John Hyde MLA

Between October 7-11 2008 I attended the CPA 29th regional Conference representing the WA Parliament along with the Hon Ray Halligan.

As Mr Halligan and officers have addressed particular issues in their reports, I will comment on some pertinent issues that I believe the conference was able to address.

The strength of these regional conferences is that they are stakeholder-driven; the weakness is also this process. The CPA has a broad church of membership, and while it is important to engender professional development in tiny member bodies, the priorities and focus of these groups is often more in keeping with small local Councils rather than major State Parliaments.

As the full papers are available online, I will only refer below to some strengths in presentations:

“Parliamentary Response to regional Challenges” Senator Alan Ferguson.

- An excellent discussion on the benefits of parliamentary diplomacy compared with executive diplomacy. This allows non-committal interaction. The recent breakthrough in US-Burma relations through a congressman’s efforts rather than the official Department of State channels highlights the benefits.

“Saving the Murray Darling Basin”

- This parochial, Eastern State issue, highlights why the WA Parliamentarians should consider leaving the CPA and joining the other major international grouping.

“Sustainability in Tasmania – Water and Waste” Kerry Finch MLC.

- An interesting discussion on water and waste issues, applicable to us all in a State context. Good evidence for the adoption of a Container Deposit Scheme on the grounds of water conservation.

“Challenges of being an Independent Member in the Parliament of Samoa”. 
- Very valid discussion on the pitfalls of having the Speaker, as opposed to the transparent Government, determining conditions and payments for MPs.

“Modernising Parliaments in the 21st Century – NSW Context”

- Angela D’Amore MP from NSW raised the ongoing issues of “family friendly hours”, child-care centres in Parliament, lactation breaks, adherence to liquor laws in parliamentary precincts.

“On the Cusp of Change?”

- Thought-provoking analysis from Nova Scotia’s speaker Alfie McLeod on promoting democracy in Canada’s oldest parliament. Excellent use of the 250th anniversary in 2008 to launch awareness projects. [http://www.democracy250.com](http://www.democracy250.com) I attach the first page of the website below, as it illustrates the very powerful way the web was and is being used to carry on democracy education in Nova Scotia.

“Promoting Knowledge and Understanding of Democratic Governance”

- The Hon Ray Halligan gave an excellent snapshot of initiatives in our region to engage people with our democratic institutions.

“Multiple Roles of a Government Backbencher in a Small Parliament.”

- The ACT is a very small parliament.

I’d like to thank the branch for enabling me to attend this conference.
Again, the strength of these conferences is often in the informal discussions and experience sharing that occurs outside the meeting venues. I found a number of excellent sources for sharing initiatives valid for me as an inner-city MP and also in terms of my portfolio interests.

Yours sincerely,

John Hyde MLA,
Member for Perth
DEMOCRACY 250--Reports Released, Trust Established
May 7, 2009

Democracy 250, the agency established to lead last year’s celebrations marking the 250th anniversary of the birth of parliame...

DEMOCRACY 250--Trust Established to Continue D250’s You...
March 31, 2009

Democracy 250 co-chairs John Hamm and Russell MacLellan have agreed to be trustees for a fund established to continue efforts...

Democracy 250, GPI Atlantic Premiere Documentary on Con...
November 27, 2008

A documentary focusing on how contrasting Bhutanese and Canadian cultures impact the development and perception of the democr...
Youth Conference Focuses on Democracy, Active Citizensh...
October 17, 2008

Eighty high school students from Nova Scotia and countries including, Korea, Germany, Czech Republic, Mexico and the U.K.

DEMOCRACY 250--Province House Gets Dressed Up For Big D... 
September 26, 2008

Canada's oldest seat of government is taking on a new and colourful look as red, white and blue bunting is draped f...

NOTE TO EDITORS--Idol MacDonald Joins D250's Rockin' Co...
September 26, 2008

Democracy 250's Rockin' in the Free World Concert is even more star-studded with the addition of Mitch MacDonald, a top two...

Schedule - October 2nd Celebrations in Halifax
September 24, 2008

To download the Schedule of Events for the Democracy 250 Anniversary Celebration on October 2nd, Click here.

Canada’s Merchant Navy Commemorated
September 23, 2008

The contribution of Canada's Merchant Navy will be marked through a memorial being unveiled at Bedford's DeWolfe Park during ...

DEMOCRACY 250--New Book Celebrates Nova Scotia as One o...
September 17, 2008

A new book commemorating the 250th anniversary of representative government in Nova Scotia and the birth of
The Peaceful Revolution – 250 Years of Democracy in Nova Scotia
September 16, 2008
The Peaceful Revolution – 250 Years of Democracy in Nova Scotia by John Boileau, co-published by Democracy 250 and...

DEMOCRACY 250--Plans Announced for Highlight Celebration
September 10, 2008
A fabulous showcase of musical talent for a free public concert, an 18th century costume ball and a national youth symposium ...

Democracy 250 Shines Spotlight On Youth
August 28, 2008
Province House is shining a bit brighter thanks to 25 students supporting their community and a good cause. Democracy 250 c...

Film on Nova Scotia Mi’kmaq and Democracy Premieres on 
August 6, 2008
A film exploring the evolution of Canadian democracy from an aboriginal perspective will air on EastLink TV every Wednesday i...

Ceremony of the Flags Honors Democracy’s Beginnings
July 30, 2008
The boom of cannons and the beating of drums will roll across Citadel Hill on Monday, Aug. 4, as 250 cadets perform the histo...

250 More Years of Democracy, a Contest For Young Canadi...
July 14, 2008
A national contest encouraging young Canadians to grab their
D250 Launches Summer Concert Series Aboard HMCS Sackville...  
July 11, 2008

Democracy 250 will rock the Halifax waterfront aboard the HMCS Sackville this summer with a free concert series aimed at enco...

Democracy 250 Celebrates Canada Day in Ottawa, Halifax...  
June 30, 2008

Democracy 250 will be front and centre in Ottawa and Halifax as Canadians gather to celebrate Canada Day on Tuesday, July 1.&...

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA ANNOUNCES SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRACY 25...  
June 22, 2008

Together with the province’s contribution and private sector support, the Government of Canada’s investment will ...  

Democracy 250: A Mi’kmaq Perspective Premiered  
June 21, 2008

Democracy 250 co-chairs John Hamm and Russell MacLellan celebrated National Aboriginal Day by joining members of the Mi’kmaq ...  

Democracy 250 hosts Chester students for lunch  
June 20, 2008

Pizza and politics were on the menu June 17, as Democracy 250 co-chairs Dr. John Hamm and Russell MacLellan hosted Grade 7 st...  

National Aboriginal Day
First Nations communities in Nova Scotia will be holding a variety of events on Saturday, June 21, to mark National Aborigina...

General Hillier Named Honourary National Chair of Democ...
June 10, 2008
Democracy 250 co-chair John Hamm today, June 10, announced that Gen. Rick Hillier, Canada’s Chief of Defence Staff, will be t...

Nova Scotia Yacht Nears Home Port in World Yacht Race
June 2, 2008
A yacht flying Nova Scotia’s flag is nearing its home port in the 2008 Clipper Round the World Yacht Race. Yachts in the in...

Democracy 250 has been holding youth forums in school b...
May 20, 2008
Democracy 250 has been holding youth forums in school board districts across the province. The students discuss issues of con...

Democracy 250 Hosts Cape Breton Students for Lunch
May 13, 2008
Pizza and politics were on the menu today, May 13, as Democracy 250 co-chair Russell MacLellan and Cape Breton Regional Munic...

Youth Meeting Scheduled for Debert
May 12, 2008
About 100 students from the Chignecto-Central Regional School Board will gather today, May 12, at the Debert Hospitality Cent...
More than 100 students from the Strait Regional School Board will gather today, May 8, at the Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre to...

South Shore Students Discuss Democracy
April 25, 2008

High school students from eight schools in the South Shore Regional School Board district eagerly shared their views on issue...

D250 Youth Site Launched
April 23, 2008

A dynamic, youth-focused website aimed at getting more young people thinking about the importance of voting is up and running...

Nikki Balch, Sarah Conrad Latest Democracy 250 Youth Am...
April 18, 2008

Two more youth ambassadors have signed up to lend their talents and voices to the Democracy 250 initiative. Nikki Ba...

2008 Provincial Historica Fair
April 17, 2008

The 2008 Provincial Historica Fair, an exhibition of history projects by 28 Nova Scotian students, will be on displayed at th...

Celebrate Law and Democracy Week, April 14-19
April 14, 2008

Nova Scotia’s pioneering role in Canadian democracy is being celebrated with Law and Democracy Week from today, April 14 to S...
Cape Breton Students Discuss Democracy
April 11, 2008

One hundred students decked out in D250: Make Your Mark T-shirts in North Sydney today, April 11th, discussed issues of conce...

Annapolis Valley Youth Forum Makes its Mark on Students
March 31, 2008

One-hundred Annapolis Valley students participated in a day-long session discussing issues of concern to youth. The Valley se...

Student Contests Focus on Law, Democracy
March 5, 2008

Students from Primary to Grade 12 have a chance to display their creative talents and win great prizes, including gift certif...

Valley Students Discuss Democracy
February 29, 2008

One-hundred Annapolis Valley students wearing D250: Make Your Mark T-shirts participated in a mock election in Berwick today,...

Youth Ambassadors Help Launch Youth Campaign
February 21, 2008

Youth ambassadors helped launch a campaign today, Feb. 21, aimed at getting young people more involved in communities and vot...

Democracy 250 Co-chair Hosts Lunch for Students
February 20, 2008

Pizza and politics were on the menu at Province House today, Feb. 20, as Democracy 250 co-chair John Hamm hosted Grade 7 stud...
Democracy 250 Hosts Special Ceremony for New Canadians
January 30, 2008

Twenty-five new Canadians from 16 countries were sworn in today, Jan. 30, at a special Citizenship and Immigration Canada cer...

Honouring Our Veterans By Voting
November 9, 2007

As we prepare to gather around our local cenotaphs to honour and remember our veterans, we should reflect on what they fought...

Signs Salute Veterans
November 9, 2007

Travellers will notice an addition to the Veterans Memorial signs along Highway 102. In recognition of next year’s c...

Democracy 250 Licence Plates Go On Sale
November 6, 2007

Nova Scotia paved the way for parliamentary democracy in Canada and it is taking its message on the road. Literally...

30 Years Strong and Looking Ahead
October 9, 2007

Increasing women’s participation in public decision-making, engaging youth, and creating a more inclusive society are some of...

Road Sign Unveiled
October 2, 2007

Democracy 250 co-chairs Dr. John Hamm and Russell MacLellan took their message about the importance of democracy on...
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 26, 2007</td>
<td><strong>Former Premiers Launch Website</strong></td>
<td>Nova Scotia helped shape parliamentary democracy in Canada, now, to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the country's first el...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 25, 2007</td>
<td><strong>Wanted: Feedback on restoring the ballot-box to its for...</strong></td>
<td>By JOHN HAMM and RUSSELL MacLELLAN  Canadians come out in droves to honour our veterans on Remembrance Day. We share ...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 23, 2007</td>
<td><strong>Launch Held at Special Ceremony</strong></td>
<td>Veterans, students, MLAs, MPs and senators, members of the judiciary and the military gathered at Province House today, May...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 13, 2007</td>
<td><strong>Former Premiers To Head 2008 Anniversary Celebrations</strong></td>
<td>Cecil Clarke, Speaker of the House of Assembly, today, April 13, announced former premiers Russell MacLellan and John Hamm wi...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>