

Canada - United States
Inter-Parliamentary Group
Canadian Section



Groupe interparlementaire
Canada - États-Unis
Section canadienne

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 25, 2013

Members of the Canadian Section of the Canada-U.S. IPG Attend Meeting with U.S. State Legislators

From September 19-22, 2013, two Vice-Chairs from the Canadian Section of the Canada-United States Inter-Parliamentary Group (IPG) – Senator Michael L. MacDonald and Mr. François Lapointe, M.P. – led a delegation to the annual national conference of the Council of State Governments (CSG) in Kansas City, Missouri. The other members of the delegation were Senator Terry Mercer and Mr. Bob Zimmer, M.P.

“As always, I was pleased to be able to attend the annual CSG national conference, as well as to meet state legislators from throughout the United States and provincial colleagues from Canada who regularly work with the various CSG regions,” said Senator MacDonald. “At this meeting, members of the IPG were happy to support legislators from both countries regarding a CSG resolution on mandatory country-of-origin labelling, or mCOOL. North America has an integrated livestock industry, and these labelling requirements have implications for U.S. jobs, costs and prices without improving food safety, which is already high as a consequence of sound food safety standards and systems in both countries. A legislative solution is needed to fix the mCOOL problem, and the CSG resolution is a step in the right direction.”

Mr. Lapointe concluded: “I echo the comments of my colleague about the wonderful opportunity the conference provided to meet U.S. state legislators and members of some of Canada’s provincial legislatures. The IPG was also pleased to support U.S. state and Canadian provincial legislators on a resolution in relation to the new international trade crossing between Detroit, Michigan and Windsor, Ontario. The ability to move goods and people safely, efficiently and cost-effectively across the shared border between Canada and the United States is clearly a priority for both countries, and the CSG resolution that supports the construction of the new crossing is certainly beneficial in helping to assure that our bilateral relationship continues to grow for our joint benefit.”

The CSG serves all three branches of state government and provides regional fora – the western, midwestern, southern and eastern regional conferences – through which ideas

and insights are exchanged with a view to shaping public policy. Additional information on the CSG can be found at: www.csg.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.

-30-

For further information:

Hon. Janis Johnson, Senator, Co-Chair
Canada-U.S. Inter-Parliamentary Group - 613-943-1430
Mr. Gord Brown, M.P., Co-Chair
Canada-U.S. Inter-Parliamentary Group - 613-992-8756
Ms. Angela Crandall, Association Secretary
Canada-U.S. Inter-Parliamentary Group - 613-944-4238