



CPA Activities: The Canadian Scene

37th Canadian Regional Conference

The annual conference bringing together parliamentarians from the branches of the Canadian Region of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association was held in Toronto from July 18 - 24, 1998.

More than 90 legislators and observers from every federal, provincial and territorial jurisdiction attended along with a number of international guests including the Hon. **Billie Miller**, Deputy Prime Minister of Barbados and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the CPA; **Eric Illsley** and **John Townsend**, members of the British House of Commons, and **David Adkins** of Kansas representing the Midwestern Legislative Conference on the NCSL. The CPA Secretariat was represented by **Mahbub Alam**.

The host of the conference was Speaker **Chris Stockwell** of Ontario and several other presiding officers also attended including Speaker **Ken Kowalski** (Alberta) Speaker **Glenn Hagel** (Saskatchewan), Speaker **Louise Dacquay** (Manitoba), Speaker **John McKay** (New Brunswick), Speaker **Lloyd Snow** (Newfoundland and Labrador), Speaker **Ron Russell** (Nova Scotia) and Speaker **Sam Gargan** (Northwest Territories).

The first business session dealt with the issue of "Correcting Past Wrongs - When is it the Government's Responsibility?" The dis-

cussion was opened by **Lois Moorcroft** of Yukon. The next session dealt with Conflict of Interest Guidelines. The opening presentation was made by **Lindy Kasperski** of Saskatchewan. A session on Referenda and whether they make governments more accountable featured a presentation by **Jim Girling**, Legal Counsel for the Cabinet Office in Ontario.

The fourth session looked at "Parliament and the Courts - Who is Legislating Whom?" with a presentation by **Sue Olsen** of Alberta. **Nicole Léger** of Quebec opened discussion in the session that focused on the Year 2000 and Technology.

The remaining sessions featured panel discussions including one on environmental issues with **Donald MacKinnon** of Prince Edward Is-

land and **Doug Miller**, President of Environics International Limited. Another panel, consisting of **Frank Corbett** of Nova Scotia, **Greg Deighan** of Prince Edward Island and Senator **Lorna Milne**, looked at "Pollsters and the Press".

Finally, there was a very interesting discussion on the creation of two new Territories in Canada's North scheduled to take place in 1999. **John Ningark** of the NWT and **David Hamilton**, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly led the discussion.

Aside from the business sessions visiting delegates were treated to a Blue Jays baseball game at the Skydome and a visit to Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake.

