July 16, 2021

Office of the Parliament
Parliamentary Complex
Cabildo Building
St. Vincent Street
Port of Spain

Dear Sir

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) – News – July 16, 2021

Forwarded herewith is copy of a Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) media release dated July 16, 2021, titled Commonwealth Parliamentary Association celebrates 110th anniversary with launch of Youth Creativity Competition and asks: ‘What will Parliaments look like in the next 110 years?’

On 18th July 2021, the CPA will celebrate its 110th anniversary. As the CPA marks this anniversary and reflects on the evolution of Parliaments over the last 110 years, it must also look forward and consider what the next 110 years may hold for Parliaments, democracy and the Commonwealth.

In contemplating the future, the CPA is turning to those who will define it: young people. On the day of its 110th anniversary, a Youth Creativity Competition for under-18s, is being launched asking them to submit their creative response to the question: ‘What will Parliaments look like in the next 110 years?’

Parliaments across the Commonwealth are encouraged to reach out to their young people to enter the competition by writing an essay, filming a video, designing a piece of art or creating any other piece of work that responds to the question above.

The judges will be looking for creative and imaginative entries that also show a good understanding of what a Parliament/Legislature is, why it is important now and how it might evolve in the future. One winner in each of the three age categories will win the equivalent of GBP £100 in book or gift vouchers. Winners and runners up will also have their submissions published by the CPA online.
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In light of the foregoing, the attached correspondence is forwarded for the information of the Office of the Parliament, and action, as necessary.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Jenny G. Thompson
Acting High Commissioner

Encl.
CPA News

For immediate release, 16 July 2021

CPA celebrates 110th anniversary with launch of Youth Creativity Competition and asks: ‘What will Parliaments look like in the next 110 years?’

On 18th July 2021, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) will celebrate its 110th anniversary. As the CPA marks this anniversary and reflects on the evolution of Parliaments over the last 110 years, it must also look forward and consider what the next 110 years may hold for Parliaments, democracy and the Commonwealth.

To help us think about the future, the CPA is turning to those who will define it: young people. On the day of our 110th anniversary, we are launching a Youth Creativity Competition for under-18s, asking them to submit their creative response to the question: ‘What will Parliaments look like in the next 110 years?’

Parliaments across the Commonwealth are encouraged to reach out to their young people to enter the competition by writing an essay, filming a video, designing a piece of art or creating any other piece of work that responds to the question above.

The judges will be looking for creative and imaginative entries that also show a good understanding of what a Parliament/Legislature is, why it is important now and how it might evolve in the future. One winner in each of the three age categories will win the equivalent of GBP £100 in book or gift vouchers. Winners and runners up will also have their submissions published by the CPA online.

The CPA was founded on 18th July 1911 as the Empire Parliamentary Association by Members of Parliament from the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Newfoundland and South Africa. 110 years later, the membership of the CPA, which succeeded the Empire Parliamentary Association in October 1948, has grown to more than 180 Parliaments and Legislatures across the 54 countries of the ‘modern’ Commonwealth. Physically, in their composition and in the way they operate, the Parliaments of today are virtually unrecognisable from the Parliaments of 1911.

Since the founding of the CPA, the Parliament of Canada has been rebuilt after a devastating fire, the Parliament of Australia has relocated to Canberra and the UK Parliament has suffered bomb damage in the Second World War. In 2021, India, Jamaica and Eswatini are just three Commonwealth jurisdictions currently constructing new Parliament buildings as institutions continually adapt to meet the requirements of the modern world.

The membership of Commonwealth Parliaments has also undergone a transformation in the last 110 years. In 1911, there was not a single woman Member in any of the CPA’s founding Parliaments. Now, globally 25.5% of MPs are women. Rwanda leads the Commonwealth and the world with 61% women MPs, and women occupy leadership positions in many Parliaments. For example, there are now nine women Speakers across the CPA Caribbean, Americas and Atlantic Region.

In response to technological changes, Parliaments have also drastically changed how they interact with the public, becoming more open and transparent institutions. In 1977, Canada became the first country to televise live broadcasts of Parliamentary proceedings to the public. Now, Parliaments use social media, video, podcasts, email newsletters and even virtual reality to support their public engagement.

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Just as its Members have undergone many transformations in the last 110 years, so has the CPA itself. Amongst its many achievements, the Association has established three formal networks, a renowned post-election seminar programme and, most recently, an online learning platform as part of the CPA Parliamentary Academy. For over 100 years, the CPA has published *The Parliamentarian*, the quarterly Journal of Commonwealth Parliaments. During the digital era, the CPA has expanded its communications outputs, which now include online toolkits, video masterclasses and podcasts. This year, the Association will also be publishing a special 110th anniversary book, showcasing Parliament buildings around the Commonwealth and giving an insight into their varied histories.

For full details of the CPA 110th Anniversary Youth Creativity Competition, including the entry deadline, submission guidelines and application form, visit: [www.cpahq.org/our-networks/youth-engagement/youth-creativity-competition-2021/](http://www.cpahq.org/our-networks/youth-engagement/youth-creativity-competition-2021/)

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The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), now in its 110th year, exists to develop, promote and support Parliamentarians and parliamentary staff to identify benchmarks of good governance and to implement the enduring values of the Commonwealth. The CPA is an international community of around 180 Commonwealth Parliaments and Legislatures working together to deepen the Commonwealth’s commitment to the highest standards of democratic governance.

Visit [www.cpahq.org](http://www.cpahq.org) for further information. Join the conversation online: Twitter @CPA_Secretariat | Facebook.com/CPAHQ.