



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 5, 2011

Visit of Canadian Parliamentarians to Ethiopia and Senegal

Ottawa, October 5, 2011 – Six members of the Canada-Africa Parliamentary Association, led by the Association Co-Chair, the Honourable Mauril Bélanger, P.C., M.P., will visit Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and Dakar, Senegal from October 9 to 14.

The Association Co-Chair will be accompanied by Mr. David Christopherson, M.P., and Mrs. Lois Brown, M.P., Vice-Chairs of the Association; as well as by the Honourable Terry Stratton, Director of the Association, and by the Honourable Jim Munson, Senator, and Ms. Cheryl Gallant, M.P.

In Addis Ababa and Dakar, the delegates will meet parliamentarians and government officials so as to strengthen bilateral relations and parliamentary cooperation. The delegates will also engage parliamentarians on democracy, governance, and economic issues; strengthen relations with regional organizations, most particularly the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS); learn about the role of the media; and acquaint themselves with Canada's activity in the region, through contacts with parliamentarians, government officials, civil society groups, journalists, and businesses.

In addition, Addis Ababa is home to the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. The delegates will meet with officials of these organizations to discuss their work and to learn about Canada's contribution.

Established in 2003, the Canada-Africa Parliamentary Association promotes exchanges between African and Canadian parliamentarians, proposes initiatives likely to lead to better mutual understanding of national and international problems, and works to develop cooperation in all the fields of human activity. In addition, the Association works to develop ties with regional parliamentary groupings and the Pan-African Parliament.

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