

Canada – Europe
Parliamentary Association



Association parlementaire
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**Report of the Canadian Parliamentary Delegation
respecting its participation
at the 12th Conference of Parliamentarians
of the Arctic Region**

Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association

**Ulan-Ude, Russia
June 14-16, 2016**

INTRODUCTION

A Canadian delegation of two Members of Parliament, Mr. Scott Simms and Mr. Larry Maguire, attended the 12th Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (CPAR)¹ and the meeting of the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (the Standing Committee)² held in Ulan-Ude, Russia, from 14 to 16 June 2016.

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. Mr. Manuel Mulas, from the Embassy of Canada in Russia, also accompanied the delegation.

The biennial CPAR and the Standing Committee³ act as a parliamentary forum for issues relevant to the work of the Arctic Council⁴. 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.

MEETING SUMMARY

A. ROUNDTABLE ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN THE ARCTIC

On 14 June 2016, prior to the official opening of the Conference, a roundtable on the issue of indigenous peoples was conducted. In Russia, there are 41 groups of indigenous peoples numbering 270 thousand people and living in 60% of the territory from Murmansk to Kamchatka.

The presentations included the following themes:

- Indigenous peoples human rights protection by Mr. Grigory Ledkov, President of the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East (RAIPON).

Mr. Ledkov is also a deputy of the State Duma (the lower house of the Federal Assembly of Russia). He is the Chair of the Duma Working Group on Nationality Issues which develops legislation regarding the protection of indigenous peoples' rights. Mr. Ledkov is also the Head of the Permanent Delegation of the State Duma to the Nordic Council.

RAIPON participates in international structures such as the Arctic Council as a permanent participant, the United Nations Economic and Social Council with a special consultative status and the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Program as an observer.

¹ 12th Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, Ulan-Ude, Russia, 14-16 June 2016; see Appendix 1 for the list of participants.

² Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, Standing Committee.

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

⁴ Arctic Council, Home.

- The Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights in Russian legislation by Ms. Yulia Yakel, Head of the Legal Centre of RAIPON.
- Experience of the Commissioner for Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples of the North in the Krasnoyarsk Territory by Mr. Semen Palchin, Commissioner.
- Experience of the Commissioner for Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples of the North in the Republic of Sakha by Mr. Konstantin Robbek, Commissioner.
- Interactions between the Commissioner for Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the Kamchatka Territory and government authorities and non-governmental organizations by Mr. Oleg Zaporotsky, Commissioner.

Delegates noted improvements in the protection of indigenous peoples' rights in Russia with the creation of the Commissioner offices. However, there were also concerns expressed regarding the financial and human resources available for those offices. Discrepancies between federal and regional legislation regarding indigenous peoples' environmental, social, economic, cultural and educational issues need to be addressed.

B. MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE AND CPAR OBSERVERS

On 15 June 2016, members of the Standing Committee met with observers delegations. Ms. Yoko Kamikawa, Head of the Japanese delegation, indicated that environmental changes happening in the Arctic have global repercussions. Japan is, therefore, interested in expanding scientific cooperation with Arctic nations. Establishing collaborative research and observation stations in the Arctic is, in fact, part of Japan's Arctic Policy.

Ms. Kamikawa mentioned collaboration with the following research sites as part of Japan's plan to promote closer international scientific cooperation:

- the International Arctic Research Center in Alaska;
- the Canadian High Arctic Research Station in Nunavut;
- Russia's Spasskaya Pad Scientific Forest Station and Cape Baranov station;
- Norway's Ny-Ålesund Station and the University Centre in Svalbard; and
- Greenland's Institute of Natural Resources in Nuuk.

Mr. James Grey, MP from the United Kingdom (UK), presented to the Standing Committee highlights of the House of Lords Select Committee on the Arctic's 2015 report entitled "Responding to a changing Arctic."⁵ The report emphasizes that "all states with Arctic interests, including the UK, should work to insulate Arctic co-operation from non-Arctic disputes" and "UK scientists and researchers make an important contribution to global understanding of the changing Arctic."

⁵ House of Lords Select Committee on the Arctic, Responding to a changing Arctic, 2015.

Mr. Patrick Tay, MP from Singapore, informed the Standing Committee about the effects of climate change in the Arctic on low-lying islands such as Singapore. Singapore, as an observer at the Arctic Council, has developed close cooperation with the indigenous Permanent Participants. It has also established scholarships in law and maritime technologies for Arctic indigenous students.

The West Nordic Council and the Nordic Council both stressed the importance of parliamentarians' and indigenous peoples' voices at the Arctic Council. They also called for greater mobility for students and scientists in the Arctic Region.

C. OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE 12th CONFERENCE

On 15 June 2016, at the official opening of the Conference, Mr. Vladimir Barbin, Russia's Ambassador for the Arctic, indicated that 15% of Russia's GDP and 20% of its exports originate from its Arctic region. He emphasized that cooperation in the Arctic is crucial for the development of Russia's Northern Sea Route, environmental and navigation protection, and management of biological resources.

Mr. Barbin highlighted various agreements between Russia, Norway and the United States as well as the 2008 *Ilulissat Declaration*⁶ by the Arctic coastal states. He also mentioned the 2015 *Iqaluit Declaration*⁷ that reaffirmed the commitment from the Arctic Council to maintain peace, stability and constructive cooperation in the Arctic. Furthermore, Mr. Barbin indicated that the main objective of Russia's Chairmanship of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council from 2015 to 2017 is to sustainably develop the Barents region and building modern infrastructure.

Mr. Eirik Sivertsen, Chair of the Standing Committee and Head of the Norwegian delegation, indicated that effects of climate change and social issues originating from the development of natural resources in the Arctic have created disparities between communities and peoples. Cooperation regarding capacity building is vital in order to ensure that economic development be beneficial to local residents.

Mr. Sivertsen emphasized that peoples living in the Arctic should be active participants in decision-making processes affecting the region. He mentioned that students' exchanges represent good opportunities for innovative development in the Arctic. Mr. Sivertsen also stressed that corporate social responsibility is linked to sustainable development and indicated that the United Nations Global Compact⁸ and the Arctic Investment Protocol⁹ are important initiatives in providing guidelines for businesses activities in the Arctic.

According to Mr. Sivertsen, the increased number of applications for observer status at the Arctic Council is welcomed but the leading role of Arctic states and indigenous Permanent Participants should not be diminished. He mentioned that there are three areas requiring enhanced cooperation: strengthening the role of Arctic populations in decision-making, socioeconomic and educational gaps, and climate change.

⁶ The Ilulissat Declaration, Arctic Ocean Conference, Ilulissat, Greenland, 27-29 May 2008.

⁷ Global Affairs Canada, Iqaluit Declaration 2015.

⁸ United Nations Global Compact, What is UN Global Compact?

⁹ World Economic Council, Arctic Investment Protocol: Guidelines for Responsible Investment in the Arctic, December 2015.

D. SESSION 1: PEOPLE IN A DEVELOPING ARCTIC

Mr. Ledkov, President of RAIPON, in his presentation, touched upon several challenges faced by Russian indigenous communities: loss of pasture and aquatic areas due to industrial development, high level of unemployment, and rising infant mortality.

Mr. Ledkov mentioned that RAIPON is working in collaboration with the Association of World Reindeer Herders to introduce amendments to Russian legislation requiring preliminary consultations with local indigenous peoples in advance of industrial development projects.

Mr. Scott Simms, Head of the Canadian delegation, gave a presentation illustrating how development and change in the Canadian Arctic are affecting local residents. The presentation centred on four themes: easier access to the Arctic, digital access, economic development, and climate change.

Mr. Simms indicated that increased access to the Arctic creates new economic opportunities but also introduces social and environmental disruptions. The lack of digital access in many communities generates disparities not only between the North and the South but also between northern populations. Mr. Simms concurred that the Arctic has a huge economic potential but social and environmental costs are often being borne by local residents. Finally, his presentation stressed that climate change is already affecting Arctic communities and is only expected to accelerate.

The Norwegian delegation, in its comments following the Russian and Canadian presentations, indicated the importance of considering the human dimension in addition to the environmental one when discussing development in the Arctic. It emphasized the need for increased people to people contact beyond state borders by giving the example of the visa-free zone along the Norway-Russia border.

The Norwegian delegation also expressed its strong support for Recommendation 35 in the Conference Statement. That recommendation calls on the Arctic Council and Arctic states and parliaments to “include more voices from the peoples living in the Arctic, such as regional organizations, into the work of the Arctic Council to make sure that they can influence the direction of the Arctic cooperation.”

E. SESSION 2: ARCTIC COOPERATION IN LIGHT OF COP21 IN PARIS

Mr. Larry Maguire, a Canadian member of the Standing Committee, co-chaired this session on climate change with Mr. Sjudur Skaale, from Denmark. In introducing the theme, Mr. Maguire updated delegates on Canada’s initiatives regarding the use of renewable energy in the Arctic. He mentioned the Vancouver Declaration, signed in March 2016, committing the Canadian government to “advance efforts to eliminate the dependence on diesel in indigenous, remote, and Northern communities – and use renewable, clean energy as a replacement.”

Ms. Sara Karlsson, Head of the Swedish delegation, gave a presentation highlighting the need for closer collaboration with indigenous peoples regarding climate change adaptation work in light of criticisms from Inuit and Saami peoples. She mentioned that the Arctic Resilience Report, to be released in 2017, calls for enhanced adaptive capacity and participatory processes for the peoples in the Arctic.

According to Ms. Karlsson, the majority of fossil fuels need to be kept in the ground in order for the world to achieve the COP21 agreement's objectives. She also indicated that offshore drilling still represents a great risk for the Arctic environment due to the relative lack of measures and infrastructure to properly handle potential oil spills.

The Norwegian delegation pointed out that there have been past examples of global cooperation successes with direct implications for the Arctic such as the *Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants*. It also mentioned that ocean acidification is an emerging issue that will require Arctic cooperation.

A delegate from Greenland deplored that the COP21 agreement did not include a specific indigenous consideration and recommended that Arctic states should adopt a common position on climate change issues.

Ms. Yoko Kamikawa, from Japan, proposed that the financial sector should take a greater environmental responsibility regarding investments in the Arctic. She indicated her support for green financing requiring pollution risks to be taken into account when investing in industrial projects.

A delegate from the Nordic Council referred to fish stocks migration patterns changes mentioned in Mr. Simms' presentation and indicated that the current division-type management of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) is not suitable for keeping track of migration patterns changes.

Mr. Simms added that, for Canada, the precautionary principle is imperative when discussing fisheries management. He indicated that the Canadian government recently undertook a scientists' recruitment campaign to allow Fisheries and Oceans Canada to make more informed decisions about oceans management. Mr. Simms also mentioned the need for closer international cooperation to reduce illegal fishing and to enforce fisheries regulations.

F. CANADA-RUSSIA BILATERAL MEETING

On 15 June 2016, a bilateral meeting between the Canadian and Russian delegations was conducted. The two delegations reiterated the importance of the *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea* (UNCLOS) for the Arctic Ocean and the respect of international law regarding navigation and the delimitation of the continental shelf.

Mr. Mikhail Slipenchuk, member of the Standing Committee and Deputy Chairman of the State Duma Committee on Natural Resources, Environment and Ecology, mentioned the fruitful exchange he had with Mr. Larry Bagnell at the 24th Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF), held in Vancouver in January 2016. He indicated that Russia and Canada share many challenges: large geography, survival of small towns and rural traditional ways of life, and northern infrastructure deficiencies. Mr. Slipenchuk also promoted the establishment of an Arctic Development Bank to fund investments in the region akin to the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

Mr. Simms pointed out the building of small airports and runways, and Arctic greenhouses as areas where Canada has developed a good expertise. He indicated that these areas could represent good opportunities for Canada-Russia Arctic cooperation since there is a need for infrastructure building both in the Canadian Arctic

and in Siberia. Mr. Simms also mentioned that, given the lack of resources based in the Arctic, it is crucial for Arctic states to cooperate in search and rescue operations.

G. CANADA-JAPAN BILATERAL MEETING

Subsequent to meeting the Russian delegation, the Canadian delegation met with its Japanese counterparts. Ms. Kamikawa provided a summary of Japan's Arctic Policy based on science and technology cooperation. She promoted the establishment of joint research stations in the Arctic and Japan's Arctic Challenge for Sustainability Project which aims to strengthen international cooperation in Arctic science through young researchers' exchanges.

Mr. Simms and Mr. Maguire welcomed the contribution of Japan in Arctic research and indicated that the upcoming opening of the Canadian High Arctic Research Station in 2017 would be a great opportunity for enhanced Canadian-Japanese Arctic science cooperation. Mr. Simms also indicated the importance of science and the participation of indigenous peoples in contributing to decision-making processes in the Arctic.

H. SESSION 3: NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN THE ARCTIC REGION

Ms. Katri Kulmuni, Head of Finland's delegation, indicated in her presentation that tourism and mining activities are on the rise in northern Finland. Industrial projects create new economic opportunities for the region but have impacts on the local environment which is already affected by climate change. On the other hand, climate change can carry opportunities such as a greater agricultural potential.

Ms. Kamikawa noted Japan's support for guidelines encouraging corporate social and environmental responsibility such as the Arctic Investment Protocol. She also reiterated Japan's desire to participate in joint Arctic science research projects such as the Japan-Russia young researchers' exchanges and the Japan-Canada Arctic Research Workshop.

Regarding new opportunities in the Arctic, delegates from Norway mentioned fish farming and renewable energy. Norwegian parliamentarians expressed their support for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and Goal 14, in particular, calling for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources.¹⁰ They also emphasized the need for greater cooperation in oceans management.

The Danish delegation informed Conference participants about the United States-Nordic Leaders' Summit Joint Statement in May 2016 reaffirming the "commitment to safeguarding the Arctic environment while providing enhanced opportunities for sustainable development for all inhabitants of the Arctic, including indigenous peoples."¹¹ Denmark expressed its support for the Arctic Investment Protocol and noted that the Joint Statement calls on Arctic states to "work towards the highest global standards, best international practice, and a precautionary approach, when considering new and existing commercial activities in the Arctic, including oil and gas operations."

Referring to opportunities brought by tourism in Finland's presentation, Danish delegates pointed out that tourism can also have negative social effects on small Arctic

¹⁰ United Nations, Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources.

¹¹ The White House, U.S.-Nordic Leaders' Summit Joint Statement, 13 May 2016.

communities, especially when it is developing too rapidly. Therefore, the highest global standards, best international practices, and a precautionary approach also need to be applied to tourism.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Sivertsen, Chair of the Standing Committee, indicated that investments in infrastructure such as roads, airports and telecommunications, are greatly needed in the Arctic to ensure socio-economic well-being for local residents. Mr. Slipenchuk, from Russia, concurred by mentioning that enhanced search and rescue, navigation safety, and ports infrastructure are required to ensure the development of the Northern Sea Route along the Russian northern coast.

I. ADOPTION OF THE CONFERENCE STATEMENT

After three meetings, the Drafting Committee¹²unanimously adopted the 2016 Conference Statement. The final draft was then presented to all delegates and adopted without further amendments by the Conference on 16 June 2016.¹³

J. FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Standing Committee is scheduled for 14 and 15 November 2016 in Ottawa. The 13th CPAR will be held in Finland in 2018.

Mr. Scott Simms, President
Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association

¹² Mr. Simms represented the Canadian delegation at the Drafting Committee.

¹³ See Appendix 2.



APPENDIX 1

CONFERENCE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION

THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION

14-16 June 2016
Ulan-Ude, Russia

MEMBERS

Canada	Mr. Scott Simms, MP Mr. Larry Maguire, MP Mr. Thai Nguyen, Adviser Ms. Guyanne Desforges, Association Secretary
Denmark	Mr. Henrik Brodersen, MP Mr. Magni Arge, MP Ms. Aleqa Hammond, MP Mr. Sjudur Skaale, MP Mr. Peder Pedersen, Adviser Ms. A. Kjelgaard, Adviser
European Parliament	Mr. Jørn Dohrmann, MEP Ms. Amelia Padurariu, Adviser
Finland	Ms. Katri Kulmuni, MP Ms. Tiina Elovaara, MP Mr. Kari Kulmala, MP Ms. Mari-Leena Talvitie, MP Mr. Samu Paakkunen, Adviser Ms. Mari Herranen, Adviser
Iceland	Ms. Valgerdur Bjarnadottir, MP Mr. Kristofer Kristinsson, MP Ms. Lineik Saevarsdottir, MP Ms. Anna Bang, Adviser Mr. Arni Thom Sigurdsson, Ambassador for Arctic Affairs
Norway	Mr. Eirik Sivertsen, MP, Chair Ms. Siri Anette Meling, MP Ms. Margunn Ebbesen, MP Ms. Ingrid Heggo, MP Mr. Jan-Henrik Fredriksen, MP Ms. Silje Arnekleiv, Adviser

Russia	<p>Mr. Mikhail Slipenchuk, MP Mr. Grigory Ledkov, MP Mr. Irinchey Matkhanov, MP Mr. Alexander Sleptsov, MP (Republic of Sakha) Mr. Vladimir Barbin, Ambassador for Arctic Cooperation Ms. Marina Rykunova, Ministry of Economic Development Mr. Alexander Matveyev, Expert Council of the Arctic Mr. Vladimir Litvak, VTB Ecology Mr. Roman Romanov, Chief of staff, United Russia Ms. Irina Kuzmina, Adviser Ms. Lesya Konopelko, Department of Protocol, State Duma Mr. Andrey Lutoshkin, Civil Protection Department</p>
Sweden	<p>Ms. Sara Karlson, MP Mr. Carl Danielsson, MP Mr. Lars Mejern Larsson, MP Ms. Eva Hjelm, Adviser</p>
OBSERVERS	
Japan	<p>Ms. Yoko Kamikawa, MP Ms. Kazuko Siraisi, Ambassador for the Arctic Mr. Tokuro Furuja, Embassy of Japan in Russia Ms. Tomoko Hamachi, Adviser Ms. Eiko Matsumoto, General Consulate in Khabarovsk</p>
Nordic Council	<p>Mr. Mikkel Dencer, Vice-President Mr. Steingrímur J. Sigfússon Mr. Torkil Sørensen, Adviser</p>
Singapore	<p>Mr. Patrick Tay, MP Mr. Daniel Lee, Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p>
United Kingdom	<p>Mr. James Grey, MP Ms. Megan Edwards, Adviser</p>
West-Nordic Council	<p>Mr. Karl Hjogaard, President Ms. Inga Dora Markussen, Secretary General</p>
SECRETARIAT	<p>Mr. Bjørn Willy Robstad, Secretary General</p>

APPENDIX 2



CONFERENCE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION

CONFERENCE STATEMENT

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

In collaboration with the indigenous peoples of the Arctic;

Meeting to discuss Arctic Cooperation in Light of COP 21 in Paris, Inhabitants in a Developing Arctic, and New Possibilities in the Arctic;

Considering the transformative change now occurring in the Arctic driven by the forces of climate change and globalization resulting in tighter economic and geopolitical links;

Stressing the role of the indigenous peoples of the Arctic and the respect for their parliament/council and government structures, from which the developments in the Arctic should stem;

Considering the Arctic as a region of peace, global cooperation, and great economic potential;

Noting the importance of joint response of the Arctic states to the current challenges, and collective action to take advantage of new opportunities;

Acknowledging the constructive and important role of the Arctic Council celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2016;

Emphasizing the role of the parliamentarians in the Arctic Region to advise and contribute to the work of the Arctic Council;

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

Regarding Arctic Cooperation in Light of COP 21 in Paris to:

1. Organize an Arctic Council meeting between the ministers responsible for climate to take new initiatives to reduce emissions of CO₂ and short-lived climate forcers;
2. Explore new ways to involve the observers to the Arctic Council in the work to combat climate change by reducing emissions of CO₂ and black carbon;
3. Continue the work in the International Maritime Organization with guidelines regarding the use of heavy fuel oil in the Arctic, and continue to support the development of renewable energy suitable for the Arctic to drastically reduce black carbon emissions;

4. Intensify collaborative work towards sustainability and adaptation to climate change in the Arctic;
5. Emphasize the importance of scientific work between Arctic countries and other relevant stakeholders to ensure the continuation of the research cooperation, including appropriate funding;
6. Intensify multidisciplinary research concerning the role of the Arctic in the global climate system and ensure that research outcome and results are openly shared internationally;
7. Raise a strong Arctic message to communicate the consequences of climate change in the Arctic at all relevant international meetings;
8. Promote the development of national, regional and local climate change adaptation plans in the Arctic, including the work on building resilience.

Regarding Inhabitants in a Developing Arctic to:

9. Maintain strong international cooperation to further peace and stability in the Arctic region where more than 4 million people live;
10. Create an Arctic Circumpolar Mobility Program to encourage the mobility of students as well as scientists among the Arctic Council member states and observers with a focus on mutual understanding, collaboration, innovation and sustainable economic development;
11. Support relevant capacity building, particularly through education and training, to ensure that local communities will continue to benefit from economic development;
12. Strengthen the work to improve and monitor Arctic living-conditions and work actively towards finding real solutions to issues concerning human health and well-being in the Arctic, especially mental health;
13. Continue the work on adaptation and resilience in a changing Arctic, including climate change mitigation, focusing on new possibilities for the people and the region;
14. Acknowledge the importance of creating future socio-economic possibilities to entice youth, particularly young women to stay or return and fully participate in their local communities;
15. Promote, protect and further develop the languages of indigenous peoples in the Arctic;
16. Investigate solutions to the issues of food security in the Arctic;
17. Take note of the negative consequences which (seal) bans of products of living resources from indigenous communities have;
18. Acknowledge that sustainable harvest of living marine resources in the Arctic is fundamental to the current and future welfare of the inhabitants in the Arctic;

Regarding New Possibilities in the Arctic to:

19. Strengthen environmental safety and sustainable economic cooperation between the Arctic states, regions and local communities to increase employment, prosperity and quality of life while applying the highest environmental standards;
20. Continue the work to assess the large fresh water resources in the Arctic, including management and local, regional and global implications;
21. Establish an Arctic innovation system which links the scientific community, the business sector, political society, local populations and Arctic research data, for instance through an Arctic mentorship and mobility program;
22. Promote the work of the Arctic Economic Council as an independent organization that facilitates Arctic business-to-business activities and responsible economic development;
23. Exchange experiences and best practices about how industrial projects and traditional practices and industries can coexist and benefit from one another;
24. Promote cooperation in order to develop new technological solutions and the highest technical standards for a more sustainable mining industry in challenging Arctic conditions and respecting the Arctic environment;
25. Find mechanisms to incorporate Corporate Social Responsibility – CSR – for companies doing business in the Arctic Region through cooperation with representatives of the business sector, such as the Arctic Economic Council;
26. Explore the potential of voluntary mechanisms to encourage high industry standards in social and environmental performance, such as highlighting 'best performances' in an Arctic Corporate Responsibility Index based on for instance the Arctic Business Investment Protocol and UN Global Compact Initiative;
27. While developing new industries in the Arctic region, remembering a continuous focus on a sustainable use of our living resources, especially a close international collaboration regarding the Arctic fish stocks;
28. Further develop close collaborations across the Arctic concerning experiences and best practices within the sector of sustainable tourism in the Arctic region;
29. Together stimulate new innovative solutions, research and local competence building which address the needs of future Arctic communities;
30. Develop further access and improve safety for the people working, visiting or living in the Arctic using the highest standards with a continuous focus on the development of new infrastructure and communication solutions with technology and satellites.

Regarding the 20th anniversary of the Arctic Council to:

31. Secure the role and participation of the Permanent Participants in the Arctic Council and provide mechanisms to increase their financial and human resources to participate fully in all the activities of the Arctic Council;
32. Address the issue of the Observers in the Arctic Council, and the possibility for these observers to speak and interact directly with states and Permanent Participants at

Arctic Council meetings and its Working Groups, without diminishing the leading role of Arctic States and Permanent Participants;

33. Ensure that observers that represent Arctic peoples and organizations maintain the possibility to speak and be directly involved in the Arctic Council work;

34. Establish an adequate and stable budget to support the work and future goals of the Arctic Council;

35. Include more voices from the peoples living in the Arctic, such as regional organizations, into the work of the Arctic Council to make sure that they can influence the direction of the Arctic cooperation;

36. Reinforce links and cooperation with other international bodies and policy frameworks which focus their activities on cross-border cooperation in the Arctic region, like the Barents Euro-Arctic Council / Barents Regional Council and the Northern Dimension;

37. Exchange best practices and explore new ways on how to nationally involve regional and local governments in decision-making processes in the Arctic Council;

38. 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;

39. Follow-up on the conclusions from the international audit about the work in the Arctic Council.

Furthermore the Conference:

40. Acknowledges the importance of, and supports, the active participation of indigenous peoples throughout all ongoing and future activities and processes in the Arctic Region;

41. 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;

42. Welcomes the forthcoming Finnish Chairmanship of the Arctic Council and looks forward to continued cooperation with the Arctic Council;

43. Welcomes and accepts the invitation of the Parliament of Finland to host the thirteenth Conference in 2018.

Travel Costs

ASSOCIATION	Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association
ACTIVITY	12th Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region
DESTINATION	Ulan-Ude, Russia
DATES	June 14-16, 2016
DELEGATION	
SENATE	--
HOUSE OF COMMONS	Mr. Scott Simms, M.P., Head of the Delegation Mr. Larry Maguire, M.P.
STAFF	Mr. Thai Nguyen, Adviser
TRANSPORTATION	\$27,426.54
ACCOMMODATION	\$2,544.83
HOSPITALITY	\$296.64
PER DIEMS	\$1,941.15
OFFICIAL GIFTS	--
MISCELLANEOUS	\$533.98
TOTAL	\$32,743.14