



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 8, 2013

Canadian IPG Parliamentarians Attend Meeting with U.S. Western State Legislators

From July 30 to August 2 2013, Mr. Rick Dykstra, M.P., Vice-Chair and Mr. Brian Masse, M.P., Vice-Chair led a delegation from the Canadian Section of the Canada-United States Inter-Parliamentary Group to the 66th annual meeting of the Council of State Governments-*WEST* (CSG-*WEST*), in Las Vegas, Nevada. The meeting, which was focused on “Bright Lights: Shining on the Progress of the West,” was also attended by Senators Jean-Guy Dagenais and Jim Munson, Mr. Andrew Saxton, M.P. and the Honourable Judy Sgro, P.C., M.P.

“As was the case last year, I was very pleased to be able to attend the annual meeting of the Council of State Governments-*WEST*, and particularly the North American Summit and the inaugural meeting of the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee. The North American Summit discussed a number of issues that will be important for us to consider as North American countries continue to cooperate with a view to global competitiveness, and the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee meeting provided me with an opportunity to present the Canadian view on the United States’ mandatory country-of-origin labelling – or COOL – requirements,” said Mr. Dykstra.

Mr. Masse concluded: “Like my colleague, Mr. Dykstra, I was happy to be able to comment on the COOL requirements, and the entire Canadian delegation was pleased with the resolution passed by the CSG-*WEST*’s Executive Committee. The resolution – which mirrors that recently adopted at the CSG-Midwest’s annual meeting – recognizes that Canada and the United States have an integrated livestock industry. It also notes the COOL requirement’s detrimental effects, including on the U.S. packing and feeding industries. In addition, many of the committee sessions that were held addressed important topics that are of interest to both Canada and the United States.”

Founded 61 years ago, the Council of State Governments-*WEST* is a non-partisan organization comprised of the legislatures of the 13 western states (see the list below).

British Columbia and Alberta are associate members. Additional information on the CSG-*WEST* can be found at: www.csgwest.org

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 United States 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/ia/us.

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APPENDIX

States in the Council of State Governments-*WEST*

Alaska

Arizona

California

Colorado

Hawaii

Idaho

Montana

Nevada

New Mexico

Oregon

Utah

Washington

Wyoming