



CPA Activities: The Canadian Scene

The annual meeting of the Canadian Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association was held on November 17, 2004. The main purpose of the meeting was the election of a Chair and a new Executive.

Sarmite Bulte was re-elected as Chair of the Canadian Branch. First elected as a Liberal Member of Parliament in 1997, Ms. Bulte represents Parkdale-High Park in the House of Commons. She is a former Chair of the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage and Chair of the Sub-Committee of International Trade, Trade Disputes and Investment. In August 2000 she was appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Canadian Heritage and re-appointed to this position after the 2004 election. She served as Canadian Regional Representative on the International Executive of the CPA from 2000 to 2003.

Federal Branch Activities

The level of activity during the last year has reflected the impact of the federal general election and the fact that Canada hosted the 50th CPA Conference which turned out to be the largest CPA Conference ever



Sarmite Bulte, MP

with more than 640 participants. It was also an historic one with the election of the first Chair of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians **Lindiwe Maseko** MPL, Gauteng, South Africa. A series of constitutional amendments were also adopted which opens a seat on the International Executive Committee for the Chair and a commitment for access to funding for any special Commonwealth Women

Parliamentarians projects in the coming years.

Roger Gallaway attended the 53rd Westminster Seminar held in London from March 2-13, 2004 and reported that he had found the seminar to be extremely useful to him in his then role as Parliamentary Secretary to the Government House Leader.

In April Senator **David Smith** replaced **Sue Barnes** Regional Representative who was not able to attend the mid year Executive Committee Meetings in Kampala, Uganda. Speaker **Dan Hays** also attended the meetings on behalf of Speaker **Peter Milliken** in order to brief members of the International Executive Committee on preparations for the 50th CPA Conference.

Senator **Laurier Lapierre** represented the Canadian Branch at the 16th CPA Seminar which was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in May 2004.

Senator **Terry Stratton** represented the Canadian Branch, CPA at this past year's annual UK Parliamentary Visit which occurred in the middle of the Federal Election campaign.