



General Information

OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY 30TH ANNUAL SESSION

*"Strengthening Regional Security by Fostering Democratic
and Inclusive Societies: The Role of the OSCE PA"*

Vancouver - Canada
June 30 – July 4, 2023

VENUE AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Vancouver Convention Centre (VCC)

1055 Canada Place

Vancouver, BC

V6C 0C3 - CANADA

www.vancouverconventioncentre.com

CONTACTS

International and Interparliamentary Affairs – Parliament of Canada:

Mr. Matthieu BOULIANNE, Association Secretary

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DRAFT PROGRAMME¹

Thursday 29 June 2023	Arrival of participants – Registration Meeting of Secretaries of Delegation
Friday 30 June 2023	Standing Committee (<i>morning</i>) Opening Plenary Session (afternoon)
Saturday 1 July 2023 ²	Committee Meetings (<i>morning</i>)
Sunday 2 July 2023	Committee Meetings (<i>morning and afternoon</i>) Working lunch on Gender Issues (Upon registration)
Monday 3 July 2023	Committee Meetings (<i>morning</i>) Plenary Session (<i>afternoon</i>)
Tuesday 4 July 2023	Plenary Session (<i>morning</i>) Departure of participants
Wednesday 5 July 2023	Departure of participants

¹ Please note that this draft programme is subject to change. Details are appended to this circular in **Appendix 1**.

² 1st of July is Canada's National Day.

REGISTRATION

Secretaries of Delegations are kindly asked to register their delegation via the OSCE PA online registration system no later than Friday, 26 May 2023. However, it is highly advisable that Secretaries register their members as soon as they are confirmed in their respective Parliament.

Note that the online registration system will be activated on 15 March 2023. Please indicate the preliminary travel information and the name of the hotel when you register your delegation.

The Registration and Information desk will be open in the foyer of the Vancouver Convention Centre (VCC) on **Thursday, 29 June 2023 from 14:00 to 20:00**. For the rest of the Annual Session, registration will be open at the VCC every day from 8:00 until the end of the official meetings.

All participants are kindly requested to register as soon as possible after their arrival. Participants will be required to show official identification when registering (passport or identity card). All participants will be able to collect conference bags and conference literature upon registration. Participants and accompanying persons will receive their personal badges and information about the conference at the Registration and Information desk.

A provisional List of Participants will be made available. In order to enable the OSCE PA International Secretariat to issue the final list, and to ensure the accuracy of its content, national delegations are kindly requested to indicate any corrections to the provisional list at the Registration and Information desk.

TRANSPORTATION

Participants **arriving on 29 June 2023** at the **Vancouver International Airport** will be offered transportation to any of the four conference hotels.

Participants arriving on alternative dates are invited to make their own transportation arrangements. Taxis are available in front of the airport terminal. Moreover, Metro Vancouver (Skytrain) has a very reliable public transit system for transportation in and around Greater Vancouver. Information can be found at <https://www.translink.ca/>

Transportation from the official hotels to the Vancouver International Airport will be organized on **Tuesday, 4 July 2023, from 12:00 to 22:00 and all day on Wednesday, 5 July 2023**. Transportation schedules will be available at the hotels and at the Transportation Desk at the VCC. **There will be no direct shuttle service from the Vancouver Convention Centre to the airport.**

Transportation will be provided for any off-site evening reception and other events for accompanying persons. Secretaries of Delegations are requested to indicate - and update when necessary - information about accommodation and flight information (flight numbers, arrival and departure dates) via the OSCE PA online registration system for all their delegates, as well as accompanying staff and accompanying persons.

PASSPORTS AND VISAS AND eTA

Travelers must hold a valid passport with six months' validity from the date of entry to enter Canada.

All participants must check beforehand if they need a [Visa](#) or an [Electronic Travel Authorisation \(eTA\)](#) to travel to Canada. To find out if you are required to hold one of these documents, please visit the [Canadian Government's official website](#) and complete the questionnaire (or click <https://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/visas.asp>).

Visas or eTAs must be obtained PRIOR to travelling to Canada.

IDENTIFICATION AND SECURITY

For security purposes, all participants, including accompanying persons, observers, delegation staff and members of the press are requested to wear their identity badges at all meetings and social events. Name badges will be needed to access all conference events, including social events. Loss of identity badges should be reported immediately to the conference staff at registration.

For security reasons, all participants, observers, delegation staff and members of the press must show their identity card or passport upon request.

DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS

A list of consular representations in Vancouver, including their contact details, is available on the website of [Global Affairs Canada](#).

Please inform your embassy and diplomatic representation about your stay in Canada. One evening will be free and reserved for hospitality by diplomatic missions.

DOCUMENTATION AND COPYING SERVICES

The OSCE PA International Secretariat will send electronic documentation folders in PDF format to all delegations. Most of the documents related to the Annual Session can also be downloaded from the [OSCE PA website](#) or from the OSCE PA App.

A limited number of documents will be printed. Secretaries of Delegations are advised to make alternative plans to print documents needed in advance.

Printers and photocopying machines will be at the disposal of the Secretaries of Delegations at the Vancouver Convention Centre.

INTERPRETATION

During the various official meetings of the Annual Session, simultaneous interpretation will be provided in all six official languages of the OSCE: English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish.

It will not be possible to accommodate requests for organizing simultaneous interpretation in any additional languages.

Organizers of side events will have to make their own arrangements for interpretation.

ACCOMPANYING PERSONS' PROGRAMME

Accompanying persons may participate in all evening events organized by the host. Accompanying persons are kindly requested to sign up for excursions at the accreditation desk at the Vancouver Convention Centre and to wear their identity badges during every part of the general programme.

Children under 16 years must be accompanied by a parent. Unaccompanied youths from 16 to 18 must produce a written certificate signed by their parents allowing their participation and assuming responsibility. The participation in the accompanying persons' programme is under the exclusive liability of the individual participants.

INSURANCE

Personal and medical insurance is the responsibility of individual participants. The host Parliament will not be responsible for any lost luggage, currency or personal effects, or any medical costs.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

Medical assistance will be available throughout the meetings. However, illness requiring medical treatment or hospitalization is the responsibility of the individual. Participants taking medicine should bring enough to cover their needs.

Please note that 9-1-1 is an emergency telephone number and is intended for use in emergency circumstances only.

DRESS CODE

Business attire is required for formal occasions and most social events.

CLIMATE AND TIME ZONE

Vancouver is part of the Pacific Standard time zone and observes daylight savings time in July (UTC -7 hours, PDT/March to October).

Vancouver in the month of July is usually warm and comfortable, with an average temperature of 17°C. Vancouver sees daytime temperatures of **21°C** while nights fall to a mild **13°C**. July temperatures rarely exceed **26°C** or dip below **11°C**.

CURRENCY

The currency in Canada is the Canadian Dollar (\$CAD). Major credit cards are accepted everywhere. Cash can be withdrawn from ATMs in the city at any time.

ELECTRICITY

Please note that the voltage in Canada is 120 V/60 Hz frequency. Foreign plugs might not be compatible with Canadian sockets, please ensure you bring a plug adapter. [Canadian Electricity Information](#)

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The international code for Canada is +1, followed by a phone number (area code + seven numbers). Access to Wi-Fi will be available at the Vancouver Convention Center as well as in every official hotel.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Secretaries of Delegation should inform the Secretariat of the Parliament of Canada at OSCE2023@parl.gc.ca of delegates with mobility limitations in order to make necessary transportation and other arrangements in advance. Moreover, Secretaries will need to fill in information pertaining to dietary restrictions through the online registration system.

SMOKE-FREE POLICY AND SUSTAINABILITY

Smoking is forbidden in all public places (restaurants, bars, parks, public transport, etc.) – Please note that Vancouver is becoming the greenest city in Canada with the lowest greenhouse gas emissions of any major city in North America – Let's encourage them!

TOURIST INFORMATION

Vancouver is home to many vibrant and interesting areas. Please visit the [Destination Vancouver](#) website for practical information.

CATERING

Catering will be provided exclusively by the Vancouver Convention Centre. Side event organizers will be responsible for arranging their own catering and for covering the costs. Details will be provided to organizers.

Several hotels near the Vancouver Convention Centre also offer restaurant services. Other restaurants are located within walking distance of the VCC.