

Canada - United States  
Inter-Parliamentary Group  
Canadian Section



Groupe interparlementaire  
Canada - États-Unis  
Section canadienne

**REPORT OF THE  
CANADIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION OF THE  
CANADA-UNITED STATES INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GROUP  
TO THE  
NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES:  
STRONG STATES STRONG NATION  
Nashville, Tennessee  
August 14-18, 2006**

From 14-18 August 2006, selected members of the Canadian Section of the Canada-United States Inter-Parliamentary Group attended the annual meeting of the National Conference of State Legislatures in Nashville, Tennessee. Aspects of the meeting's theme, Strong States Strong Nation, were discussed during concurrent and plenary sessions. This report summarizes some of those sessions

# **NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES: STRONG STATES STRONG NATION NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 14-18 AUGUST 2006**

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## **GLOBAL MIGRATION: BRAIN DRAIN AND BRAIN GAIN**

### **Demetrios Papademetriou, Migration Policy Institute**

- Canada and Mexico may not always realize that the United States is a country through which people transit, with the ultimate destination of Canada and Mexico
- many countries are worried about the extent to which they are losing "their best and their brightest," since the highly skilled and highly qualified are highly desirable, and about 200 million people live outside the country in which they were born
- in general, there are two ways in which immigrants can be selected: by the government; or by employers identifying the individuals they would like to employ
- a demographic revolution is underway; some countries are not producing the right number of people with the right skills, while other countries – for a variety of reasons – prefer to "import" the skills that they need
- a country will be unable to retain its citizens unless it can create an environment where citizens can grow, prosper and realize their potential

### **Speaker Amar Sa'Adani, People's National Assembly, Algeria**

- terrorism is a major problem in society
- the world has reached the stage where the acceleration of all forms of progress is stunning; consider, for example, that 50% of information technology data become obsolete within five years
- as the world becomes more technological, digital and virtual, and as new information and communications technologies evolve, there are incredible opportunities for the sharing of information
- the globalization process is not truly global, since the technological and digital gap between rich and poor nations is widening

- the brain drain and the brain gain do not help to bridge the technological and digital divide among and between developed and developing countries, and immigration is not helping the situation

**Rob Merrifield, M.P., Canada-United States Inter-Parliamentary Group, House of Commons, Canada**

- immigrants are Canada's lifeline to prosperity; demographic change in Canada is such that immigration is the only means by which Canada will grow
- Canada is aware of the need to welcome immigrants, for reasons related to labour market shortages, humanitarian imperatives and others, while respecting the need to protect the security of our borders and the integrity of our immigration system
- according to Statistics Canada, since the early 1990s, international migration has been the main source of population increase in Canada; since 2000 it has represented more than 60% of the observed population growth in Canada and may soon account for all growth if fertility rates remain low
- Citizenship and Immigration Canada processes more than 2 million immigrant applications each year, and in 2005 Canada welcomed more than 260,000 immigrants
- in Canada, immigration is not an option for everyone; Canada selects those immigrants who share Canadian values and beliefs about democracy and freedom
- most immigrants settle in three large urban centres: Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal
- in future, Canada will increasingly compete with other ageing countries for immigrants, and Canada must be seen as an attractive location in which to settle; in this regard, integration and settlement services, language training, protection against discrimination, access to training and education, and recognition of foreign-obtained credentials are important
- there are many false accusations and misperceptions about Canada:
  - the 11 September 2001 hijackers did not enter the United States through Canada; rather, they had U.S. visas
  - in Canada, the legal basis for detention is substantively the same as the United States, and it is estimated that 12 million persons are in the United States without legal status, a figure that should be compared to the up to 300,000 undocumented persons in Canada

- the number of illegal, undocumented immigrants in the United States rises by at least 500,000 individuals each year, a figure that is about double the number of legal, fully screened immigrants entering Canada each year
- both Canada and the United States have comprehensive legislation that allows the admission of persons who meet legislative requirements and that denies entry to those who pose a threat to public safety or national security
- all immigrants to Canada meet statutory criteria related to security, criminality and medical requirements

**Hon. Angela Freimuth, State Legislature of North Rhine, Westphalia, Free Democratic Party, Germany**

- as a consequence of the Holocaust, many qualified individuals died or fled Germany
- it took Germany some time to accept the fact that it was an immigrant country
- the birth rate in Germany is lower than in many other European countries, and young German science and other students do not want to return to Germany if they have studied elsewhere
- although German scientists and professors are not the best-paid on a global scale, it is important to recognize that “money is not everything”
- Germany must become attractive for foreign students

**Hon. Peggy Hollander, National Council of Provinces, South Africa**

- the mobility of highly skilled individuals is particularly pronounced in medicine, engineering and professional management
- incentives and programs are needed for retention

**Hon. Lucie Charlebois, National Assembly, Quebec, Canada**

- Quebec has a French-speaking identity to which immigrants must adapt
- the number of immigrants entering Quebec is growing
- Quebec wants to minimize the effects of ageing on the province, while safeguarding its linguistic identity and maximizing the number of specialized workers
- Quebec wants to foster social cohesion, and has measures to facilitate the integration of immigrants and to protect them from discrimination

**ENERGY POLICY SUMMIT**

Participants at the Energy Policy Summit identified a number of issues and actions:

- regional communication, coordination and cooperation for the sharing of information must be increased, and regional energy summits should be held
- a comprehensive energy goal that meets regional needs is required
- the United States lacks a clear vision of where it wants to be in energy policy
- a variety of infrastructure challenges exist, including generation, transmission, distribution and transportation
- the United States lacks diversity in its fuel sources
- a comprehensive, aggressive public outreach program is needed
- there are a variety of costs that must be considered, including capital, resource development, regulation and education
- a comprehensive state energy plan should be a living document
- it is not only direct production costs that are important; the indirect costs associated with externalities must also be considered
- the United States must reduce its dependence on foreign oil
- “one size fits all” regulations do not work for all states
- going forward, others must become engaged in the energy debate, including faith-based organizations, the higher education system, consumers who are willing to pay more for green energy, etc.

## **A BUSINESSMAN’S PERSPECTIVE: EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION IS BOTH A MORAL IMPERATIVE AND A SOUND INVESTMENT**

### **George Kaiser, Kaiser-Francis Oil Company and BOK Financial**

- there is inherent value in early childhood education and a positive return on investments in quality early childhood education, although investments in prenatal health care and nutrition, as well as housing, are also important
- children must be provided with opportunities to succeed; they are not responsible for the economic circumstances into which they are born
- for children, equality of opportunity is best assured by sensory stimulation and human contact; equality of opportunity is part of the social contract of American life
- the most effective way to reverse the cycle of poverty is to provide intensive sensory stimulation as early as possible
- teachers should be trained about how children learn

## THE GLOBAL EDGE: ECONOMIC SUCCESS IN A COMPETITIVE WORLD

### Frederick Smith, *FedEx Corporation*

- the world is undergoing fundamental change due to: the continued emergence of high technology and high valued-added products; globalization; the adoption of fast-cycle logistics; the internet; and the emergence of Brazil, China and India as economic powers
- a significant portion of the U.S. trade deficit is related to petroleum imports, and a majority of military spending is allocated to the protection of energy
- in the United States, the standard of living and quality of life are a function of innovation and entrepreneurial behaviour; consequently, it is important that programs, systems, laws and regulation do not impede innovation and entrepreneurship
- at the heart of American prosperity is the infrastructure that was built in the past but that is now under-funded
- the over-reach contained in the *Sarbanes-Oxley Act* has meant that some businesses have moved off-shore
- while the U.S. higher education system is the best in the world, the secondary school education system is not
- the United States does not graduate as many engineers or scientists as in China, and U.S. immigration policies should entice engineers and scientists to locate in the United States
- when goods cross borders, armies rarely do
- going forward, the United States should: determine what role the nation is going to play in the world; reduce U.S. dependence on petroleum products from unstable regions and regions that are not sympathetic to the United States; and reduce the deficit

### James Sasser, *Former U.S. Ambassador to China*

- globalization is the salient trend in the world economy, and flowing from this reality is a focus on interdependence among the great industrial economies of the world, including China
- the relatively free flow of information facilitates globalization
- there is a link among energy sources, the Middle East and fundamentalism
- private citizens are giving up on Washington, D.C.

- state legislators should seek industry and business concerns abroad, and induce them to come into their state; forming friendly international relationships is important for the future
- good leaders inform themselves and know what is going on in the community, state, country and world; while they have their own perspective, they tolerate other views
- the United States spends more on science and basic research than any other country in an absolute sense, but not as a proportion of Gross Domestic Product
- in the U.S., the higher education system is great, but the secondary school system is substandard
- the United States has inequalities in education and in income
- going forward, the United States should: solve its domestic problems first, including the budget and trade deficits and the de facto devaluation of the U.S. dollar; focus on improvements in the educational system; focus on restoring American credibility abroad; and address the inequality in income

#### **Rep. John Tanner, U.S. House of Representatives**

- the trade and budget deficits in the United States affect globalization; the U.S. is on an unsustainable financial path
- fundamentalism is rising around the world
- international organizations, such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, are important
- accurate and timely intelligence is needed
- while trade was historically considered to be the jurisdiction of U.S. Congress and the U.S. Trade Representative, it is now seen as more of a local and state concern
- engagement with the rest of the world is better than disengagement
- economic partners become political and military allies
- the *Sarbanes-Oxley Act* has had some negative consequences
- “blue sky” research must be done in order to ensure that the United States has a competitive edge, but it may be hard for the private sector to justify this type of research to shareholders
- the United States needs a national energy policy for renewable fuels
- innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship must be fostered in the U.S.

- good leaders tolerate the views of others
- the United States can compete on the basis of productivity, creativity and innovation, but cannot compete on the basis of labour costs
- going forward, the United States should: concentrate on deficit and debt reduction, since a country cannot be strong, free and broke; and focus on educational improvements

## **FINANCING BIOFUELS**

### **Bruce Crain, Crain Consulting**

- value-added agriculture has evolved, with an increased focus on renewable energy
- the evolution in agriculture is not just about agriculture; it is really about national security and reliable energy supply
- many different feedstocks can be used to produce renewable energy
- financial support for renewable fuels and energy products is provided through such sources as grants, equity, tax credits, government loans and government-guaranteed loans; many sources of financing may have to be aligned in order to make a project feasible
- federal support may be available through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Commerce and the U.S. Treasury Department

### **Jack Gleason, U.S. Department of Agriculture**

- the 2002 Farm Bill contained an energy title, with provision for grants, loans and loan guarantees; the terms “renewable” and “biomass” were defined
- federal support is provided under such programs as: Value Added Product Market Development Grants; Rural Business Opportunity Grants; Rural Business Enterprise Grants; and Rural Economic Development Loans and Grants
- in supporting renewable energy development and energy efficiency, the U.S. Department of Agriculture works with the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

## **FARM BILL: RURAL STRATEGIC INVESTMENT PROGRAM**

### **Chuck Fluharty, Rural Policy Research Institute**

- policies and budgets are essentially about visions and values; from that perspective, it is important to question what are the principal policy goals of rural initiatives and agricultural policy



- rural communities have fewer resources than do urban communities to do what they need to do
- the past is prologue; the time to go beyond tinkering around the edges is now
- rural constituencies and agricultural constituencies must come together
- commodity subsidies wed regions to commodities and thwart innovation
- there is a structural rural disadvantage in U.S. federalism, and federal urban spending per capita exceeds rural spending per capita
- there is a rural disadvantage in foundation and corporate giving
- globalization is changing the framework for rural policies and programs, and capturing regional competitive advantages must be the goal; national competitiveness is increasingly determined by regional competitiveness
- the social contract with rural America must be rediscovered

## **FARM BILL: AGRICULTURAL TRADE UPDATE**

### **Ken Roberts, U.S. Department of Agriculture**

- during World Trade Organization (WTO) agricultural trade negotiations, the U.S. is seeking changes in the areas of export competition, domestic support and market access
- some favourable changes have been negotiated with respect to: the elimination of export subsidies; tariff changes; a reduction in trade-distorting domestic support; disciplines on export state-trading enterprises; and measures to assist least-developed countries
- the October 2005 U.S. offer involved substantial reductions in domestic support contingent on corresponding substantial increases in market access
- at present, the sticking points in the WTO agricultural trade negotiations include domestic support and market access
- there is a great deal of pressure on the United States regarding domestic support, despite the high level of agricultural subsidies in the European Union
- there are perceived to be market access “loopholes,” for example with respect to sensitive commodities (such as sugar), special commodities and special safeguard mechanisms
- what lies ahead for the WTO agricultural negotiations is unknown, since the duration of the suspension of negotiations is unclear and the conditions for

resumed negotiations are also unclear; positions among countries remain far apart and, for the United States, market access is key

- if WTO agricultural negotiations are not concluded, bilateral trade agreements may be pursued, and new trading patterns will emerge; as well, there will be a widening of the disparity between developing and developed countries
- as well, failure to conclude the WTO agricultural negotiations may mean that trade decisions are made through litigation rather than negotiation, with potential impacts on U.S. farm payments through WTO dispute-settlement decisions

## **FARM BILL: KEY PLAYERS IN THE FARM BILL**

### **Gary Adams, National Cotton Council**

- with Brazil's success on most issues in the WTO challenge of U.S. cotton, some program changes are needed
- efforts by non-U.S. cotton-growing countries are underway at the WTO agricultural negotiations
- ethanol production yields a by-product that competes with cottonseed and cottonseed meal
- conservation will continue to be important, as will affordable crop insurance, export promotion and foreign market development

### **Dave Ladd, Agri-Bank**

- agricultural policy is different from rural policy which is different from rural development policy
- rural America has changed, and coalitions are being re-thought
- a key issue for agricultural lenders is serving rural America as it is today and not as it was
- there are risk-management considerations when lending occurs for biofuel initiatives

### **Dale Thorenson, American Soybean Association**

- the American Soybean Association supports the basic structure of the 2002 Farm Bill, and most would support continuing with the current programs; however, continuing with the current programs without changes is unlikely to occur in light of the World Trade Organization (WTO) agricultural negotiations and federal budget deficits
- debate on the 2007 Farm Bill is expected to occur before the WTO agricultural negotiations are concluded

- in June 2007, Trade Promotion Authority will expire
- the American Soybean Association feels that agricultural programs should not distort planting decisions among crops, and future programs should be WTO-compliant in order to avoid challenges

## **BIOTECHNOLOGY: FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS**

### **Rebecca Bech, U.S. Department of Agriculture**

- the U.S. Department of Agriculture has been regulating biotechnology since 1987, and has regulatory oversight for more than 100 organisms
- sound science is the basis of decision making
- regulations should be flexible in order to allow for things that might be upcoming
- proprietary business information must remain confidential

### **Barbara Glenn, Biotechnology Information Organization**

- a focus on animal biotechnology results in: improved animal health; the development of more nutritious foods; conservation of the environment and animals; and advances in human health
- there are three “technology sectors”: genomics; cloning; and transgenics
- genomics and DNA represent the ultimate animal identification system
- cloning involves the use of assisted reproductive technology
- transgenics can result in: an increased quality and quantity of milk and meat production; enhanced disease resistance; and the production of organs that are less likely to be rejected

## **LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP**

### **Doris Kearns Goodwin, *Author***

- President Lincoln’s team included his major rivals and those who held wildly divergent views
- President Lincoln fostered a culture of openness and debate that brought out the best in everyone
- President Lincoln’s profound self-confidence was strengthened by having strong people around him
- President Lincoln had the ability to empathize with others, which is important since people can be changed only if they are understood

- President Lincoln easily shared credit for success and argued that the path to success is sufficiently broad that two can walk abreast, yet he took responsibility for the failures of his subordinates as well as his own failures

## **INTERPLAY BETWEEN FEDERAL AND STATE RENEWABLE FUEL REQUIREMENTS**

### **Alexander Karsner, U.S. Department of Energy**

- energy milestones and deliverables are needed, and stakeholders must work together as partners in meeting challenges
- farmers are likely to supplant 10% of oil and gas usage
- the efficacy of state-based solutions must not be underestimated
- the quality of the environment is at risk
- a national commitment to energy efficiency is needed
- energy security ensures economic competitiveness and national security

### **Bob Schaefer, BP Global Fuels Technology**

- there are key questions that must be answered: what are the issues? what public policies are needed? to what extent should raw input be used for fuel rather than food?
- butanol has some advantages over ethanol
- goals are needed, and the goals must be flexible to allow for innovation

### **Paul Argyropoulos, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

- flexibility is needed for states that do not produce biofuels; trading of credits is an option
- there are a variety of factors that influence where renewable fuels are used, including seasons, incentives, local economic conditions and the existence of distribution networks

## **STATE INNOVATIONS TO COMBAT IDENTITY THEFT**

### **Rep. David Clark, Utah House of Representatives and Sen. Carlene Walker, Utah State Senate**

- identity theft is the fastest-growing crime in the United States, resulting in billions of dollars in losses each year
- in the United States, there were 9 million victims of identity theft in 2005
- every 20 minutes, an American is victimized by identity theft

- 32% of the victims of identity theft are still dealing with the associated problems after four years
- the only proactive, preventative way in which an individual can protect himself/herself from identity theft and identity fraud is security/credit freeze legislation
- security/credit freeze legislation may have the following provisions:
  - the victim must contact each credit reporting agency in writing by certified mail
  - a freeze is placed within five business days
  - the victim is issued a unique personal identification number
  - no credit report is given without proper personal identification and the victim's personal identification number
  - credit bureaus must issue a report in no more than 15 minutes
- identity theft legislation protects consumers and legitimate commerce
- states with credit freeze laws include: Kansas; Kentucky; Louisiana; Maine; Nevada; New Jersey; North Carolina; South Dakota; Texas; Utah; Vermont; Washington; and Wisconsin

**Sen. Carol Fukunaga, *Hawaii State Senate***

- Hawaii has a variety of legislative initiatives designed to protect against identity theft
- Act 135 (security breach protection) requires the government and businesses with an individual's personal information to notify the individual if a security breach occurs
- Act 136 (safeguards for destruction of personal records) requires the government and businesses disposing of personal information to take reasonable steps to protect against unauthorized access
- Act 137 (protection of social security numbers) restricts government and business use of social security numbers on records made available to the general public
- Act 138 (security freeze – credit reports) allows identity theft victims to place a security freeze on their credit reports in order to prohibit consumer reporting agencies from releasing information without their authorization; it also allows temporary withdrawal of the freeze with victim authorization

- Act 139 (criminal penalties) criminalizes unauthorized possession of confidential personal information and broadens local enforcement to include personal mail theft; it also increases penalties for identity theft
- Act 140 (new responsibilities – task force) appropriates funding to help government agencies address protection issues involving personal data and for the Attorney General to develop a uniform system of tracking identity theft crimes
- Act 141 (property rights) criminalizes the intention to use a computer to obtain control over the property of a victim to commit a first- or second-degree theft

**Melissa Calderwood, Legislative Research Department, Kansas**

- the Kansas legislature has legislation that protects and restricts the use of certain personal information; legislation also provides penalties and remedies for violations of the use of personal information
- the legislature also has legislation that addresses: the illegal possession or use of scanning devices; provides protections for personal identifying information and notification requirements associated with a breach of security of computerized data; allows for the use of – and protections associated with – security freezes on consumer reports; institutes and procedures for the destruction of data

**Kimberley Wells, Office of the Attorney General, Ohio**

- identity theft affects the ability of victims to manage their financial affairs, and reputations may be destroyed; as well, time, money and emotion are required by victims in order to clear their name
- an identity theft program should be simple for victims and law enforcement, quick, accurate and secure
- in Ohio, the goals of simplicity, timeliness, accuracy and security have been achieved through the Identity Theft Verification PASSPORT program, which was initiated in December 2004
- under the PASSPORT program:
  - an identity fraud victim reports the crime to law enforcement and a police report is created
  - if law enforcement has probable cause to believe that an identity fraud crime has been committed, the Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway can be accessed to complete a PASSPORT application, with basic information filled in on-line
  - with the application, biometric data (one digitized fingerprint, one digitized photograph and an electronic signature) are obtained and the police report is submitted electronically or by fax

- law enforcement provides the victim with an identity theft package provided by the Office of the Ohio Attorney General, and victims can contact this Office about issues related to clearing their name
- PASSPORTS are sent to the victims; where a person needs to show that he/she has been a victim of identity theft, he/she can present the PASSPORT to demonstrate this fact, and creditors, credit reporting agencies and law enforcement agencies can call a verification line to learn whether the card is valid
- law enforcement agencies can view every data field completed by the original law enforcement agency and also view the police report

## **UNDERSTANDING FINANCIAL REGULATION AND SUPERVISION**

### **Dwight Larsen, United Bankers' Bank**

- the U.S. economy is the largest in the world (bigger than the second through fifth largest economies combined), and capital flows into and throughout the United States because of trust resulting from the regulatory framework and oversight
- a strong economy depends on a strong financial services sector, which requires heavy regulation to ensure a high level of trust
- inflows of capital are associated with a better standard of living
- no entity insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation has failed since mid-2004
- the complex regulatory structure, which involves a certain degree of overlap and duplication, ensures that all customers have equal access and the various entities operate in a manner that is safe and sound
- there are three main sectors in the financial services sector: banking; insurance; and securities
- entities in the banking sector extend credit, take deposits and handle payments; banks, thrifts and credit unions all have separate regulators, and may have a national or state bank charter
- entities in the insurance sector underwrite different types of insurance, and insurance companies register in the state in which they are domiciled; there is no national chartering agency
- entities in the securities sector buy, sell, clear or transfer securities; securities companies register in the state in which they are domiciled and must be registered with self-regulatory organizations

- non-depository companies are used primarily by consumers who may not be considered by the banking sector to be credit-worthy, and include check cashing and pay day lending organizations, pawn shops, mortgage brokers, rent-to-own organizations and finance companies; these companies are licensed and regulated by state governments
- the financial services sector also includes government-sponsored enterprises that were originally created by U.S. Congress to assist in providing credit and reducing interest rates for such specific sectors as students, farmers or home owners; they create secondary markets by packaging and securitizing pools or loans for resale to investors
- government-sponsored enterprises are owned by the government, by the public, by corporations or by the members that use their services
- government-sponsored enterprises include: the Federal Home Loan Bank; the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae); the Government National Mortgage Association (Ginnie Mae); and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac)
- key entities involved in regulation include: the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency; the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; state banking regulators; the Conference of State Bank Supervisors; the Federal Reserve Bank; the Office of Thrift Supervision; the National Credit Union Administration; the National Association of State Credit Union Supervisors; state insurance regulators; the National Association of Insurance Commissioners; the Securities and Exchange Commission; state securities regulators; the North American Securities Administrators Association; and the Bank for International Settlements
- regulators in the United States strive to be proactive and preventative, but regulatory activities in some sectors are driven by customer complaints
- supervision occurs through: a review of regulatory reports submitted by the company; and periodic on-site and off compliance and safety and soundness examinations
- current ongoing and “hot” topics in the financial services sector include:
  - the non-level playing field between banks and credit unions
  - a Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation moratorium on all applications and decisions until 31 January 2007
  - National Bank pre-emption over state banking laws
  - accounting issues associated with, and regulatory oversight over, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac



- institutions considered “Too Big To Fail”
- renewal of the *Terrorism Risk Insurance Act* of 2002
- the creation of a “national” charter for insurance companies

## **PAYING FOR DEVELOPMENT – WHO, WHEN AND HOW?**

### **Debra Bassert, National Association of Home Builders**

- state and local governments face significant fiscal challenges
- impact fees are imposed on development, which increases housing costs
- there are a range of creative strategies for financing infrastructure, including: bonds; leasing; special financing districts; state and federal funding; tax incentives and tax credits; privatization; electronic road pricing; financing equitable impact fees; and special purpose corporations

### **Cathy Atkins, National Conference of State Legislatures**

- a joint project by the National Conference of State Legislatures and the National Association of Home Builders focused on innovative statutory efforts by state legislatures to provide funding mechanisms for necessary infrastructure
- innovative statutory efforts by state legislatures include:
  - the North Carolina State Capital Facilities Finance Act and certificates of participation
  - the Greater Arizona Development Authority and community development districts
  - the Hawaii Community Development Authority and community development districts
  - the Maine Municipal Bond Bank and the Maine municipal lease finance program
  - the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority and state revolving funds
  - the Utah Redevelopment Agencies Act and tax increment financing

### **Janet Corcoran, *PENCIL***

- traditional financing options include: pay-as-you-go; general obligation bonds; revenue bonds; short-term borrowing; grants; and low-interest federal or state loans
- there is a problem with respect to the limited debt capacity of local governments

- there are alternatives to impact fees

## **PUBLIC SERVICE AND WOMEN**

### **Christine Todd Whitman, Former Governor of New Jersey and Former Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

- women bring a different perspective to policy making, since they have different life experiences, different methods of decision making and compromise, etc.
- women should be more intentional in reaching out
- women need their own version of the “old boys network,” since not being “one of the boys” can make things more difficult; women need a structured support system
- journalists who write about female politicians focus on hair, make-up and clothes rather than issues
- women must be tough in order to succeed, and they must display toughness in a way that does not lead to negative female stereotypes; women can be tough by having clear objectives, a plan for getting there, and attaining their objectives

## **FINDING THE FUNDING FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **Jack Gleason, U. S. Department of Agriculture**

- there are three opportunities in rural America: renewable energy; the internet; and place (safer, slower pace of life, etc.)
- debt-free land in rural America should be leveraged to generate jobs
- rural America needs entrepreneurs and support for them, and equity in order that small businesses, entrepreneurs and start-ups have a chance to succeed
- equity capital is available through local banks, community development venture corporations, community venture funds, tax incentives and angel investors
- the primary one issue facing rural communities is the future health of their economy

### **Peggy Hathaway, Office of U.S. Senator Max Baucus**

- there are significant disparities between rural America and urban America
- Sen. Baucus has challenged charitable foundations to increase their share of giving to rural America
- foundations can afford to be innovative and can afford to take risks

- “living wage” jobs are necessary, but are not sufficient, to rebuild rural communities; other measures must be taken to build a sense of community
- communities themselves must design, lead and implement plans for change
- rural philanthropy must work in concert with governments, tribes, the private sector and rural citizens

### **Jeff Yost, Nebraska Community Foundation**

- charitable assets can be used to build and sustain rural communities, and philanthropy can be used as the new engine for community-based rural economic development
- the Nebraska Community Foundation exists to help concerned individuals mobilize charitable giving in support of Nebraska communities and organizations
- the Nebraska Community Foundation philosophy includes: local control; building community capacity through empowering local leadership; and building partnerships
- the four pillars to build community are: entrepreneurship; charitable assets; youth; and leadership

## **STATES AND HOMELAND SECURITY**

### **Secretary Michael Chertoff, U.S. Department of Homeland Security**

- states are vital partners in homeland security
- everyone must be engaged in defending the nation, and this defence requires information sharing among key stakeholders, greater coordination and the ability to operationalize intelligence
- technology has helped to ensure the communications interoperability that will save lives
- the United States is at a high level of alert and is fighting terrorism on multiple fronts at the same time
- while the enemy has not successfully completed an attack within the United States since 11 September 2001, other countries have experienced terrorist attacks

## **CREATING A CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM**

### **Pat Summit, University of Tennessee**

- keys to winning include learning from losses and hanging out with winners
- to be a leader and build a strong team, consider the following principles:

- respect yourself and others in order to build team cohesion
- you never have a second chance to make a good first impression
- take full responsibility
- you cannot hide on a team
- in assembling a team, go for the very best
- develop and demonstrate loyalty, which facilitates trust
- be a great communicator
- tell people that they are doing a great job
- tell people how you feel
- work smart
- on a team, let everyone contribute what they do best
- put the team before yourself
- choose the right attitude
- be a competitor
- be willing to change
- handle success like you handle failure

## **IS THERE A WORDSMITH IN THE HOUSE (OR SENATE)?**

### **John Geer, Vanderbilt University**

- words and rhetoric matter; consider the differences between: saving the union and saving the nation; tax increases and revenue enhancement; retreat and attack from another direction; death tax and estate tax; 200 will be saved and 400 will die out of a total of 600
- negative ads have specific information while positive ads are “motherhood”
- particularly in a democracy, politics is about disagreement
- words matter, and they matter more today than they did 30 years ago because the stakes are higher

### **Grover Norquist, Americans for Tax Reform**

- Conservative Opportunity Society versus Liberal Welfare State

- in general, preference and intensity move together
- at times, words “wear out”
- when acronyms and specific phrases are used, communication is diminished since they convey the message that the speaker lives in a different world
- words may confuse rather than elucidate
- catchy monikers are important
- simple phrases should be used to describe complex concepts and issues
- consider the phrase “deficit spending”: Republicans focus on “deficit” while Democrats focus on “spending”
- consider the difference between defence of marriage and banning gay marriage
- repetition, repetition, repetition: if the same thing is said consistently, the press must cover it since only a limited number of things are being said

### **Jeff Nussbaum, West Wing Writers**

- good communicators pare down the number of issues being discussed and how much is said about them; simple is always better, but over-simplification should be avoided
- words have power, and words cannot be separated from their context and surrounding actions; when words and actions differ, a credibility gap is created
- sequencing should be: get the attention of the audience; present the problem; present the solution; describe the vision of the future; present the call to action
- impact can be enhanced through the creative use of language and the careful selection of words
- repetition is powerful, whether the same person is repeating the same message or the same message is being repeated by a group of people

## **DUELING POLLSTERS: HOW AMERICANS WILL VOTE IN THE NEXT ELECTION**

### **Peter Hart, Peter D. Hart Research Associates**

- Americans are more unhappy now than at any time in the last 30 years; there is much negativity and there is a sense of change in the air
- 66% of Americans polled believe that our children’s generation will not have a better life
- trust in institutions – corporations, U.S. Congress, network news, churches, sports, etc. – is falling

- with the exception of President Nixon when he resigned, President Bush has the longest period of an approval rating under 40% since President Johnson
- independents and moderates want a Democratic U.S. Congress
- the 2006 election may be anti-incumbent; in a poll, 48% of respondents indicated their view that it is time to give a new person a chance, while 38% indicated that their representative deserves to be re-elected
- both political parties are viewed negatively by voters
- immigration is the issue of the 2006 election
- immigration is changing every community
- Mae West once said: when given the choice between two evils, I'll take the one I haven't tried before

### **Frank Luntz, Luntz Research Companies**

- so much of politics is about presentation and how you look, and so much of what happens depends on language and communication
- when you stand behind a podium, people think that you are speaking someone else's words
- most Americans do not go to work in a suit
- pictures and visuals matter
- Americans are focused on things that matter and are looking for symbols; they want fewer hassles, more choices, more money and more time
- candor is the most important attribute when deciding for whom to vote
- everyone imagines the American dream differently
- Americans are looking for results, success and a record of accomplishments
- it is not how much we spend that matters; rather, it is how we spend that counts
- candidates should have the right attitude: a can-do spirit; strong; tough; and self-reliant
- say what you mean and mean what you say
- use voter-centred language; for example, instead of "infrastructure," use "roads, highways and schools"
- use action verbs

- demonstrate accountability
- politicians should plan for the next generation, and not for the next election
- politicians should spend 50% of their time defining the problem, 20% of their time outlining the solution, and 30% of their time discussing results and the vision for the future
- politicians should focus on two or three key messages rather than ten

## **ABCs OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS: AVIAN FLU, BIOTERRORISM AND OTHER CALAMITIES**

### **Kathryn Condello, George Mason University**

- there are 17 national critical infrastructures and key resources
- the 13 critical infrastructures are:
  - banking and finance
  - emergency services
  - food and agriculture
  - postal and shipping
  - telecommunications
  - water
  - national monuments and icons
  - chemical and hazardous materials
  - energy
  - information technology
  - public health
  - transportation
  - defense industrial base
- the 4 key resources are:
  - commercial facilities
  - dams, locks and levees

- nuclear power plants
- government facilities
- consistent critical infrastructure emergency response credentialing should be adopted

**Ron Wilson, State Veterinarian, Tennessee**

- 75% of emerging infectious diseases have been identified as zoonotic in origin, which highlights the critical need to promote dialogue among agriculture, public health and other state agencies; zoonoses are those diseases and infections naturally transmitted between non-human vertebrate animals and humans
- in the last five years, North America has experienced the West Nile virus and Monkeypox, while Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome and avian influenza have been experienced on a global scale
- risk factors include:
  - international travel
  - global trade
  - increasing interactions among humans, wildlife, and exotic and domesticated food and companion animals
  - human behaviour
  - rapid microbial adaptation
  - changing climates and ecosystems
  - changing livestock management methods
- Tennessee's statewide All Hazard-All Animal Plan has been implemented as part of the Tennessee Emergency Management Plan, with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture as the lead agency
- avian influenza can have high pathogenicity, which causes contagious illness and death in birds, or low pathogenicity, which causes mild to no illness
- the vast majority of avian influenza viruses found in birds do not represent a public health concern
- avian influenza viruses mutate easily, although only certain types have the potential to mutate from low to high pathogenicity
- avian influenza viruses vary widely in pathogenicity from strain to strain; consequently, not all viruses are infectious for people or pathogenic to poultry



- the avian influenza virus is spread among birds in the following ways: direct contact between healthy and infected birds; infected fecal matter; and the surface of unwashed egg shells from infected birds
- as of 14 July 2006, 229 cases – involving 131 deaths – of confirmed human cases of avian influenza had been reported to the World Health Organization
- almost 2 billion people live in the 8 countries in Asia with epidemics of H5N1 avian influenza, representing 30% of the world's population
- the focus of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network is:
  - early detection – targeted surveillance based on population density and risk
  - rapid response – surge capacity to test outbreak samples
  - appropriate recovery – large numbers of samples are tested to show freedom of disease

Respectfully submitted,

Hon. Jerahmiel Grafstein, Senator  
Co-Chair, Canadian Section  
Canada-United States Inter-  
Parliamentary Group

Rob Merrifield, M.P.  
Co-Chair, Canadian Section  
Canada-United States Inter-  
Parliamentary Group

## Travel Costs

<b>ASSOCIATION</b>	Canada United-States Inter-Parliamentary Group
<b>ACTIVITY</b>	National Conference of State Legislatures: Strong States Strong Nation
<b>DESTINATION</b>	Nashville, TN
<b>DATES</b>	August 14-18, 2006
<b>SENATORS</b>	Hon. Wilfred Moore, Q.C., Senator
<b>MEMBERS</b>	Mr. Rob Merrifield, M.P. Hon. Judy Sgro, M.P. Mr. Michel Guimond, M.P.
<b>STAFF</b>	Ms. June Dewetering, Advisor Mr. Daniel Charbonneau, Executive Secretary
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	<b>\$ 9,826.11</b>
<b>ACCOMMODATION</b>	<b>\$ 5,565.40</b>
<b>HOSPITALITY</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
<b>PER DIEMS</b>	<b>\$ 1,587.21</b>
<b>OFFICIAL GIFTS</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS/REGISTRATION FEES</b>	<b>\$ 3,592.64</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 20,571.36</b>