

**Report of the Honourable V. Peter Harder to the
Standing Committee on Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration
on International Travel to London, U.K.
to participate in the 2017 Canada-UK Colloquium (CUKC),
November 14 - 19, 2017**

Background and Objective of Travel

I was invited by the Hon. Hugh Segal and Dr. Stephen Toope, Co-Chairs of the 2017 Canada-UK Colloquium Organizing Committee to be a participant.

Established in 1971, the Canada-UK Colloquium is an annual high-level forum aimed at facilitating in-depth discussion of critical and timely public policy issues for both countries. Every year, it brings together some fifty Canadian and British parliamentarians, senior-level public servants, academics, journalists, business leaders and young scholars, to foster practical knowledge-sharing and encourage constructive collaboration. The location of the Colloquia rotates between the two countries each year and over the last few decades, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in the United Kingdom and the Department of Global Affairs Canada have actively supported this initiative.

As Government Representative in the Senate, I am continually involved in public policy discussions in a variety of areas, such as the modernization of the Senate. In order to effectively shepherd legislation between Houses, it is important to keep up to date on issues relating to the array of bills that the Senate must review and decide upon. Further, as the spokesperson for the Government at Question Period in the Senate, international views on all matters that pertain or could relate to Canada are extremely valuable.

The fostering of public knowledge-sharing and the encouragement of constructive collaboration is a must for any and all parliamentarians. In my role as government representative it is of the utmost importance that I promote and cultivate a collaborative environment for a more accountable, transparent, independent and less partisan Senate. The overarching goal of a renewed Senate is on the minds of all Canadians. For this reason, the need for senators to reach out in every way possible and use all tools at their disposal to find ways to better communicate with the public, is vital.

Report of Activities

The following are the meetings and events I attended and participated in during my trip.

November 14/15, 2017

I travelled to London on November 14, 2017 and arrived on November 15, 2017 at Canada House, Trafalgar Square at 11:15 a.m.

- 12:45 p.m.: Business lunch with The Lord Jay of Ewelme GCMG, at the House of Lords.
- 3:00 p.m.: Informal Roundtable with political and trade official of Global Affairs Canada at Canada House, hosted by the Deputy High Commissioner, Ms. Sarah Fountain Smith.
- 4:30 p.m.: Meeting with Professor Meg Russell at Canada House.

November 16, 2017

- 10:00 a.m.: Briefing by Lord Ahmed, House of Lords
- 12:00 p.m.: Luncheon by the High Commissioner at his official residence
- 4:00 p.m.: Meeting with the Lord Speaker and Lord Hennessy
- 7:00 p.m.: Dinner and keynote speeches

November 17, 2017

- 8:30 a.m.: Session 1: The Context – Challenges to the Rules-Based International Order
(Speakers: Lord Butler of Brockwell, UK; Dr. Randall Hansen, Interim Director, Monk School of Global Affairs, Canada)
- 10:30 a.m.: Session 2: The Decline of Deference – Popular Alienation and Loss of Trust in Established Political Structures
(Speakers: Mr. Amol Rajan, BBC Media Editor, UK; Dr. Tom Axworthy, Public Policy chair, Massey College, Canada)
- 1:00 p.m.: Session 3: Direct Democracy – Referendums, Petitions and Citizens’
(Speakers: Prof. John Curtice, Strathclyde University; Ms. Jane Hilderman, Executive Director, Samara Canada)
- 3:00 p.m.: Breakout Groups: The Role of the Second Chamber
(Facilitators: UK Co-Chair, Baroness Jay, House of Lords; Hon. V. Peter Harder, Government Representative in the Senate)
- 6:00 p.m.: Reception at the Runnymede-on-the-Thames Hotel

November 18, 2017

- 8:00 a.m.: Presentation of Reports from Breakout Groups
- 10:00 a.m.: Session 4: Maintaining Democratic Support for Open Trade, New Technology and Globalisation
(Speakers: Guy Faulconbridge, Thomson Reuters, UK; Dr. Peter Loewen, Director, School of Public Policy and Governance, University of Toronto)
- 12:30 p.m.: Rapporteur’s Summary and Interactive Discussion
- 1:30 p.m.: Closing Remarks by the Co-Chairs, the Hon. Hugh Segal and Mr. Philip Peacock.

Next Steps

As Government Representative in the Senate, I will continue to represent the Senate and make connections both nationally and internationally through various groups and organizations to open the dialogue and engage on policy issues of global importance. Advancing practical policy measures, knowledge sharing and promoting the importance of democratic governance are essential for the development and progress of parliamentary institutions. An annual report of the proceedings, including conclusions and recommendations, will be published and distributed in each country to government officials and other stakeholders.

BUDGET REPORT

ORIGINAL ESTIMATED COST

| | | |
|---|---|---------------------|
| A. Air Transportation: | | approx. \$ 6,876.00 |
| B. Ground Transportation | | approx. \$ 200.00 |
| C. Daily Costs | | |
| Accommodation (to be paid by organizer) | | 0 |
| Meals (to be paid by organizer) | | 0 |
| Incidentals | \$ 21.15 (GBP) = (\$34,20 CDN-06-04-2017) | |
| <u>Daily Sub-Total</u> | \$ 21.15 (GBP) = (\$34,20 CDN-06-04-2017) X 5 days | \$ 171.00 |
| D. Other (Registration Fees, etc.)* | (no registration fee) | 0 |
| | Total Estimated Cost | \$ <u>7,247.00</u> |

ACTUAL COST

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|--------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| A. Air Transportation: | | \$ 5,468.16 |
| | (Note: Conference reimbursed the cost of an economy fare ticket - \$1,000) | |
| B. Ground Transportation | | approx. \$ 182.05 |
| C. Daily Costs | | |
| Meals | Lunch: 1 x \$31.35 GBP (\$52.70 CAD) = | \$ 52.70 |
| | Dinner: 2 x \$41.45 GBP (\$69.68 CAD) = | \$139.36 |
| Incidentals | 6 x \$29.15 GBP (\$49.00 CAD) = | \$294.00 |
| | Total Cost | \$ <u>6,136.27</u> |
