Canadian-American Relations Committee Meeting Minutes

2015 Professional Development Seminar
Raleigh, N.C.
Thursday, Sept. 24, 2015

Call to Order
The meeting of the Canadian-American Relations Committee was called to order by Paul Smith (N.H.), Vice-Chair, Canadian-American Relations Committee.

Attendance
The following members of the committee were present: Paul Smith (N.H.), Vice-Chair, Lee Cassis (W.Va.), Vice-Chair, Butch Speer (La.), Steve Marshall (Vt.), JoAnn Hedrick (Del.), Bo Hoover (W.Va.), Robert Altmann (W.Va.), Corey Carnahan (Kan.), Yolanda Dixon (La.), Merrill Laplante (La.), Lendi Ensor (Alaska), Stephanie Hall (Alaska), Liz Clark (Alaska), Jackie Schulz (Alaska), Kim Cox (Tenn.), Patsy Spaw (Texas), Kristin Canterbury (W.Va.), Chris Albanese (Ohio), Janice Gadd (Utah), Lindsay Grovum (Mont.), Andrew Ketchings (Miss.), Bill MaGill (Vt.), Sara Thomas (Utah), Michael Adams (Va.), Ali Sagraves (Ohio), Susan Schaar (Va.), Claire Clift (Nev.), Bill Horn (Ala.), Joyce Wright (Ala.), Tim Sekerak (Ore.), Cyndy Johnston (Ore.), Brad Young (Ohio).

Other members/guests in attendance included: Iris Lang, Principal Clerk (Saskatchewan, Canada), Jeremy LeBlanc, Principal Clerk (Ottawa, Canada), Deborah Deller, Principal Clerk (Toronto, Canada).

Approval of Minutes
Upon a motion by Yolanda Dixon, seconded by Liz Clark, the minutes of the last meeting held Monday., Aug. 3, 2015 at the NCSL Legislative Summit in Seattle, Wash., were approved.

Old Business
Brad Young informed the committee that the Joint Canadian-American meeting to be held in Columbus, Ohio, was in its final planning stage and that the contract for the hotel would be signed soon. The meeting will take place Oct. 28 through Nov. 1, at the Hyatt Regency.

Butch Speer gave a brief summary of the programming for the upcoming Joint Canadian-American meeting and said it would consist of a presentation of Tennessee’s dashboard system; civic outreach; Masons vs. O’Brien/ Bach; a history of the War of 1812—the Battle of Lake Erie; a roundtable on capitol security; ethics and accountability; an “off the record” session.

New Business
Joanne Hedrick gave a brief history of the Canadian-American Relations Committee and its responsibilities for hosting the joint meeting. Susan Schaar added that the relationship between the Canadian and American clerks and secretaries dates back 40 years.

Iris Lang, Principal Clerk, Saskatchewan, announced that the 2017 Joint Canadian-American meeting will be held in Saskatchewan. As there were no immediate volunteers to host the 2019
joint meeting in the United States, Claire Clift suggested that the host manual be distributed to
the states as a means of educating potential hosts for the future.

The discussion turned to the challenges and obstacles that states are faced with when hosting the
joint meeting. Paul Smith noted that standing orders prevent the ASLCS from contributing
money to the joint meeting and posed the question of asking the executive committee to change
the standing orders so that the joint meeting could possibly become part of ASLCS’s budget.
Butch Speer questioned whether or not it would be worthwhile to pursue the issue with the
executive committee since it would ultimately require NCSL oversight. Susan Schaar
commented that in addition to the challenge of funding a joint meeting, taking on the
responsibility of contractual obligations (with the hotel, possibly with social events, etc.) can be
difficult. Claire Clift suggested asking NCSL to sign the contracts and leave the fundraising to
the states. Brad Young said NCSL was very helpful in reviewing the contracts and providing
advice during the negotiations of the contracts. No action was taken by the committee on the
question.

Discussion then centered on the standing order that limits attendance to the joint meeting to each
principal and an associate member designated by the principal. After discussion, Butch Speer
made the motion, which was seconded by Steve Marshall, to ask the executive committee to
suspend the standing order for the upcoming joint meeting in Columbus.

Butch Speer and Brad Young agreed to revise, update, and edit the host manual after the meeting
in Columbus. Steve Marshall thanked Brad Young for stepping up to host the 2015 joint meeting
and for all of his hard work that went along with being the host.

Paul Smith announced that Ann Cornwell, the Secretary of the Arkansas Senate and Chair of the
Canadian-American Relations Committee, could not be with us at the PDS this week because she
injured her knee. He asked everyone to send their well wishes to her.

Adjournment
Upon a motion by Bo Hoover, seconded by JoAnn Hedrick, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Cassis (WV), Vice-Chair, Canadian-American Relations Committee