

**Report of the Honourable Kim Pate to the
Standing Committee on Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration
on International Travel to Reykjavik, Iceland
to Participate in the WPL International Forum,
November 26 – December 1, 2017**

Background and Objective of Travel

I was invited by the Women Political Leaders Global Forum (WPL) to attend the WPL Annual Global Summit, and to participate as a speaker in the Girls2Leaders portion of the agenda.

As a member of the Senate, participation in the WPL Global Summit, and the resultant interactions and discussions with women political leaders from around the globe, provided a unique opportunity to engage with women and girls from different cultural and political backgrounds and to explore ways and means by which to increase the representation by, and participation of, women in our political processes, in addition to promoting gender-equality by mentoring young women, demonstrating leadership, and participating in legislation and political agenda-setting.

Report of Activities

I travelled to Reykjavik the evening/night of November 26, arriving on the morning of November 27, 2017. I visited the President and First Lady's residence on November 28 and participated in the Welcome Reception for local and international dignitaries, followed by a cultural event and "Fireside Chat" hosted by Vigdis Finnbogadottir, the first democratically elected woman President of Iceland (1980–1996) to discuss, "How Women Leaders Change the World". In addition to Vigdis, other speakers included Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, President of Malta; Helen Clark, Prime Minister of New Zealand (1999–2008); and Silvana Koch-Mehrin, President of WPL. Later in the week, I was honoured to also attend a cultural dinner and evening hosted by the Prime Minister of Iceland.

Prior to other events commencing on November 29, I met with Katja Iversen and members of her staff. Katja is the President/CEO of Women Deliver and she is organizing the next Women Deliver conference for 2019 in Vancouver. We discussed trends, opportunities and challenges that face girls and women today.

The Opening Session of the WPL Forum on November 29 featured Icelandic women political leaders focusing on the theme: *We Can Do It – A New Narrative for Leadership*. The morning sessions also included addresses by Bjarni Benediktsson, Prime Minister of Iceland, and Dalia Grybauskaitė, President of Lithuania and Chair of the Council of Women World Leaders, both of whom spoke about the unique challenges that are faced by women in politics as they struggle to attain and maintain gender parity.

I also had the privilege of observing the presentation of WPL Awards to women who represented firsts for women's political leadership internationally and in their respective countries. In addition to Vigdis Finnbogadóttir, the world's first elected woman head of state, President of Iceland (1980-1996), and other women Presidents and Prime Ministers who were celebrated, Kim Campbell was honoured as the first woman Prime Minister of Canada.

Other sessions included panels on peacekeeping, environmental protection, global and sustainable development, labour force issues and trade, national and international issues of security, as addressed from women's perspectives, in addition to exploring ways to increase women's leadership in general and more particularly in preventing, mitigating, and resolving conflict and combat. Women participants, facilitators and presenters also engaged in discussions regarding United Nations standards, conventions and global goals, the social impact and opportunities for economic growth through the use of new technologies, and exploring the digital world. I was surprised to learn the extent of the gender digital divide as 250 million fewer women than men use the internet, and 200 million fewer women own a mobile phone. Participants explored the implications and impact of this divide on economic potential because of some women's inability to fully participate in the workforce.

The Girl2Leader event at which I was asked to speak was held in the Alþingi, the Parliament of Iceland. This was particularly exciting for all present, as the government was in the midst of negotiating a new coalition government. I was invited to speak of my experiences with women's leadership roles in civil society and the parliamentary process. I also facilitated a round table discussion regarding the future Girl2Leader initiatives similar to the one we hosted in the Chamber, here in Ottawa, on October 11, 2017. During the Reykjavik Girl2Leader event, participants from around the world were keen to hear about the issues raised by young women who attended from Ottawa-area high schools, as well as the messages shared by Indigenous and other women leaders, including former Senator Landon Pearson and Senator Marilou McPhedran. We also discussed plans for the 2018 events that are being organized. The young women are very keen to videolink some of the global Girl2Leader events and participants on the next International Day of the Girl Child, October 11, 2018.

Next Steps

In addition to continuing the international connections made at the WPL forum, we are working on plans for when we host the Girl2Leader event in the Senate Chamber on October 11, 2018 and the Women Deliver events in Vancouver in 2019. As such, we are continuing the dialogue with

young women, while simultaneously examining the possibility of establishing a feminist parliamentary group with Members of Parliament and Senators, to further develop initiatives that promote gender equality and promote women's participation and leadership in political and all other spheres of work and influence.

Budget Report

Estimated Cost

Expected Dates of travel: 27 November – 1 December 2017

A.	Ground Transportation		\$108.66
B.	Air Transportation		\$2971.12
C.	Accommodation Daily Cost		\$322.80
	Accommodation Sub-Total	\$322.80 x 4 nights =	\$1291.20
D.	Daily Meals	Breakfast: \$36.60 x 4 days (Tu, W, Th, Fr) =	\$144.00
		Lunch: \$66.24 x 4 days (Tu, W, Th, Fr) =	\$264.96
		Dinner: \$111.84 x 3 days (Tu, W, Th) =	\$335.52
	Daily Incidentals	\$68.70 x 5 days (Mo, Tu, W, Th, Fr) =	\$345.50
	TOTAL Per Diems		\$1090.58
E.	Other (Registration Fees, etc.)*		n/a
		Total Estimated Cost	\$5461.56

Actual Cost

Dates of travel: 26 November – 1 December 2017

A.	Ground Transportation and parking		\$440.98
B.	Air Transportation		\$878.15
C.	Accommodation Daily Cost		\$303.00
	Accommodation Sub-Total	\$303.00 x 5 nights =	\$1,550.00
D.	Daily Meals	Breakfast: \$36.60 x 5 days (Mon, Tu, W, Th, Fr) =	\$183.00
		Lunch: \$66.24 x 3 days (Tu, W, Fr) =	\$198.72
		Dinner: \$111.84 x 3 days (Mon, Tu, Th) =	\$335.52
	Daily Incidentals	\$68.70 x 6 days (Sun, Mo, Tu, W, Th, Fr) =	\$412.20

	TOTAL Per Diems	\$1,129.44
E.	Other (Registration Fees, etc.)*	n/a
	Total Cost	\$3,998.57

Signature

21 December 2017
Date