

Canada - United States
Inter-Parliamentary Group
Canadian Section



Groupe interparlementaire
Canada - États-Unis
Section canadienne

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 13, 2013

Canadian Parliamentarians Meet with Legislators from U.S. Eastern States and Canadian Eastern Provinces

From December 6-9, 2013, the Honourable Wayne Easter, P.C., M.P., Vice-Chair and Mr. John Williamson, M.P., Vice-Chair led a delegation from the Canadian Section of the Canada-United States Inter-Parliamentary Group (IPG) to the 2013 Annual Meeting and Regional Policy Forum of the Council of State Governments Eastern Regional Conference (ERC). The other delegates were Senators Terry Mercer and Richard Neufeld, and Mr. Peter Stoffer, M.P. The meeting, which was held in Fajardo, Puerto Rico, had the theme of “Succeeding in a Time of Austerity.”

“I was very pleased to be able to attend the ERC’s 53rd annual meeting, partly because I represent a province that is included in the ERC,” said Mr. Easter. “As well, I think it was fortunate that Canada’s federal parliamentarians were there to support their provincial counterparts during discussions of some of the ERC’s resolutions. Important motions were passed in relation to pre-clearance agreements between our countries and severe weather events, which are affecting both Canada and the United States.”

Mr. Williamson concluded: “It was informative to learn about the issues that are uppermost in the minds of legislators in the eastern parts of Canada and the United States. In addition to the meetings where the resolutions were discussed, the work of the ERC’s Canada/U.S. Relations Committee was extremely beneficial. The six speakers who made presentations on the topic of ‘Beyond the Border: Unfinished Business’ were topical and provided some good ideas about what should be legislative priorities.”

The ERC is a regional association of state legislators from 19 member jurisdictions from Canada and the United States (see Appendix). By facilitating cooperation among its member jurisdictions, the ERC promotes multi-state or region-wide solutions to the problems and challenges facing state and provincial legislators. Information on the ERC is available at www.csgeast.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/iia/us.

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Appendix

Member U.S. Jurisdictions of the Eastern Regional Conference

Connecticut

Delaware

Maine

Maryland

Massachusetts

New Hampshire

New Jersey

New York

Pennsylvania

Puerto Rico

Rhode Island

U.S. Virgin Islands

Vermont

Member Canadian Provinces of the Eastern Regional Conference

New Brunswick

Newfoundland and Labrador

Nova Scotia

Ontario

Prince Edward Island

Quebec