

## Interparliamentary Relations

### Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

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#### 111. Purpose

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) fosters understanding and co-operation among parliamentarians from Commonwealth countries and promotes the study of and respect for parliamentary institutions. Each jurisdiction constitutes a branch and has its own executive; membership is made up of those elected to that jurisdiction's parliament. The various branches are grouped geographically into seven regions, each of which is represented on the executive committee of the association and sponsors regional conferences and seminars.

#### 112. Alberta Branch

The Alberta branch consists of all Members of the Legislative Assembly. Following CPA practice, the president of the branch is the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the vice-presidents are the Premier and Leader of the Official Opposition and the secretary is the Clerk. Funding for branch operations, including all membership fees and a grant to the CPA General Council, is voted by the Assembly in its annual estimates.

#### 113. Canadian Region

The Canadian region of the CPA consists of the Alberta branch, branches representing the parliaments of the other nine provinces and the three territories and the branch representing the federal Parliament.

#### **114. Conferences, Seminars and Exchanges**

Delegates from the Alberta branch may attend the following CPA functions:

- The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference, usually held in late summer or early fall and hosted by a different region each year.
- The Canadian regional conference, usually held in the summer and hosted by a different branch each year. Alberta hosted the 2001 conference in Edmonton.
- The Canadian regional seminar, which normally takes place in late fall or early winter and is hosted by a different branch each year.

In addition to these formal gatherings the branches of the Canadian region encourage interbranch exchanges and visits by delegations and individual Members. The Alberta branch receives visitors from other jurisdictions. Members are encouraged when travelling throughout the Commonwealth to visit other branches of the association.

#### **115. Publications**

Members of the Alberta branch receive two quarterly CPA publications. *The Parliamentarian* is published by the CPA secretariat and contains articles, book reviews and bibliographies on parliamentary and constitutional topics as well as reports of major proceedings in Commonwealth parliaments. The *Canadian Parliamentary Review* reports on conferences, seminars, appointments and related matters of interest to Canadian members.

The secretariat and the secretary-general of the CPA also publish newsletters at regular intervals. These contain news about parliamentary and political events in the Commonwealth and association activities.

The annual report of the Alberta branch is published in the spring as part of the Legislative Assembly Office's annual report.

### **116. Ties and Pins**

CPA ties and pins are available from the Clerk, secretary of the Alberta branch, on the eighth floor of the Legislature Annex.

### **117. Further Information**

Further details about the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association may be found in the booklet *Commonwealth Parliamentary Association: Aims, Organization, Activities*, which the Speaker's office distributes to all Members.

### **118. Other Associations**

The Assembly has involvement in a number of other interparliamentary associations and organizations, including the *Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (APF)*; the *National Conference of State Legislatures, U.S.A. (NCSL)*; the *Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER)*; the *Canada/Ukraine legislative exchange program*; the *Partnership of Parliaments*; and the *Alberta/Mpumalanga, South Africa, twinning agreement*.

