

Canada - United States
Inter-Parliamentary Group
Canadian Section



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Section canadienne

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Canadian Parliamentarians attend meeting with U.S. state legislators.

From 12-15 August 2013, three Vice-Chairs of the Canadian Section of the Canada-United States Inter-Parliamentary Group (IPG) – Senator Michael L. MacDonald, Mr. Brian Masse, M.P. and the Honourable Wayne Easter, P.C., M.P. – led a delegation to the annual legislative summit of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), which was held in Atlanta, Georgia. The delegation also included Senator Jim Munson and Mr. Larry Miller, M.P.

“While the sessions and presentations were very informative, one of the most useful activities undertaken by the IPG delegation at the legislative summit was the meeting we had with New Hampshire Speaker Terie Norelli, NCSL President, Oregon Senator Bruce Starr, NCSL-President Elect and Nevada Senator Debbie Smith, NCSL Vice-President. We conveyed the importance of the Canada-U.S. relationship, and the value added by the participation of Canada’s federal parliamentarians, recognizing that there are certain issues – such as trade – where both federal and provincial/territorial governments in Canada have an interest,” said Senator MacDonald.

Mr. Masse continued: “I agree with Senator MacDonald, and would add that attendance at the meeting provided members of the IPG delegation with an unparalleled opportunity to speak with legislators from throughout the United States about specific and time-sensitive issues that are important to both countries. For example, I spoke to a number of legislators about the need for – and benefits for both countries of – a new highway-to-highway connection at Detroit, Michigan and Windsor, Ontario. Clearly, the establishment of such a connection would facilitate the growth and prosperity of North American manufacturing sectors and of the economies in both countries.”

Mr. Easter concluded: “I support the comments of my colleagues: the sessions and presentations were instructive, our meeting with NCSL leadership was extremely beneficial, and the summit provided us with an opportunity to speak to state legislators about critical bilateral issues. I chatted with a number of legislators about another issue that is important at this time: the United States’ mandatory country-of-origin labelling – or COOL – provisions. The United States has lost a World Trade Organization challenge, and these provisions have the potential to continue to harm both Canadians and Americans operating in the integrated North American livestock industry.”

The National Conference of State Legislatures is a bipartisan organization serving the legislators and legislative staff of the 50 U.S. states as well as its commonwealths and territories. With its standing committees comprised of legislators and legislative staff, the NCSL provides research, technical assistance and a venue for the exchange of ideas on state issues.

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 U.S. 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 IPG can be found at www.parl.gc.ca/ia/us.

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