

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Honorarium or Expense Reimbursement Report (RSA 14-C)
For Legislators and Legislative Employees



RECEIVED
OCT 16 2023
NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Type or Print all Information Clearly:

Name: SHARON M Carson Work Phone #: (603) 271-3266
First Middle Last

Work Address: State House Room 302, 107 North Main Street, Concord NH 03301

Office/Appointment/Employment held: State Senator

Source of Expense Reimbursement, Honorarium, Ticket or Free Admission, or Meals and/or Beverages

List the full name, post office address, occupation, and principal place of business, if any, of the source of any reportable expense reimbursement, honorarium, ticket or free admission to a political, charitable, or ceremonial event, or meals or beverages consumed at a meeting or event, the purpose of which is to discuss official business, with a value greater than \$50.

If the source is an Individual:

Name of Source: First Middle Last

Post Office Address:

Occupation:

Principal Place of Business:

If the source is a Corporation or other Entity:

Name of Corporation or Entity: CSG East Annual Meeting

Name of Person Representing the Corporation/Entity: Alison Braver

Work Address of Person Representing the Corporation/Entity: 22 Cortlandt St, 22nd Floor, NY, NY 10007

I am reporting:

[X] An Expense Reimbursement with value over \$50.00. (For costs that are waived, forgiven, reduced, prepaid, or reimbursed by a third party (other than the General Court) for attendance at a qualified event, pursuant RSA 14-C:2, III.)

Value of Expense Reimbursement: 441.00/x Date Received: 8/23/2023 If exact value is unknown, provide an estimate of the value of the gift or honorarium and identify the value as an estimate. [] Exact [X] Estimate

[] An Honorarium with value over \$50.00. (For payment from third parties for an appearance, speech, written article or other document, service as a consultant or advisor, or participation in a discussion group or similar activities related to legislative matters, pursuant to RSA 14-C:2, V.)

Value of Honorarium: Date Received: If exact value is unknown, provide an estimate of the value of the gift or honorarium and identify the value as an estimate. [] Exact [] Estimate

[] A ticket or free admission to a political, charitable, or ceremonial event with value over \$50.00. (Pursuant to RSA 14-C:4, I.)

[X] Meals and/or beverages consumed at a meeting or event the purpose of which is to discuss official business with value over \$50.00. (Pursuant to RSA 14-C:4, II.)

[] A Donation to a State or National Legislative Association Event. (Pursuant to RSA 14-C:2, IV(b)(15).)

TURN OVER TO CONTINUE

For a report relating to an Expense Reimbursement or Honorarium, you are required to attach a copy of the agenda or an equivalent document which addresses the subjects addressed and the time schedule of all activities at the event. Indicate below the names of the sponsors of activities in cases where they are not indicated on the agenda or equivalent document.

See Attached

Provide a brief description of the service or event that gave rise to this Expense Reimbursement, Honorarium, ticket or free admission to a political, charitable, or celebratory event, or meals or beverages.

2 nights Hotel Expense, Meals + beverages @ CSG Annual Meeting

Source of a Donation to a State or National Legislative Association Event

Provide an itemized report of all individuals, corporations, or other entities from whom you received a donation on behalf of a state or national legislative association event.

Full Name of Donator	Post Office Address	Value of Donation	Date Received	Name of Legislative Association

(Attach Additional Sheets if Necessary)

"I have read RSA 14-C and hereby swear or affirm that the foregoing information is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief."

Sharon M Carson
SIGNATURE OF FILER

Oct 13, 2023
DATE FILED

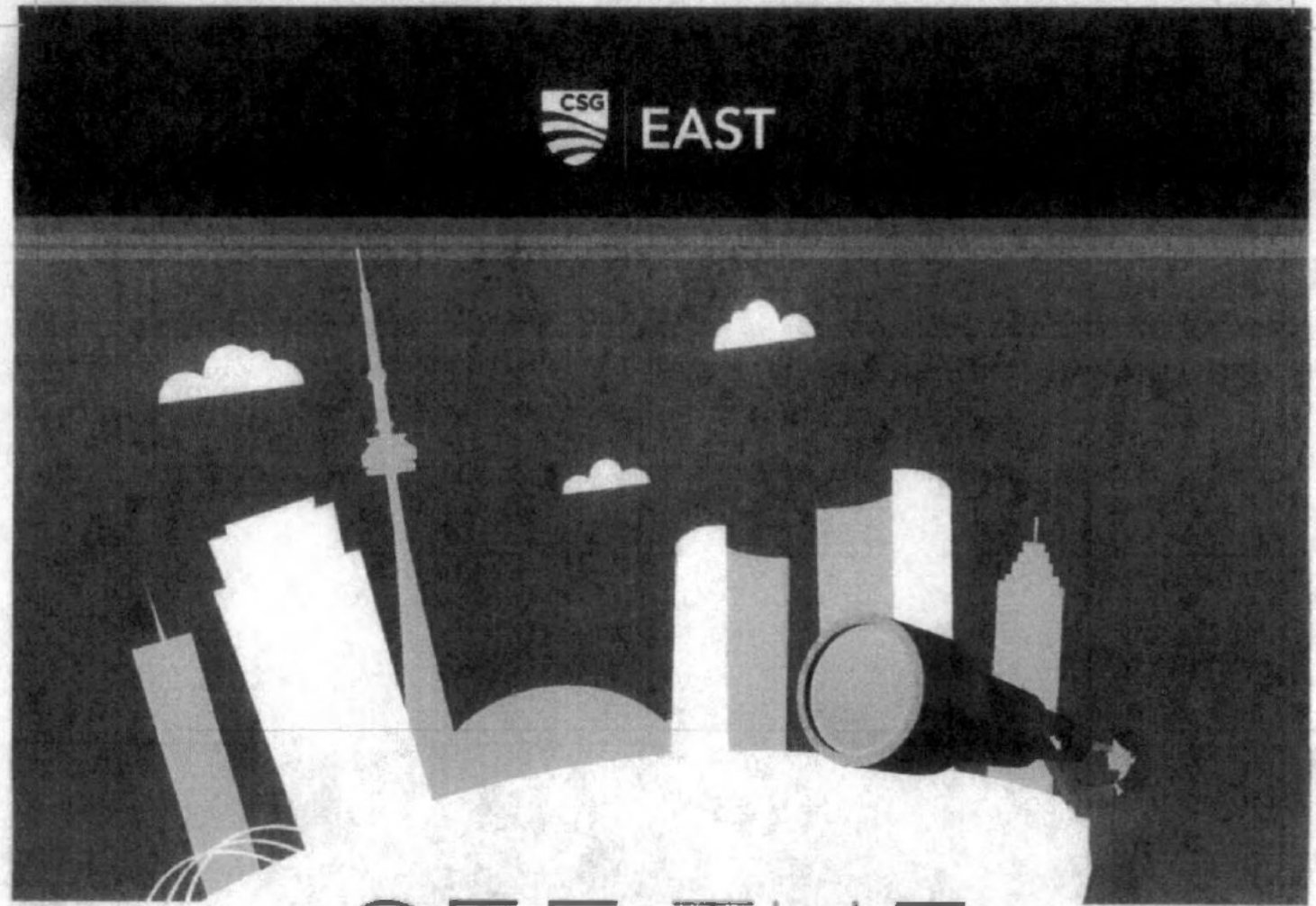
RSA 14-C:7 Penalty. Any person who knowingly fails to comply with the provisions of this chapter or knowingly files a false report shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Please provide the following information about the person filing this report.

This information will not be made public:

Home [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Return to: Secretary of State's Office, State House Room 204, Concord, NH 03301

⇒ Sandra in Sept
⇒ Duty ⇒ for receipts

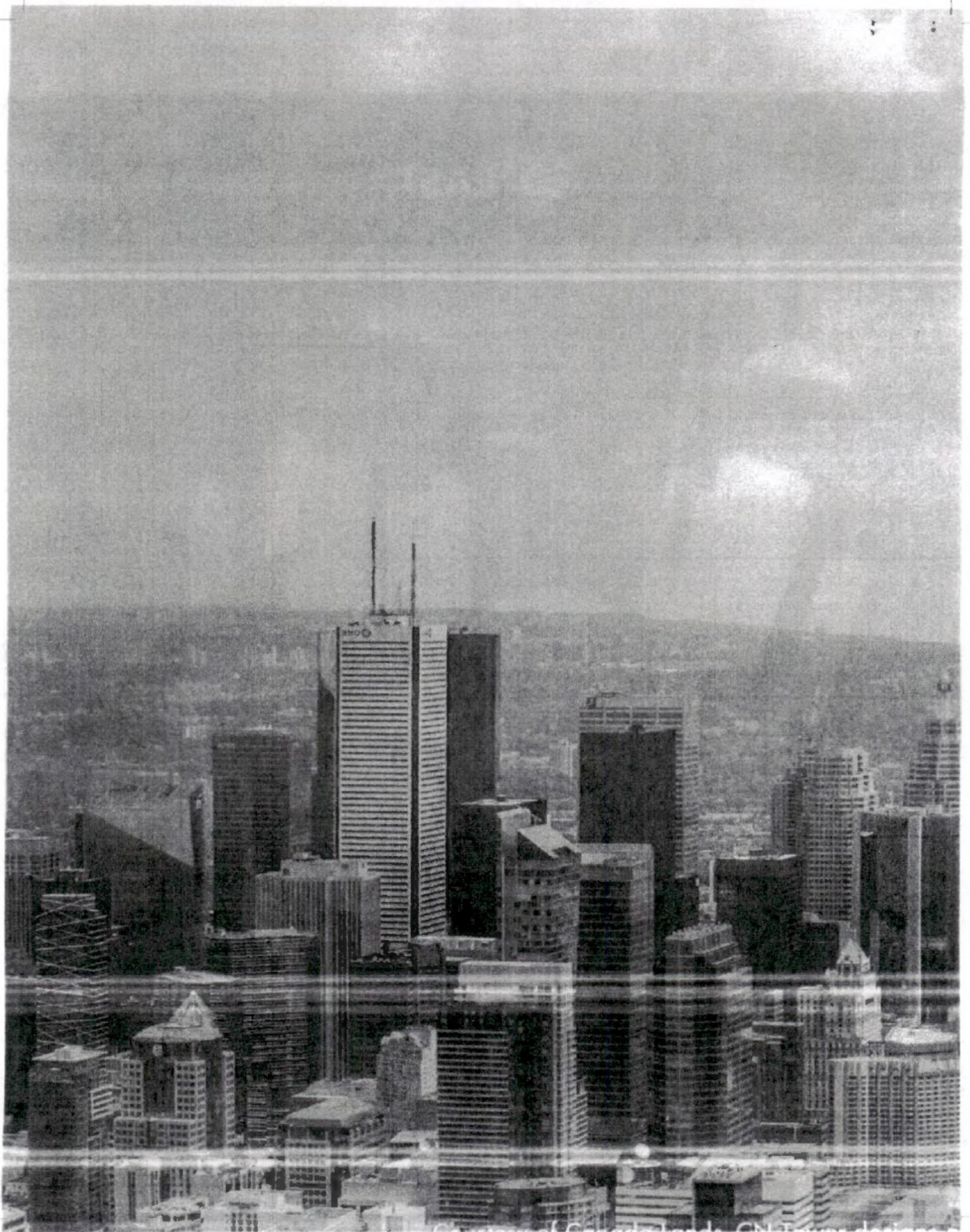


SEE THE **OTHER** SIDE

- 62nd Annual Meeting
and Regional Policy Forum -

AUGUST 20-23, 2023 | HILTON TORONTO







CSG EAST

62nd Annual Meeting and
Regional Policy Forum

Aug. 20-23, 2023

TORONTO, ONTARIO
CANADA

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WELCOME

from the 2023 CSG East
Annual Meeting Co-Chairs

Dear Colleagues,

As co-chairs of the CSG East 62nd Annual Meeting and Regional Policy Forum, it is our pleasure to welcome you to Toronto, Ontario! Toronto is a vibrant, internationally renowned city — the perfect location to complement our meeting's engaging sessions and activities.

This year's theme, *See the Other Side*, is based on the Legislative Assembly of Ontario's motto, "audi alteram partem," meaning to hear the other side. Canada and the United States share economic ties, a dedication to democratic ideals, and a long-lasting friendship. With its suggestion of a multilateral approach, our theme provides a strong guiding point for the development of policies and ideas that will be of benefit to member jurisdictions on both sides of the border.

Now more than ever, the CSG East Annual Meeting is vital to strengthening regional relationships as our areas face ever-increasing rates of change. We are grateful for your participation and look forward to an exchange of perspectives that invigorate existing ties and create new and lasting connections.

Thank you for coming. We hope you enjoy all of your conference experiences in Toronto and Ontario. If we can be of assistance during your stay, please let us know.



HON. TED ARNOTT
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario
CSG East Co-Chair



MR. JAMIE WEST
Member of Provincial Parliament, Ontario
CSG East Co-Chair

GENERAL INFORMATION

Meeting Venue

Hilton Toronto

145 RICHMOND ST. W., TORONTO, ONTARIO

Conference Registration

CONVENTION LEVEL

Saturday, Aug. 19 | 1 – 5 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 20 | 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Monday, Aug. 21 | 7 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 22 | 7 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Ontario Hospitality Desk // CONVENTION LEVEL

Maryland Hospitality Desk // CONVENTION LEVEL

CSG EAST Logistics and Policy Staff Office //
JOHNSTON, CONVENTION LEVEL

Ontario Host Office // VARLEY, CONVENTION LEVEL

Policy Staff Office // CASSON, CONVENTION LEVEL

Speakers' Briefing Room // FITZGERALD, CONVENTION LEVEL

Meeting Evaluation Form

We need your feedback. Please take a few minutes to complete the CSG East Annual Meeting evaluation form. The annual meeting is your meeting and we want to know how we can improve it. The meeting evaluation form can be found on the conference app and at the registration desk. Thank you for taking the time to give us your comments and suggestions. They help us do a better job serving you.

Dress Code

Meetings // BUSINESS CASUAL


Spouse/Guest Program // CASUAL

Executive Committee Dinner // BUSINESS CASUAL

Opening Event // CASUAL

Receptions // BUSINESS CASUAL

Ontario Province Dinner // BUSINESS CASUAL

 CSG advocates the responsible use of acohol and designated drivers by all participants at CSG functions.

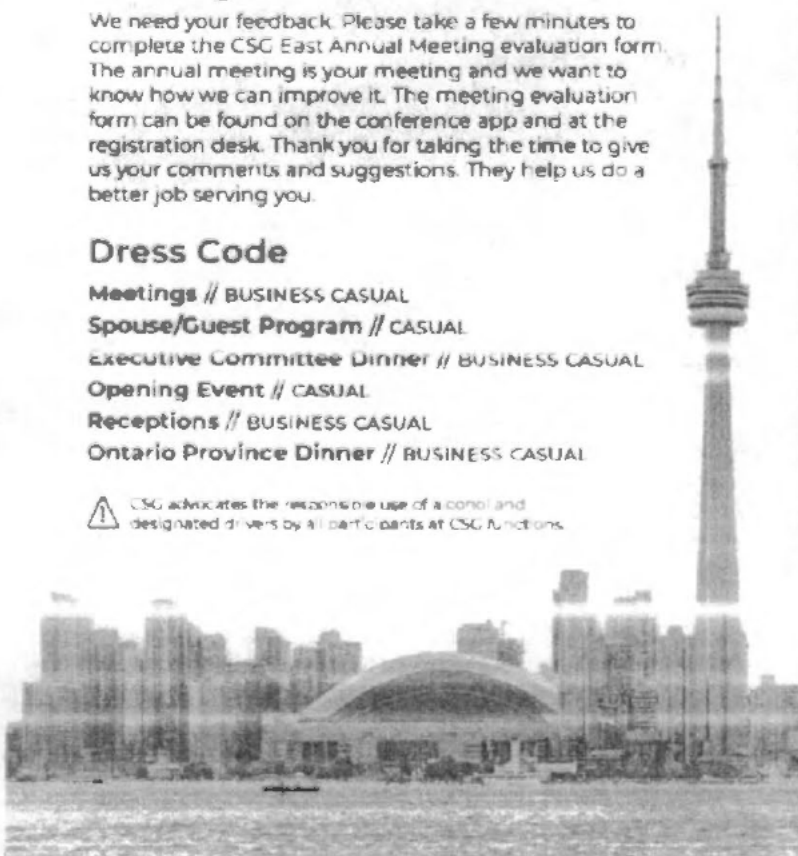
Meeting App

Planning each day at the 2023 meeting is easier with the CSG East Annual Meeting Conference app! Use your mobile phone or tablet to access the app and:

- Receive **push notifications**, important reminders, and meeting announcements throughout the meeting
- Read each morning's **daily newsletter**
- **Customize your meeting agenda** and see upcoming events throughout the meeting
- **Network with your colleagues** throughout the CSG East region, connect with other attendees, and more
- Learn more about this year's **speakers**
- Keep a **floor plan** handy for navigating the meeting
- **Give feedback** on the Annual Meeting through the app

To access the meeting app

1. Download Cvent Events from the App Store (Apple) or Google Play (Android)
2. Search CSG East and login with the email you used to register





ABOUT CSG EAST

CSG Mission

The Council of State Governments (CSG) is the nation's only regionally based, multibranch organization serving all 50 states, and commonwealths, as well as U.S. territories. Since the creation of CSG in 1933, state officials have turned to the organization as an impartial source of information to help them meet the challenge of governing. As a national organization representing all three branches of state government, CSG is uniquely suited to identify innovative approaches to common problems facing states.

CSG Eastern Regional Conference (CSG East)

The CSG East office, located in New York City since 1937, serves legislative, executive and judicial branch officials from the 11 eastern states that span from Maine to Maryland, as well as officials in Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the eastern Canadian provinces of Québec, New Brunswick, Ontario, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. CSG East educates policymakers about issues of concern to the region, encourages multistate problem-solving and partnerships, and promotes regional interests at the federal level.

The Annual Meeting & Regional Policy Forum

The CSG East Annual Meeting and Regional Policy Forum brings together policymakers from all branches of government who are within the member jurisdictions of CSG East to connect with experts from the private sector and academia to address a range of critical public policy issues facing the region. This unique event enables attendees to share ideas and network, in addition to serving as a vehicle for enhanced regional cooperation and communication.

BUSINESS PROGRAM

Saturday, August 19

2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Budget Committee Meeting

Jackson

For members of the Budget Committee only

4 - 5 p.m.

Strategic Planning Meeting

Tom Thomson

6 p.m.

Depart for Executive Committee dinner

Buses board from the University Avenue hotel exit

6:15 - 9:30 p.m.

**Executive Committee and Corporate Contributors
Dinner at the Hockey Hall of Fame**

30 Yonge Street, Toronto

By invitation only

Sunday, August 20

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

Annual Meeting Committee Breakfast Meeting

Tom Thomson

9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Executive Committee Meeting

Toronto III

Noon - 2 p.m.

Executive Committee Luncheon

Toronto II

WELCOME

Hon. Ted Arnott, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario

FINDING THE PATH FORWARD

Tanya Talaga, Anishinaabe journalist, and author

Tanya Talaga is an award-winning Anishinaabe journalist, bestselling author, and filmmaker. Tanya is a columnist at the Globe and Mail and previously worked as a journalist at the Toronto Star for more than 20 years. Talaga shares Indigenous stories from coast-to-coast-to-coast that humanize the legacy of residential schools and the enduring impacts of colonization, sharing her hope for a more inclusive and equitable future achieved by finding a path forward, together.



BUSINESS PROGRAM

2:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Education and Workforce Development

Toronto 18

Presiding: Senator Hannah Gallo, Rhode Island, Chair, CSC East Education and Workforce Development Committee

1. THE BENEFITS AND COSTS OF EXPANDING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE

Panelists

- Senator Alison Clarkson, Majority Leader, Vermont
- Senator Donna Frett Gregory, U.S. Virgin Islands
- Holly Moran, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education, Early Years and Child Care Division, Ontario

Early childhood education is a core component of building strong communities, preparing children for the future, and supporting working parents. As more parents seek quality early childhood education, costs have risen sharply, and policymakers are being pushed to find ways to expand access, increase quality, and simultaneously improve affordability and educator pay and working conditions.

This session presents a facilitated discussion on existing childhood education models in various states and provinces and the outcomes of these services. Attendees can discuss costs, strategies, and policy implications with panelists and are encouraged to share changes and innovative solutions from their own jurisdictions.



2. HOW CAN EXPANDING WORKFORCE PIPELINES ADDRESS LABOR SHORTAGES?

Panelists

- Humberto Mercader, Deputy Secretary for Strategic Initiatives, Department of Economic Development and Commerce, Puerto Rico
- Lee Umphrey, President and CEO, Eastern Maine Development Corporation
- Colby Thornton, Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Lifelong Learning Administration Corporation

Provincial and state policymakers looking to address local and national labor shortages have come to a common solution: establishing, maintaining, and improving workforce pipelines. Apprenticeships and other work-based learning opportunities, for example, are being used to incentivize and create pathways for students and career-seekers of all ages to rapidly train, upskill, and ultimately find jobs in key industries facing labor shortages. These systems can also improve employment outcomes for people of color, individuals with disabilities, and rural and low-income workers.

This session outlines various work-based learning opportunities being deployed in the region and around the continent for students and job-seekers of all kinds. Open discussion will follow a moderated panel. Attendees will be invited to share examples from their province or state, ask questions, and contribute to this region-wide dialogue.

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Departures for opening dinner

Buses board from the University Avenue hotel exit

6:00 – 9:30 p.m.

Opening Event at the Ontario Legislative Building at Queen's Park

111 Wellesley St W

Everyone is invited to attend the 62nd Annual Meeting's opening event at the Ontario Legislative Building. Surrounded by the lovely Queen's Park, the magnificent structure was built in 1893 and is a centerpiece for the City of Toronto. Enjoy a "Taste of Ontario" in a most elegant setting, as we celebrate the start of the Annual Meeting, and explore the vast diversity of cultures in Ontario and its capitol city. Junior and teen guests are welcome too! As adult attendees enjoy the evening, the junior and teen guests will make new friends and embark on a clue-solving mission as they get to explore the legislature by night. Transportation is provided from the Hilton.



Monday, August 21

7:30 – 9 a.m.

General Breakfast

Toronto I

8 a.m. – noon

Policy Committee Meetings

Multiple CSG East policy committees will meet on Monday morning, in concurrent sessions, between 8 a.m. and noon. Morning sessions will include breakfast. Take special note of start times below, many of which denote overlapping meetings.

8:00 – 9:15 a.m.

Agriculture and Rural Affairs Policy Committee

Harris

Presiding: Senator Judy Schwank, Pennsylvania, Co-Chair, CSG East Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee

Regional Roundtable Discussion – Members from each CSG East jurisdiction will be given an opportunity to share news from their home states, provinces, and territories highlighting legislative initiatives, new programs, task force results, new ideas developed over the past year, and any other issues they are dealing with.

8:00 – 9:45 a.m.

Energy and Environment Policy Committee

Toronto II

PART I: AN OVERVIEW OF CANADIAN CARBON PRICING POLICIES

Moderator: Senator Marc Pacheco, Massachusetts, Co-Chair, CSG East Energy and Environment Committee

Speaker: Dave Sawyer, Principal Economist, Canadian Climate Institute

Since 2019, Canada has required every province and territory to put a price on carbon pollution, either by designing their own system tailored to local needs, or by choosing the federal pricing system. This session will provide an overview of Canada's carbon-pricing policies and of how the revenues are being used in different jurisdictions.

8:00 – 9:45 a.m.

Transportation Policy Committee Meeting

MacDonald – Lismer

Presiding: Senator Lou DiPalma, Rhode Island, Vice Chair, CSG East Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee will hold several sessions covering critical issues addressing transportation issues relevant to the Canada and the United States.

1. RAIL SAFETY DISCUSSION

Speaker: Melissa Connolly, Assistant Vice President of Government Affairs, Association of American Railroads (AAR)

The first topic for discussion will focus on rail safety. We will hear from Melissa Connolly from the Association of American Railroads. With the recent derailments in the U.S. and the horrific 2013 Lac-Mégantic disaster, the committee will hear of steps being taken or proposed to advance rail safety across the U.S. and Canada.

In addition to the update on rail safety measures, attendees will be invited to participate in a dialogue on what their provinces and states have considered for advancing rail safety.

2. ELECTRIC VEHICLES (EVs) PANEL

Panelists:

- Senator Lou DiPalma, Rhode Island, Vice Chair, CSG East Transportation Committee
- Jordann Thirgood, Manager, Public Policy at CSA Group

The second panel will focus on the implications of the advent of electric vehicles (EVs) with a special focus on impacts to regional infrastructure. This panel will look at what is being done to prepare for the rapid deployment of EVs from a best practices perspective. The panel will examine how CSG East member jurisdictions are building out EV charging networks and also how they are managing the potential impact of EVs on tax revenues.

The Transportation Committee will break for coffee, served by the host jurisdiction. The transportation-related session begins at 10:00 a.m. (see joint session with Canada-U.S. Committee further below).



BUSINESS PROGRAM

*MTC
Maybe*

8:50 – 10:30 a.m.

Energy and Environment Policy Committee

Toronto II

PART II: STRATEGIES FOR PROMOTING BENEFICIAL ELECTRIFICATION IN BUILDINGS

Moderator: Senator Marc Pacheco, Massachusetts, Co-Chair, CSC East Energy and Environment Committee

Speakers:

- Keishaa Austin, Head of Community, Rewiring America
- Luis Aguirre-Torres, Director of Financial Planning and Analysis and Financing Solutions, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)
- Assemblymember Didi Barrett, New York; Chair, New York Assembly Committee on Energy
- Keith Burrows, Director, Low Carbon Buildings, The Atmospheric Fund
- Senator Anne Watson, Vermont; Vice Chair, Vermont Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy

There is general agreement that meeting U.S. and Canadian carbon reduction goals will require a rapid shift from technologies powered by fossil fuels to those powered by clean energy – a process known as electrification. While the region has made strides in ramping up large-scale renewables and developing an electric vehicle infrastruc-

ture, moving away from fossil fuels in the built environment – which generates nearly 40% of annual global emissions – has proven more complex.

This session will explore best practices for incentivizing building electrification, particularly in existing buildings in underserved communities, whose residents are most likely to face high energy burdens and the negative health effects of indoor air pollution.

The Committee will break for coffee, served in the Toronto Foyer from 10:30 – 10:45 a.m., before reconvening for a joint session with the agriculture and rural affairs committee at 10:45 (see "Regenerative Agriculture" below).

9:20 – 10:30 a.m.

Washington Update

Fran

Fran Boyd, Senior Vice President, Meyers and Associates, Inc. Fran Boyd, CSG East's Washington advisor on agricultural and rural issues, will give members an update on Congressional and federal issues of importance to our region.

The Committee will break for coffee, served in the Toronto Foyer from 10:30 – 10:45 a.m., before reconvening for a joint session with the energy and environmental committee at 10:45 a.m. from "Regenerative Agriculture" below.

MTC

10:00 – 11:45 a.m.

Border Transportation Infrastructure Panel

MacDonald – Lismer

Joint Session: Canada-U.S. Relations + Transportation

Speakers:

- Assemblymember Billy Jones, New York State Assembly
- Debra A. Nelson, Director, Office of Policy, Planning & Performance, New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT)
- Polina Hristeva, Director, Highways, Border and Motor Carrier policy, Transport Canada/Government of Canada

The transportation infrastructure between Canada and the U.S. is paramount in fostering economic growth, strengthening diplomatic ties, and facilitating the safe, secure, and efficient movement of people and goods across borders. This extensive network of roads, railways, bridges, ports, and airports is a critical gateway for bilateral trade that remains one of the world's largest and most dynamic trading relationships.

Efficient transportation links play a vital role in promoting cross-border commerce and the movement of people. The smooth flow of goods between the two nations enhances supply chains, boosts competitiveness, and lowers production costs for businesses on both sides of the border. During this Joint Transportation/Canada-U.S. Relations Committee meeting, we will hear from speakers on the interconnectedness and importance of integrating transportation infrastructure.

Roundtable Discussion

Attending states and provinces called in alphabetical order.

Co-Moderators:

- Senator Lou DiPalma, Rhode Island, Chair, CSG East Transportation Committee
- Assemblymember Billy Jones, New York, Chair, CSG East Canada-US Relations Committee

10:45 a.m. – noon

Regenerative Agriculture, Carbon Sequestration, and Carbon Markets

Toronto II

Joint Session: Agriculture and Rural Affairs + Energy and Environment

Speakers:

- Scott Day, Director and Chief Agronomist, Fall Line Capital
- Alan Martinez, Senior Manager, Strategic Partnerships, Cornell Atkinson Center for Sustainability
- Elizabeth Sheppard, Manager, Integrated Supply Chain and Agriculture Strategy, McCain Foods
- Assemblymember Didi Barrett, New York, Chair, New York Assembly Committee on Energy

Agriculture accounts for approximately 10 percent of North American green-house gas emissions, and President Biden has pledged \$22 billion to bolster USDA programs that will help farmers adapt to new, environmentally friendly practices. What role can states and provinces play in the future? How do carbon markets work? How do farmers benefit? What do legislators need to know?



BUSINESS PROGRAM

12:15 – 2:15 p.m.

Plenary Luncheon

Toronto 1

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) TECHNOLOGY AND EMERGING LEGISLATION

Welcome and Introductions

Hon. Ted Arnott, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, CSG East Co Chair

Opening Ceremony (presentation of colors, Canada and U.S. national anthems)

Opening Prayer and Song

Marie Gaudet

Wikwemikong First Nation located on Manitoulin Island, Ontario

Presentation of Colours

Security Officer Josh Choi, Peace Officer Michael Grant
Legislative Protective Service Honour Guard

National Anthems

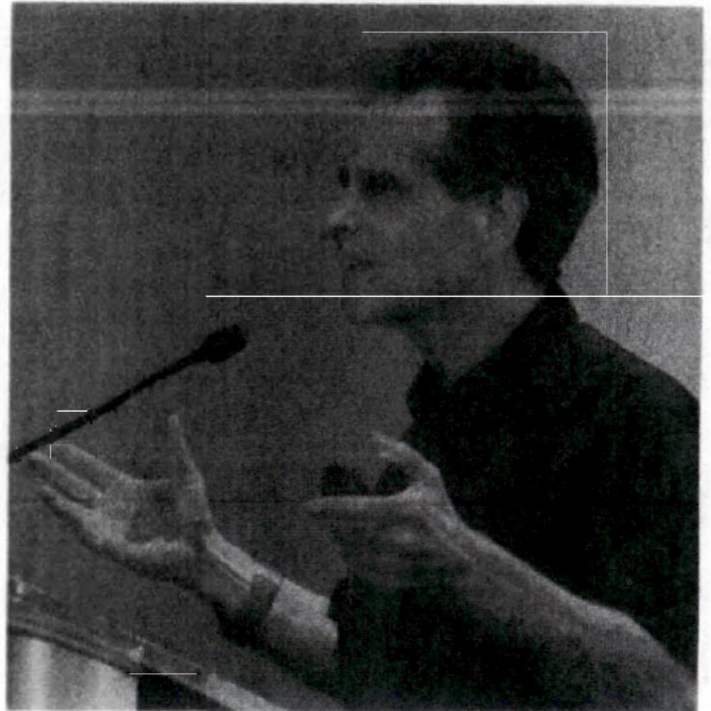
Mary Nahwegahbow

Moderator: Nora Young, Host of CBC Radio's Spark, Author of *The Virtual Self*

Panelists:

- Tony Gaffney, President and CEO, Vector Institute for Artificial Intelligence
- Professor Anton Korinek, University of Virginia, Department of Economics and Darden School of Business, David M. Rubenstein Fellow, Brookings Institution, Research Fellow at the CEPR and the Economics of AI Lead at the Centre for the Governance of AI

Experts are hailing the sooner-than-expected arrival of a revolution in Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology. This upheaval in computer technology, like many before it, brings both promising new possibilities and grave threats to the industries and economies that put it to widespread use. Leading thinkers are calling for effective guardrails as AI technology spreads, and our panel of leading AI experts will address how Canada and the United States compare with allies and rivals in their respective digital strategies to exploit and control this new technology. Most importantly, panelists will explore how elected officials can support the tremendous opportunities for AI to benefit society, while minimizing the risks.



2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Afternoon concurrent sessions

These three sessions overlap and will all take place between 2:30 and 4:30 p.m.

1. FISCAL ROUNDTABLE

Tom Thomson

State Fiscal Outlook: Current trends in state spending, tax collections, and use of federal funds

Moderator: Senator Lou D'Allesandro, New Hampshire, Chair, CSG Budget Committee

Speaker: Brian Sigrütz, Director of Fiscal Studies, National Association of State Business Officers (NASBO)

This session will begin with a short presentation on how states are adjusting to slower revenue growth and the phase out of federal COVID-19 aid and preview the areas of budgetary focus as states enter fiscal year 2024. This will be followed by a roundtable discussion on current fiscal and budgetary trends in the states.

*VNT year end -
July 1-15 2024 - 2025
Austin -
H. J. P. - 7/10*

2 COUNCIL ON COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

MacDonald - Limer

The State of Equitable Governance, Part III (Continued from the 2019 Annual meeting)

Moderator: Delegate Joseline Peña-Melnik

Speakers:

- Delegate Adrienne Jones, Speaker of the House of Delegates, Maryland
- Senator Teresa Ruiz, Senate Majority Leader, New Jersey
- Peter Croff, former Colorado Senate President
- Colby Thornton, Vice President of Diversity Equity and Inclusion, Lifelong Learning Administration Corporation
- Sarita Turner, Senior Fellow, Prosperity Now

This is the third part of an ongoing series of discussions activated in 2019 during the CSC Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh. Just as BIPOC (Black, Brown, Indigenous, and other People of Color) communities face an array of challenges in society today ranging from centuries of systemic racism to persistent inequality, legislators of color are faced with the same challenges, often in ways unique to legislative environments. These multi-pronged discussions are designed not only to identify those challenges, but to offer effective strategies for BIPOC legislators to better navigate hostile institutional environments and, through struggle, find wins and arrive at the best outcomes for their constituents. In addition, this session will emphasize the critical importance of equity as central to all policymaking and the achievement of better governance. We'll prove that discourse on equitable governance is not just an important exercise for BIPOC legislators, but that it is an important exercise for all legislators.

3 AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Harris

The Farm Bills - A Look at Canada and the United States

Speakers:

- Josh Tonsager, Alex Noffsinger, and Allie Lock, Staff members for U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow, Chair of U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee
- Tom Rosser, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

The Committee will convene experts from the U.S. and Canada to examine and compare the Farm Bills in the U.S. and Canada. How here they are different and where are they are the same? What is the status of the legislation in each country and what might they mean for the future of North American farming?



5 - 6 p.m.

ELA Graduates and Toll Fellows reception

Osgoode
For ELA and Toll Fellows

6 - 7 p.m.

Meet the Members Reception

Toronto II

7 p.m.

Dinner on your own

9:30 - 11:30 p.m.

SCAC reception

Osgoode

Tuesday, August 22

7:30 - 9:00 a.m.

General Breakfast

Toronto I

7:30 - 8:30 a.m.

Nominations Committee Breakfast Meeting

MacDonald

For members and invitees of the Nominations Committee only



BUSINESS PROGRAM

8:00 – 9:45 a.m.

Policy Sessions – Breakfast Meetings

Multiple CSG East policy committees will meet on Tuesday morning, in concurrent sessions, between 8 a.m. and noon. Morning sessions will include breakfast. Take special note of start times below, many of which denote overlapping meetings.

1. COUNCIL ON COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

Toronto II

Disruptive Equitable Design: Protecting our communities and ending displacement

Moderator: Delegate Joseline Peña-Melnyk

Speakers:

- Peter Croff, former Colorado Senate President
- Tommy Joshua, Founder and CEO, North Philly Peace Park
- Santa Turner, Senior Fellow, Prosperity Now
- Zulene Mayfield, Chester Residents Concerned for Quality Living
- Representative Chris Rabb, Pennsylvania
- Representative Enrique Sánchez, Rhode Island

Most BIPOC policymakers represent communities regularly and disproportionately hit by injustice, inequity, and the calamities or consequences resulting from either. These issues are extraordinarily destructive to unique populations that are mostly low wealth and low-resourced Black and Brown demographics, particularly in urban or metropolitan regions, are constantly battered by issues around housing unaffordability, violence, broken educa-

tion systems, health disparities, and threats from pollution and climate crisis. This discussion will explore strategies and suggestions to policymakers on how they can better respond to these struggles and best collaborate with their underserved constituents.

2. HEALTH

Harris

The Mental Health Crisis

Presiding: Senator Gustavo Rivera, New York

Speaker: Delegate Kevin Harris, Maryland

A growing, tragic dilemma confronts the U.S. and Canada, with millions of people experiencing mental illness and substance abuse problems every year. In any given year, 1-in-5 people in Canada and the U.S. will personally experience a mental health issue with significant physical, social, and economic consequences. It is estimated that 50% of the U.S. population will experience mental illness at some point in their lives. Many state-level policies — health, housing, criminal, and educational — are essential to improving mental health outcomes and reducing the growing burden of mental health issues on individuals, communities, and states/provinces. The COVID-19 pandemic focused greater attention on this growing problem, particularly the increase of mental health problems among adolescents and young adults. States are playing a major role, developing policies to address the prevention and treatment to improve mental health and reduce the impact of mental illnesses. Policies for expanding Medicare coverage, addressing social determinants, global budgeting, and expanding reimbursement are among the policy approaches. Join U.S. and Canadian officials to discuss the unique challenges and innovations that emerged in 2023.

3. MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

Tom Thomson

Military Family Resilience

Presiding: Senator Sharon Carson, Majority Leader, New Hampshire

Moderator: Chris Arnold, Defense-State Liaison Office, U.S. Department of Defense

Panelists:

- Melissa Willette, New England Region Liaison, U.S. Department of Defense State Liaison Office
- Stephanie Shaw, Project Manager, Corrections and Reentry, CSC Justice Center

This panel will discuss a series of topics where state policymakers can play a role in supporting the health and well-being of military family members. Topics will include concurrent juvenile jurisdiction at military installations to allow state courts to provide more appropriate outcomes for harmful behavior in children and youth, approaches to the interstate portability of licensed professional mental health providers, and ways in which states have addressed military interpersonal violence to support victims, hold perpetrators accountable, and prevent future misconduct to ensure military dependents do not face gaps in support and protection.

9:45 – 10:00 a.m.

Break

Coffee served in the Toronto Foyer

10:00 – 11:45 a.m.

Policy Sessions II

1. ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Lismer

Roundtable on State Policies Governing PFAS

Moderator: Representative Lori Gramlich, Maine, House Chair, Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Speakers:

- Senator Katie Fry Hester, Maryland; Senate Chair, Joint Committee on Cyber Security, Information Technology, and Biotechnology
- Representative Tom Cotterill, Rhode Island

In recent years, a growing number of states have established policies to address contamination from per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS), which have been used in the manufacture of thousands of products, including cookware, cosmetics, food packaging, carpets, and firefighting foams. In this roundtable discussion, officials will discuss legislative and regulatory efforts to eliminate exposure to PFAS in drinking water and sludge, ban or phase out its use in a wide range of products, and pro-

2. HEALTH COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL ON COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

Toronto II

Organization and Financing of Healthcare in the U.S. and Canada: Similar Problems, Different Approaches

Moderator: Charles Ellison, Policy Consultant, Council on Communities of Color

Speakers:

- Shirley Girouard, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, CSG East Health Policy Consultant, co-director, geriatric workforce program, SUNY Downstate
- Jeffrey Novak, Acting Financial Accountability Officer, Financial Accountability Office of Ontario
- Senator Gustavo Rivera, CSG East Health Committee Chair

The COVID-19 pandemic strained the healthcare systems in the U.S. and Canada in terms of human and economic costs. In a recent survey, only 18 percent of Canadians believed the health care system was working well and 54 percent believed change was needed. Lack of federal funding and inefficient provincial management were named as causes of the problem. A U.S. Gallup Poll survey had similar results, showing that 70 percent of Americans felt the health system was "in a state of crisis" or having "major problems." Access and inequitable health services, insurance coverage, and costs of care were cited as major issues.

Many states and provinces are identifying causes of the problem and developing funding, organization, and care delivery policies and regulations to bring about needed change. This session provides a forum to learn from other states and provinces about their policy and regulatory innovations for funding, cost containment, equity, etc.





BUSINESS PROGRAM

12:15 – 2:15 p.m.

Plenary Luncheon

Toronto I

THE COSTS OF THE NORTH AMERICAN AFFORDABLE HOUSING CRISIS

Welcome

Mr. Jamie West, Member of Provincial Parliament, Ontario, CSG East Co-Chair

Moderator:

Jennifer Keesmaat, Urban Planner, Ontario

Speakers:

- Professor Tim Aubry, School of Psychology and Senior Researcher, University of Ottawa, co-chair, Canadian Housing First Network
- Ryan Fecteau, Senior Advisor, Community and Strategic Initiatives, Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future, Maine
- Mike Moffat, Assistant Professor, Business, Economics and Public Policy, Ivey School of Business, Western University, Ontario

In every region of the U.S. and Canada, a worsening housing crisis is threatening to put homeownership out of reach for many, squeeze family budgets for renters and homeowners alike, and push thousands into emergency shelters or onto the street. The lack of housing supply, especially affordable housing, is now driving

negative outcomes in education, health, and employment as well. In 2021, nearly one-third of all U.S. households – and half of all renters – spent more than 30 percent of

their income on housing, which is considered the threshold for being “cost burdened.” In Canada, the situation is no better. More than 20 percent of Canadian households exceeded this affordability benchmark in 2021, including one-third of all renters.

Join policy experts from the United States and Canada to discuss strategies for better aligning efforts to improve access to affordable housing with actions to decrease homelessness, remove barriers to housing assistance, and strengthen partnerships with local communities.

2:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Canada-U.S. Relations

Tom Thomson

Presiding: Assemblymember Billy Jones, New York, Co-Chair, CSG East Canada-U.S. Relations Committee

Regional Roundtable: Assemblymember Jones will discuss his efforts to set up the Task Force on New York-Canada Relations, which was launched by New York State Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie in March. The task force seeks to foster the relationship between New York and Canada, raise awareness of the importance of the relationship to all New Yorkers, not just those on the border. Similar task forces on bilateral relations in other CSG East jurisdictions will also be considered.

Members will discuss challenges in each CSG East jurisdiction as border states and provinces continue to work towards improved relations that were severely disrupted during the pandemic. Issues to be reviewed include cross-border transportation, tourism, border security, economic development, as well as cooperation at the federal level.

3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

OFF-SITE: Health Policy visit to South Riverdale Community Health Centre

(20 Participants maximum)

Bus boards from the University Avenue hotel exit

Participants will have an opportunity to visit South Riverdale Community Health Centre, a non-profit, multi-service organization that provides primary healthcare, social and community outreach services with an emphasis on health promotion and disease prevention primarily to people of East Toronto. This center is a model for CSC East jurisdictions as discussed at last year's annual meeting plenary, "Opioids and Harm Reduction: States Act." Those joining the visit will have an opportunity to see the facility and speak with staff about the center's programs aimed at prevention and reducing the harm caused by opioids and other substances. Space is limited.

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

2024 Maryland Reception

Toronto III

6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

2023 Closing Dinner hosted by Ontario

Toronto Ballroom I & II

Wednesday, August 23

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

Executive Committee Closing Business Session

Tom Thomson

8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Farewell Brunch Plenary

Toronto I

Jamie West, Member of Provincial Parliament, Ontario, CSC East Co-Chair

BREAKING THE ICE WITH CHAI AND CHUTNEY

Speaker: Harnarayan Singh, play-by-play commentator, *Hockey Night in Canada*, and national bestselling author of *One Game at a Time*

From one of the distinct and vibrant voices behind Hockey Night in Canada comes the

story of pursuing a dream and defying the odds. Harnarayan Singh invites audiences to experience his improbable and incredible journey, giving them a look at the power of perseverance and community. Like many of his hockey-loving peers, Alberta-native Harnarayan Singh dreamt about a career within the sanctum of the sport they idolized. But, there was a slight difference – he didn't look like his classmates nor the broadcasters on television.

Whether you're working in a classroom, corporate setting or household, Harnarayan shares the lessons learned from his experiences to explain why incorporating diversity, equity and inclusion into an organization's DNA is the only way forward. Through his memorable stories, he helps guide audiences through challenging and emotional conversations. He reminds us that such discussions are wholly necessary for organizations to progress through equitable ways.

FAREWELL

The Council of State Governments is a non-partisan organization of state officials from all three branches that provides a forum for members of any party affiliation to share best practices. We do not advocate for or against specific legislation.



IN MEMORIAM

CSC East celebrates and remembers the lives of our colleagues who passed this year. All were important, thoughtful legislators who were committed to service and giving back. They are greatly missed.

*"Everybody can
be great because
everybody can
serve"*

MARTIN LUTHER KING



Hon. Sheila Oliver, Lieutenant Governor

NEW JERSEY

Sheila Oliver was first elected to the New Jersey Assembly in 2004, and in 2010 she became the first Black woman to serve as Assembly Speaker. In 2018, Oliver was elected Lieutenant Governor, becoming the first African American to hold statewide office in New Jersey. Oliver was an active member of the CSC East Executive Committee during her tenure in the Legislature, and served on the host committee for the 2012 Annual Meeting in Atlantic City.



Sen. Mary Ellen Goodwin

RHODE ISLAND

Sen. Mary Ellen Goodwin was first elected to serve Rhode Island Senate District 1 in 1987 and served until 2023. Her many legislative accomplishments include work in health care and quality elder care on behalf of underprivileged Rhode Islanders. Goodwin, who also served as Senate majority whip, was a good friend of CSG East who served as regional co-chair and co-chair of the annual meeting in 2000. She served on the CSC East Executive Committee for 23 years.



Rep. Steve Kulik

MASSACHUSETTS

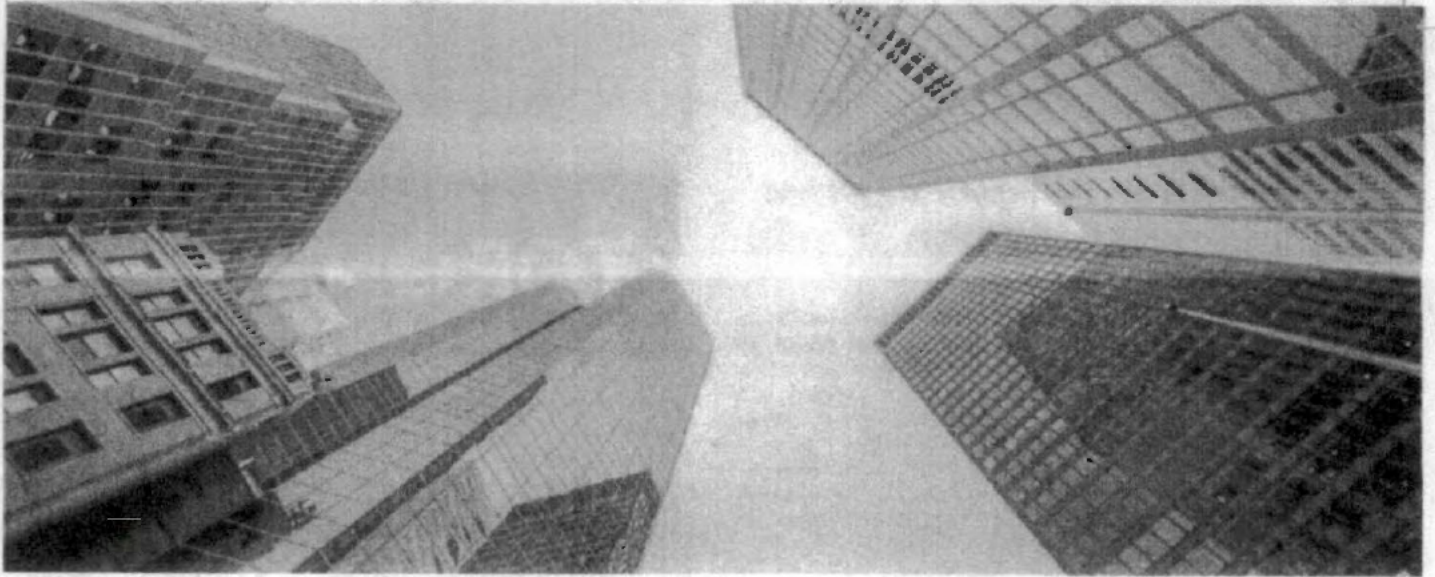
Rep. Steve Kulik served the Massachusetts 1st Franklin District from 1993-2019. Prior to serving in the Legislature, he was a Hampshire County commissioner and a member of the Massachusetts Board of Selectmen. Kulik was an active, dedicated CSG East member. For nearly 25 years, he was a fixture at the CSG East Annual Meeting, an active member of the CSG East Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, and served on the CSG East Executive Committee for nearly 20 years.



Rep. Quentin "Q" Williams

CONNECTICUT

Rep. Quentin "Q" Williams was first elected to the Connecticut House of Representatives in 2018, and served as co-chair of the committees on aging and housing. He was also director of policy and advocacy for Excellence Community Schools, a charter school system in Stamford, Connecticut. Williams' energetic, enthusiastic, caring and infectious personality was evident as an active member of the CSG East Council on Communities of Color, a graduate of the CSG East Eastern Leadership Academy, and as a CSG National Toll Fellow.



GUEST PROGRAMS

The CSC East Annual Meeting continues to be family friendly. Adult and Junior/Teen guests (ages 6 to 17) at the annual meeting are invited to attend fun and exciting activities selected just for them.

Adult guests will enjoy:



Monday, Aug. 21, 2023

Toronto Sightseeing Excursions — Get to know Toronto! Sightseeing day includes an opportunity to enjoy some of the city's top attractions and most iconic landmarks. Hop on board a double decker bus for a trip to the **CN (Canadian National) Tower** — one of the world's tallest towers at a height of 1,815.5 feet (553.3 m). Upon arrival,

revolving **360 The Restaurant** for lunch. A relaxing harbor boat cruise follows, providing an opportunity to take in one of North America's fastest growing skylines, contrasted by a trip past the **Toronto Island Park** — a green oasis located just across from the busy downtown.



Tuesday, Aug. 22, 2023

Art & Shop Excursions — The **McMichael Canadian Art Collection** in nearby Kleinburg, Ontario, features some of Canada's best-known painters along with First Nations and Inuit artworks housed in a gallery surrounded by a beautiful, natural setting. Upon arrival at the McMichael, you will be divided into smaller groups for a 1.5 hour guided tour.

"If you drop" at one of the largest shopping complexes in the Toronto area, featuring more than 200 retail stores, restaurants and entertainment outlets. En route, you will be provided with a voucher that can be redeemed at any food location at Vaughan Mills.

GUEST PROGRAMS

Junior/teen delegate activities will delight and excite:

Saturday, Aug. 19, 2023

For those junior/teen delegates whose parents are attending the Executive Committee Dinner: **You Shoot, You Score!** — The world's largest hockey collection awaits you in Toronto. The **Hockey Hall of Fame** is a celebration of all things ice hockey, both Canadian, American and international. Go one-on-one against life-size, animated versions of today's greatest goalies or take the host seat as a television anchorperson and call the play-by-play of a hockey game. You will explore themed exhibits dedicated to the game's greatest players, teams and achievements, and you will even visit a replica NHL dressing room.

Sunday, Aug. 20, 2023

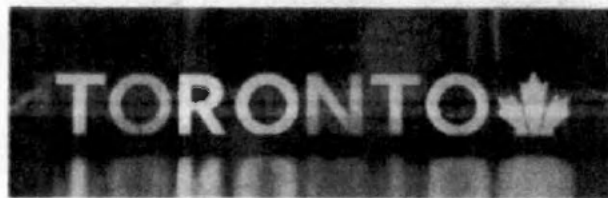
Whodunit Parliament Style — We have a great mystery on our hands and none other than the junior/teen delegates can solve it. Get to know other kids during a fun and interactive whodunit mystery challenge, where you will learn more about the Ghosts of Queen's Park and explore the Legislature by night. Youth should accompany their parents/guardians on the bus to/from the opening event at the Ontario Legislative Building.



Monday, Aug. 21, 2023

ACTIVITY 1 | DAYTIME PROGRAM

Thrilling Adventures — Experience thrills and chills at **Canada's Wonderland**, Canada's largest and grandest amusement park and a must-do on this conference for youth. Here, thrill-seekers can enjoy more than 70 rides including 17 roller coasters. Ride the Yukon Striker, the world's fastest, tallest and longest dive roller coaster, or try the new Lundra Twister, which is a giant 360-degree spinning swing ride. Children's areas are available for younger guests, and there are daily shows and live events — something for everyone. Participants will be divided into smaller groups based on age and interests upon arrival at the park, and parents need not worry — there will be plenty of adult supervisors to accompany and assist.



ACTIVITY 2 | EVENING PROGRAM

Trivia Eh? — After a busy day, unwind at the Youth Club with a delicious, Canadian-themed buffet and fun activities, including minute-to-win-it games and trivia challenges. The evening will also offer a visit to the must-see **Toronto sign located in front of Toronto City Hall** across the street from the hotel. Since its installation in 2015 for the Pan Am Games, the colorfully illuminated sign is one of the city's top photo-op stops.

Tuesday, Aug. 22, 2023

ACTIVITY 1 | DAYTIME PROGRAM

Mission: Explore Toronto — Discover Canada's biggest city during a fun-packed day, starting with an opportunity to take in Toronto's best views from its highest vantage point — the 1,815.5 feet (553.3 m) tall **CN (Canadian National) Tower**. You will hop on a glass elevator and be whisked up to an observation level offering breathtaking inside and outside vantage points of the surrounding area. Will you be brave enough to walk across the famous glass floor? Afterwards, lunch takes place at the **Rec Room** — a fun arcade space featuring more than 80 games. In the afternoon, kids aged 6 to 12 will join the crew and search for treasure on a **Pirate Life cruise**, while teens will visit the **Museum of Illusions** for an intriguing, entertaining — and of course highly Instagrammable — visual experience like none other.

ACTIVITY 2 |
EVENING PROGRAM

The Great Toronto Scavenger Hunt — What better way to explore and learn about a new place and have lots of fun with your new friends than on a scavenger hunt? That's exactly what this evening call about as you take part in the Great Toronto Scavenger Hunt. The night starts with a delicious meal at the Youth Club before the quest begins. Can you gather everything needed to successfully complete the tasks? The quest ends at the **Ripley's Aquarium of Canada**, where you'll have a chance to make some discoveries of the aquatic kind before the close of this adventurous day.





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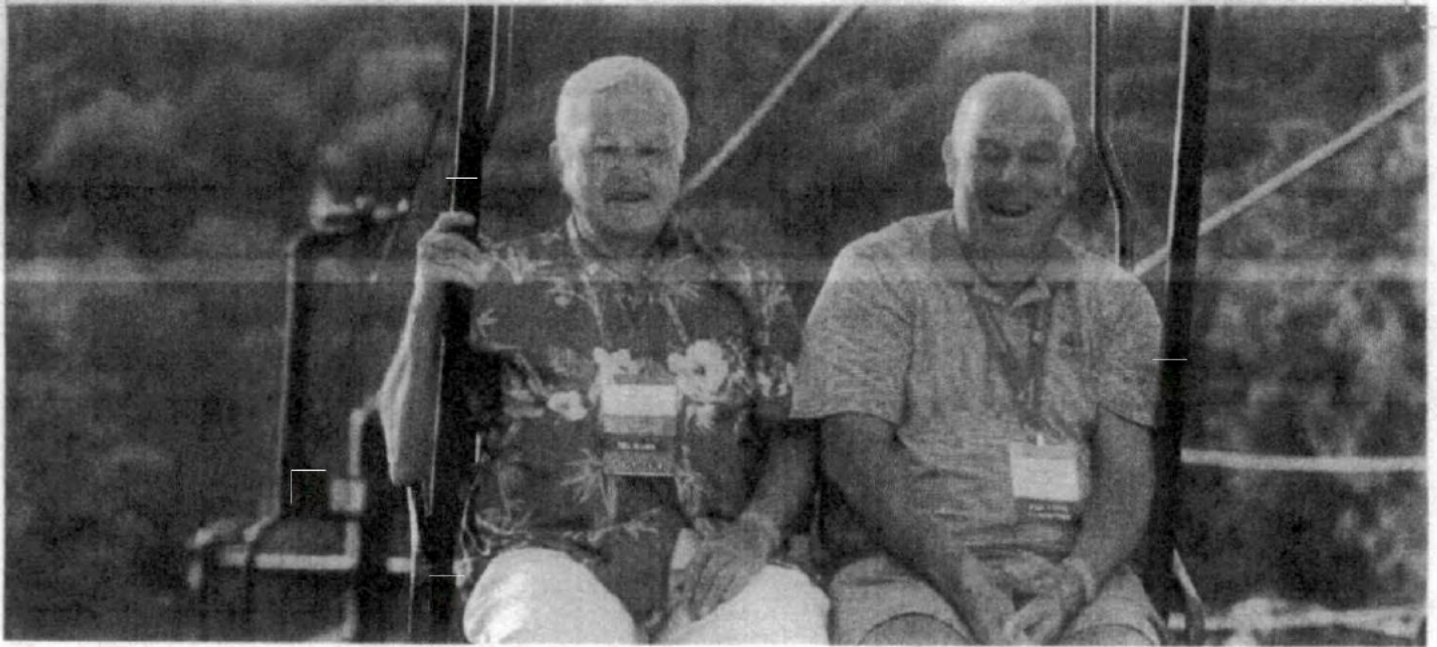
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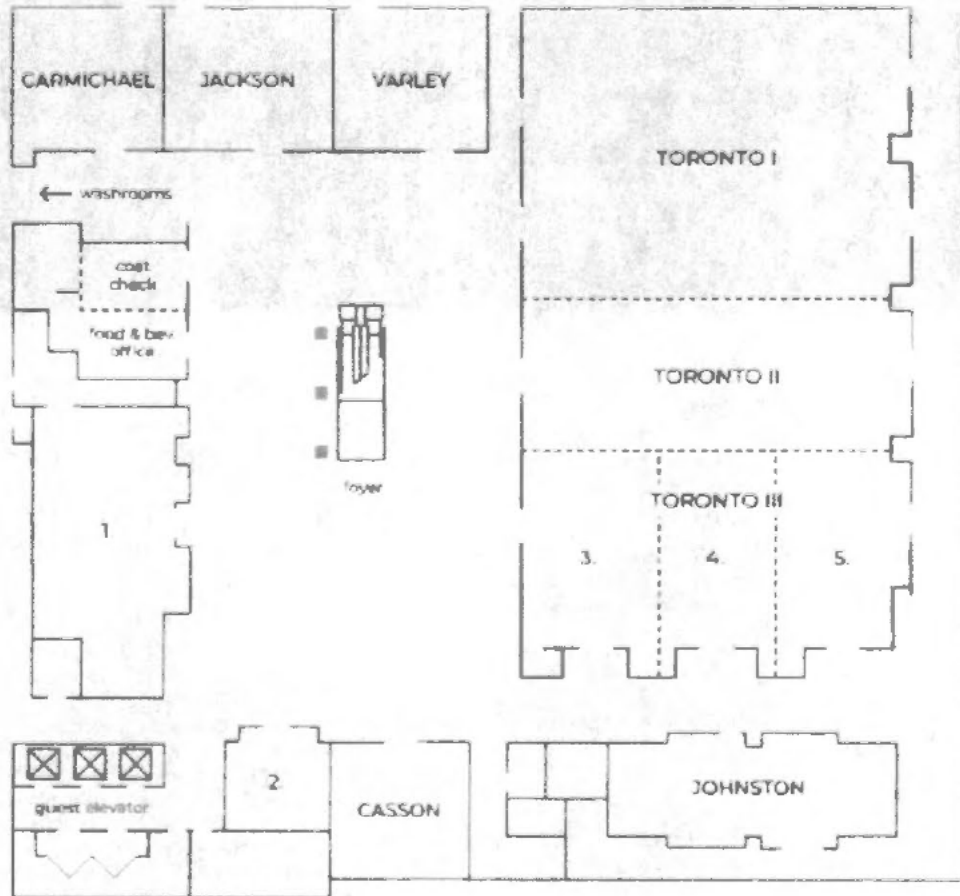
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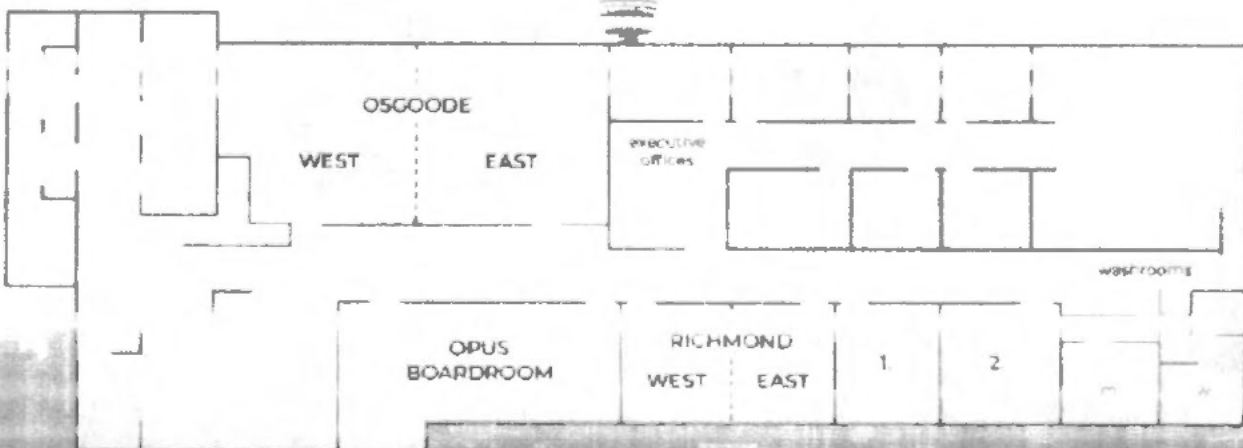
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- 1. Tom Thomson
- 2. Fitzgerald
- 3. Toronto: Harris
- 4. Toronto: Macdonald
- 5. Toronto: Lismer



THIRD FLOOR

- 1. Adelaide
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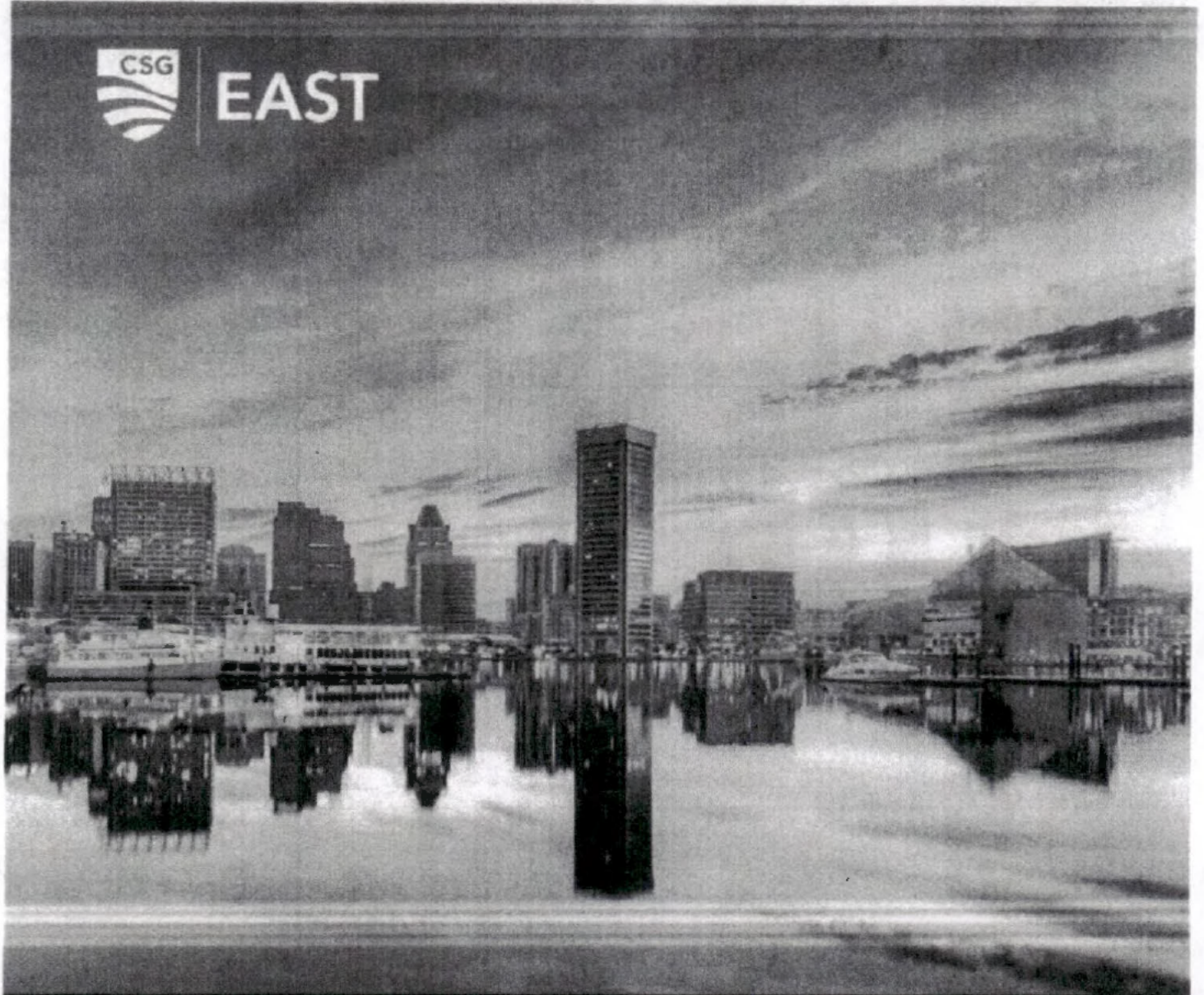
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