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CAPPD Annual Report - Prepared by the Secretariat: Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights

About CAPPD

Formed in 1997, CAPPD is an all-party group open to all sitting Senators and Members of Parliament. CAPPD provides a forum for the exchange of ideas on population, sexual and reproductive health, human rights, and development issues. Distinct from other parliamentary associations at the Parliament of Canada, CAPPD is one of 17 parliamentary associations throughout the world with a mandate to ensure that governments keep the commitments to reproductive health and women's rights made at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, Egypt.

CAPPD is run by an elected Executive Committee comprised of Senators and Members of Parliament. It is governed by a constitution and holds Annual General Meetings. At its core, CAPPD works to:

- Raise parliamentarians' awareness of population, sexual and reproductive health, human rights and development issues through participation in study tours, international conferences, expert seminars and public events
- Advocate for the full implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the Beijing Platform for Action
- Consult with Government agencies, civil society, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and other international agencies and parliamentarians from other countries to assess support for relevant development goals
- Promote cooperation among other parliamentary networks working on related issues

Our Work

- Annual Canadian launch of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) annual State of the World Population Report on Parliament Hill
- Organization of various parliamentary events on issues related to sexual and reproductive rights, gender equality and development
- Send delegations to *International Parliamentarians Conference on the Implementation (IPCI)* of the ICPD, and other relevant events
- Coordination of briefings with CAPPD members by high-level UN officials
- Collaboration with House of Commons Standing Committees in support of studies related to sexual and reproductive health and rights (both domestically and globally)
- Delivery of statements and questions in the House and Senate regarding Canada's support for related areas of work
- Regular submission of Questions to the Order Paper regarding Canada's development and foreign policy

CAPPD Secretariat

Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights (Action Canada) is the Secretariat for CAPPD. Action Canada is a progressive, pro-choice charitable organization committed to advancing and upholding sexual and reproductive health and rights in Canada and globally. www.actioncanadashr.org

Changes to Executive Membership in 2022

Senator Hassan Yussuff resigned from the CAPPD executive committee in March due to time constraints. His position was filled in by Senator Gigi Osler who was elected as interim director during the March executive committee meeting.

Summary of 2022 Activities

CAPPD hosted and participated in various events, meetings, and strategy sessions throughout 2022-2023 in line with the association's commitment to advocacy, knowledge generation, capacity building, and inter-parliamentary cooperation. Key highlights include:

In Celebration of Vulvas and Vaginas

In May 2022, the CAPPD held a parliamentary event in celebration of vaginas and vulvas and the importance of their inclusion and visibility in health research, politics, policy making, at the doctor's office, and beyond. The event was led by MP Pam Damoff and co-hosted by Senator McPhedran, MP Elizabeth May, and MP Leah Gazan. Event featured CAPPD branding and was used as an opportunity to boost sign-ups for membership.

Sexual Health Conference in Barbados

Also in May, the CAPPD was invited by the European Parliamentary Forum (EPF) to attend 'A Caribbean-African dialogue: Investing in Young people's Health and Futures, ensuring Equitable Access to Reproductive Health Information and Services'. The theme of the conference focused on ensuring equitable access to SRHR information and services. The CAPPD was represented by Senators Moodie and Ravalia. Both presented at a session entitled 'Experiences from other regions' and spoke to the lack of SRHR training in medical schools and the need for better access in rural areas.

The conversations were fruitful, covering a wide array of topics such as poverty, social determinants of health, STBBIs, the role of toxic male culture, sexual violence, age of consent, adolescent sexual health, the impacts of social media, and more. Importantly, the meeting served its purpose to connect SRHR champions from different regions to share knowledge and expertise

More information of key takeaways from the conference can be [found here](#).

International AIDS Conference 2022

During the International AIDS Conference held in Montreal in July of 2022, EPF took the opportunity to host a European delegation of parliamentarians working on reproductive health and rights issues for a parliamentary conference. In addition to attending the conference, parliamentarians came together to share insights on key sexual health issues in their countries. MP Leah Gazan represented the CAPPD and shared about forced sterilization as an important issue at the heart of sexual and reproductive rights and the proposed adoption of the Joyce Principle (for Joyce Echaquan).

International Safe Abortion Day

To mark International Safe Abortion Day, Dr. Hedy Fry and Senator Rosemary Moodie read statements in the house of commons and senate on behalf of the CAPPD. The statements highlighted the continued challenges to securing full access to abortion for all persons.

You can read Dr. Fry's statement [here](#).

You can read Senator Moodie's statement [here](#).

International Conference on Family Planning:

The International Conference on Family Planning took place in Pattaya City, Thailand in November. The conference served as a strategic inflection point for the global reproductive health community, providing a global stage for countries, organizations, and individuals to make important commitments and celebrate achievements as the world's largest scientific conference on family planning and reproductive health.

The conference also provided another opportunity for parliamentarians from around the world to gather for the Global Parliamentary Forum and exchange ideas on family planning policies and initiatives. MP Leah Gazan attended the conference to represent the CAPPD.

State of the World Population Report Launch 2022:

Action Canada, UNFPA, and the CAPPD hosted the Canadian launch of UNFPA's State of the World Population (SWOP) Report 2022. The event unpacked the 2022 SWOP report - Seeing the Unseen: The case for action in the neglected crisis of unintended pregnancy. Panelists featured colleagues from Action Canada, UNFPA, Global Affairs Canada, the Canadian Advisory of Women Immigrants, and InterPares with opening remarks from Senator McPhedran on behalf of the CAPPD. The audience was a mix from across civil society, parliament and government, allowing for a complex discussion on the continued role Canada needs to play globally in standing up in support of SRHR issues in the face of growing global push back.

To read the full UNFPA report, [click here](#).

Action on Addressing CPC Charitable Status:

In January, the CAPPD sent a letter to Minister Freeland on the need to revoke charitable status for anti-choice organizations. The letter was sent to Minister Freeland by Dr. Fry on behalf of the CAPPD.

Dr. Fry received a positive response from Minister Freeland's office thanking her and the CAPPD for flagging the issue and the letter is being taken into consideration.

Sexual Health Awareness Week:

Sexual and Reproductive Health Awareness Week (SRH Week) is an annual event that takes place from in February of each year. It is designed to raise awareness on sexual and reproductive health and promote resources to improve community health in Canada. The theme of SRH week 2023 was Get the Facts!

This year, the CAPPD hosted an event to highlight what policy makers can do to ensure people have the information they need to make informed and healthy sexual and reproductive health choices. MP Leah Taylor Roy's office spearheaded the event on behalf of the CAPPD which featured a panel discussion on the work being done to ensure people in Canada and globally have access to accurate and comprehensive sexual and reproductive health information.

The CAPPD was represented by MP Elizabeth May, MP Jenica Atwin, and Senator Gigi Osler who all acted as moderators on the panel, bringing out insights from the civil society panelists. [Dr. Fry](#), [MP Atwin](#), and [Senator Osler](#) also gave statements in the house and senate on access to sexual and reproductive health and rights globally, access to contraception, and access to abortion throughout the week.

Communications

CAPPD releases quarterly newsletters and occasional special updates.

[Click here to sign-up for the CAPPD newsletter](#)