instead, they want change

- citizens are looking for solutions, since they already know the problems; they do not expect legislators to solve all problems, but they do expect legislators to make their lives better

**Kellyanne Conway, The Polling Company, Inc.**

- women want control
- there is a lack of patience with institutions that are not perceived to be relevant, responsive, ethical, etc.
- things can no longer be explained by the “age gap,” the “gender gap” or marital status
- stage of life rather than age is important; consider three 48-year-old women: one is a grandmother for the first time, the second has a child in kindergarten and is pregnant with a second child, and the third is a single professional with no children
- intra-gender gaps exist in respect of such factors as religiosity and profession
- the average person will spend more time picking cereal in the grocery aisle – where there are many choices and the product has relevance for him/her – than he/she will in picking his/her candidate for President
- small business ownership has become the new American dream, since it may yield financial security and greater flexibility
- the #1 business issue for women is health care; for men, it is tax cuts
- the focus is no longer on climbing the corporate ladder; instead, people use the “on and off ramp”
- politics should respond to culture, rather than the other way around; consequently, the focus should be:
  - simplicity
  - specificity
  - solutions
  - solvency
  - security
- when voters are thinking about whether to vote and for whom to vote, important questions they ask about candidates are: do I like you? are you like me? Do you “get it”?

**CLIMATE CHANGE: CONSEQUENCES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE WEST**

**Steven Running, University of Montana**

- key global trends include:
  - humans are capable of having a global impact, and the level of carbon dioxide has increased every year since it began to be monitored
  - the greenhouse effect, an effect that was well understood even a century ago, exists
  - fossil fuel emissions are rising
  - almost every year, the global mean temperature sets a new record
  - humans are the cause of global warming
  - most of our long-term climate signals, or trends, do not come from the atmosphere but rather from the oceans, and ocean temperatures are rising as are sea levels as a result of melting ice caps
  
- ecosystems will change if their water balance changes
- the reduction in the snow pack, which is less in quantity and is coming down earlier, will have a significant effect on the West
- there is a relationship between wild fires and the declining ice pack
- the fire season in the West is 2.5 times longer now than it was 40 years ago
- there are indications of major forest insect epidemics killing millions of acres of forests

***Roger Pulwarty, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration***

- temperature can be modelled more easily than can precipitation
- the snow pack is vanishing
- there is 10-30% less runoff as a result of temperature increases and perhaps a small decline in precipitation
- the dryness being experienced is consistent with a worldwide poleward movement of deserts
- in the West, evapotranspiration rates are rising
- dust storms threaten snow packs; snow melt may occur up to three weeks earlier if there is significant dust
- there are multiple and competing values and objectives, including recreation, hydropower, the health of ecosystems, consumption, agriculture, etc.
- planning depends on a “stable” climate and baselines
- by 2010-2039, year-round temperatures are anticipated to be outside the range of normal variability

- mitigation and adaptation are relevant
- there are uncertainties about precipitation projects, since temperature is more reliable, as well as about population demand and response options
- people respond when events overwhelm systems
- in response to the question “what has worked in the past?”, consider:
  - strong, meaningful federal-state-regional-local-tribal partnerships across multiple level of governance and states
  - leaders and/or champions
  - support for a collaborative framework between research and management
- droughts span an enormous range of time scales, from short-term, flash droughts that can have major agricultural impacts to multi-year droughts; paleoclimate evidence suggests that, in the last 1000 years, parts of the United States have experienced mega-droughts that persisted for decades
- the warming in the West clearly reflects the combined influence of natural variation, greenhouse gas emissions and sulfate aerosols
- models tend to project future climate warming with more droughts
- warming has increased the length of the growing season by 2 days per decade
- it is very likely that short-term severe droughts affecting North America during the last 50 years are mostly due to atmospheric variability, in some cases amplified by local soil moisture conditions
- it is likely that sea surface temperature anomalies have been important in contributing to long-term severe droughts
- it is likely that anthropogenic warming has increased the severity of both short-term and long-term droughts in North America in recent decades

**Tammy Frisby, Stanford University**

- an effective response to climate change issues in the West will require both prevention and adaptation
- we must redefine how we think about climate change: where we live, what we grow and where we grow it, the materials with which we build homes, etc.
- there has been a disproportionate westward movement of the U.S. population
- Australia has had success in dealing with wild fires at the urban-wildland interface; one lesson to be learned is land planning: where people live, the building materials they use, etc.
- greater oversight and regulation of the urban-wildland interface is needed by state governments in conjunction with the private sector, insurers, etc.



- cross-border collaboration is required, since fires do not stop at state borders
- transmission line siting is important, since energy must be moved from where it is to where it needs to be

## **THE FUTURE OF US ENERGY? LET'S ASK THOSE WHO KNOW!**

### ***Honorable Dave Freudenthal, Governor of Wyoming***

- rational leadership is needed on the issue of U.S. energy; leadership must occur on the basis of carbon output rather than on policy preferences
- although there are natural cycles with respect to climate change, climate change is not a hoax and humans have had an impact on the climate; the weight of evidence is that something is going on with the climate, and carbon is contributing to it
- nothing is “carbon-free;” energy production and processing make a carbon contribution
- incentives should be given to those who can meet carbon objectives, and should be given without favouring one resource over another; incentives should be structured in order to bring about the desired result
- early efforts should be directed to determining what can be done quickly in terms of conservation and energy efficiency
- nuclear power issues will “sort themselves out” and will be part of the energy sources going forward
- there is a need to develop technology that will capture and store carbon

### ***Vic Abate, General Electric Company***

- demand for energy is increasing, especially from China and India; technology should be used to “get ahead of” the situation
- there is no single answer; a portfolio of technologies and of sources are needed
- there is a growing demand for renewable energy
- wind power is more than 97% reliable with existing technology

### ***Vice Admiral John Grossenbacher (Ret.), Idaho National Laboratory***

- it is unrealistic to expect all universities to have research infrastructure
- in choosing among energy choices, consideration should be given to: availability, cost, benefits, risks, sources, environmental impacts, etc.
- the West has enormous energy resources
- a global perspective is needed, since the needs of the developing world must be considered

- the “demonization” of nuclear energy should end
- conservation and energy efficiency are important
- at times, transmission and distribution can be challenging

**Jeff Wojahn, EnCana Corporation**

- oil and gas companies must balance supplying energy needs with ensuring that they do so in an environmentally responsible manner
- reclamation is important; efforts should be made to reduce the environmental footprint

**Darrel Thorson, BP America**

- U.S. energy issues cannot be separated from what is going on worldwide
- carbon dioxide emissions are expected to double by 2030
- worldwide, there was a 32% growth in wind capacity in 2006
- solar energy has vast potential

**ENERGY, CONSERVATION, ENVIRONMENT: THREE ASPECTS OF ENERGY POLICY**

**Joshua Bushinsky, Pew Center on Global Climate Change**

- market mechanisms to achieve climate change goals include a carbon tax and/or a cap-and-trade system; market mechanisms provide a price signal
- climate change is a global problem requiring a global solution
- if emissions are priced, parties will find the most cost-effective means to reduce emissions

**Larry Myer, Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnership**

- there is no “silver bullet” for carbon dioxide stabilization
- geologic sequestration is a large-scale undertaking as well as a near-term climate change mitigation technology
- geologic storage mechanisms include:
  - physical hydrodynamic trapping
  - dissolution
  - phase trapping
  - mineralization
  - surface absorption

- primary storage options include:
  - oil and gas reservoirs
  - deep, unminable coal beds
  - saline formations
  
- international consensus exists on a number of geologic sequestration issues, including:
  - the availability of sinks and capacity
  - technology readiness
  - costs
  - risks
  - monitoring
  - remediation
  
- monitoring will be an important element of geologic sequestration projects; geophysical technologies applicable to geologic sequestration have been developed in the oil and gas industry
  
- the cost of monitoring over the operational life of a project using current technology is estimated to be about \$0.10 per ton of carbon dioxide
  
- the U.S. Department of Energy Regional Partnership Program addresses implementation issues
  
- field tests provide a regional knowledge base that is essential for commercial implementation; tests demonstrate the best sequestration options in the region, as well as unique technologies and approaches, and involve a site-specific focus for:
  - testing technologies
  - defining costs
  - assessing leakage risks
  - gauging public acceptance
  - exercising regulatory requirements
  - validating monitoring methods
  
- a long-term carbon dioxide market needs to be created; the price must be sufficient to finance carbon storage and sequestration projects, and long-term investments need market stability

- in the short term, carbon capture and sequestration projects may need government support; in particular, supply and storage infrastructure needs to be developed and there should be mitigation of risks
- carbon capture and sequestration regulatory guidelines are being developed by World Resources Institute, and legislative activity exists at the federal level and in California, New Mexico, Montana, Kansas, Texas and Washington

### ***Margie Harris, Energy Trust of Oregon***

- energy efficiency is a resource and a way to buy time for the future
- it is less costly to conserve energy than to generate energy
- with a focus on energy efficiency, there are no transmission or distribution issues
- we must change how we produce and use energy

### ***Sarah Wright, Utah Clean Energy***

- there is burgeoning energy demand
- many of the countries that supply energy to the United States are geopolitically unstable
- energy efficiency is not the same thing as conservation, which is not the same thing as “doing without”
- energy efficiency is a resource that can be used in energy planning

### ***Rachel Shimshak, Renewable Northwest Project***

- the goals of the Renewable Northwest Project include:
  - siting projects properly
  - advancing sound policy to benefit the entire industry
  - expanding the market for green power
- in the West, which has a generous endowment of renewable energy potential, renewable energy sources include such naturally occurring and inexhaustible energy resources as:
  - solar
  - geothermal
  - wind
  - tidal and wave
- the benefits of renewable energy sources include:
  - diversity

- local economic development
  - environmental
  - risk reduction
- to convert renewable energy potential – which is worthless unless it is converted into opportunities – into megawatts, actions are needed in such areas as:
- leadership
  - policies and programs
  - coordinated state, regional and federal actions
  - the correct, “can do” attitude

***Michele Haefele, The Wilderness Society***

- the social and economic climate in Western rural communities is changing; economic indicators that point to a change in the West’s economy include:
- the rapidly expanding professional and service sectors
  - the increasingly important role of hunting, fishing and recreation in the region
  - the rise of small businesses
  - the growing importance of retirees, who bring an influx of money to communities and attract businesses
- protected public lands produce measurable benefits in terms of employment and personal income for communities in the Rocky Mountains
- in recent years, the Rocky Mountain States have become a major focus of natural gas drilling; this drilling risks the quality of life and natural amenities that are important to sustainable economic growth for the region’s communities
- rural communities have little control over the location or pace of drilling
- over the past 35 years, the importance of extractive-industry income in the Rocky Mountain States has declined; professional and service sector, as well as non-labour, income have been rising
- income trends in the Rocky Mountain States highlight a shift in the region’s economy and the need to ensure that public land management protects the natural amenities that will attract high-quality employees, retirees and diverse businesses
- in the Rocky Mountain States, the largest segments of the service sector are highly paid occupations, including information, health care and financial services

- wildlife recreation is a key aspect of the cultural heritage of the Rocky Mountain States and an important source of economic activity in rural communities
- important recommendations include:
  - improve the socioeconomic impact analysis in public land management plans
  - plan for amenity development
  - reduce the pace of oil and gas drilling

## **JUSTICE REINVESTMENT: WHAT STATES CAN DO TO REDUCE CORRECTIONS SPENDING**

### ***Michael Thompson, Justice Center of the Council of State Governments***

- there is no guarantee that increased incarceration rates will lead to reduced crime; while a correlation exists, the crime problem cannot be solved by incarcerating more people
- a justice reinvestment strategy could include four steps:
  - analyze the prison population and spending in the communities to which people in prison often return
  - provide policymakers with options to generate savings and increase public safety
  - quantify savings and reinvest in selected communities
  - measure the impact and enhance accountability
- while there have been dramatic increases in the amount spent on corrections, there have not been significant impacts on recidivism
- often, 25-33% of state employees are employed in “justice”
- a small percentage of those who need vocational training and drug treatment while in prison get the help that they need
- consideration of high-stake communities can encourage better use of current resources, such as probation supervision; probation caseloads could be organized more effectively around “high-stake” neighbourhoods
- spending money on new prisons may not be the best way to increase public safety
- in addition to enhancing safety by incarcerating offenders for longer periods of time, safety can be enhanced by ensuring that, when offenders complete their sentence, they are productive, tax-paying members of the community

- allocating scarce resources to “grow” the prison system without doing anything to make incarceration and community supervision more effective is not being “smart on crime”
- we are at a crossroads: we can accept high recidivism rates and build additional prisons, or greater efforts can be made to prepare people for release, increase public safety and reduce spending
- one challenge is “the politics of crime;” no one wants to be accused of being soft on crime, and doing the right things may not be the things that get votes

## **DON'T GET CAUGHT BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE: PREPARING TODAY FOR FISCAL TROUBLE TOMORROW**

### ***Peter Hutchison, Public Strategies Group***

- the good times that are being enjoyed now will not last, and it will become increasingly difficult to identify needed resources, especially to address rising health care costs
- the public wants “a good deal:” the public wants more and better results for the price paid
- to date, the public has been getting a bad deal; for the price paid, the outcomes have been: mediocre results in health care; an education system that fails 80% of students; a transportation system where congestion has tripled; and a revolving door in the corrections system 70% of the time
- the sensible approach is to invest today, when resources are available, in order to ensure that the public can get a better deal tomorrow
- the willingness of citizens to invest in their government is fixed
- there is no correlation between the “price” of government in a particular state and the economic growth in that state
- the price of government is less important in terms of impact on the economy than are the things that are done with the revenues collected
- citizens are unreasonable, and expect governments to deliver great results in such areas as medication, education, incarceration and transportation, and at a price that they are willing to pay
- the costs to medicate, educate, incarcerate and accelerate (which is a reference to transportation) are rising more quickly than the price of government; there is no new money for new things, and the costs to medicate are rising quickly, with the result that expenditures in other areas must decline
- in terms of solutions, there are four choices:
  - reduce services until the costs fit the price
  - raise prices, through higher or more taxes and/or fees, until revenues fit the costs, with service unchanged

- get someone else to pay the price or bear the costs, such as the federal government, local governments or future generations
  - invest the surpluses of today to reduce the cost of better results tomorrow, which is the preferred solution
- the United States has the most expensive mediocre health care in the world
- the U.S. health care system delivers sick care rather than health care, pays for treatment rather than prevention so that health care professionals get paid more if they do a bad job, and is set up for acute care rather than chronic care despite the fact that chronic care is a major issue
- 20-30% of health care costs in the United States are administrative in nature, 50% of which is the cost to send out bills
- studies indicate that:
  - states with the highest health care costs also had the lowest quality of care; cost is a function of treatment, and the more treatments you get, the more likely you are to be sick
  - 40% of the time, patients get the wrong care
- 88% is spent on health care, even though access to care has only a 10% impact on health; on the other hand, personal health behaviour has a 50% impact on health but only 4% of expenditures are allocated to behaviour
- although there are three health issues – cost, quality and coverage – the greatest focus is on coverage; states must deal with all three issues, and should start with cost since a lower cost can enable higher coverage
- the system has odd incentives; the system will pay to have a limb of a diabetic patient amputated, but it will not pay for daily counselling by nurses on the importance of diet and exercise in managing diabetes
- in order to get a better deal in health care, the focus should be:
  - reducing costs by 25%
  - closing the gap in quality by 50%
  - ensuring 100% coverage
- investments should be made now in order to get better outcomes in health care; the focus should be on the following actions which, if implemented, should result in savings sufficient to provide high-quality care with 100% coverage:
  - healthy behaviour, in terms of diet, exercise, alcohol, smoking, drugs and driving



- competition for the best quality/price of pre-paid care, rather than fee-for-service procedures
  - state-wide electronic health records as well as e-billing and e-claims
  - universal end-of-life planning, recognizing that 25-35% of health care expenditures occur during the last year or two of life
  - universal insurance
  
- health care reforms should include incentives and rewards for good behaviour
- citizens are also getting a bad deal in respect of education; of 100 students who start kindergarten:
  - 50 are school-ready
  - 68 graduate from high school
  - 40 enrol in college
  - 15 take remedial high school courses
  - 18 get a two- or four-year degree
  
- of 100 students who start kindergarten, 82% are “lost” at some point in the education system
- in order to “grow” the economy within a particular state, the state must “grow” the number who obtain a degree; states must educate the students within their state and attract those who have been educated elsewhere
- investments should be made now in order to get better educational outcomes; the focus should be:
  - school readiness
  - annual gains for every student rather than just test-passing by some, and an assessment of the value added by teachers
  - a high school diploma as a guaranteed “ticket” to higher education, in the sense that requirements for graduation from high school should be equivalent to entrance requirements for college
  - requirements to complete college courses while in high school, which would ease the high school-college transition and send the signal that high school is not the end
  - eliminate remediation, which essentially involves paying twice to have the same work done

- link funding for higher education to the performance of institutions of higher education in terms of timely completion and high-quality education
  - need-based aid for access, since low tuition for everyone is not affordable
- citizens are getting a bad deal regarding corrections, since there are more people in prisons than ever before, and most prisoners both complete their sentence and return to the prison system
- 95% of those incarcerated are released, and 70% of those released are re-arrested within three years; planning for release should begin on the first day of incarceration
- it is important to determine who is in prison: people of whom we are afraid versus people with whom we are angry
- investments should be made now in order to get better correctional outcomes; the focus should be:
  - separation of those of whom we are afraid from those with whom we are angry, since exist treatment and alternatives for the latter
  - keeping those who complete their sentences out of prison, with a release plan beginning on the first day of incarceration and including community support post-incarceration
- citizens are getting a bad deal in respect of transportation; the average number of hours of delay due to congestion has tripled in a decade, there are more pot holes and bridges are falling down
- the causes of congestion include:
  - bottlenecks (40%)
  - work zones (10%)
  - signals (5%)
  - events, such as a sporting event (5%)
  - weather (15%)
  - crashes (25%)
- congestion related to bottlenecks and work zones indicates that there are not enough roads for the volume of traffic
- crashes are caused by “dumb driving,” cell phone use, eating while driving, personal grooming while driving, etc.; greater investments should be made in correcting the behaviours that result in crashes

- investments should be made now in order to get better transportation outcomes; the focus should be:
  - better infrastructure
  - better use/driving, for example through charges for wear and tear on roads, for congestion and for dumb driving

## **A VIEW FROM THE FRONT PORCH: AMERICAN POLITICS IN THE NEW CENTURY**

### ***David Broder, Washington Post***

- in the past, the federal government often set the pace and the agenda, and prodded the states to follow; now, the states are not waiting for – or looking to – Washington, D.C. for guidance
- there is gridlock in Washington, D.C., with the Democrats and Republicans closely balanced in terms of power, and the Congress and the President in opposition on some important issues
- on many issues, the states are testing new approaches and breaking new ground; private sector-public sector-non-governmental-organization partnerships and cooperation exist in some cases
- in a number of instances, the federal government is using unfunded mandates, inadequately funded mandates or a prescriptive approach

## **THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEMOGRAPHIC SHIFTS ON WESTERN WATER SUPPLIES**

### ***Roger Pulwarty, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration***

- as temperatures rise, evaporation increases
- the West always has droughts
- eight of the ten fastest-growing cities in the United States are in the West
- data on water quality are limited
- people should be provided with incentives to conserve

## **SCHOOL TRUST LANDS AND FUNDS: USING 45 MILLION ACRES TO IMPROVE SCHOOLS AND ENHANCE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### ***Margaret Bird and Paula Plant, Children's Land Alliance Supporting Schools***

- in some states, the concept of school trust lands is not credible since you cannot touch, taste, see or feel it
- school trust lands provide a revenue stream for schools, and provide moneys without taxation
- school trust lands can lead to economic growth in states; there is great potential on the land if it is allowed to be developed or re-positioned

## **MANAGING FOR SUSTAINABILITY: WATER AND LAND USE PLANNING IN THE WEST**

### ***Sarah Bates Van de Wetering, University of Montana***

- the West is the fastest growing and driest region in the United States
- in the past, it was assumed that cities could be built where people wanted to live and the water would flow; this situation is no longer the reality
- more conscious choices must be made in respect of water, land-use planning and their interaction
- water rights are a highly valued form of property rights; states have a duty to supervise the use of water, including ensuring that it is not wasted
- most land-use planning occurs at the local level; frequently, there is little interaction between state water planners and local land-use planners
- land-use planners increasingly consider from where the water will come and at what cost
- water planning is important, since water crosses many jurisdictional boundaries
- as competition for water grows, the price of water rises, and this pricing mechanism can encourage conservation

### ***Brandon Goshi, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California***

- there should be an increased emphasis on such initiatives as conservation and water rehabilitation
- future challenges include;
  - water quality
  - endangered species and habitat rehabilitation
  - climate change
- issues to be considered in respect of future water supply sustainability include:
  - the diversification of resources
  - shared responsibility and partnerships
  - efficiency in water use
  - comprehensive ecosystem management

### ***Craig Bell, Western States Water Council***

- often, growth planning and water resource planning are not adequately integrated

- a portfolio approach is needed to address future water needs in the same way that a portfolio approach is needed in addressing energy needs; this approach should include:
  - water conservation
  - water use efficiency
  - demand management
  - realistic pricing
  - watershed protection and management
  - water storage
  
- in respect of growth, there is a need to identify water requirements in terms of both quality and quantity
- water transfers from agricultural use to urban use will continue

#### **FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

##### ***Chris Tomassi, Office of U.S. Senator Mike Enzi***

- the East has too much water and the West has too little; a “one size fits all” policy will not work
- there are a number of water-related bills in the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives

##### ***Norm Semanko, Idaho Water Users Association***

- there are six priority items for Congressional action
  - federal funding of water projects
  - ageing infrastructure
  - the *Clean Water Act*
  - security costs
  - the *Water Resource Development Act*
  - climate change

Respectfully submitted,

Hon. Jerahmiel Grafstein, Senator  
Co-Chair, Canada-United States  
Inter-Parliamentary Group

Rob Merrifield, M.P.  
Co-Chair, Canada-United States  
Inter-Parliamentary Group

## Travel Costs

<b>ASSOCIATION</b>	Canada-United States Inter-Parliamentary Group
<b>ACTIVITY</b>	Council of State Governments – West 60th Annual Meeting
<b>DESTINATION</b>	Jackson Hole, Wyoming United States of America
<b>DATES</b>	September 16-19, 2007
<b>DELEGATION</b>	
SENATE	Hon. Dennis Dawson, Senator
HOUSE OF COMMONS	Rob Merrifield, M.P. Co-Chair Hon. Wayne Easter, P.C., M.P.
STAFF	Daniel Charbonneau Executive Secretary  June Dewetering Analyst
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	<b>\$12,707.41</b>
<b>ACCOMMODATION</b>	<b>\$1,256.69</b>
<b>HOSPITALITY</b>	<b>\$ Ø</b>
<b>PER DIEMS</b>	<b>\$1,673.39</b>
<b>OFFICIAL GIFTS</b>	<b>\$ Ø</b>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS/REGISTRATION FEES</b>	<b>\$388.72</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$16,026.21</b>