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Parliamentary Association



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**Report of the Canadian Parliamentary Delegation respecting  
its participation at the 13th Conference of Parliamentarians  
of the Arctic Region and the Meeting of the Standing  
Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region**

**Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association**

**Inari, Finland  
September 16-19, 2018**

# Report

## COMPOSITION OF THE CANADIAN DELEGATION

A Canadian delegation attended the 13<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (CPAR)<sup>1</sup> and the meeting of the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (the Standing Committee)<sup>2</sup> held in Inari, Finland, from 16 to 19 September 2018. The delegation comprised:

- Honourable Larry Bagnell (Member of Parliament for Yukon, Head of Delegation, Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee);
- Senator Dennis Patterson (Nunavut);
- Senator Patricia Bovey (Manitoba);
- Ms. Yvonne Jones (Member of Parliament for Labrador);
- Mr. Larry Maguire (Member of Parliament for Brandon — Souris); and
- Ms. Georgina Jolibois (Member of Parliament for Desnethé — Missinippi — Churchill River).

The delegation also included Mr. Thai Nguyen, from the Parliamentary Information and Research Service of the Library of Parliament, as adviser, and Ms. Guyanne Desforges, Association Secretary.

The biennial CPAR and the Standing Committee<sup>3</sup> act as a parliamentary forum for issues relevant to the work of the Arctic Council.<sup>4</sup> The forum comprises delegations from the eight Arctic states (Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, the United States) and the European Parliament. CPAR and the Standing Committee also include Permanent Participants representing Indigenous peoples, as well as observers (see Appendix 1).

## MEETING SUMMARY

### A. PLANNING SESSION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE AND MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE WITH CPAR OBSERVERS

On 16 September 2018, Hon. Larry Bagnell chaired the planning session of the Standing Committee. Echoing the views of his colleagues, he emphasized that Arctic parliamentarians have a common objective in preserving the region as a zone of

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<sup>1</sup> [13th Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region](#), Inari, Finland, 16-19 September 2018.

<sup>2</sup> Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, [Standing Committee](#).

<sup>3</sup> Arctic parliamentary cooperation is facilitated by the Standing Committee between biennial meetings of CPAR.

<sup>4</sup> Arctic Council, [Home](#).

cooperation and peace. Hon. Larry Bagnell also reminded delegates that all decisions at the Conference are based on consensus. The planning session was followed by the first meeting of the Drafting Committee responsible for finalizing the Conference Statement to be adopted at the end of the Conference. Members of the Standing Committee also met with observer delegations to discuss the following subjects.

### **1. Representation of Indigenous Organizations**

Mr. Grigorii Ledkov, representing the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON), noted that Indigenous peoples and organizations are underrepresented in many parliaments and parliamentary forums. The RAIPON representative added that, for this 13<sup>th</sup> CPAR, only the Sami Parliamentary Council and RAIPON are present while other Indigenous organizations, such as the Inuit Circumpolar Council and the Arctic Athabaskan Council, could not attend due to a probable lack of funding to travel.

### **2. Effectiveness of Conference Statements**

Mr. Sjurður Skaale, Member of Parliament for the Faroe Islands/Denmark, questioned the effectiveness of previous Conference statements as, in his opinion, his national government seemed to be unaware of the content of the 12<sup>th</sup> Conference Statement. Mr. Eirik Sivertsen, Member of Parliament from Norway and Chair of CPAR and the Standing Committee, reminded parliamentarians that it is their responsibility to convey the Conference Statement to their respective government and parliament.

Ms. Aaja Chemnitz Larsen, Member of Parliament for Greenland/Denmark, added, as governments come and go, Arctic parliamentarians must take the responsibility to sensitize their colleagues in their respective parliament to Arctic realities. Seal harvesting was given as an example of the lack of understanding from non-Arctic residents of Arctic Indigenous peoples' livelihoods and traditions.

### **3. University of the Arctic**

Mr. Lars Kullerud, representing the University of the Arctic, noted that the network of universities, colleges, research institutes and other organizations concerned with education and research in and about the Arctic exists thanks to the support of CPAR and the Standing Committee. Students at participating institutions in the north2north student mobility program can apply for an exchange grant to another partner university.<sup>5</sup>

According to the University of the Arctic's delegate, there is currently a lack of economic sciences research in and about the Arctic. The University of the Arctic wholeheartedly supports the Arctic Council's *Agreement on Enhancing International Arctic Scientific Cooperation*.<sup>6</sup> This agreement will reinforce Arctic science diplomacy and enhance cooperation between Western and Russian scientists in the context of tensions between Arctic states outside the Arctic Region.

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<sup>5</sup> University of the Arctic, [north2north](#).

<sup>6</sup> Arctic Council, [Agreement on Enhancing International Arctic Scientific Cooperation](#).

Mr. Ari Trausti Gudmundsson, Member of Parliament from Iceland, agreed with the above assessment and noted the need to pool knowledge from research completed in different Arctic regions. He noted the difficulty for non-Russian scientists to access Russian research publications as they are often published only in Russian. According to Senator Igor Chernyshenko from Russia, joint research initiatives, such as the Russia-China ship building research program, are conducive to the sharing of knowledge. A joint data bank was also proposed by the Russian delegation to enhance the state of knowledge about the circumpolar Arctic.

Hon. Larry Bagnell indicated to participants that Yukon College, a member of the University of the Arctic, will become Yukon University in spring 2020 and will be Canada's first Arctic university.<sup>7</sup> Yukon University will be focusing on education and research relevant to populations in the Canadian Arctic, contributing to a responsive, resilient and versatile economy and society.

In the opinion of Senator Patricia Bovey from Canada, a critical issue in education in the Arctic Region is the integration of traditional Indigenous knowledge into the science curriculum. Senator Valerii Markov from Russia also added that, to avoid being left behind in the global move towards digitalization and the knowledge economy, circumpolar Arctic cooperation needs to be enhanced in the field of education and integration of traditional knowledge.

#### **4. Climate Change**

Several delegations, including the Sami Parliamentary Council, the World Wide Fund for Nature – Global Arctic Program, the United Kingdom, the Nordic Council, and Singapore, stressed climate change as a common social, economic, and environmental challenge for Arctic and non-Arctic residents. Therefore, they emphasized the development of renewable energy sources to mitigate climate change. Climate change can also present opportunities in areas such as fisheries, tourism and agriculture. However, in order to capitalize on those opportunities, Arctic digital and transportation infrastructure improvement is critical.

The need for better funding for science used in decision-making was mentioned at numerous occasions during discussions between Arctic parliamentarians and observer delegations. Mr. Sam Tan, Member of Parliament from Singapore, noted that Singapore, as an Arctic Council observer state, provides support for education and training in various environmental management fields (oil spills, shipping and marine navigation) for Arctic Indigenous peoples' organizations such as the Sami Council and RAIPON. Singapore also seeks Arctic Indigenous leaders' input in order to better understand Arctic realities through the lenses of Indigenous peoples.

#### **5. Considerations of Indigenous Interests in Economic Development Projects**

According to Ms. Tiina Sanila-Aikio, President of the Sami Parliament of Finland, economic development projects in the Arctic must respect Indigenous interests and rights. For the Sami Parliamentary Council, economic development does not solely equate

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<sup>7</sup> Yukon University, [YukonU](http://YukonU).

industrial growth but should also include the expansion and nurturing of Indigenous traditional economies (hunting, fishing and trapping).

In the view of Mr. Eirik Sivertsen, Chair of CPAR and the Standing Committee, environmental impact assessments of industrial projects in the Arctic need to fully consider Indigenous peoples concerns and traditional knowledge. He provided the example of the University of Tromsø's study on the avoidance by reindeers up to several kilometres from high-voltage power lines.<sup>8</sup> This behaviour was predicted by local Indigenous knowledge but was perplexing for non-Indigenous Norwegians because suspended cables are neither an impenetrable physical barrier nor associated with human traffic. The study, integrating science and traditional knowledge, provided compelling evidence that reindeers' avoidance may be linked with the ability of animals to detect ultraviolet light discharges on power lines.

## **B. GENERAL DISCUSSIONS**

### **1. Themes of the Conference**

Ms. Katri Kulmuni, Member of Parliament from Finland representing Lapland and Chair of the Finland-Russia Society, opened the 13<sup>th</sup> CPAR by stressing the role of the Indigenous Sami Parliament in Finland. In her view, the four themes chosen for this Conference (digital infrastructure and economic development, climate change, corporate social responsibility, and social well-being) are significant as they represent common challenges and opportunities for all Arctic residents.

### **2. Land Use Challenges**

Mr. Toni Laine, Mayor of Inari, told delegates that Inari is experiencing a tourism boom with associated growth in the services sector. Inari has been succeeding by promoting its most important resource: nature. However, similarly to many other Arctic areas, there are challenges related to land use planning as industrial development can conflict with Sami reindeer herding activities.

### **3. Arctic Cooperation as a Model**

Mr. Eirik Sivertsen, Chair of CPAR and the Standing Committee, indicated that CPAR represents a unique opportunity for open discussions between parliamentarians on issues faced by Arctic residents. He noted that challenges in the Arctic cannot be solved by each Arctic country working in isolation from others. Multilateral cooperation is required in areas such as climate change mitigation and adaptation, and infrastructure building. Mr. Sivertsen added that the Arctic Council and CPAR are being considered as a successful international cooperation and stability-building model to emulate from by the eight states of the Hindu Kush Himalayan Region.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> N. Tyler et al., "[Ultraviolet Vision and Avoidance of Power Lines in Birds and Mammals](#)," *Conservation Biology*, 12 March 2014.

<sup>9</sup> Arctic Frontiers, "[Can the Arctic Council model work for the Hindu Kush Himalayan Region?](#)", 23 January 2018.

For Mr. Sivertsen, a fundamental issue in the Arctic is who gets the benefits from economic development and natural resources exploitation. Therefore, social licence for industrial projects and capacity building for local residents are critical to ensure that Arctic residents benefit from development. In his opinion, the World Economic Forum's Arctic Investment Protocol is an important step towards an inclusive, transparent, measurable and sustainable development of the Arctic.<sup>10</sup>

#### **4. Indigenous Languages**

Ms. Tiina Sanila-Aikio, President of the Sami Parliament of Finland, emphasized the critical importance of languages for the preservation and flourishing of Indigenous cultures.<sup>11</sup> She noted that 2019 will be the International Year of Indigenous Languages, and language diversity is as important as biological diversity. In her view, a language is the mirror of a culture and its values, and contains the traditional knowledge of a people. For Ms. Sanila-Aikio, the implementation of the free prior and informed consent (FPIC) principle of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is essential to ensure the self-determination of Arctic Indigenous peoples.<sup>12</sup> In her opinion, FPIC should be obtained when proposing any industrial project affecting the lands of Indigenous peoples. "Nothing about us without us" describes the sustainable development goals through the eyes of Arctic Indigenous peoples.

Hon. Larry Bagnell indicated that the Canadian government is planning to soon introduce a bill to promote and protect Canada's Indigenous languages. He also mentioned that the House of Commons Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs, which he chairs, issued a report in June 2018 recommending that the use of Indigenous languages be recognized in the House of Commons. Ms. Tiina Sanila-Aikio welcomed Canada's initiatives and added that digitalization of Indigenous languages remain a challenge as many Indigenous characters are still unrecognized by many commercial word processors.

#### **5. Activities of the Arctic Council**

Mr. Timo Soini, Finland's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Chair of the Arctic Council, informed delegates of the Arctic Council's work progress under the Finnish chairmanship. He indicated that the Arctic Council and the Arctic Economic Council have increased cooperation in the development of telecommunications and meteorological infrastructures. The World Meteorological Organization, which gained observer status at the Arctic Council in 2017, is working to establish an Arctic regional climate centre network to enhance the dissemination of weather information to local communities.<sup>13</sup> Mr. Soini also mentioned that wildfires occurring in several Arctic countries during summer 2018 call for increased capacity to predict and prevent such events.

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<sup>10</sup> World Economic Forum, [Arctic Investment Protocol](#), 2015.

<sup>11</sup> Sami Parliament, [Opening speech by President Sanila-Aikio at the Arctic Parliamentary Conference in Inari](#), 17 September 2018.

<sup>12</sup> United Nations, [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#).

<sup>13</sup> World Meteorological Organization, [WMO launches Arctic Regional Climate Centre Network](#), 18 May 2018.

The importance of meteorological cooperation in the Arctic was also highlighted by Mr. Juhani Damski, Director General of the Finnish Meteorological Institute. He informed delegates of the World Economic Forum's Global Risks Report 2018.<sup>14</sup> The report cautions against complacency and stresses the need to prepare for dramatic disruptions due to extreme weather events and natural disasters over a 10-year horizon. Mr. Damski indicated that Indigenous knowledge in Arctic meteorological cooperation is essential and mentioned that a side event featuring Indigenous knowledge in meteorology will be organized by the Arctic Council during the ministerial meeting in 2019. He also provided the example of a successful Finland-Russia-United States cooperation initiative establishing a meteorological monitoring infrastructure in Siberia to support marine navigation in the Arctic.

## **6. Incoming Icelandic Chairmanship of the Arctic Council**

Mr. Ari Trausti Gudmundsson, Member of Parliament from Iceland, informed delegates of Iceland's priorities during its upcoming chairmanship of the Arctic Council from 2019 to 2021: oceans management, climate change and green energy production, and infrastructure development to support the social well-being of Arctic residents.

Mr. Timo Soini, Finland's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Chair of the Arctic Council, commented that, during the visit of Finland's President to Russia in summer 2018, Russia agreed to Finland's initiative to organize an Arctic Summit involving heads of state and governments of the Arctic Council member states, as well as the heads of the Permanent Participants. He stressed the importance of circumpolar Arctic cooperation and mentioned that a successful and effective management of the Arctic Ocean requires cooperation from all Arctic nations.

## **C. THEMATIC SESSIONS**

### **1. Digital Arctic and Economic Development**

Ms. Aaja Chemnitz Larsen, Member of Parliament for Greenland/Denmark, as rapporteur for this thematic session, told delegates that telecommunications infrastructure development is a critical element for a number of sectors in the Arctic, including emergency preparedness, search and rescue, education, and entrepreneurship fostering in an increasingly connected global economy. The cold climate of the Arctic can be an advantage in the digital economy if telecommunications, transportation and energy infrastructures are available. For example, the town of Lulea in Sweden was selected in 2013 by Facebook to establish its giant data centre, the Node Pole.<sup>15</sup> The remote data centre can cool itself using freezing outside air.

According to Mr. Janne Seurujarvi, Managing Director of Test World, thanks to its well-developed transportation and digital infrastructure, Inari has been chosen as a site for vehicles and tires testing by his company. The availability of transportation and telecommunications infrastructure in the Inari region facilitated the diversification of the

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<sup>14</sup> World Economic Forum, [The Global Risks Report 2018](#).

<sup>15</sup> Node Pole, [Facebook expansion confirms Nordics as leading hyperscale cluster](#), 7 May 2018.



local economy and the establishment of the high-tech and research-intensive vehicle testing industry.

The rapporteur mentioned the successful telecommunications infrastructure development case in Finland where the national government provides Internet access to locations where there is no commercial option. Mr. Fedot Tumusov, Member of Parliament from Russia, added that relying on market prices to develop telecommunications infrastructure in the Arctic is inappropriate given the region's low population density and vastness. In the view of Ms. Aili Keskitalo, Sami Parliament in Norway, the digital divide also affects the survival of Indigenous languages as telecommunications standards favour dominant non-Indigenous languages.

Ms. Yvonne Jones, Member of Parliament from Canada, and Russian Senator Igor Chernyshenko both mentioned the importance of telecommunications infrastructure for improving the quality and reducing costs of healthcare services in the Arctic. They also underscored that greater circumpolar Arctic cooperation is required in telecommunications infrastructure development.

## **2. Climate Change**

As rapporteur for the climate change thematic session, Mr. Ari Trausti Gudmundsson, Member of Parliament from Iceland, stressed the role of Arctic parliamentarians in raising awareness about climate change impacts in their respective parliament. Arctic parliamentarians should remind their southern counterparts that climate change in the Arctic has global implications and will affect southern cities, infrastructure and populations.

Mr. Lassi Heininen, University of Lapland, indicated that geopolitical messages conveyed in the media about the Arctic can be misleading since Arctic states have a common interest in preserving the region as a zone of cooperation and stability. Mr. Heininen explained the notion of Arctic negotiated exceptionalism and mentioned environmental protection and sustainable development as the main driver for circumpolar Arctic cooperation. In his view, the issue of Arctic security should also be analysed through the prism of global environmental security as stressed by the 2009 *Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Resource Development Principles in Inuit Nunaat*.<sup>16</sup>

Mr. Per-Olof Nutti, Sami Parliament in Sweden, explained to delegates the impacts of climate changes on the traditions and livelihoods of Sami reindeer herders. For the Sami people, climate change is also a food security issue. Ms. Yvonne Jones, Member of Parliament from Canada, told delegates that Arctic parliamentarians are aware of the impacts of climate change on Arctic residents, but the difficulty lies in creating a mind shift among certain southern politicians and populations. Ms. Jones illustrated her argument by providing the example of Canada's proposed regulations on marine protected areas and carbon pricing which have been contentious.

Mr. Sam Tan, Member of Parliament from Singapore, told delegates that political will is required for shifting peoples' mind. Governments must take a precautionary approach in

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<sup>16</sup> Inuit Circumpolar Council, [Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Resource Development Principles in Inuit Nunaat](#), 2009.



policy-making and need to invest in public education. Mr. Sjurður Skaale, Member of Parliament from the Faroe Islands/Denmark, argued that policies must be economically driven in order to be successful. In his opinion, environmental policies should provide carrots instead of sticks.

### 3. Corporate Social Responsibility

Hon. Larry Bagnell, Member of Parliament from Canada, provided a speech on corporate social responsibility (CSR) as rapporteur for this thematic session. He reminded delegates that CSR has long been an issue of special interest during previous editions of CPAR. Hon. Bagnell also indicated that the 2013 Report to the United Nations Human Rights Council from James Anaya, the former Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples acknowledged the need to develop meaningful CSR, and emphasized that solely focusing on governments is insufficient to respect Indigenous land rights.<sup>17</sup> In his speech, Hon. Bagnell touched upon the *Towards Sustainable Mining* initiative of the Mining Association of Canada,<sup>18</sup> impact benefit agreements in the Canadian Arctic, and the creation of the independent Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise.<sup>19</sup>

Mr. Lars Kullerud, President of the University of the Arctic, indicated that current international CSR guidelines, with the possible exception of the Arctic Investment Protocol, do not include any provision specific to Arctic Indigenous peoples. He welcomed the Arctic Council's Finnish chairmanship emphasis on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals which encompass environmental, human and economic dimensions.<sup>20</sup> For Ms. Aili Keskitalo, Sami Parliament in Norway, the lack of Arctic-specific CSR guidelines may be less a problem than the proper implementation of existing international guidelines. She also raised the need to devise a legal framework that will ensure an equitable balance of power between large multinational corporations and Indigenous peoples.

Ms. Georgina Jolibois, Member of Parliament from Canada, informed delegates that, in Canada, regulations of natural resources development projects differ between territories and provinces. In northern Saskatchewan, these projects have brought few local benefits, and the commodities boom and bust cycle have instead created many mental health issues within local Indigenous communities. Canadian Senator Dennis Patterson indicated that, given the existence of the Nunavut land claims agreement clearly defining the role of Inuit on co-management boards defining regulations and the permitting process, industrial projects in Nunavut have had a more positive impact for the local population. Impact benefit agreements in the territory also outline the sharing of royalties and ensure that projects benefit the local communities.

Russian Senator Valerii Markov noted that Russia has always been attentive to the rich Canadian experience regarding natural resource development on Indigenous lands. He

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<sup>17</sup> University of Arizona, [Report to the Human Rights Council A/HRC/24/41](#), 2013.

<sup>18</sup> Mining Association of Canada, [Towards Sustainable Mining](#).

<sup>19</sup> Global Affairs Canada, "[The Government of Canada brings leadership to responsible business conduct abroad](#)," News release, 17 January 2018.

<sup>20</sup> United Nations, [About the Sustainable Development Goals](#).

mentioned that Russia has been hosting workshops with Canadian experts on the issue and will follow with keen interest the evolution of the newly created office of the Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise. Mr. Lars Kullerud, University of the Arctic, indicated that Russia has an advantage over certain Arctic states by having a well-developed education system in the Arctic but also experienced similar challenges to their Arctic neighbours regarding land use and Indigenous rights.

#### **4. Social-Well-Being of Arctic Residents**

Ms. Elena Kudryashova, Rector of the Northern (Arctic) Federal University in Russia, made a presentation on Arctic cooperation in social sciences research as rapporteur for this session. She indicated that the “Arctic: Territory of Dialogue” 5<sup>th</sup> International Arctic Forum will take place in Arkhangelsk, Russia on 9–10 April 2019. The presidents of Iceland, Finland and Russia have confirmed their attendance to the forum that focus on improving living standards for Arctic residents and protecting the region’s environment, fostering sustainable economic growth, and strengthening international cooperation.<sup>21</sup>

Mr. Janne Nakkalajarvi, Sami Education Institute in Finland, gave a presentation on the importance of education and languages for the preservation of Sami culture. In his view, digital infrastructure development is a solution to the current shortage of Sami language teachers in Finland. However, the most significant factor in preserving the Sami language is reindeer herding activities and traditions as they are at the heart of Sami identity and culture.

In the view of Mr. Per-Olof Nutti, Sami Parliament in Sweden, social well-being means being in control of one’s future. Indigenous-led cultural and educational institutions are critical to re-establish the social system shattered by traumas associated to colonialism. He also mentioned that a Truth and Reconciliation Commission is needed for the Sami people in Nordic countries.

Canadian Senator Patricia Bovey agreed with Mr. Per-Olof Nutti and informed delegates about Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s reports.<sup>22</sup> She added that reconciliation needs to go further becoming “reconciliation.” In the Senator’s view, arts and culture are critical to social well-being, and arts should be seen as a pathway to heal traumas and mental health issues. The fostering of Indigenous arts and culture can also improve health, education and economic outcomes. Mr. Larry Maguire, Member of Parliament from Canada, added that the flourishing of Indigenous arts can play a role in raising awareness among non-Indigenous populations about Indigenous issues.

Senator Igor Chernyshenko from Russia indicated that the Sami people in Russia experiences similar challenges to those living in the Nordic countries as well as other Indigenous peoples throughout the Arctic Region. Therefore, he suggested enhanced circumpolar cooperation between Arctic Indigenous organizations.

Canadian Senator Dennis Patterson welcomed Iceland’s inclusion of social well-being among the priorities of its upcoming Arctic Council chairmanship. In his view, certain currently proposed policies in Canada need to be examined through the lenses of social

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<sup>21</sup> [Arctic: Territory of Dialogue](#), International Arctic Forum, Arkhangelsk, Russia, 9-10 April 2019.

<sup>22</sup> National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, [Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#).

well-being. For example, he felt the legalization of cannabis may create additional substance abuse problems in Arctic communities already ill-equipped to confront mental health and other social challenges.

#### **D. 25th ANNIVERSARY OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE**

The year 2018 marks the 25th anniversary of the Standing Committee.<sup>23</sup> A panel of discussion put forward several factors explaining the success of the Standing Committee and CPAR:

- The focus on issues relevant to the peoples living in the Arctic;
- The will of Arctic parliamentarians to find common ground;
- The involvement of parliamentarians, academics, Indigenous Permanent Participants and decision-makers;
- The dedication of chairs given election cycles in various member countries; and
- The role of Mr. Clifford Lincoln (Chair of the Standing Committee from 1998-2004) from Canada in the early and defining years of the committee.

In the view of Ms. Aili Keskitalo, Sami Parliament in Norway, Arctic cooperation forums such as CPAR, the Standing Committee and the Arctic Council are the most inclusive international organizations. Within these forums, Indigenous organizations can participate and contribute on an equal footing to other members. She noted, however, that earlier conference statements appear to be stronger on Indigenous issues compared to the later ones. Mr. Grigorii Ledkov, representing RAIPON, indicated that Indigenous organizations still experience funding and capacity issues to effectively contribute to all circumpolar Arctic cooperation meetings.

Mr. Lassi Heininen, University of Lapland listed a few of the Standing Committee's achievements over the past 25 years:

- The establishment of the Arctic Council;
- The creation of the University of the Arctic;
- The launch of the Arctic Economic Council;
- The publications of Arctic Human Development Reports by the Arctic Council acting on recommendations of the Standing Committee; and
- The establishment of a permanent Secretariat of the Arctic Council in Tromsø, Norway.

#### **E. ADOPTION OF THE CONFERENCE STATEMENT**

After three meetings, the Drafting Committee<sup>24</sup> unanimously adopted the 2018 Conference Statement. The final draft was then presented to all delegates and adopted without further amendments by the Conference on 19 September 2018.<sup>25</sup> Reflecting on discussions during this CPAR, Mr. Eirik Sivertsen, Chair of CPAR and the Standing

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<sup>23</sup> Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, [Important Steps in the Arctic Parliamentary Cooperation: 25 Years – 1993-2018](#).

<sup>24</sup> Hon. Bagnell represented the Canadian delegation at the Drafting Committee.

<sup>25</sup> See Appendix 2.

Committee, explained that, in his view, the three mega trends that will shape the Arctic Region in the coming years would be: climate change, urbanization, and digitalization.

#### **F. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE**

Mr. Eirik Sivertsen and Hon. Larry Bagnell were re-elected for another 2-year mandate as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee. Mr. Sergei Kotkin, Member of Parliament from Russia, proposed the Standing Committee to create a second Vice-Chair position and that there should be gender parity among the vice-chairs. As the Standing Committee's rules and procedures will need to be modified to accommodate a second vice-chair position, the committee decided to put the issue on the agenda for the next meeting.

#### **G. FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next meeting of the Standing Committee is scheduled for late January/early February 2019 in Naryan-Mar, Russia. The 14<sup>th</sup> CPAR will be held in Norway in 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Scott Simms, President  
Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association



## APPENDIX 1

### CONFERENCE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION

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

16-19 September 2018  
Inari, Finland

#### MEMBERS

Canada

Larry Bagnell, Member of Parliament, Head of Delegation, Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region

Patricia Bovey, Senator  
Georgina Jolibois, Member of Parliament  
Yvonne Jones, Member of Parliament  
Larry Maguire, Member of Parliament  
Dennis Patterson, Senator  
Guyanne Desforges, Association Secretary  
Thai Nguyen, Adviser

Denmark/Greenland/  
Faroe Islands

Magni Arge, Member of Parliament  
Aaja Chemnitz Larsen, Member of Parliament  
Sjurdur Skaale, Member of Parliament  
Janus Haraldsen, Adviser  
Peder Pedersen, Adviser

Finland

Kari Kulmala, Member of Parliament  
Katri Kulmuni, Member of Parliament  
Markus Lohi, Member of Parliament  
Johanna Ojala-Niemelä, Member of Parliament  
Paula Risikko, Member of Parliament, Speaker of Finland's Parliament  
Mari-Leena Talvitie, Member of Parliament  
Linda Haanpää, Assistant  
Tommi Halme, Assistant

Aleksi Hosioja, Assistant Maarit  
Immonen, Assistant Nicola Lindertz, Adviser  
Tiina Virtanen, Assistant  
Teemu Vuosio, Adviser  
Liisa Wallin, Assistant

Iceland

Ari Trausti Gudmundsson, Member of Parliament  
Bjorn Gunnarsson, Member of Parliament  
Oddny Hardardottir, Member of Parliament  
Lineik Anna Saevarsdottir, Member of Parliament  
Arna Bang, Adviser

Norway

Kent Gudmundsen, Member of Parliament  
Svein Harberg, Member of Parliament  
Eirik Larsen, Member of Parliament  
Willfred Nordlund, Member of Parliament  
Eirik Sivertsen, Member of Parliament, Chair of the  
Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic  
Region  
Bengt Rune Strifeldt, Member of Parliament  
Bjorn-Willy Robstad, Adviser

Russia

Igor Chernyshenko, Senator  
Artur Chilingarov, Senator  
Alexander Ishchenko, Member of Parliament  
Sergei Kotkin, Member of Parliament  
Valerii Markov, Senator Fedot Tumusov, Member of  
Parliament  
Konstantin Zaitsev, Member of Parliament  
Irina Kuzmina, Adviser  
Kirill Mangush, Adviser

Sweden

Sofia Arkelsten, Member of Parliament  
Emma Nohren, Member of Parliament  
Emilia Toyra, Member of Parliament  
Eva Hjelm, Adviser

## **PERMANENT PARTICIPANTS**

Russian Association of Indigenous  
Peoples of the North (RAIPON)

Grigorii Ledkov, Member of Parliament

Sami Parliament Council

Aili Keskitalo  
Per-Olof Nutti  
Siri Persson  
Tiina Sanila-Aikio

## **OBSERVERS**

China	Shuhua Dou, Member of Parliament Lifeng Cheng, Adviser Xiangfeng Li, Adviser
Nordic Council Union	Matilda af Hallstrom, Representative at the European
Poland	Magdalena Blenska, Member of Parliament Piotr Pyzik, Member of Parliament
Singapore	Sam Tan, Member of Parliament Shuo Wang, Adviser
United Kingdom University of the Arctic	James Gray, Member of Parliament Lars Kullerud, President Outi Snellman, University of Lapland
West Nordic Council	Gudjon Brjansson, Member of Parliament Sigurdur Olafsson, Secretary-General
WWF	Lotta Manninen, Global Arctic Program

## **INVITED SPEAKERS**

Juhani Damski, Director General, Finnish Meteorological Institute  
Lassi Heininen, University of Lapland  
Timo Koivurova, Director of the Arctic Centre, University of Lapland  
Elena Kudryashova, Rector of the Northern (Arctic) Federal University, Russia  
Toni Laine, Mayor of Inari  
Guy Lindstrom, Former Secretary-General of the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region  
Janne Nakkalajarvi, Sami Education Institute  
Janne Seurujarvi, Managing Director, Test World  
Timo Soini, Finland's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Chair of the Arctic Council





## APPENDIX 2

### CONFERENCE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION

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

#### CONFERENCE STATEMENT

We, the elected representatives from Canada, Denmark/Greenland/Faroe Islands, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia and Sweden;

In close collaboration with the Indigenous peoples of the Arctic;

Recognize the need to discuss new opportunities for ensuring the sustainable development of the Arctic Region, including the promotion of economic activities inter alia the modernization of the digital infrastructure, as well as developing joint responses to environmental challenges, and current measures to mitigate negative effects of climate change and the ways to improve Corporate Social Responsibility and social and economic well-being of Arctic residents;

Note with grave concern that the Arctic is warming at more than twice the global average, resulting in rapid social, environmental, and economic impacts in the region and worldwide, and the pressing and increasing need for mitigation and adaptation actions and to strengthen resilience;

Underline the need to continue and strengthen Arctic cooperation in order to respond to challenges faced by all countries in the region; including on environmental issues, not only to mitigate the negative consequences of climate change, but also to create favorable conditions for sustainable economic development;

Emphasize the role of parliamentarians in the Arctic Region in advising and contributing to the work of the Arctic Council;

Ask the governments of the Arctic Region, the Arctic Council and the institutions of the European Union, where appropriate, to:

**Regarding Digital Arctic and Arctic Economic Development:**

1. Consider organizing an Arctic Council meeting between the ministers responsible for communications and digitalization to address improving the digital infrastructure of the Arctic;
2. Consider establishing a working group of national Arctic governments (and, where appropriate sub-national governments and industry) to explore cooperation opportunities in developing digital access in Arctic communities, such as through shared undersea cables or satellites;
3. Improve digital services in the Arctic, including satellite and fiber optic, to enable improved communications and continuous environmental monitoring, and develop new services through the introduction of innovative technologies;
4. Promote the role of a business-driven Arctic Economic Council in the development of a diverse, sustainable and prosperous economy for the Arctic Region;
5. Utilize the emerging new opportunities for economic and shipping activities to secure the sustainable development of the Arctic Region and the well-being of the inhabitants of the High North;
6. Encourage the Arctic Economic Council to look at promoting an improved investment climate and trade flow in the Arctic Region, including the promotion of joint economic projects;
7. Support Arctic cross-border economic and human cooperation, underlining the need to strengthen business development in the Arctic Region and discuss joint efforts for economic development, e.g. through promoting products from the region and increasing exports;
8. Promote prior consultation with Indigenous peoples and local communities in decision-making processes Arctic economic development;
9. Create job opportunities and by building on the skills of the residents of the Arctic, develop human capital that can serve to develop and diversify regional economies;
10. Strengthen cooperation on marine research and the blue economy to further our understanding of the Arctic Ocean and improve the basis for sustainable and innovative maritime business development;
11. Promote and support the digital development of all languages in the Arctic region by providing access to research, technology and education on computational linguistics;

**Regarding Environmental Challenges:**

12. Continue efforts to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and short-lived climate pollutants, such as methane and black carbon;

13. Disseminate knowledge about climate change and its consequences in the Arctic at both the global and local levels, and work with local stakeholders to enhance the adaptation and resilience of Arctic communities to climate change;
14. Develop energy efficiency solutions in Arctic architecture and construction technology, including the use of renewable energy in new building projects and energy refurbishment of existing buildings in the Arctic Region;
15. Facilitate the exchange of information on innovations, strategies, and adaptation tools to handle the effects of climate change, as well as results of the Arctic Council's Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic (AACCA) project, throughout the Arctic Region at the local, regional and national levels;
16. Continue to support the working group Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) to co-ordinate and publish its collection of current data on the migration, extinction, and adaptations of species of flora and fauna, on land and in the seas of the Arctic Region;
17. Address the impacts of climate change on Arctic marine biodiversity and marine conservation solutions as part of the October 2018 Arctic Environment Ministers Meeting in Rovaniemi, Finland;
18. Facilitate the improvement of commercial navigation maps and systems in Arctic waters;
19. Address the need to prevent oil spills and other pollutants in the arctic region.
20. Implement the UN resolution to eliminate plastic pollution in the oceans, including by encouraging the Arctic nations and the Arctic Council's observer countries to adopt reduction targets;
21. Urge the full implementation of the International Maritime Organization's Polar Code;
22. Discuss and carry out, in partnership with the Indigenous peoples of the Arctic, a feasibility study of a school or an annual seminar where Indigenous peoples of the Arctic disseminate their traditional knowledge of natural resource management. The curriculum would contain information and education tied to Indigenous ways of life, ethics and the understanding of circular economy;
23. Hold an Arctic Summit, involving heads of state and governments of the Arctic Council member states, as well as the heads of the Permanent Participants to agree upon on arctic cooperation and the sustainable development of the Arctic Region;

#### **Regarding Corporate Social Responsibility:**

24. Promote, in collaboration with the Arctic Economic Council, the creation of an Arctic Corporate Social Responsibility initiative as a platform for sharing ideas in finding best solutions and taking into consideration environmental standards and the well-being of the

residents of the Arctic, and disclosing, in an accessible manner, basic information about corporations operating in the Arctic;

25. Carry out Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) with emphasis on specific features of the Arctic environment and society in the planning of major projects in the region respecting Indigenous and local peoples. Promote prior consultation, public participation and the utilization of Indigenous and local knowledge as valuable parts of EIAs;
26. Initiate a compilation of the research on the feasibility of cleaning up oil spills in ice-filled waters;
27. Establish an Arctic innovation system that links the scientific community, the business sector, political society and local populations, for instance through an Arctic mentorship and mobility program;
28. Support the development of a circumpolar Arctic Business Index;
29. Support relevant capacity building, particularly through education and training, to ensure that local communities will continue to benefit from economic development;

#### **Regarding the Social Well-Being of the Peoples Living in the Arctic:**

30. Support the strong participation of Indigenous peoples in the work of the Arctic Council and encourage the integration of Traditional Knowledge into all relevant programs and projects of the Council;
31. Promote the United Nations sustainable development goals in the Arctic Council, highlighting the importance of gender equality and the understanding of the contribution of women and men to sustainable development;
32. Promote the development of basic and higher education, especially by addressing teacher education and curriculum development, in order to provide opportunities for residents of the Arctic;
33. Support and share best practices on preventing adolescent substance use in the Arctic countries in accordance with the needs of different societies;
34. Secure a swift implementation of the Agreement on Enhancing International Arctic Scientific Cooperation, which entered into force 23 May 2018 and improve the possibilities of sharing scientific data between countries and institutions engaged in Arctic research;
35. Initiate a study on the causes and prevalence of suicide in the Arctic Region, especially amongst youth, and support the continuation of circumpolar cooperation on suicide prevention;
36. Increase cooperation between statistical agencies of Arctic nations and continue the development of statistical indicators of social conditions, well-being, and inequalities in

the Arctic Region, including the development of statistical indicators for the subsistence economy of Arctic residents, facilitating the assessment of climate change impacts on traditional harvesting activities;

37. Organize a conference of experts from Arctic nations, to share data and best practices in the field of mental health, including Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASDs), focusing on prevalence, prevention, and justice, and undertake a study on ways to provide differential sentencing and services to inmates with FASDs;

Furthermore, the Conference:

38. Acknowledges the interest and presence of parliamentary observers and representatives from governments and non-governmental agencies at this Conference, and recognizes their important role in relaying the messages and supporting the actions herein discussed;
39. Acknowledges the importance of, and supports, the active participation of Indigenous peoples in the spirit of the United Nations Declaration on Rights of the Indigenous Peoples throughout all ongoing and future activities and processes in the Arctic Region;
40. Welcomes the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the focus on climate change issues during the Finnish Chairmanship of the Arctic Council 2017 – 2019;
41. Welcomes the forthcoming Icelandic Chairmanship of the Arctic Council and looks forward to enhanced cooperation with the Arctic Council;
42. Welcomes and accepts the invitation of the Parliament of Norway to host the 14th Conference in 2020.

## Travel Costs

<b>ASSOCIATION</b>		Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association
<b>ACTIVITY</b>		13th Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region and the Meeting of the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region
<b>DESTINATION</b>		Inari, Finland
<b>DATES</b>		September 16-19, 2018
<b>DELEGATION</b>		
	SENATE	The Hon. Patricia Bovey, Senator The Hon. Dennis Patterson, Senator
	HOUSE OF COMMONS	The Hon. Larry Bagnell, P.C., M.P. Ms. Georgina Jolibois, M.P. Ms. Yvonne Jones, M.P. Mr. Larry Maguire, M.P.
	STAFF	Mrs. Guyanne Desforges, Association Secretary Mr. Thai Nguyen, Analyst
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>		<b>\$ 64,654.14</b>
<b>ACCOMMODATION</b>		<b>\$ 6,148.34</b>
<b>HOSPITALITY</b>		<b>\$ 0.00</b>
<b>PER DIEMS</b>		<b>\$5,072.50</b>
<b>OFFICIAL GIFTS</b>		<b>\$ 0.00</b>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>		<b>\$ 0.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 69,608.70</b>