



Report

**Visit of the Honourable Leo Housakos,
Speaker *Pro Tempore* of the Senate,
and a Parliamentary Delegation,
Trinidad and Tobago**

March 15-17, 2015

At the invitation of Her Excellency Raziah Ahmed, Senator, President of the Senate, and His Excellency Wade Mark, M.P., Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago, the Honourable Leo Housakos, Speaker *pro tempore* of the Senate, led a parliamentary delegation on an official visit to Trinidad and Tobago on March 15-17, 2015.

The delegation has the honour of tabling its report.

Report

The official delegation led by Speaker *pro tempore* Leo Housakos, comprised the following members:

The Honourable Leo Housakos, Speaker *pro tempore* of the Senate;

The Honourable Anne C. Cools, Senator;

The Honourable Pana Merchant, Senator;

The Honourable Grant Mitchell, Senator;

The Honourable Betty E. Unger, Senator;

The Honourable David Wells, Senator; and

Ms. Marie-Eve Belzile, Secretary to the delegation.

Background – Trinidad and Tobago

The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago is an island state in the Caribbean. It is made up of two main islands off the northeast coast of Venezuela, south of Grenada. In 2014, the country had approximately 1.3 million inhabitants. The economy of Trinidad and Tobago is the largest, most diversified and most industrialized in the Caribbean. Because of its relatively large size and the strength of its economy, it is an influential player within the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). The country is also one of the region's major energy producers. It plays a leading role within CARICOM in terms of energy and security issues. Foreign investment is a central element of economic policy and is supported by the business and labour sectors. Trinidad and Tobago also has a well-developed financial sector. It has the second-highest per capita income in the Caribbean.

Canada's relations with Trinidad and Tobago are close and long-standing. Official diplomatic relations were established in August 1962, following Trinidad and Tobago's independence. Today, bilateral relations cover a spectrum of sectors, including immigration, education, security and financial services. Canada and Trinidad and Tobago cooperate within the Commonwealth, the United Nations and the Organization of American States. Trinidad and Tobago ratified the Landmines Convention and was a regional leader in ratifying and promoting the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

As partners in the hemisphere and the Commonwealth, Canada and Trinidad and Tobago share common values, multicultural societies, similar systems of government and a commitment to democracy, freedom, the rule of law and human rights. These ties are reinforced by the contributions of some 100,000 Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Trinidadian origin, and by 6,000 Canadians living in Trinidad and Tobago.

In 2014, Trinidad and Tobago was Canada's largest partner for trade in goods within CARICOM, and ranked third in the Caribbean after the Dominican Republic and Cuba.

Objectives

The objectives of the visit were to:

- promote Canada's interests and democratic values;
- encourage ongoing parliamentary dialogue by further promoting parliamentary exchanges;
- highlight the importance of human ties between Canada and Trinidad and Tobago;
- discuss foreign policies with respect to issues of international and mutual interest;
- encourage economic ties with Trinidad and Tobago, especially negotiations for a free trade agreement between Canada and CARICOM; and
- pursue good relations in all fields of contact.

Meetings – Port of Spain

In Port of Spain, the delegation met with:

His Excellency Anthony Carmona, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago; the Honourable Ivor Archie, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Trinidad and Tobago; Her Excellency Raziah Ahmed, Senator, President of the Senate; His Excellency Wade Mark, M.P., Speaker of the House of Representatives; the Honourable Winston Dookeran, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs; the Honourable Vasant Bharath, Senator, Minister of Trade; the Honourable Kelvin Ramnarine, Senator, Minister of Energy and Energy Industries; the Honourable Keith Rowley, M.P., Leader of the Opposition; Brigadier General Anthony Phillips-Spencer, Vice Chief of Defence Staff, Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force; and Garvin Heerah, Commander, National Operations Centre.

Meeting with His Excellency Anthony Carmona, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

The purpose of the meeting with H.E. Anthony Carmona, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, was to thank the people of Trinidad for their hospitality, to reiterate the importance of bilateral relations between Canada and Trinidad and Tobago and to discuss issues of international and mutual interest. The two countries celebrated 50 years of diplomatic relations in 2012, which coincided with the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Trinidad and Tobago's independence. Today, these bilateral relations encompass a spectrum of sectors, including trade, education, security and governance. H.E. Anthony Carmona mentioned that longstanding interpersonal and parliamentary

ties have resulted in strong business relationships and solutions to emerging global issues.

The President of the Republic initially wished to discuss the use of parliamentary privilege in Canada and the code of conduct that governs parliamentarians within the parliamentary precinct. The rules of order and decorum enforced in the chamber by the Speaker were also briefly discussed, as was the handling of public complaints involving parliamentarians.

The President then moved on to the issue of terrorism. He referred to the events that had occurred in Ottawa of October 22, 2014, and the parallels with the 1990 coup in the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago. In the current context, countries must adopt a unified approach to combating terrorism. Trinidad and Tobago is no exception; the country is dealing with escalating radicalization among youth. The President believes it is necessary to engage young people and involve them in democratic and parliamentary life. The dilemma of social media contributes to the problems encountered by police. The recruitment of young people is now borderless, yet the resources available to analyze the computer data collected are limited. The President mentioned that Trinidad and Tobago is interested in working with Canada on this issue and developing a training program on how to combat terrorism. Senator Mitchell spoke about the Standing Senate Committee on National Security and Defence's study on the phenomenon of radicalization of youth.

The issue of development assistance was also discussed. The Caribbean is one of 20 countries/regions targeted by Canada for international development assistance. The President suggested that assistance should not be determined solely on the basis of gross domestic product. Other factors, such as porous coastlines and borders, should also be taken into consideration. Trinidad and Tobago is too often isolated in light of its economic and geopolitical status in a regional community that is vulnerable and precarious.

The Speaker *pro tempore* raised the issue of the Arms Trade Treaty. He told the President that Canada understood the importance of signing the Treaty and the related issues for Trinidad and Tobago. He said that Canada would make a decision in due course.

Academic exchanges were discussed. Canadian universities have signed a cooperation agreement with universities in Trinidad and Tobago to facilitate staff and student exchanges. The High Commission in Port of Spain issues about 300 study permits a year to citizens of Trinidad and Tobago. The President said that he would like to increase exchanges with francophone universities in Canada. More often than not, Trinidadians who want to pursue their studies in French opt for Europe, yet good universities in Quebec could be an excellent alternative. The President also mentioned that he is the Chancellor of the University of Trinidad and Tobago and that, given his vast experience in the field of education, inter-university cooperation is very important to him. In particular, he would like to see more medical research on tropical diseases. Also related to the medical field, he mentioned the difficulties Trinidad and Tobago is facing

with regard to the skilled labour shortage in technical areas. He added that the country must also address the health problems that pose a significant financial burden for the state, namely, diabetes, obesity and HIV. In this regard, Senator Merchant explained that Canada was facing a similar situation and that the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology was conducting a study on the incidence of obesity among young people.

Meeting with the Honourable Ivor Archie, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Trinidad and Tobago

Canada expressed its support for Trinidad and Tobago's efforts to reform its justice system and make crime fighting a priority. Canada's Anti-Crime Capacity Building Program is helping Trinidad and Tobago modernize criminal investigations. The Government of Canada, in a collaborative project with the United Kingdom, is making an important contribution to criminal justice reform in Trinidad and Tobago by funding the placement of a prosecutor from the UK within the office of the Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago to guide reforms in several areas, including police investigations, effective use of witnesses and state-of-the-art technologies. The purpose of this meeting was to take note of the progress made in the area of judicial reform and to promote Canada's interests and democratic values.

The Speaker *pro tempore* thanked Chief Justice Archie for taking the time to meet with the Canadian delegation and introduced its members. Given Canada's commitment to the rule of law, the Speaker *pro tempore* asked the Chief Justice to qualify the effectiveness of the criminal justice reform project so far. Chief Justice Archie said that, generally speaking, many of the objectives had been met. He mentioned that talks regarding structural reforms were currently under way.

The Speaker *pro tempore* made reference to comments made by the Hon. Keith Rowley, Leader of the Opposition, at a previous meeting, that the criminal justice system still has shortcomings that undermine public confidence. The Chief Justice addressed these concerns, adding that police training needed to be improved. He explained that there is a distinct shortage of lawyers to defend the accused, which significantly hampers the administration of justice because the courts cannot hear more than one serious criminal case at a time. He also deplored the fact that there is no legal aid department to assist low-income individuals.

Senator Mitchell described the memorandum of understanding between the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force and Canada with respect to the Military Training and Cooperation Program. He asked whether such an agreement could benefit the police.

The Correctional Service of Canada and the Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service also have a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in correctional services to facilitate exchanges and training. Both sides discussed remaining problems to be addressed. The shortage of staff in the parole department, delays with regards to remand and lack of legislative framework with respect to trading in a guilty plea were mentioned. The Chief Justice also developed on the latest talks aimed to provide alternatives to detention and incarceration to allow minor crime offenders to reintegrate

society under supervision more easily. Each initiative promoting social reintegration benefits both government and citizens. The Chief Justice hoped that these measures would contribute to improving the justice system.

Meeting with Her Excellency Raziah Ahmed, Senator, President of the Senate; and His Excellency Wade Mark, M.P., Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

The meeting was an opportunity for the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Trinidad and Tobago to describe the ties between our two countries and to present their Parliament and recent accomplishments in terms of transparency and accessibility.

Speaker Mark elaborated on the fact that the historic relationship between Canada and Trinidad and Tobago dates back to the first trade arrangements in 1938, and Canada's official recognition of Trinidad and Tobago as a rule of law state in 1962. In fact, the two countries celebrated 50 years of diplomatic relations in 2012, which coincided with the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Trinidad and Tobago's independence.

Academic ties between Trinidad and Tobago and Canada are far-reaching and long-standing. Canadian Presbyterian missionaries were responsible for establishing educational institutions in the country some 100 years ago, institutions which still exist today. The Speaker pointed out that there are also a significant number of Canadian investors in the country and that the value of direct investments amounted to nearly \$1.3 billion, concentrated primarily in the areas of finance and energy. Canadian banks, including Scotiabank and CIBC, are well established in the country. The Speaker mentioned the stability of Canada's financial system.

Speaker Mark then conveyed the solidarity of the members of the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago with Canadians following the events that had taken place in Ottawa on Parliament Hill on October 22, 2014.

Lastly, President Ahmed and Speaker Mark explained the various reforms recently implemented to make the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago more accountable, transparent and accessible to the public. Among other things, it was mentioned that the House of Representatives has conducted a review of its rules to further align them with the practices of other Westminster-style parliaments. Standing committees have been formed, before whom ministers are called to testify. All proceedings are accessible on the Parliament's web interface. A question period has been added, during which the Prime Minister is invited to address policies before Parliament. Parliament has also developed a comprehensive strategic plan and platform for information and communication technologies that significantly modernizes working methods. It expects to become approximately 90% paper-free by 2017. The Tuesday sittings of the Senate and Friday sittings of the House of Representatives are now broadcast live. Parliament also has a presence on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Speaker Mark proudly announced that campaigns to raise awareness of political life and the work of parliamentarians have been launched and adapted for Trinidadian youth. All these measures help to raise awareness of the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago, to

enhance public confidence in their institutions and their members of Parliament and to stress the importance of democracy.

Speaker *pro tempore* Housakos thanked his hosts and concurred with Speaker Mark's comments regarding the good relations between Canada and Trinidad and Tobago. He pointed out that, in 2012, His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, had visited Port of Spain to celebrate 50 years of bilateral relations and to strengthen the strong ties that the two countries share in the areas of security, trade and education. Prime Minister Harper traveled to Trinidad and Tobago twice in 2009 to attend the Fifth Summit of the Americas and the Meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of State, thus confirming Canada's interest in the country. He further added that the two countries share very important, mutual economic, cultural and social ties. Every year, several hundred Trinidadian students attend Canadian universities through exchange programs. Canada sees great potential in the future of Trinidad and Tobago. Trade is important and the many Canadian investments in the financial sector demonstrate the stability of relations.

Both sides then raised the issue of negotiations for a free trade agreement between Canada and CARICOM. They agreed that the visit from Canadian parliamentarians would help move things forward.

Speaker *pro tempore* Housakos introduced the members of the Canadian delegation. The two countries will be holding general elections in 2015. A discussion ensued on citizen participation and youth engagement in the democratic process. They also discussed Trinidad and Tobago's proposed reform to impose a two-term limit for the Prime Minister, and the impact that televised debates have had on chamber proceeding and the work of parliamentarians.

Meeting with the Honourable Winston Dookeran, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs

The purpose of the meeting was to promote Canada's interests, encourage parliamentary dialogue, highlight the importance of the human ties between Canada and Trinidad and Tobago and discuss foreign policies.

The Speaker *pro tempore* began by thanking the Minister of Foreign Affairs for receiving the Canadian delegation, and he introduced the senators accompanying him.

The Minister pointed out that Canada and Trinidad and Tobago cooperate on several issues, including diplomacy, human rights and the fight against terrorism. Academic ties dating back to the early 20th century were started by Canadian missionaries. Several Trinidadian institutions of higher learning have signed cooperation agreements with Canadian institutions.

The Speaker *pro tempore* added that Trinidad and Tobago is also involved in the Canadian Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program, a labour mobility program. Canada has solid direct investment in Trinidad and Tobago: \$1.2 billion in 2013. Regarding the Arms Trade Treaty, the Speaker *pro tempore* informed the Minister that Canada understood the importance of the issues for Trinidad and Tobago and that a decision

would be made in due course. He then said that he hoped to promote social ties between both countries since Canada is home to over 100,000 Trinidadian Canadians. These personal ties contribute to the economies of both countries. He asked the Minister about what actions should be taken to further strengthen these unique ties.

The Minister spoke about the movement of individuals in a global environment as the current practice of diplomacy. There needs to be consideration given to this development and the ability to strike a balance between the movement of individuals and the risk of a terrorist threat. He believes that visa requirements should be eased to allow greater travel flexibility, increase investment and facilitate economic ties.

The discussion then turned to negotiations on a free trade agreement between Canada and CARICOM. Both sides discussed the difficulties encountered during the negotiations, and potential solutions and alternatives.

The Minister informed the delegation that the University of the West Indies in Trinidad and Tobago had opened The Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean, a first in the region. The Academy provides training on negotiation and international cooperation within CARICOM and beyond. Their hope is to improve the understanding and practice of contemporary diplomacy. The Minister added that several of the lecturers were Canadian. He mentioned that Canada, being a middle power, is actively involved within the international community, although its bargaining power has been weakened in recent years. He said that an invitation had been sent to Canada's former Foreign Affairs Minister, the Honourable John Baird, to attend a conference in May on promoting middle power states.

Lastly, the Minister suggested that the discussion continue in the near future to address parliamentary and electoral reforms.

Meeting with the Honourable Vasant Bharath, Senator, Minister of Trade and Investment

The purpose of the meeting was to promote economic ties between Canada and Trinidad and Tobago, encourage progress on negotiations toward a free trade agreement with CARICOM and follow up on a proposed sale of Canadian aircrafts.

The Speaker *pro tempore* began by introducing the members of the Canadian delegation. He then gave an overview of the trade and economic ties between both countries. Similarly, he mentioned that Canada and CARICOM, of which Trinidad and Tobago is a member, have been in free trade talks since 2007. Canada and CARICOM were unable to reach an agreement before the agreed deadline of June 30, 2014. Consequently, negotiations have been stalled ever since. The Speaker *pro tempore* encouraged the Minister of Trade and Investment to promote the importance of such an agreement for all CARICOM member countries and to continue negotiations. Both sides briefly discussed the issues and options available to each country.

The Minister then discussed the industrial developments over the past four years, such as urban development and athletic and public infrastructure. He agreed with the

Speaker *pro tempore* about the significant Trinidadian diaspora in Canada, adding that he had had the opportunity to meet Trinidadian Canadians during his last visit to Canada in 2013, when he accompanied the Honourable Kamla Persad Bissessar, Prime Minister.

Discussion then turned to the legislative measures recently adopted by the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago on procurement. This long-overdue legislation significantly reduces Trinidadian red tape as a way to facilitate foreign investment. It used to take an average of 43 days to establish a company, but the government reduced this processing period to an average 3 days. These reforms placed Trinidad and Tobago among the 10 most improved countries in the World Bank's 2015 Ease of Doing Business Index. However, the general elections to take place by September 2015 are likely to slow down the process.

The Minister briefly spoke about the purchase in March of five helicopters from Canadian manufacturer Bell Helicopter Textron by the National Operations Centre, Air Division. Then Senator Wells discussed the negotiations between the Trinidad and Tobago Air Guard and Canada's Provincial Aerospace Limited on the purchase of long-range, multimission aircrafts. Lastly, Senator Merchant and Senator Unger asked for clarification about trade between Trinidad and Tobago and the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta respectively.

Meeting with the Honourable Kelvin Ramnarine, Senator, Minister of Energy and Energy Industries

This meeting gave the Canadian delegation the opportunity to learn more about the Trinidad and Tobago's economic situation and to promote Canadian interests.

The Speaker *pro tempore* thanked the Minister for taking the time to receive the delegation. He provided an overview of the human, economic, diplomatic and cultural ties between both countries.

The Minister agreed with the Speaker *pro tempore*. He added that Canada also had a strong presence on financial markets. The parties began a discussion on each country's various energy market opportunities.

The status of negotiations on a Canada-CARICOM free trade agreement was raised, and the Speaker *pro tempore* asked whether Canada should take other initiatives to strengthen Trinidad and Tobago's economic growth. Academic exchanges contribute to strengthening social and economic ties. The Minister believed that more needed to be done to promote inter-university partnerships. Some senators discussed possible university partnerships involving the oil industry.

Meeting with the Honourable Dr. Keith Rowley, M.P., Leader of the Opposition

Speaker *pro tempore* Housakos thanked the Leader of the Opposition for taking the time to receive the Canadian delegation. Meeting with the Official Opposition provides a global, overall picture of the parliamentary situation and an opportunity to better understand the successes and issues in the country visited.

The Speaker *pro tempore* Housakos briefly outlined the ties between Canada and Trinidad and Tobago. He said that Canada has long had close ties with Trinidad and Tobago, having established diplomatic relations with the country when it achieved independence in August 1962. Bilateral relations cover a whole range of issues, including trade, education, security and governance. Trinidad and Tobago is also an important partner for Canada within CARICOM, the Commonwealth, the United Nations and the Organization of American States. Cooperation between police forces is also significant. Canada has an RCMP liaison officer based in Port of Spain, who is involved in the region in the area of capacity building and cooperation. The Correctional Service of Canada and the Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service signed a memorandum of understanding on correctional services cooperation in order to facilitate professional exchanges and training. As well, Canadian universities have signed cooperation agreements with universities in Trinidad and Tobago to facilitate research projects and exchanges between students and teachers. The Speaker *pro tempore* concluded by mentioning that Canada is home to a significant Trinidadian community of about 100,000, living mainly in the Greater Toronto Area, including artists, politicians and journalists.

Mr. Rowley explained the current shortcomings of the Trinidadian government system and the areas he thought needed additional assistance. He first pointed out that public governance needed improvement. There is still corruption in public and private spheres. This has affected government transparency and accountability for the sound stewardship of public assets. This is undermining public confidence in its government, politicians and public systems. He went on to say that the work of police, including investigation units, needs immediate additional assistance. One of the key responsibilities of police is to investigate and solve crime. According to recent reports, less than 10% of murders committed in Trinidad are solved and brought to justice. Mr. Rowley said that Canadian expertise and capacity in this area could help significantly improve the system regionally and nationally. In response to a question by Senator Cools, Mr. Rowley said that the national police forces specifically needed training and equipment to deliver better and more consistent service to the public at all levels. This led to a discussion about the possibility of importing the structure of the Military Training and Cooperation Program between Canada and Trinidad and Tobago to police forces. The Program has had a proven track record in Trinidad and Tobago since the 1970s.

With respect to improving the public system, Mr. Rowley said he believes there needs to be a review of the administration of public policy and the social safety net, and that certain organizations should be decentralized. He did welcome the government's initiative of establishing standing parliamentary committees to hold the government to account for its actions, but he denounced them as ineffective. There was a brief discussion about tourism programs that could be more competitive, air transport agreements, justice reform proposals included in an omnibus bill that resulted in a national scandal, and the healthcare system. On that topic, Mr. Rowley said that there had been abuse within the system and that the country was facing a shortage of doctors, nurses and skilled technicians trained to repair various medical devices.

Mr. Rowley briefly explained the value-added tax system and the issues surrounding property tax levies.

Meeting with Brigadier General Anthony Phillips-Spencer, Vice Chief of Defence Staff, Trinidad and Tobago Defence Forces

Canada has maintained 53 years of close relations with Trinidad and Tobago, which has one of the largest defence forces in the Caribbean. Trinidad and Tobago's Defence Forces have a long history of training with the Canadian Armed Forces, and they are members of Canada's Military Training Assistance Program. Because of its relatively large size and the strength of its economy, Trinidad and Tobago is an influential player within CARICOM. It also plays a leading role on energy and security issues. Speaker *pro tempore* Housakos asked what else could be done to further develop security cooperation.

The Brigadier General said that Trinidad and Tobago was proud of its cooperation with Canada and its professional training programs. He explained that he himself had completed his training in Canada a few years earlier. He added that Trinidad and Tobago's geographic location made it particularly vulnerable. The terrorist threat and the rise in radicalization were of concern. The Brigadier General briefly went over the events of the 1990 coup attempt in Port of Spain. The constantly changing environment is putting a strain on the country's abilities and resources. There are noticeable weaknesses with respect to capacity building.

The Caribbean is an international development priority for Canada. It developed a Caribbean Regional Program, which covers Trinidad and Tobago. Through the Program, Canada stimulates sustainable economic growth to address regional economic challenges, and it promotes security by strengthening the rule of law and improving measures to mitigate and respond to natural disasters.

The Brigadier General expanded on the issues, telling the delegation that Trinidad and Tobago's greatest security challenge was drug trafficking, given its proximity to Venezuela. Like many regions in the Caribbean, insecurity negatively impacts on the quality of life and poses a barrier to economic growth. Drug trafficking is directly responsible for most of the murders in the country. Illegal immigration is on the rise and is also a sizeable challenge. Several Caribbean countries rely on Trinidad and Tobago for assistance to improve regional security and to provide the human and financial resources needed to do so.

According to the Brigadier General, there is no clear legislation covering national security. Certain policies are currently being considered. The National Operations Centre assists with tactical coordination but it remains to be seen whether the systems are effective. The Speaker *pro tempore* Housakos asked the Brigadier General if he believed there is sufficient legislation in place to govern police forces, criminal justice and corrections. He replied that several laws addressed various issues. They are sometimes out of date and difficult to amend, and there is no single overarching legislation covering the whole system. As well, there is still no outcomes management or reporting review system.

The meeting ended with a discussion on the progress of negotiations for the purchase of long-range, multimission aircrafts.

Meeting with Garvin Heerah, Director, National Operations Centre

The purpose of the meeting was to give the members of the delegation a better understanding of the security systems in place in Trinidad and Tobago.

A video was shown to outline the mandate of the National Operations Centre (NOC) and present the various stakeholders involved. These include the coast guard, customs, the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management, the police department, immigration and intelligence agency, with the NOC managing and coordinating response to incidents. The police remain the public's primary point of contact.

Their main focus is on fighting crime and sharing intelligence on drug trafficking, human trafficking, terrorism, street gangs and money laundering.

Most employees are former military members who maintain close ties with the Defence Forces. The proposal raised by Canada's senators to import the structure of the Military Training and Cooperation Program between Canada and Trinidad and Tobago to police forces was welcomed. The Program has had a proven track record in Trinidad and Tobago since the 1970s.

Following the meeting, the Canadian delegation had the opportunity to observe the control room and take a brief guided tour of the facilities.

Activities

During their visit to Port of Spain, the members of the delegation held a working dinner with representatives of Canadian and Trinidadian businesses with Canadian interests to discuss the country's economy and business climate. They visited the room temporarily being used for sittings of the Senate and the House of Representatives. They also attended the Senate question period.

Acknowledgements

The members of the Canadian delegation wish to thank Her Excellency Raziah Ahmed, Senator, President of the Senate; and His Excellency Wade Mark, M.P., Speaker of the House of Representatives, for hosting the official visit and providing such a warm welcome and generous hospitality. The delegation would also like to thank the protocol staff of the Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, who ensured that the visit went smoothly.

Staff at the Canadian High Commission in Port of Spain provided invaluable assistance. Special thanks to Mr. Gérard Latulippe, High Commissioner for Canada to Trinidad and Tobago, who helped prepare the agenda and accompanied the delegation throughout the visit. Thanks are due as well to Mr. Barry Bristman, Ms. Debra Boyce and Ms. Katya Zeydan, who were all instrumental in organizing the visit and its implementation.

Lastly, the delegates wish to thank Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada, and the Library of Parliament for all the documentation provided in preparation for the visit.

Respectfully submitted,

The Honourable Leo Housakos
Speaker of the Senate

Travel Costs

Visit of the Honourable Leo Housakos, Speaker *pro tempore* of the Senate, and a parliamentary delegation, Trinidad and Tobago

TRAVEL	\$24,200
ACCOMMODATION	\$300
PER DIEMS	\$2,050
PROTOCOL	\$2,800
MISCELLANEOUS	\$50
TOTAL	\$29,400