



CONFERENCE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION

THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ARCTIC REGION

Nuuk, 10 April 2014

The Honorable Leona Aglukkaq
Minister of the Arctic Council

Dear Minister,

Please allow me to start by thanking you for your participation in the meeting of the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (SCPAR) in Ottawa on 24 February 2014. Your commitment to the North and message to bring the Arctic cooperation back to the people in the North was well received among the members of the Committee. Your participation at the meeting and dialogue with the members of the Standing Committee is in line with the longstanding tradition of close collaboration and dialogue between the Arctic Council and the Arctic parliamentary cooperation.

An important venue for dialogue and exchange of information between the Arctic Council and the Standing Committee is the meetings of the Senior Arctic Officials. Upon request a representative of the Arctic parliamentary cooperation has always been given the opportunity to address the SAO meetings. The Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee was present at the meeting of the Senior Arctic Officials in Yellowknife on 26 – 27 March 2014, but a request to address the SAO meeting and inform about the activities of SCPAR was rejected.

This historic decision by the Canadian Chairmanship of the Arctic Council to reject a request from the Vice-Chair of SCPAR to address an Arctic Council meeting was very disappointing. I hope, however, that your participation at the SCPAR meeting in Ottawa will set the example of future cooperation between our organizations.

Yours sincerely,

Sign.

Sara Olsvig
Chair of SCPAR