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Canadian Association of Parliamentarians
on Population and Development

Association canadienne des parlementaires
pour la population et le développement

CAPPD 2024 AGM: Meeting Minutes

Participants

Attendees:

- ***Dr. Hedy Fry (MP) (LPC)***
- ***Senator Marilou McPhedran (Non-Affiliated)***
- ***MP Arielle Kayabaga (LPC)***
- ***Senator Kim Pate (NDP)***
- ***MP Leah Taylor Roy (LPC)***
- ***Senator Gigi Osler (Canadian Senators Group)***

Special Presenter:

- ***Dr. Wendy Norman (CART)***

Representatives from the Secretariat (Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights):

- ***Frederique Chabot (Interim Executive Director)***
- ***Meghan Doherty (Co-Director, Policy and Advocacy)***
- ***Insiya Mankani (Public Affairs Officer)***
- ***Shejuti Farook (Web and IT Coordinator)***

Welcome and Approval of the Agenda

Action Canada's Public Affairs Officer, Insiya Mankani, welcomed attendees and provided introductory remarks about the work of Action Canada and its long history as the secretariat of CAPPD. Action Canada has been the CAPPD secretariat since 1997, with a goal of engaging politicians in SRHR in Canada and globally. Reproductive health and women's empowerment are intertwined, and sexual and reproductive rights are human rights. This work builds on the commitment made in Cairo in 1994 and more recently, in New York, for ICPD30.

After quorum was reached, the meeting commenced. Insiya introduced Dr. Hedy Fry and Senator Marilou McPhedran, co-chairs of CAPPD, as well as Dr. Wendy Norman from CART and Frederique

Chabot from Action Canada who would be presenting during the meeting as well. Insiya then invited Senator McPhedran to say a few words.

Opening Remarks

Senator McPhedran welcomed all members to the AGM. She highlighted Canada's recent historic commitments on SRHR both financially and politically in the midst of continued restrictions on access in neighbouring countries. Globally, sexual and reproductive health and rights are at the centre of a concerning rise in anti-rights and anti-democratic organizing. Opponents of SRHR have made concerted efforts to roll back rights at the local, national, and global levels as seen at IPCI and ICPD30. Canada has a role to play in countering these attacks on SRHR and democracy by being continuing to be a strong champion for SRHR and as parliamentarians, championing SRHR continues to play a central role in our duties as it is essential to keeping the flame alive among our colleagues.

Senator McPhedran then read through the agenda and asked for any additions. Seeing none, Senator Pate moved to approve the agenda. Motion approved.

Election of CAPPD Executive Committee (2024-2025)

The secretariat shared the nominees for all eight (8) executive committee positions noting that Senator Jaffer would be retiring and MP Pam Damoff would be stepping down from the executive committee while retaining her membership with the CAPPD.

There is continuation of the practice established by Dr. Fry that the CAPPD is co- chaired by an MP and senator, with Dr. Fry and Senator McPhedran continuing to serve as co-chairs.

Chair

MP Dr. Hedy Fry (LPC)
Senator Marilou McPhedran (Non-affiliated)

Vice-Chairs

MP Elizabeth May (GPC) - in absentia
MP Lindsay Mathyssen (NDP) - in absentia
Senator Gigi Osler (Canadian Senators Group)

Directors

MP Leah Gazan (NDP) – in absentia
MP Leah Taylor Roy (LPC)
MP Heather McPherson (NDP) – in absentia
Senator Rosemary Moodie (Independent Senators Group) – in absentia
Vacant

It was agreed that one director role would be left vacant to be filled by Bloc Quebecois MP to encourage cross-party engagement. Insiya asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Seeing none, Senator Osler moved a motion to accept all candidates to the CAPPD Executive Committee. Motion was seconded by MP Taylor Roy. Motion approved.

Report from the Co-Chairs

Over the course of the year, members of the CAPPD attended multiple international conferences and UN sessions including Women Deliver, the Commission on the Status of Women, the 8th International Parliamentarians' Conference on the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action (IPCI), and the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD+30) to represent the association and to meet with parliamentarians from across the world to share insights on SRHR needs issues globally.

In June 2023, the CAPPD co-sponsored an event with the Future Planning Initiative – a group of 6 CSOs that champion sexual and reproductive health. The cocktail reception featured remarks by Prime Minister Trudeau, Minister Sajjan, then Minister for International Development, and Maliha Khan, President and CEO of Women Deliver. The event brought together civil society organizations and government officials to show their shared commitment to ensuring health and well-being for all.

The CAPPD also co-sponsored an event with Action Canada and UNFPA in February 2024 to celebrate the 2023 state of the world population (SWOP) report. The report makes the case for a world in which each individual is free to choose their reproductive future—a world in which countries build demographic resilience by adapting to population change, rather than attempting to control it.

Later February 2024, CAPPD hosted a parliamentary breakfast in support of sexual health week, an annual event designed to raise awareness on sexual and reproductive health and promote resources to improve community health in Canada. The event created a space to build connections with all those working to support access to sexual health, both in Canada and around this world. The event was hosted by MP Leah Taylor Roy, MP Leah Gazan, and Senator McPhedran who all shared insights from their work and highlighted the importance of continuing to push for the expansion of our sexual and reproductive rights.

Members of the CAPPD shared a number of statements in the house including around women's reproductive rights, international safe abortion day, contraceptive access, comprehensive sexuality education, pharmacare and more. Together the CAPPD has raised issues in the house, brought attention to important issues and created more space to continue to further the overall agenda on women's rights and ensuring health and well being for all.

Opportunities for 2024

There are a number of upcoming opportunities for engagement over the next year. UNFPA is expected to make a high-level visit to Canada in late fall 2024 and hope to host a session with UNFPA directors

and the CAPPD around that time. The Canadian UNFPA State of the World Population report launch will also be held during this visit. The CAPPD generally sponsors or co-hosts this event which will highlight the gaps in access for SRHR.

Further opportunities for engagement include joint statements on topical issues of shared interest, briefings from global and domestic experts on topics of interest, cross regional parliamentary delegations to global conferences, and working with different domestic and international parliamentary groups that are aligned with CAPPD interests including with our US counterparts.

Keynote Speakers: Dr. Wendy Norman and Frederique Chabot

As Bill C-64 has now been sent to the Senate for consideration, we must acknowledge its potential to lay the foundations of a pharmacare system in Canada - the biggest piece of health care news since the introduction of the Canada Health Act. This will ensure Canadians can have equitable access to critical resources to take care of themselves and make health decisions.

Beyond what we know about the benefits of introducing universal access to contraception and universal, single payer, first dollar pharmacare, there are invisible positive ripple effects we can think of when it comes to introducing this legislation and framework in Canada. For example, how it impacts employment equity for people who have higher needs around medication coverage, how it can free up time and capacity in sexual health centres to offer other key sexual and reproductive health services if they are not seeking resources to run compassionate contraceptive programs, like STI testing and treatment, how it addresses coercive contraceptive care through compassionate programs and more.

We are up against well funded interested parties like insurance companies and pharmaceutical companies and the stakeholders they support. We are not as resourced but we represent a large coalition of health organizations and civil society organizations who form a consensus around their support for Pharmacare. Anything that seeks to delay this bill or to argue against single payer, first dollar or universal is not in the interest of the public

Health care is the number one priority of Canadians at this moment and that comes up over and over in all message testing and polling across different provinces and demographics. People want their leaders to invest in the kind of system that means people can go see their doctor when they are sick and can access medication when they need it.

The CAPPD has a very important role to play as a cross-party champion for sexual and reproductive health and rights on the Hill, with government. This group has stepped up for SRHR to keep it at the centre as an issue and this is a policy that needs its support.

Closing Remarks Adjournment

Senator McPhedran congratulated the new executive committee on their election and reiterated the many opportunities to drive forward the agenda of the CAPPD particularly as we continue to discuss pharmacare.

Senator McPhedran moved a motion to adjourn.

AGM documents

Background documents, including the AGM agenda, CAPPD 2023 Annual Report, and the CAPPD constitution can be on the [CAPPD website](#) or by emailing secretariat@cappd.ca

Report from the Chair

- As mentioned by my co-chair earlier on, this AGM comes after a busy year of championing sexual and reproductive health and rights for all of us. We've engaged in a number of activities and this report will focus on the main highlights.
- Sexual and reproductive health and rights continue to be relevant and it is imperative that as parliamentarians, we have a space where we can come together and work across party lines to help drive progress on sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender equality, and development issues.
- In this short report, I'd like to share some CAPPD highlights from 2023-2024:
 - o Over the course of the year, members of the CAPPD attended multiple international conferences and UN sessions including Women Deliver, the Commission on the Status of Women, the 8th International Parliamentarians' Conference on the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action (IPCI), and the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD+30) to represent the association and to meet with parliamentarians from across the world to share insights on SRHR needs issues globally.
 - o In June 2023, the CAPPD co-sponsored an event with the Future Planning Initiative – a group of 6 CSOs that champion sexual and reproductive health. The cocktail reception featured remarks by Prime Minister Trudeau, Minister Sajjan, then Minister for International Development, and Maliha Khan, President and CEO of Women Deliver. The event brought together civil society organizations and government officials to show their shared commitment to ensuring health and well-being for all.
 - o The CAPPD also co-sponsored an event with Action Canada and UNFPA in February 2024 to celebrate the 2023 state of the world population (SWOP) report. The report makes the case for a world in which each individual is free to choose their reproductive future– a world in which countries build demographic resilience by adapting to population change, rather than attempting to control it.
 - o Later February 2024, CAPPD hosted a parliamentary breakfast in support of sexual health week, an annual event designed to raise awareness on sexual and reproductive health and promote resources to improve community health in Canada. The event created a space to build connections with all those working to support access to sexual health, both in Canada and around this world. The event was hosted by MP Leah Taylor Roy, MP Leah Gazan, and Senator McPhedran who all shared insights from their work and highlighted the importance of continuing to push for the expansion of our sexual and reproductive rights.
 - o Members of the CAPPD shared a number of statements in the house including around women's reproductive rights, international safe abortion day, contraceptive access, comprehensive sexuality education, pharmacare and more.

- Together we have raised important issues in the house, brought attention to these issues with our colleagues and created more space to continue to further the overall agenda on women's rights and ensuring health and well being for all.
- For a full list of CAPPD activities, please refer to the annual report.
- Bucharest declaration – rise of anti-rights

Opportunities for 2024

- UNFPA is expected to make a high-level visit to Canada in late fall 2024 and hope to host a session with UNFPA directors and the CAPPD around that time.
- The Canadian UNFPA State of Population Report launch to be held during the high-level visit. The CAPPD generally sponsors or co-hosts this event which will highlight the gaps in access for SRHR.
- There will be opportunities for joint statements on topical issues of shared interest
- Briefings from global and domestic experts on topics of interest (e.g. SRHR needs in humanitarian settings, anti-rights movements in Canada and globally, trends on gender equality, SRHR within UN mechanisms and Summit of the Future)
- Cross regional parliamentary delegations to global conferences
- Working with different domestic and international parliamentary groups that are aligned with CAPPD interests including with our US counterparts.