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**Report of the Canadian Parliamentary Delegation respecting
its participation at the Meeting of the Standing Committee of
Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region**

Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association

**Inari, Finland
November 13, 2012**

Report

INTRODUCTION

Mr. Ryan Leef, M.P., represented Canada at the meeting of the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (the Standing Committee) held in Inari, Finland, 13 November 2012. Ms. Shauna Troniak from the Parliamentary Information and Research Service of the Library of Parliament also attended as advisor to the delegation.

The Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (the Conference) is a parliamentary body comprising delegations appointed by the national parliaments of the Arctic states (Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, the United States of America) and the European Parliament. The Conference also includes Permanent Participants representing Indigenous peoples, as well as observers. The Conference meets every two years. The Tenth Conference was held in Akureyri, Iceland, 5-7 September 2012.¹

The Conference adopts a statement with recommendations to the Arctic Council (the Council) and to the governments of the eight Arctic states and the European Commission. The Standing Committee closely monitors how governments implement the Conference Statement, and take new initiatives to further Arctic cooperation.

Between conferences, Arctic parliamentary cooperation is facilitated by the Standing Committee, which began its activities in 1994. The Conference and Standing Committee take initiatives to further Arctic cooperation, and act, in particular, as a parliamentary forum for issues relevant to the work of the Council. The Standing Committee takes part in the work of the Council as an observer.²

MEETING SUMMARY

The agenda for the meeting and the draft minutes of the previous Standing Committee meeting held 7 September, Akureyri, Iceland, were adopted.

A. Sami Parliament of Finland

Ms. Tiina Sanila-Aikio, Vice-President, Sami Parliament of Finland, informed the Standing Committee of the role, functions and activities of the Parliament.

The Sami Parliament of Finland is an institution of self-government that was formally established in 1996 under the *Sami Parliament Act*.³ *The Constitution of Finland* recognizes the Sami as an Indigenous people with the right to maintain and develop their own language and culture. It also guarantees the Sami cultural and linguistic self-government within their native region, as provided under the Act and other legislation.⁴ The Parliament is formally under the auspices of the Ministry of Justice, but functions

¹ See: Tenth Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, Akureyri, Iceland, 5-7 September 2012, [Conference Statement](#).

² Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, [Home](#).

³ [Act on the Sami Parliament 1995](#) (974/1995) [unofficial translation].

⁴ [The Constitution of Finland 1999](#) (731/1999) [unofficial translation], Sections 17 and 121.

independently through its own rules of procedure, administrative organs, and accounting and auditing practices.

The Parliament includes a 21-member Plenum that is elected every 4 years. Its functions include issuing statements and submitting proposals to the government on issues relating to Sami language, culture, and status as an Indigenous people. The Plenum chooses a President and Board from among the elected members to oversee the actions and administration of the Parliament. It also appoints members to committees that deal with matters relating to Sami culture, education, livelihoods, social affairs and health, youth and language.

The Parliament received operating funding of approximately € 1.6 million (2.1 million CAD) this year. Priorities for the current Parliament to 2015 include supporting the ratification of ILO Convention No. 169⁵ and the draft Nordic Sami Convention, reform of the *Sami Parliament Act*, and implementation of a revitalization program for Sami languages.

Ms. Sanila-Aikio expressed concern with recent reports surrounding the suspension of operations of the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON). Following a discussion among delegates, the Standing Committee agreed on the text of a letter addressing this issue (attached as Appendix 1).

B. Arctic Strategy of Finland

Ms. Hanna-Elina Koivisto, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, provided an overview of the Arctic policy of Finland.

Finland released its Arctic Strategy in 2010.⁶ The Strategy was prepared by a working group comprised of representatives of several ministries appointed by the Prime Minister's office. The Strategy focuses on external relations and multilateral cooperation in seven priority areas: environment; economy; transport and infrastructure; Indigenous peoples; security; governance institutions; and the European Union. Many of the issues facing the Arctic, such as climate change, are international in nature and therefore multilateral cooperation is vitally important.

A new version of the Arctic Strategy is being prepared by the working group for release in the spring of 2013. The updated policy will focus on Finland's technical knowledge and expertise for work in the Arctic in various sectors, including mining, shipping, and clean technologies.

C. Arctic Student Exchange

Ms. Outi Snellman, Vice-President, Administration, University of the Arctic (UArctic), updated the Standing Committee on UArctic's activities to promote student exchanges in the Arctic region.

UArctic is a global research network that currently involves 146 Arctic and non-Arctic partner institutions in research activities across several thematic networks. A new UArctic Strategic Plan 2020 is currently in development and has involved both internal

⁵ International Labour Organisation, *Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention No. 169* (1989).

⁶ Government of Finland, *Finland's Strategy for the Arctic Region*, July 2010.

and external review processes. The external review is ongoing and is chaired by Tony Penikett from Canada.

Knowledge and expertise on Arctic issues are not concentrated in one location or academic institution. Rather, each partner in a research network represents lines of intellectual inquiry that together form a web across the Arctic. Student mobility and exchanges are thus particularly important to providing students with a relevant education on Arctic issues. In addition, exchanges particularly at the undergraduate level help strengthen students' connection to the north and expose students to future opportunities to study and work in the north.

UArctic's north2north project has facilitated student exchanges across the Arctic since 2002.⁷ North2north receives project-based funding from a variety of sources, including governments and academic institutions. UArctic is now proposing to establish a more permanent Circumpolar Mobility Program, involving all eight Arctic states, and modeled around north2north. The heads of UArctic partner institutions supported this proposal in a declaration adopted at their annual meeting on 13-14 November 2012.⁸

In discussion with delegates, Ms. Snellman noted that technological advances in the last decade have vastly improved access to education across the region. Students must, however, be enrolled in a partner institution in order to access UArctic programs delivered either on campus or online. Securing increased and more permanent funding for scholarship and other programs is an ongoing challenge, but the political will exists to create more opportunities for northerners across the region.

D. EU Arctic Information Centre

Ms. Paula Kankaanpää, Director, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, updated the Standing Committee on progress toward establishing an EU Arctic Information Centre.

The European Commission recently allocated funds to explore the feasibility of creating an EU Arctic Information Centre as part of its ongoing efforts toward developing an overall policy for the Arctic region. The Centre would coordinate research and information sharing among a network of research institutions within and outside the EU, and would be a source of credible and relevant Arctic information for EU policy-makers.

The Arctic Centre at the University of Lapland in Rovaniemi, Finland, has submitted a proposal to become the location of the Centre; the European Commission is expected to announce the location by the end of the year.

E. Economic Cooperation in the North

Mr. Timo Rautajoki, Managing Director, Lapland Chamber of Commerce, Finland, provided an outline of business development opportunities across the Lapland region of Northern Europe and Russia.

Mr. Rautajoki stated that big business is in the Lapland region. Cumulative investments across the region total €227 billion (CAD 295 billion), with another €125 billion (CAD 160 billion) anticipated over the coming decade. To date, some of the strongest sectors

⁷ In 2011, north2north organized 154 student exchanges. See University of the Arctic, *UArctic Annual Report 2011*, p. 9.

⁸ University of the Arctic, *Draft 2012 Rectors' Forum Declaration*, 13-14 November 2012.

have been: oil and gas (€35 billion) (CAD 45 billion); mining (€18 billion) (CAD 23 billion); transportation infrastructure (€23 billion) (CAD 30 billion); and wind energy (€23 billion) (CAD 30 billion).

The investment activity in the Lapland is, however, largely invisible to governments and businesses outside the region. The Lapland Chamber of Commerce recently updated its Investment Catalogue of the European High North in advance of the 2012 Arctic Business Forum.⁹ The catalogue shows that the Lapland region is at the centre of major investments in sectors including tourism, mining, and transportation. Investments in the European High North were €16 billion (CAD 20 billion) in 2012.

Mining technology is a key export for Finland, particularly given the changing role of Nokia and information technology exports in the Finnish economy. Finland must concentrate on developing markets for environmentally friendly mining technologies that it manufactures and exports. For example, recent investments in mining operations in Norbotten, Sweden, utilize 70% Finnish technology.

A major challenge involves the development of transportation infrastructure to connect communities and supply routes across the region. Roads, bridges and rail lines are especially needed in certain locations and for certain industries. For example, no trucks can pass directly from Rovaniemi to the gold mine in Kittila because of the lack of a direct bridge connection, which would cost €8 million (CAD 10 million) to build. Rail lines, which are needed for the mining industry, will cost into the billions to develop. New Sulphur Emission Control Areas (SECAs), effective in January 2013, will in effect increase the cost of shipping in the Baltic Sea.¹⁰

Delegates discussed challenges and opportunities relating to further economic development across the region. The delegate from Canada noted that the Arctic Council is an important forum to discuss sustainable economic development, and in particular regulatory environments and governance strategies that allow northerners to benefit from this development. In response to a question from the delegation from Greenland/Denmark, Mr. Rautajoki indicated that the carrying out of social and cultural impact assessments varies across the region, though the Chambers of Commerce in the Lapland region encourage companies to conduct assessments and consult with local people as a best practice. Responding to a question from the Swedish delegation, Mr. Rautajoki stated that cross-border cooperation is good among companies operating in the region, but that Chambers of Commerce in the region need more research and support to foster better and more coordinated links among these companies.

F. Experiences from the 10th Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region

Delegates discussed the experience from the last Conference in Akureyri, Iceland, 5-7 September 2012.

The Chair indicated that the Conference was well organized and well structured; in particular, presentations and ensuing discussions were well balanced and productive, and strong links were evident between the issues debated and the Conference

⁹ See Lapland Chamber of Commerce, *Arctic Business Forum 2012*.

¹⁰ See International Maritime Organisation, *Special Areas under the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL)*.

Statement.¹¹ Delegates agreed that the paper “Arctic Governance in an Evolving Arctic Region”¹² was a good tool for focusing debate internally, as well as to present the work of the Conference and Standing Committee externally. Delegates discussed the need to improve cooperation with Permanent Participants at the Conferences and at interim meetings.

Follow-up efforts among delegates included communications and meetings in the Norwegian Parliament with officials and the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The Standing Committee has additionally asked the Swedish Chairmanship of the Arctic Council to take the Conference Statement into account. Articles written by the Chair and delegate from Greenland/Denmark were published in their respective news media. Delegates were encouraged to follow up with their responsible ministers on the Conference Statement.

G. Topics for SCPAR until the Conference in 2014

Delegates discussed possible topics for discussion in advance of the next Conference in 2014. These included:

- Investment potential in the Arctic, including environmentally friendly technologies, and issues relating to marine and air transportation;
- Cultural and social impact assessments for industrial and resource development;
- Maritime mapping and hydrographic data collection;
- Weather forecasting and sharing of meteorological information between the Arctic states; and
- Developing and formalizing a program for student exchanges.

Delegates also discussed the need for continued dialogue on the Arctic governance paper and the development of the Arctic Council as a governance institution. Delegates agreed that agenda items would be chosen at the next Standing Committee meeting.

H. Information Work of SCPAR

Delegates discussed current efforts to share and communicate information about its activities and the need to improve and develop these networks. Resources may be sought to support more regular communications in news media and on the website.

I. Status of the Work of SCPAR

Delegates provided updates on developments in their respective countries in relation to the Arctic. Further details on these presentations are provided in the minutes of the meeting (attached as Appendix 2).

The delegate from Canada noted that the incoming Chair of the Arctic Council will be Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health and the Minister of the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency. Minister Aglukkaq also holds a special ministerial

¹¹ 10th Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, *Conference Statement*.

¹² Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, *Arctic Governance in an Evolving Arctic Region: A Proposal by the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region*.

portfolio that Canada has created for the Arctic Council. She is currently engaging with northern communities to develop priorities for the chairmanship.

It was also announced that the next Conference will be held in Whitehorse in 2014.

J. Next Meetings of SCPAR

The next meeting of the Standing Committee will be held in Washington in mid-March 2013.

TOUR OF CULTURAL SITES IN INARI

The Standing Committee visited sites of cultural significance to the Sami Indigenous population in Inari.

Delegates received guided tours of the Sami Education Institute and the Sami Museum Siida. The Sami Education Institute offers vocational training in several fields relevant to preserving and supporting Sami cultures and livelihoods, including Sami languages, wilderness and nature guiding, reindeer husbandry, tourism and handicrafts. Students demonstrated their work in design and crafting of jewelry, traditional clothing and tools. At the Sami Museum Siida, exhibits included an introduction to Sami archaeological history and displays of traditional and modern material culture.

Delegates visited a facility where reindeer meat and hides are processed using a hybrid of traditional and more mechanized methods. A presentation by the Finnish Forestry Administration provided details on reindeer habitats and populations in northern Finland. In particular, a population of approximately 200,000 semi-domesticated reindeer is owned and herded by individuals or herding cooperatives within wide but defined areas. The Canadian delegation took note of differences between this and the Canadian system of managing the hunting of wild caribou over wide migration areas in the north.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Ryan Leef, M.P.
Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association

Appendix 1



CONFERENCE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION

THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION

13 November 2012

To:

Russian delegation to the Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region
Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North

The Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (SCPAR) has noted the news reports which question the future and legal status of the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON).

SCPAR has for many years cooperated close with RAIPON and will underline the importance of the role of the indigenous peoples in the Arctic cooperation. RAIPON has played an important role in representing the indigenous peoples in Northern Russia in the Arctic parliamentary cooperation and the Arctic Council.

SCPAR asks the Russian delegation to SCPAR to encourage the Ministry of Justice and RAIPON to work together to solve potential legal issues and find a solution to the problem, to see that RAIPON can continue to work for the indigenous peoples, nationally and internationally.

Sincerely Yours,

Morten Høglund
Chair of SCPAR

Appendix 2



CONFERENCE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION

THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION

MEETING IN INARI

3 November 2012

Venue: Sámi Cultural Centre Sajos, Parliament Hall Solju

Draft minutes

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND THE PROPOSED ORDER OF AGENDA ITEMS

Decision:

The Committee adopted the agenda and the proposed order of agenda items for the SCPAR meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF DRAFT MINUTES FROM THE SCPAR-MEETINGS IN AKUREYRI 5 AND 7 SEPTEMBER 2012

Decision:

The Committee approved the minutes from the SCPAR-meetings in Akureyri 5 and 7 September 2012.

3. PRESENTATION OF THE SAMI PARLIAMENT OF FINLAND

Ms Tiina Sanila-Aikio, 1 Vice-President of the Sami Parliament of Finland, informed the Committee about the work and role of the parliament.

The parliament is a self-government body of Sami in Finland under the current law from 1996. The parliament is not a state authority and part of the public administration, but an independent legal entity. It represents the Sami nationally and internationally in issues concerning language, culture, and their position as an indigenous people.

The parliament has 21 members and serves in 4 years terms. The last election was in the fall 2011. Plenum meets 4-5 times a year and elects a full time chair/president and an executive board of the Chair of the Parliament, two vice-chairs, and four other members.

The members are divided into committees dealing with livelihood, educational, culture, social, health, language and youth.

The Sami Parliament is funded by the state and in 2012 1, 6 million euros.

Important issues this parliamentary period are:

- ILO 169
- The Nordic Sami Convention
- New Sami parliament act
- Revitalization of the Sami language act

Finally the Vice-President expressed concern about the suspension of RAIPON.

Members of SCPAR asked about the cooperation between the Sami parliament and national/regional parliaments?

Ms Sanila-Aikio responded that the authorities have to ask of the opinion of the Sami parliament in matters relating to Sami issues. But the implementation of the opinion varies. On local level there has been good progress in cooperation on the planning of use of nature.

The connection between the administrative level in the Sami and the Finnish parliament is good.

The members of the Committee also wanted to learn more about the work and success to secure the vitality of Sami language and culture.

Ms Sanila-Aikio noted that in the Sami homeland area, 4 northernmost municipalities, the development is good. The problem is for Sami living outside of the Sami homeland area which have not the same language rights. The planned language vitalization program will hopefully start next year and be an important step in strengthening the language situation.

As for the Nordic Sami Convention the negotiations are ongoing and there will be new meeting in December 2012.

As for the situation of RAIPON in Russia the Committee agreed upon a letter addressing the situation which is enclosed to the minutes.

Decision:

The Committee took note of the information and agreed upon a letter addressing the situation for RAIPON.

4. THE ARCTIC STRATEGY OF FINLAND

Ms Hanna-Elina Koivisto presented the Arctic strategy of Finland to the Committee.

Finland is mostly above 60° north and with the increasing interest in the Arctic, Finland needed an Arctic strategy. A strategy was published in the summer of 2010 and is about security, environment, economy, indigenous peoples, institutions and the European Union.

Arctic Council is considered the most important body for Arctic cooperation, but others are the Barents Euro-Arctic Council and the Nordic Council of Ministers.

An updated Arctic strategy is being prepared and will hopefully be ready in spring 2013. The main focus if the strategy will be to promote Finnish Arctic expertise.

On questions from the Committee Ms Koivisto commented that in relation to logistics connected to minerals and mining cooperation with Norway and Sweden will be important in the updated Arctic strategy.

There are also recommendations within the Nordic Council addressing cooperation in mining between the Nordic countries.

Ms Koivisto emphasized that expertise within shipping and mining is what Finland would like to promote, but also a broader field of expertise.

Finland is supportive new observers joining the Arctic Council and especially the application from the European Commission.

Finally she noted that the Finnish government tries to take the view of the Sami people into account when it's relevant.

Decision:

The Committee took note of the information.

5. PROMOTING ARCTIC STUDENT EXCHANGE

Ms Outi Snellman, Vice-President, Administration University of the Arctic, informed the Committee about the activities of UArctic.

UArctic has 146 members including associate members from countries like Japan and China.

They have finished an internal review and started an external review, which will be the basis for the new strategic plan. Vice-Chair of SCPAR Gudfridur Lilja Gretarsdottir is member of the external review group which is led by Mr Toni Penikett from Canada.

UArctic has 22 thematic networks and two types of mobility programs.

The thematic networks depend on exchange of students and then there is the North2North project. There are around 200 students a year taking part in North2North, exchange between the Arctic countries.

By creating opportunities in the North you make people to stay in the North. If you go to study abroad under graduate level – travel in the North it strengthens your identity as a northerner.

Ms Snellman finished by proposing to establish a Circumpolar Mobility Program. It would not need a lot more money but be very important for the development of the Arctic region.

On question from the Committee Ms Snellman noted that she believes the Arctic states will be willing to support such a project with the necessary funding, provided some extra efforts, technically and economically. She further said that the technical capacity to attend classes and courses on the web has dramatically improved the last years and that there will always be more students attending these classes than the ones who are actually moving another place for a longer period.

As UArctic work through members, a student needs to be connected to a higher education institution to participate.

The Committee was informed that Russia is an important partner in this cooperation with 1/3 of the members in UArctic, 2 offices (Archangelsk and Yakutsk) and a large part of the exchange students.

Ms Snellman also informed about the work to include the self-governed areas in the cooperation and the need to work with the different provinces and territories in Canada.

The biggest difficulty in the cooperation is the time zones.

Members of the Committee noted that it would be important to follow-up in the respective home parliaments to find ways to fund student mobility.

Decision:

The Committee took note of the information.

6. AN EU ARCTIC INFORMATION CENTRE IN ROVANIEMI

Ms. Paula Kankaanpää, Director, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, Finland, informed the Committee of the progressing work to get an EU Arctic Information Centre to Rovaniemi.

She noted that there are a lot of knowledge about the Arctic and this needs to be channeled to a broader audience. Through a network of 19 partners throughout Europe the Arctic Centre in Rovaniemi wants to be the information hub on Arctic issues for the European Union.

On questions from the Committee Ms Kankaanpää said that it is not finally decided where the information centre shall be located but they hope for a decision next spring.

She noted that when the centre has started its work they might discuss to cooperate with other partners as well, for instance Russian ones.

The Centre may also provide programs to facilitate discussion and sharing of information.

Decision:

The Committee took note of the information.

7. ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN THE NORTH

Mr. Timo Rautajoki, Managing Director, Lapland Chamber of Commerce, Finland introduced the Committee to the views of Lapland Chamber of Commerce on current and future business opportunities in North Europe.

He started by mentioning that business cooperation in European north is different from Canada as there is more industry and export in Europe. Important sectors are mining, tourism, oil and gas, steel industry, paper industry and “Angry Birds”.

The cooperation across the borders needs to become much better. One problem is bad east west connections for flying and it’s too long to drive.

Many big investments are expected in the next ten years, estimated to 125 billion euros.

The big question is if Schtockman gas field will be developed.

In Norway oil- and gas is a driving force, maybe more mining in the future.

In Finland mining industry, tourism, wind energy – and maybe a nuclear power plant? As export is going down, Finland needs to look to the closest neighbors for export, not only China and Vietnam.

In Sweden LKAB is investing huge sums in Kiruna to continue mining and there are big investments in wind power. There is also a lot of mining industry in the Murmansk region.

There will be a new regime for sulfur emission in the Baltic Sea which might influence the new transport infrastructure in the North. There are also more local logistical challenges like a small bridge outside of Kiruna.

To build new railroad connections are very expensive – 3 billion euros. But there have been signals from the president and the prime minister to start this work and a working group will meet in December 2012 to discuss the topic. Transport connections will be mentioned in the new arctic strategy of Finland.

www.arcticbusinessforum.com

Decision:

The Committee took note of the information.

8. EXPERIENCES FROM THE 10TH CONFERENCE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION

The Chair of SCPAR Morten Høglund was very satisfied with the conference in Akureyri. He pointed at:

- Good balance of plenary debates and other program
- Same topics in the plenary as in the conference statement
- Speakers with different background

The Vice-Chair of SCPAR Gudfridur Lilja Gretarsdottir, was also very happy with the conference in Akureyri, with the agenda items and structure of the conference.

She pointed to the need to include the Permanent Participants (indigenous peoples) better in the conference program.

Ms. Ann-Kristine Johansson agreed with the previous speakers and pointed to the importance of networking during such conferences.

Decision:

The Committee took note of the information.

9. TOPICS FOR SCPAR UNTIL THE CONFERENCE IN 2014

The following topics were presented at the meeting:

- 1) Cultural and social impacts assessments in connection to resource development, common standards, use existing guidelines and regulation
- 2) Maritime safety issue – hydrographical data collection, measured 20% of the waters outside of Greenland, look more into practical cooperation with the Arctic communities
- 3) Exchange of experiences on mining
- 4) Transport, air, east – west connection
- 5) Weather forecasting – weather can cause considerable damage, closer cooperation
- 6) Student exchange – a very concrete and important project

The need to follow-up on the Arctic governance report was also mentioned. Explore new areas for legally binding agreements, a vision for the Arctic, and the observer issue – what kind of Arctic Council do we want?

Decision:

The members will consider the different proposals and decide on a topic at the next meeting of SCPAR.

10. INFORMATION WORK OF SCPAR

The Chair of SCPAR presented the work current information work which is going on in SCPAR.

Decision:

The Committee took note of the information.

11. STATUS OF THE WORK OF SCPAR

The Canadian delegation informed that the incoming chair of the Arctic Council is Ms Leona Aglukkaq, the Canadian Minister of Health. She has started cross Canada consultations to prepare for the Canadian Chairmanship. It has also been decided that

the 11th Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region will take place in Whitehorse, Yukon in September 2014.

The Swedish delegation informed about a seminar by the Swedish Polar Research Commission 6 November 2012. Sweden will hold the presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers in 2013 and in the program will be to improve the competitiveness of the Nordic region and look at closed cooperation in the mining sector.

The representative from West Nordic Council informed about the theme conference which is to take place in the middle of January 2013 in Iceland and has "Health system in the Region" as the topic. SCPAR is invited to participate. SCPAR was also invited to hold a meeting in the Faroe Islands.

A representative of the Russian delegation informed about recent parliamentary hearings on the legal regulation of the development on the North - East passage. There has also been presented recommendations on Arctic environmental policy in Russia. Finally it was mentioned that RAIPON needs to make new resolutions and solve its administrative issues.

The Russian delegation also invited SCPAR to have a meeting in Murmansk in the fall if 2013.

The Danish/Greenlandic delegation informed about a recent meeting of three governments region in the Realm of Denmark.

Seal skin products have been banned in Russian and Ukraine but there the Inuit exemption in ban in seems to work. There is also a meeting in Alta, Norway in June 2013 - preparatory meeting for the world indigenous summit in 2014, where the Committee should be involved.

The Norwegian delegation informed about an extra 10 million Norwegian kroner to be used for research on petroleum activities in the Arctic.

As Chair of SCPAR Mr. Høglund also reported from the meeting between the Swedish Chairmanship of the Arctic Council and the different Arctic Council observers. The meeting was well attended, also on a political level from many of the observer countries.

The Secretary General informed the Committee of his participation in the Senior Arctic Officials meeting 14-15 November in Haparanda where he will present the results from the conference in Akureyri.

12. NEXT MEETINGS OF SCPAR

The next meeting of SCPAR will be in Washington medio March 2013.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business.

Appendix 3



Document 1.3

CONFERENCE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION

THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION

MEETING IN INARI

13 November 2012

List of participants

MEMBERS

Canada	Mr Ryan Leef, MP Ms Shauna Troniak, Analyst, Parliamentary Information and Research Service, Library of Parliament
Denmark/Greenland	Ms Sara Olsvig, MP, Denmark/Greenland Mr Peder Pedersen, Head of Section
European Parliament	Mr Pat de Cope Gallagher, MEP Mr Tarvo Kungla, Administrator Mr Thomas KRINGS, ALDE political group, Policy adviser
Finland	Ms Johanna Ojala-Niemelä, MP Ms Hanna Mäntylä, MP Mr Guy Lindström, Deputy Director Ms Tiina Virtanen, Information Officer Ms Maarit Immonen, Assistant for International Affairs
Iceland	Ms Gudfridur Lilja Gretarsdottir, MP Ms Arna Bang, Adviser
Norway	Mr Morten Høglund, MP
Russia	Mr. Vladimir Torlopov, Senator, Council of Federation Mr. Kirill Mangush, Counsellor,

Mr. Nikolay Dankov, Counsellor,
Mr Michael Slipenchuk, MP
Mr Alexander Kurdyumov, MP
Mr Boris Kashin, MP
Mr Fedot Tumusov, MP
Ms Irina Kuzmina, Secretary

Sweden

Ms Ann-Kristine Johansson, MP
Ms Eva Hjelm, Senior Officer

PERMANENT PARTICIPANTS

Sámi Parliamentary

Ms Marianne Balto, Member of the Norwegian
Sámi Parliament Council

OBSERVERS

Nordic Council

Mr Simo Rundgren, MP, Chair of the Finnish
delegation to the Nordic Council

West-Nordic Council

Mr Henrik Old, Vice President, West-Nordic
Council
Mr Thordur Thorarinsson, Secretary General

SECRETARIAT

Mr Bjørn Willy Robstad, Secretary General

GUESTS

Ms Paula Kankaanpää, Director, Arctic
Centre, University of Lapland, Finland
Mr Timo Rautajoki, Managing Director,
Lapland Chamber of Commerce, Finland
Ms Hanna-Elina Koivisto, Project Assistant,
Department for Europe, Unit for Northern
Europe, Arctic Affairs, Ministry for Foreign
Affairs, Finland
Ms Outi Snellman, Vice President,
Administration University of the Arctic
Mr Aleksei Repin, interpreter
Mr Vladislav Shor, interpreter

Travel Costs

ASSOCIATION	Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association
ACTIVITY	Meeting / Visit Name
DESTINATION	Inari, Finland
DATES	November 13, 2012
DELEGATION	
SENATE	N/A
HOUSE OF COMMONS	Mr. Ryan Leef, M.P.
STAFF	Ms. Shauna Troniak, Analyst, Parliamentary Information and Research Service, Library of Parliament
TRANSPORTATION	\$ 13,495.77
ACCOMMODATION	\$ 1,245.53
HOSPITALITY	\$ 0.00
PER DIEMS	\$ 890.24
OFFICIAL GIFTS	\$ 0,00
MISCELLANEOUS / REGISTRATION FEES	\$ 0.00
TOTAL	\$ 15,631.54