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Parliamentary Association



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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 and the  
Second Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum**

**Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association**

**Tromsø, Norway  
February 22 and 23, 2011**

# Report

## INTRODUCTION

Dr. James Lunney, M.P. led a Canadian delegation of two to the meeting of the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (the Standing Committee) held in Tromsø, Norway, 22 February 2011. The meeting of the Standing Committee was held in conjunction with the Second Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum (NDPF), 22 - 23 February 2011. The other delegate was the Honourable Larry Bagnell, M.P. Accompanying the delegation was Mr. Tim Williams from the Parliamentary Information and Research Service of the Library of Parliament as advisor to the delegation.

The Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (CPAR) 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 Ninth Conference was held in Brussels, Belgium, 13-15 September 2010.<sup>1</sup>

The Conference adopts a statement with recommendations to the Arctic Council and to the governments of the eight Arctic states and the European Commission. The Standing Committee closely monitors how the 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 started 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 Arctic Council. The Standing Committee takes part in the work of the Council as an observer.<sup>2</sup>

### A. The Northern Dimension

The Northern Dimension of European Union policy was established in 1999 as a European Union (EU) policy intended to address issues concerning western Russia, as well as to increase general cooperation among the EU, Iceland and Norway. It has since become a multilateral, equal partnership among the EU, Iceland, Norway and Russia. Canada and the United States are observers to the partnership while the CPAR is a participant. The Northern Dimension remains focused on EU relations with western Russia, as it is “a regional expression of the four EU/Russia Common Spaces<sup>3</sup> with participation of Norway and Iceland.”<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The Conference report is available at:  
[http://www.arcticparl.org/files/Conference%20statement,%20Final%20draft\(1\).pdf#](http://www.arcticparl.org/files/Conference%20statement,%20Final%20draft(1).pdf#)

<sup>2</sup> Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, <http://www.arcticparl.org/>

<sup>3</sup> In May 2003, the EU and Russia agreed to reinforce their cooperation by creating, in the long term, and on the basis of common values and shared interests, four “common spaces” in the framework of the Partnership and Cooperation

The policy's main objectives are to provide a common framework for the promotion of dialogue and concrete cooperation, to strengthen stability and well-being, intensify economic cooperation, and promote economic integration, competitiveness and sustainable development in Northern Europe.<sup>5</sup> There are four official "partnerships" under the Northern Dimension: environment (NDEP), public health and social wellbeing (NDPHS), culture (NDPC) and transport and logistics (NDPTL) with the NDEP remaining the flagship partnership.

## **B. Canada's Participation in the Northern Dimension**

Canada has participated in both the NDEP and the NDPHS.<sup>6</sup> In particular, Canada contributed \$32 million in March 2004 through the NDEP to aid in nuclear clean-up projects in north west Russia resulting from the operations of the then Union of Soviet Socialist Republics' northern fleet during the Cold War. In addition, Canada contributed \$133.9 million through Canada's Nuclear Powered Submarine Dismantling Program in the Barents Sea area, which was completed in March 2010.<sup>7</sup>

## **C. The Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum**

In February 2007, a parliamentary conference on the Northern Dimension decided that a parliamentary forum for the Northern Dimension should be held every two years to discuss issues of common concern and examine the evolution of the Northern Dimension policy. The Second NDPF was held 22 - 25 February 2011. The CPAR and Canada both participated in the Forum.

## **THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION**

The Agenda was adopted with the addition of an item to select a member to the drafting committee for the NDPF statement. One member for each participant in the ND could contribute. Canada, as an observer, could not participate individually at the drafting committee. The minutes for the last Standing Committee meeting held in Ottawa 16 November 2010 were approved.

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Agreement. These are as follows: The Common Economic Space, covering economic issues and the environment; The Common Space of Freedom, Security and Justice; The Common Space of External Security, including crisis management and non-proliferation; The Common Space of Research and Education, including cultural aspects. European Commission, *The European Union and Russia: Close Neighbours, Global Players, Strategic Partners*, 2007, [http://eeas.europa.eu/russia/docs/russia\\_brochure07\\_en.pdf](http://eeas.europa.eu/russia/docs/russia_brochure07_en.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> European External Action Service, *Political Declaration on the Northern Dimension Policy*, [http://eeas.europa.eu/north\\_dim/docs/pol\\_dec\\_1106\\_en.pdf](http://eeas.europa.eu/north_dim/docs/pol_dec_1106_en.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> European External Action Service, *Northern Dimension*, [http://eeas.europa.eu/north\\_dim/index\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/north_dim/index_en.htm)

<sup>6</sup> Delegation of the European Union to Canada, Official Documents, *EU-Canada Northern Cooperation Progress Report, December 19, 2002*, [http://www.delcan.ec.europa.eu/en/eu\\_and\\_canada/official\\_documents/reports/eu-ca\\_jr\\_ncpr\\_2002-12-19.shtml](http://www.delcan.ec.europa.eu/en/eu_and_canada/official_documents/reports/eu-ca_jr_ncpr_2002-12-19.shtml)

<sup>7</sup> Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Briefing to the Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association prior to the NDPF, Tromsø, Norway, 22-23 February 2011

## **A. REPORT FROM THE ARCTIC COUNCIL CHAIRMANSHIP**

Mr. Lars Möller, Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials of the Arctic Council, presented the activities of the Arctic Council. He noted that the chairmanship would change from Denmark to Sweden at the next ministerial meeting in Nuuk, Greenland, 12 May 2011.

At the meeting, several studies now being finalized by various Arctic Council working groups will be presented for ministerial approval (so called “deliverables”) including the Snow, Water, Ice and Permafrost in the Arctic (SWIPA). Others include the Mercury Assessment and the recommendations of the Short-lived Climate Forcers Task Force.

A Search and Rescue (SAR) agreement should be ready for signature at the Nuuk meetings. This will be a binding agreement on the 8 Arctic states to coordinate SAR operations which is important as shipping is increasing in the Arctic. The SAR agreement will be the first of its kind and the Chair stated that he hopes and expects more of this kind of agreement. This would mark a shift in the Arctic Council from a strictly decision-shaping organization to having a greater role in decision-making.

The strengthening of the Arctic Council has been an important part of the Danish Chairmanship. A number of issues are related to this goal. The first mentioned was that of the status of observers at the Arctic Council. This has been an important area of discussion. Increasingly non-Arctic states are becoming interested in the Arctic, for potential resource exploitation, transportation routes and for scientific reasons. Many have acquired icebreaker capabilities. China, Italy, the Republic of Korea and the European Commission have all applied for observer status. He noted that there was no consensus on the European Commission, though Denmark supported the application. The criteria for accepting observers were at the core of discussions.

Of the issues facing the Council, the Chair thought that this was the most important political problem, but that it was linked to other issues. At the Deputy Minister level meeting in Copenhagen 27 May 2010 a process was initiated that included discussion of:

- The possibility of setting up a permanent secretariat for the Council - how such a body would be funded and where it would be located and its role, size and composition;
- Greater uses of task forces; and
- Communication and outreach activities at the Council.

The fourth draft of a paper on these subjects was in circulation, and while there is hope for a resolution at the Nuuk meeting there are no guarantees.

The Chair stressed that the relationship between the Arctic Council and Arctic parliamentarians was very important. He noted that it was important for the two groups to inspire each other and to maintain various similarities. As an example of shared priorities he noted that the Fairbanks Statement of the 8<sup>th</sup> CPAR (12-14 August 2008)<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Eighth Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, Conference Statement, 14 August 2008  
<http://www.arcticparl.org/conferences.aspx?id=2973>

stressed human health issues in the Arctic, while also being a crucial element of the Danish Chairmanship. He noted that a seminar entitled *Hope and Resilience in Suicide Prevention* was held in Nuuk, Greenland Nov. 7-8, 2009.<sup>9</sup>

In addition, though not an official Arctic Council meeting, the Danish and Greenlandic Health Ministries invited the ministers of health in the Arctic states to a meeting with the focus on “Shared Challenges – Different Solutions, Arctic Health Cooperation in the 21st Century.” The meeting took place 16 February 2011 and resulted in the signing of the *Arctic Health Declaration* which focused on increasing collaboration in health promotion and the sharing of knowledge and best practices.<sup>10</sup>

Discussion following the presentation focused on the linkages between the CPAR and the work of the Arctic Council. Members pointed out that it is important for the Council to take up some of the parliamentary initiatives. The Chair responded by stating that the Arctic Council, under the next chairmanship, would have to pick up the possibility of having a meeting of ministers responsible for education and research and the possibility of having an international polar decade was being discussed. In addition, a second Arctic Human Development report was being met with sympathy but no decision had been made.

The member of the European Parliament noted the passage on 20 January 2011 of a resolution on a sustainable EU policy for the High North.<sup>11</sup> He also thanked Denmark for its support for the European Commission’s application for observer status. The Chair replied that the question of observer status was not easy and noted that the resolution was a fine report.

The head of the Canadian delegation congratulated Mr. Möller on the progress made under the Danish chairmanship and noted that he looked forward to the finalization of the SAR agreement in Nuuk. Concerning the observer question, he noted that it was very important that the role of the permanent participants at the Arctic Council not be diluted. Mr. Möller noted that he was aware that this was an important issue for Canada but that others also held this view. The role of permanent participants was unique and it should be possible to maintain their real and direct participation in the Arctic Council.

## **B. Arctic Strategies and State Policies – An overview and comparative Study**

Dr. Lassi Heininen, Chair, Northern Research Forum, presented the draft results of a comparative study of national Arctic policies that he had undertaken. He noted that it was important to perform such an exercise given the increased geo-economic and geopolitical interest in the Arctic. He noted that while all nations stressed cooperation through the Arctic Council, they all have their own interests. While the individual states

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<sup>9</sup> See for instance: Ookpik.org, *Hope and Resilience in Suicide Prevention Seminar Nuuk, Greenland Nov. 7-8 2009*, <http://www.ookpik.org/blogs/ookpik/archive/2009/12/14/hope-and-resilience-in-suicide-prevention-seminar-nuuk-greenland-nov-7-8-2009.aspx>

<sup>10</sup> Arctic Health Declaration, [http://arctic-council.org/filearchive/The\\_Arctic\\_Health\\_Declaration\\_16\\_February\\_2011.pdf](http://arctic-council.org/filearchive/The_Arctic_Health_Declaration_16_February_2011.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> European Parliament resolution of 20 January 2011 on a sustainable EU policy for the High North, <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&reference=P7-TA-2011-0024&language=EN>

would continue to be the most important actors, new challenges such as globalization were emerging.

He noted and summarized the participation of the Arctic states in various intergovernmental organizations (such as NATO and the International Maritime Organization) as well as other regional organizations and Arrangements (such as the Arctic Council and the Northern Dimension) and treaties that deal with the Arctic such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Spitsbergen treaty.

He then summarized the various national Arctic policies. Regarding Canada, he noted both Canada's Northern Strategy<sup>12</sup> and its Foreign Policy Statement.<sup>13</sup> In commenting on Canada's policies he emphasized what he felt were interesting findings:

- The North is central to Canada's character and national identity
- Canada's Arctic Maritime Sovereignty is the "...number one Arctic Foreign Policy Priority"
- Canada's sovereignty over its Arctic lands and waters is "undisputed"
- Canada will continue to be a "global leader" in Arctic science
- Economic development as high priority, and shall include indigenous participation in relevant processes
- The Strategy reflects a vision about, and for, the North in the context of the entire country

In his analysis, he found that each policy had its own style. Canada seemed to emphasize science and the fact that the North was central to Canadian identity. He came to some conclusions regarding aspects that were common to various policies. In summary:

Sovereignty and defence:	Five littoral states
Comprehensive security:	Finland and Iceland
Economic development:	All the strategies
Regional development and infrastructure:	Most of the strategies
Transportation:	Finland, Iceland, Russia and USA
Aviation:	Iceland and Russia
Environment:	Most of the strategies

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<sup>12</sup> Government of Canada, Canada's Northern Strategy, 2009, <http://www.northernstrategy.gc.ca/index-eng.asp>

<sup>13</sup> Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada, *Statement on Canada's Arctic foreign policy*, 2010, [http://www.international.gc.ca/polar-polaire/assets/pdfs/CAFP\\_brochure\\_PECA-eng.pdf](http://www.international.gc.ca/polar-polaire/assets/pdfs/CAFP_brochure_PECA-eng.pdf)

Governance:	All the strategies
Safety/Rescue:	Finland, Iceland, Norway and Russia
Peoples/Indigenous peoples:	Most of the strategies
Science/Scientific cooperation:	All the strategies

There was general recognition of the efforts invested in the study and its value. It being a draft report, various members pointed to some corrections that should be made. Canada noted that the change of government occurred in 2006, not 2007.

The head of the delegation also congratulated Dr. Heininen for his ambitious efforts and remarked that Canada did indeed take science very seriously, acknowledging as well the efforts of the Norwegian Polar Institute, which had been the subject of a site visit the previous day. He also noted various changes to pollution laws and transportation regulations that Canada had put in place.

### **C. The draft Nordic SAAMI Convention – The view of the Norwegian Sami Parliament**

Ms. Suuvi Juntunen from the Finnish Saami parliament presented progress with respect to the finalization of the draft Nordic Saami Convention. The 2005 convention arose because the Saami traditionally moved without borders. The aim is harmonize legislation in the Nordic countries. Russia is currently not included, though the situation of the Saami in Russia was, in her opinion, worse than in the Nordic countries.

The draft was created in 2005 but it was not until 2008 that a meeting of ministers responsible for Saami affairs occurred, when working groups were formed, that progress began to take place. At the 2010 meeting of ministers, negotiations started toward a final agreement with a goal of completion in 5 years. After finalization the convention would be presented to national and Saami parliaments for ratification. Finland has already stated that it will not ratify if the Saami parliament do not ratify.

Negotiation teams comprise equal number of Saami in Sweden and Finland but for Norway this has not been decided, and the presenter felt that it was likely that there would be a majority of Norwegian government representatives, which was a difficulty. The major area for negotiations concerns land rights and use for reindeer herding. It was also noted that Sweden and Finland were part of the EU while Norway is not. The views of the EU therefore have to be a consideration. Though there are difficulties, it was noted that it took 20 years to negotiate the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The member for Greenland noted that a similar process had occurred during the negotiations on Greenland Home Rule and raised the question about property rights and revenue sharing for natural resources. In reply it was noted that the Saami looked to Greenland Home Rule as an example. It was not just a matter of negotiating ownership, but also administration, particularly when private land was involved.

#### **D. ARCTIC GOVERNANCE IN AN EVOLVING ARCTIC REGION**

At the Ottawa meeting of SCPAR, the former chair of SCPAR, Mr. Clifford Lincoln presented a proposal for SCPAR to formulate some concrete recommendations to support, particularly regarding the Arctic Council. It was agreed that Mr. Lincoln would write a paper for consideration at the next meeting.

The paper was presented at the meeting along with comments from the Secretary General. It was noted by the General Secretary that the introduction was problematic because of the choice of language and the lack of a link between it and the recommendations. The recommendations should also be directed to the Council and not to the 2012 International Polar Year conference in Montreal.

Some of the ideas regarding a permanent secretariat and observer status at the Arctic Council were well received, but it was noted, in particular by the head of the Canadian delegation, that decisions regarding these issues may well take place at the next Ministerial meeting in Nuuk so that decisions by the Standing Committee on the proposals would have to put on hold until after the meeting. There was a need to focus on what is new in the proposal, from the perspective of the work of the CPAR and the Arctic Council.

It was noted that for decisions to be made by the Standing Committee the views of the United States of America would have to be sought, their representative being absent at the meeting.

The Committee gave the Chair the authority to report back to Mr. Lincoln and his group on the basis of the discussion and agreed to arrange a joint meeting in conjunction with the next meeting of the Standing Committee in Iceland 9-10 June 2011.

#### **E. ROTATING CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE**

The proposal of the Icelandic delegation to rotate the chairmanship of the Standing Committee by country through its membership was discussed. The idea was that other bodies such as the Nordic Council follow this model and that there was a need to share the burden and luxury of being chair. The possibility of skipping a chairmanship if a country, for whatever reason, was unwilling or unable to take the chair, was given as an option. However, a Canadian delegate noted that this should then not preclude that country from becoming chair until its turn came around again, in the case of a 2 year rotation 16 years later.

It was agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting with a view to coming to a final decision.

#### **F. FOLLOW-UP OF THE CONFERENCE IN BRUSSELS 13-15 SEPTEMBER 2010**

After a brief discussion the Committee decide to follow up the discussions with the Arctic Council by:



- Having the Chair of SCPAR write a letter to the Danish Chair of the Arctic Council on the basis of what happened in Tromsø and the discussion with Mr. Møller.
- Having the Chair of SCPAR and the SCPAR representative from Sweden meet with the incoming chairmanship of the Arctic Council, Sweden.
- Inviting Sweden to the meeting in Iceland in June to present the Swedish Chairmanship program for the Arctic Council.

## **G. STATUS OF THE WORK OF SCPAR**

This part of the agenda opens the table up for representatives to state new activities in their countries. The attached minutes describe what was said (Appendix 1).

The head of the Canadian delegation introduced his presentation of Canadian activities by stating that there were clearly expanding pressures in the North. A whole government response is necessary. For instance, infrastructure needs were being addressed as well as health needs, in particular maternal and child health. An international research station is in the planning stages at Cambridge Bay. As a result of increased shipping he welcomed the SAR agreement and noted that navigation charts were needed. Canada has committed to increasing its presence with patrol vessels and the construction of a deep-water port in Nanisivik. The environment was also important and satellite and on the ground monitoring were important aspects of Canada's response. The head of the delegation noted that he would be giving a more detailed accounting in a presentation at the NDPF (Appendix 2).

A Canadian Delegate also noted that he had introduced a private member's bill in the Canadian parliament to make the Arctic a nuclear weapons-free zone, and he encouraged other countries and parliamentarians to join his effort.

## **H. NEXT MEETING**

The next Standing Committee meeting will be in Iceland 9-10 June 2011.

The meeting in the fall is proposed to be 27-30 September in Syktyvkard, Komi Republic.

## **I. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

As per the change in Agenda, Mr Høglund (chair elect of the Standing Committee) was elected as the Standing Committee's representative on the drafting committee for the statement of the NDPF.

Mr. Hannes Manninen, outgoing chair of the Standing Committee, thanked the members for their work on Arctic parliamentary cooperation and wished them well, as he would not be returning as a member of the Committee from Finland. Mr Morton Høglund, replaced Mr. Manninen as chair and thanked him for all his work.

## THE SECOND NORTHERN DIMENSION PARLIAMENTARY FORUM

The Second Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum (NDPF) was held the afternoon of 22 February and the morning of 23 February, 2011. At the first NDPF held in 2009, a statement was prepared. One of the paragraphs asked for “reports on the implementation of the partnerships within the Northern Dimension, to be presented at the next Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum.” The second NDPF was therefore centred on a series of presentations detailing some of the progress made expectations for the partnerships.

The meetings began with some introductory comments about cooperation and some hopes for the partnerships. The Saami, for example, are interested in the partnerships increasing their economies, mobility and improving the environment, with particular benefits looked for from the partnerships on health and well being and culture. The Russian speaker looked to the partnership on transportation and logistics.

The head of the Canadian Delegation gave a presentation on Arctic cooperation from the Canadian perspective, integrating Canada’s domestic actions into circumpolar activity, particularly with respect to the Arctic Council, but also bilateral relations and actions under international conventions. He remarked that the Forum was a good place to discuss other issues, including the EU ban on seal products. This inspired a question from the audience on how to remove the ban. In response, it was noted that the issue is about the support for the livelihoods of people in remote areas, not about conservation, and yet environmental nongovernmental organizations still misrepresent the hunt by using the white coat pups as emotive image to fundraise. He also noted that Canada had signed an agreement with China to create a market for seal products there, and that this should be beneficial to communities hurt by the EU ban.

In addition, a presenter from Norway replied that his country knew the difference between people who care about real environmental action and “haute-couture” environmentalists. A representative from the EU replied that they were trying to reach out to the north and were planning a visit from Brussels to the Canadian North in March or April of this year.

The discussion on the The Partnership on Public Health and Social Well-Being centered on addressing non-communicable diseases that could be addressed through lifestyle changes and restrictions on the access to harmful substances such as alcohol. A Canadian noted that higher prices on cigarette taxes, for instance, had only led to increased smuggling where they had been attempted. He also noted that too many people with alcohol or mental health problems were in hospitals or jails whereas specialized facilities were more effective. There was a need to look at the root causes of alcohol abuse.

Regarding the new Partnership on Culture the essential nature of arts, culture to both the economy and health were emphasized. International cultural exchanges are important in building understanding but also important to the economy, and therefore it this partnership should be taken seriously. It was noted that culture includes how people make a living, from scientific research to the arts.

The Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership is the flagship partnership with over € 3 billion having been invested. It is strongly linked to the EU strategy for the Baltic Sea.

The discussion on the Partnership on Transport and Logistics noted that transport and logistics is required to give value to the resources of the North. Regional cooperation is essential, such as the planned improved road links between Norway and Sweden. Mostly, this partnership is about financing, however, given the nature of the Baltic Sea as an enclosed body of water, the lessons of the Mexican oil spill put an emphasis on doing so in an environmentally responsible manner. There is an issue because the secretariat has yet to be established, and this is required to prioritize projects. Current plans were already competing with each other, but needed to be more coordinated to take advantage of synergies.

The head of the Canadian delegation reiterated that navigation charts and information on weather was vital and that Canada had invested \$35 million to these efforts. He asked what could be done in the short term if the wait for the secretariat is too long. A Canadian delegate noted that not enough is known about cleaning up pollution in ice and storm filled waters. Permafrost is melting and this was having effects on infrastructure. He noted that sharing methods on addressing this issue would be of great help.

In conclusion, it was emphasized that none of these efforts would be successful if there was not a feeling of regional ownership of plans. As noted by the head of the Canadian delegation at the beginning of the NDPF, community buy-in is essential for the implementation of effective policies and regulations. The necessity for community and local engagement therefore emerged as recurring theme at the conference.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. James Lunney, M.P.  
Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association

# Appendix 1: Draft Minutes from the Standing Committee Meeting



CONFERENCE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION

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THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION

## MEETING IN TROMSØ

9 am 22 February 2011

Venue: Rica Hotel, room “Nord-Norge”

### Draft Minutes

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

The Chair Hannes Manninen added one subject under item 11 “Any other business”: election of a representative in the Drafting Committee to the Second Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum 22-23 February in Tromsø.

#### Decision:

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

#### 2. APPROVAL OF DRAFT MINUTES FROM THE SCPAR MEETING IN OTTAWA 16 NOVEMBER 2010

#### Decision:

The Committee approved the minutes from the SCPAR-meeting in Ottawa 16 November 2010.

#### 3. REPORT FROM THE ARCTIC COUNCIL CHAIRMANSHIP

The Senior Arctic Official Chair of the Arctic Council, Mr. Lars Møller, informed the Committee about the current activities of the Arctic Council and the preparations for the Arctic Council Ministerial meeting in Nuuk 12 May 2011.

At the Ministerial meeting Sweden will take over as Chair of the Council. The Ministerial meeting is expected to welcome several studies, including the SWIPA report from the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program, "Snow, Water, Ice and Permafrost in the Arctic". The Ministers are expected to initiate new work and thus create a mandate for the Swedish chairmanship.

An agreement on Search and Rescue in the Arctic is expected to be signed. For the first time in the history of the Council the Ministers will sign a legally binding agreement among the eight Arctic States. The aim of the agreement is to coordinate Search and Rescue operations in the Arctic waters where shipping is on the rise due to the retreating sea ice. The Arctic Council will no longer only be "decision shaping" but increasingly also be "decision making".

The strengthening of the Arctic Council has been important in the Danish Chairmanship. There are applications from China, Italy, the Republic of Korea, the European Commission, and Japan to become observers in the Council. Denmark supports the application of the European Commission for observer status.

The observer question is linked to the question of strengthening the Arctic Council itself. Only a strengthened Arctic Council would be able to cope with an ever increasing number of observers and applications for observer status. Elements in strengthening the Council are:

- a permanent secretariat
- a budget
- the nature of decisions and increased use of task forces and
- improved communications and outreach efforts

Elements in the discussion are role, size and composition of the Arctic Council Secretariat, where to place it and how to finance it. The aim is to get an agreement at the Nuuk Ministerial on the strengthening of the Arctic Council and solution of the observer question.

The Danish Arctic Council Chairmanship considers the Arctic Parliamentarians of crucial importance for the work on Arctic questions – as witnessed by the participation of the Danish Foreign Minister and Chair of the Arctic Council, Ms Lene Espersen, in parliamentary meetings. A shared priority is Human Health in the Arctic. It was one of the main topics of the agenda at the Arctic parliamentary conference in 2008 and one of the main priorities in the Danish Arctic Council Chairmanship Program.

A seminar, "Hope and Resilience in Suicide Prevention", that was held in Greenland 7-8 November 2009. It had broad circumpolar and youth representation with around 100 participants. Last week the first Arctic Health Ministers' meeting took place. It was not formally an Arctic Council meeting, but arranged by the Danish and Greenlandic Health Ministries on the occasion of the Danish chairmanship of the Arctic Council. It took place in Greenland on 16 February under the headline "Shared Challenges – Different

Solutions". The meeting was concluded by the signing of "The Arctic Health Declaration".

On question from the Committee on the how the Arctic Council is following up the Conference statement on research and education, Mr Möller replied that research and education will be an important part of the Ministerial declaration. As for the proposed meeting of ministers of education and research, that will be for the Swedish Chairmanship to follow-up.

Several members underlined the importance of a good and close dialogue with the Arctic Council, and were satisfied with the dialogue with the Danish chairmanship.

The representative from the European Parliament pointed to the resolution on the Arctic in the European parliament 20 January 2011, and thanked the Danish chairmanship for the supporting the European Commission application for observer status.

The expected agreement on Search and Rescue in the Arctic was pointed to as an important first step in strengthening the Arctic Council.

The participation of the permanent participants was underlined as important in the Arctic Council, and the proposal to make a Second Arctic Human Development Report was reiterated by the Committee.

Mr Möller replied that the Sustainable Development Working Group in the Arctic Council has initiated several good projects and that the idea of a Second Human Development Report was going to be considered.

#### Decision:

The Committee took note of the information.

#### **4. ARCTIC STRATEGIES AND STATE POLICIES – AN OVERVIEW AND COMPARATIVE STUDY**

Dr. Lassi Heininen presented a study where he has looked at the Arctic strategies and policies of the Arctic states and the European Union. He underlined that the study is a draft due to the constant development of the Arctic policies.

Dr. Heininen noted the increased geo-economic and geopolitical interest in the Arctic. Initially Mr. Heininen presented an overview over Arctic states' membership in intergovernmental organisations (EU, NATO, UN etc.) and the ratification of Arctic relevant conventions.

He then went on to look at the different Arctic policies.

Canada's latest policy document is "Statement on Canada's Arctic Foreign Policy" from August 2010. In Canada there is a strong focus on the North as important to the Canadian identity, and emphasis on Arctic research and participation of indigenous peoples.

Denmark's Arctic paper is "The Arctic at a Time of Transition: Draft Strategy for Activities in the Arctic Region" from 2008. Emphasis on (new) industrial activities e.g. fisheries, hydropower, mining, tourism and oil exploration in Greenland. An Arctic strategy is expected to be presented this spring.

Finland latest paper is the „Strategy for the Arctic Region“(June 2010) and the emphasis are on economy, multilateral governance, the role of EU and a global perspective.

Iceland in the High North“ was published by the Icelandic MFA (September 2009). The Icelandic parliament is currently debating a resolution on the Arctic. Emphasis on international, multilateral and regional cooperation, maritime safety, and international and scientific cooperation.

Norway presented 'New Building Blocks in the North' (March 2009). Emphasis on climate change, resource development and maritime safety. Comprehensive and integrated into long-term Norwegian policy in the North.

Russia "The Fundamentals of State Policy of the Russian Federation in the Arctic in the Period up to 2020 and Beyond' by President" (September 2008). Focus on Arctic resources and improving living conditions for local people.

The United States' 'Arctic Region Policy' from (January 2009)focus on national and homeland security, international cooperation and research.

European Union "Report on a Sustainable EU Policy for the High North' by European Parliament "(January 2011). Focus on population, sustainable use of resources and multilateral governance.

On questions from the Committee Dr. Heininen noted that many of the strategies has a too nationalistic approach, and that the global perspective should be more visible f.i. with regards to climate change.

Many of the members commended Heininen for taking on the task to do this overview and comparison . Dr. Lunney noted that the change in government in Canada had taken place in 2006, not 2007 as mentioned in the report.

Iceland, Sweden, Denmark and Norway are expected to present new Arctic policy documents this spring.

Members of the Committee also noted the importance of Arctic cooperation in the Arctic Council.

## **5. THE DRAFT NORDIC SAAMI CONVENTION – THE VIEW OF THE NORWEGIAN SAMI PARLIAMENT**

Ms. Suuvi Juntunen from the Finnish Saami parliament presented the work with the draft Nordic Saami Convention. The Saami people lived in the North without borders in the countries which today are Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia.

The Draft Nordic Saami Convention was presented in 2005 but not with Russia as a part.

After the presentation in 2005 nothing happened until 2008 when it was decided to move forward with the convention and go through the draft convention text and compare with the existing national legislation.

In the fall of 2010 the minister decided to start the negotiations, and the treaty will need to be ratified in 6 parliaments (3 national and 3 Saami parliaments).

The national delegations to the negotiations will be partly appointed by the Saami parliaments and partly by the national governments. In Sweden and Finland the number of Saami representatives will equal the numbers from the governments.

The first negotiation meeting will take place in March 2011.

A common view on the draft convention is negotiated and agreed upon in Saami Parliamentary Council.

The draft convention proposes a change in the role of the Saami Parliamentary Council and the Council started a process to prepare for this change.

Difficult questions are expected to be land rights and reindeer herding issues.

A member of the Committee compared the process to negotiate the Self rule agreement between Denmark and Greenland which had 7 members appointed by Denmark and 7 appointed by Greenland. The coming negotiations will be followed with great interest.

Ms. Juntunen commented that the draft convention had attracted international attention. Finally Ms. Juntunen said she was pleased with the draft presented in 2005 which should be the basis for discussions. The final convention should be close to this draft.

#### Decision:

The Committee took note of the information.

## **6. ARCTIC GOVERNANCE IN AN EVOLVING ARCTIC REGION**

The Secretary General briefly presented the paper prepared by Clifford Lincoln to the Committee and some thoughts about the recommendations in the report.

The introduction should be formulated in a different way, more focused on the increasing interest in the Arctic and the role of the Arctic Council.

The main receiver of the recommendations agreed upon should be the Arctic Council, not the IPY-conference in 2012, and there needs to be a clearer distinction between the permanent participants and the observers to the Arctic Council.

The members of the Committee welcomed the paper from Mr. Lincoln. It was underlined that the outcome of the Ministerial meeting in Nuuk will give valuable guidance to the further discussion in the Committee. The importance of a permanent Arctic Council secretariat was underlined by several members. Others underlined that the Committee needs to take a practical approach to the draft report and maybe underline the long term perspective.



The Saami Parliamentary Council will send their comments in writing to the Secretary General.

It will also be important to discuss this issue with representatives with the US.

Decision:

The Committee gave the Chair the authority to report back to Mr. Lincoln and his group on the basis of the discussion at the Tromsø meeting and agreed to arrange a joint meeting in conjunction with the next meeting of SCPAR 9-10 June 2011.

## **7. ROTATING CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE**

The Icelandic delegation presented their proposal to have a rotating chairmanship of SCPAR.

The proposal is flexible and allows for different possibilities for the members to switch their chairmanship term if that is necessary.

The rotation should follow the international chairmanship rotation, with burden sharing and sharing of responsibility. The rotation should follow the alphabetical order of the members of the Committee and last for two years. The Vice-Chair shall be from the member which is to follow as Chair of the Committee.

The members of the Committee supported the Icelandic proposal and underlined the need of flexibility within such a rotation system, so that if for example an election comes in a chairmanship turn, it is able to switch.

Mr. Torlopov of Russia noted that with the Icelandic proposal the Committee loses the possibility to elect a Chair, but will have to follow the alphabet.

Decision:

The committee will continue to discuss the Icelandic proposal at the next meeting of SCPAR with the aim to conclude the discussion.

## **8. FOLLOW-UP OF THE CONFERENCE IN BRUSSELS 13-15 SEPTEMBER 2010**

Mr. Hannes Manninen reported that 100 000 Euro have been allocated to follow-up with preparatory study for an establishment of an EU Arctic Information Centre in Rovaniemi, Finland.

Mr. Morten Høglund noted that the Ministerial meeting in Nuuk will be an important venue, and a meeting with the new Chairmanship at the next meeting of SCPAR in June.

The Committee needs to have a good dialogue with the Arctic Council and work with the Council.

## Decision:

The Committee decided to follow-up the Conference statement from Brussels in accordance with the suggestions from the Secretary General.

## **9. STATUS OF THE WORK OF SCPAR**

### West-Nordic Council

The Council's Annual Theme Conference will be held in the Faroe Islands, June 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>.

The topics will be services for the elderly small communities and regions, and search and rescue capacity in the North-Atlantic. The conference we will analyse the current situation regarding search and rescue capabilities in the Region and scrutinise the new agreement of the governments of the Arctic Council on furthering their Search and Rescue cooperation.

### Nordic Council

The Presidency of the Nordic Council in 2011 is Danish. The three principle priorities for the Presidency are:

- A more effective Nordic Council
- A Nordic voice in connection with European cooperation
- A joint strategy for the Arctic

### Sweden

This spring the Swedish Arctic policy will be presented. Main topics in this policy will be:

- Climate change and environmental issues
- Research
- Economic development in the Arctic
- Indigenous peoples

Sweden is the incoming chairmanship of the Arctic Council and the Swedish delegation will arrange a conference in the parliament together with the Arctic Council chairmanship.

A Barents parliamentary conference will take place in Luleå 18-20 May and the members of the Committee are welcome to participate.

### Canada

Some of the important areas of discussion related to Canada and the

- Development of infrastructure in the North
- Health issues - especially maternal and child help
- Establishment of a science and research centre in Cambridge bay

The increase in shipping is of concern and Canada is glad to see an agreement on Search and Rescue is moving ahead. New charts are important.

There will be new Arctic patrol vessels and arctic deepwater ports.

#### Iceland

A resolution on the Arctic is currently being debated in the Icelandic parliament and will be passed this spring. The draft resolution focuses on:

- Clean seas and to secure the environment
- Arctic decision making
- The global dimension of the Arctic policy

#### Norway

The Norwegian parliament has ratified the delimitation agreement with Russia 8 February 2011.

#### European Parliament

The European Parliament passed a resolution on Arctic policies in January 2011.

#### Finland

Finland and Russia arranged a joint seminar 9 February in St. Petersburg, with Foreign Minister Stubb and Mr. Chilingarov as main speakers. The objective was to strengthen Finnish – Russian partnership on Arctic cooperation.

A new assessment of the neighbouring area cooperation between Russia and Finland was just presented. The main conclusion of this assessment is that the cooperation works very well and that a large number of networks have been established.

#### Bagnell

Mr. Bagnell presented briefly his private members bill to make the Arctic a nuclear weapon free zone.

### **10. NEXT MEETING**

The next SCPAR meeting will be in Iceland 9-10 June 2011.

The first meeting in the fall is proposed to be 27-30 September in Syktyvkard, Komi Republic. Arrival will be 27 September and departure on 30 September.

## **11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Høglund was elected as the SCPAR-representative in the drafting committee for the Second Northern Dimension forum.

The meeting in Tromsø was the last meeting with Mr. Hannes Manninen as Chair of SCPAR. Mr. Manninen thanked all the members of the Committee for the good cooperation in his chairmanship period and wished them all the best for the future cooperation.

Mr. Morten Høglund took over as Chair of SCPAR and thanked Mr. Manninen for his excellent leadership and for all the work he has done for the Arctic.



CONFERENCE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION

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THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION

**MEETING IN TROMSØ**

**22 February 2011**

Draft list of participants

MEMBERS

Canada	Dr. James Lunney, MP Mr. Larry Bagnell, MP Mr. Tim Williams, Resources and Environment Section, Parliamentary Information and Research Service
Denmark/Greenland	Ms. Juliane Henningsen, MP Mr. Peder H. Pedersen, Head of section
EP	Mr. Pat de Cope Gallagher, MEP Mr. Michal Malovec, Desk officer Mr. Eamon Farell, Adviser
Finland	Mr. Hannes Manninen, MP Mr. Guy Lindström, Deputy Director
Iceland	Ms. Thorunn Sveinbjarnardottir, MP Mr. Kjartan Fjeldsted, Adviser
Norway	Mr. Morten Høglund, MP Mr. Kjell Myhre-Jensen
Russia	Mr. Vasily Usoltsev, MP Mrs. Irina Kuzmina, Secretary Mr. Vladimir Torlopov, Member of the Council of Federation

Mr. Kirill Mangush, Counsellor, International Affairs Department  
Sweden  
Ms. Ann-Kristine Johansson, MP  
Ms. Eva Hjelm, Senior Officer

#### PERMANENT PARTICIPANTS

Saami Parliamentary Council  
Mr. Klemetti Näkkäljärvi, President, Finnish Saami Parliament  
Ms. Suvi Juntunen, Adviser, Finnish Saami Parliament  
Indigenous Peoples  
Ms. Anne Brunk, Administrative assistant Secretariat

#### OBSERVERS

Nordic Council  
Ms. Marion Pedersen, MP  
Mr. Torkil Sørensen, Senior Adviser  
West-Nordic Council  
Mr. Ólína Þorvarðardóttir, President of the West-Nordic Council  
Mr. Thordur Thorarinnsson, Secretary General

#### SECRETARIAT

#### GUESTS

Mr. Bjørn Willy Robstad, Secretary General  
Mr. Lars Kullerud, President, University of the Arctic  
Dr. Lassi Heininen, Chair, Northern Research Forum  
Mr. Lars Möller, Senior Arctic Official Chair, Denmark  
Mr. Eirik Sivertsen, MP, Norway  
Mr. Ivar Kristiansen, MP, Norway  
Ms. Ingalill Olsen, MP, Norway  
Ms. Line Henriette Hjemdal, MP, Norway  
Mr. Henning Skumsvoll, MP, Norway  
Ms. Nina Buvang Vaaja, Arctic Council secretariat

## Appendix 2:

### Presentation of:

Dr. James Lunney

Member of Parliament

Standing Committee of Foreign Affairs

(Canada)

Second Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum

Tromso, Norway

Feb 22, 2011

Mr. Chairman,

(Members of the Norwegian, The Norwegian Sami parliament, Icelandic, European and Russian parliaments, the Baltic Assembly, the Baltic Sea Parliamentary conference, colleagues from the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, the network of Barents Parliamentarians, the Nordic council, the Parliamentary Assembly for North West Russia, and The West Nordic Council)... and colleagues from our many parliamentary bodies and associations,

C'est vraiment un plaisir d'être ici ce soir avec vous-tous ....

It's a pleasure to be here today to address this Second Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum and provide an overview of Canada's perspective and engagement on Arctic issues.

I appreciate the beautiful expression of Sami culture at the opening of this forum; such expressions of culture really bring out the human dimension to our important discussions.

To begin let me say that it is indeed a delight to be here in Tromso; ...a cultural capital, a University and Scientific Centre... and a spectacular setting for this gathering.

I would also like to express my thanks to our Norwegian hosts for receiving us so warmly for this important gathering...

Last year at this time, Canada was basking in the afterglow of the 2010 Winter Olympic Games. You may recall that the symbol of our most successful games ever was the Inukshuk, the iconic symbol of the Canadian arctic and our Inuit people.

Canada has a profound interest in our Arctic region. It is home to a wealth of natural resources and expanding economies. Above all, it is home to over 125 000 Canadians who live, work and thrive in bustling yet remote communities. The well-being of our Northern people is at the heart of all of Canada's actions in the Arctic.

Indeed, Prime Minister Stephen Harper has personally toured our vast Northern Territories in each of the past five summer seasons, witnessing naval exercises, visiting remote communities and sites of strategic and future investments.

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As you know Canada is an active member of the Arctic Council (AC); Canada considers the Arctic council the leading forum for co-operation on Arctic issues and participates in all six of its working Groups.

Support for AC activities is an important aspect of achieving the goals set out in Canada's Northern strategy and Canada's Arctic Foreign Policy under the following four pillars:

- 1) exercising our Arctic sovereignty;
- 2) promoting social and economic development;
- 3) protecting our environmental heritage; and
- 4) improving and devolving governance.

Canada is working collaboratively with other arctic states, permanent (indigenous) participants and observers on a range of high priority initiatives.

As examples we have leading or co-lead roles in the Snow, Water, Ice and Permafrost in the Arctic (SWIPA) initiative.

We are involved The Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON), and the important Mercury Assessment project which will be delivered at the Nuuk ministerial meeting coming up in May, 2011.

We also have focussed participation in the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment, the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program, the Arctic Marine Shipping assessment and the Human Health experts Group to highlight just a few of the many and necessary collaborative efforts that are underway through the Arctic Council.

Canada will actively promote northern economic and social development, taking steps to create the appropriate international conditions for sustainable development, seeking trade and investment opportunities that benefit Northerners and all Canadians; and encouraging a greater understanding of the human dimension of the Arctic to improve the lives of Northerners.

Three priority areas of foreign policy that Canada is pursuing in the Arctic include:

- 1) seeking to resolve boundary disputes in accordance with international law;
- 2) securing international recognition for the full extent of our extended continental shelf, so as to define with precision where we can exercise our sovereign rights over the resources of the seabed and subsoil; and



- 3) addressing Arctic governance and related emerging issues, such as public safety.

I am sure we can all agree that the blistering pace of change has stretched the institutional capacity of all governments; hence, the need for international dialogue, engagement and collaboration.

As the North becomes increasingly accessible for commercial activities, it is incumbent on governments to resolve differences and to ensure appropriate regulatory regimes in order to provide certainty and stability for the region. Without clarity on boundaries, viability and sustainability could be at risk.

That's why making progress on outstanding boundary issues is a priority for Canada.

We were encouraged that Russia recently settled its Barents Sea maritime dispute with Norway after 40 years of extensive negotiations.

Our government has given high priority to our work on securing recognition for the full extent of the extended continental shelf. We are increasing our collaboration with partners for data collection and information exchange to expedite this process.

Canada will make its submission to the UN, on schedule in 2013, in conformity with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

We are also engaging with the United States and Denmark on the remaining disputed boundaries in the Beaufort Sea and Hans Island.

Canada exercises its sovereignty daily through good governance and responsible stewardship, whether related to social and economic development, Arctic science and research, environmental protection, the operations of the Canadian Forces or the activities of our Coast Guard.

We are increasing our capacity in the North to monitor, protect and patrol our land, sea and sky.

Canada is strengthening its presence in our North.

From the procurement of new and modernized patrol ships and expanded military training facilities - to ongoing military exercises and surveillance operations - our commitment to exercising our sovereignty remains the foremost pillar of our arctic foreign policy.

In addition to that, our investments in the RADARSAT project allow us to defend our arctic sovereignty, protect the arctic environment and our resources in the north.

Understanding the opportunities and the challenges of Arctic resource development and establishing relevant guidelines, best practices and standards is necessary for sustainable development in the Arctic.

Developing a mandatory polar code for shipping, implementing robust oil and gas regulations for safe and efficient drilling, and the provision of hydrographic services for safe navigation will remain key priorities in our work at the domestic and international level.

Marine safety is an area of growing importance as more and more vessels enter northern waters and encounter difficulties.

Canada looks forward to the successful adoption of a Search and Rescue Agreement at the Nuuk ministerial.

Domestically, Canada has long been a leader in the protection of the Arctic environment. We were the first country to pass legislation to protect our Arctic waters.

We recently finalized and put into force new regulations that require vessels to report when they are entering and operating within Canadian Arctic waters.

The goal of these regulations is not to interfere with navigation but to protect sensitive eco-systems and our Northern communities and they are an indication of Canada's resolve to exercise stewardship over Canadian lands and waters.

We have made a strong commitment to Arctic science – the foundation for sound policy and decision-making on the environment.

Indeed, Canada was the single largest contributor to the International Polar Year, taking partnerships in circumpolar research to new levels.

Canada's legacy to the International Polar Year will be the establishment of a world-class research station in Cambridge Bay in the High Arctic.

The opportunities this will bring to Canada and to the global research community will be enormous.

There are many more issues that may be discussed as the forum unfolds: for example in the area of Public Health in the North where an innovative program for maternal - child health surveillance has been developed;

the EU ban on import of Canadian seal products, which has now gone to international dispute resolution through WTO...

... or Canada's ongoing engagement with the International Atomic Energy Commission (IAEA) and the Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership (NDEP) to address spent nuclear fuel and radiological waste issues in Russia.

We are committed to working collaboratively with our Arctic neighbours to advance shared priorities, .... to address common challenges and to fulfill our vision of the Arctic as a region of stability, where Arctic states work to foster sustainable development.

I wish to thank you for the opportunity to address you today... I look forward to further discussions as the forum continues.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Merci beaucoup!

## Travel Costs

<b>ASSOCIATION</b>	Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association
<b>ACTIVITY</b>	Meeting of the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region and the Second Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum
<b>DESTINATION</b>	Tromsø, Norway
<b>DATES</b>	February 22 and 23, 2011
<b>DELEGATION</b>	
SENATE	
HOUSE OF COMMONS	Dr. James Lunney, MP Mr. Larry Bagnell, MP
STAFF	Mr. Tim Williams, Advisor
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	<b>\$17,010.29</b>
<b>ACCOMMODATION</b>	<b>\$ 2,739.82</b>
<b>HOSPITALITY</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>
<b>PER DIEMS</b>	<b>\$ 1,647.02</b>
<b>OFFICIAL GIFTS</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS / REGISTRATION FEES</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$21,397.13</b>