

The Day Report

The Newsletter of Senator Joseph A. Day

Volume 7, Issue 10

Summer 2007

Hello and Welcome to the latest edition of the Day Report! After a demanding spring session, the Senate has adjourned for the summer and I am happy to be home in Hampton, New Brunswick spending time with family and friends.

Despite the political uncertainty, which often prevails during a minority government, the Senate continues to work diligently on behalf of Canadians. Each of the Committees on which I sit has been very productive this session; The **National Security & Defence Committee** released five major reports, which I have discussed in more detail later. The **Subcommittee on Veterans' Affairs** released two of its own reports, and was particularly active due to the commemorative ceremonies for the 90th Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. The **Anti-Terrorism Committee**, which was formed to review the anti-terrorism legislation enacted in December 2001, released its findings in a report entitled 'Fundamental Justice in Extraordinary Times'. And finally, the **National Finance Committee**, of which I am Chair, spent a significant amount of time studying the issue of Fiscal Balance, before concluding the session by studying the impact of the Budget Implementation Act, Bill C-52.

As Co-Chairperson of the Canada-China Legislative Association, I had the opportunity to travel to Moscow, Russia as well as Beijing, China. These meetings strengthen diplomatic ties and provide Canadian parliamentarians with an opportunity to discuss issues of mutual interest with Chinese law makers. In the late spring I also had the opportunity to represent Canada at the bi-annual meeting of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Madeira, Portugal. While travelling I find that foreign dignitaries have a great deal of respect for Canada. We are viewed as a prosperous, progressive, and just society which leads the international community by example.

As you read this latest edition of the Day Report, I hope you will learn something new about the Senate as an institution, and the work that I do on behalf of the people of Saint John-Kennebecasis. As always your questions, comments & suggestions for improvements are welcome.

Si vous désirez recevoir ce bulletin en français, veuillez contacter mon bureau.

If you wish to receive future editions of the newsletter in electronic format, or if you would like to have your name removed from my distribution list, please let us know.

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Senator Day is a man of many hats!

A Tribute to Vimy Ridge

On April 9th, 1917 in a country across the Atlantic, Canadian soldiers fought in a battle that many people now consider the birth of our unified nation. It was at the infamous Battle of Vimy Ridge, 90 years ago, that soldiers from across Canada joined together in the first entirely Canadian unit, in an effort to take control of the Vimy Ridge area. This area in northern France had been a German stronghold for more than two years before this historic battle. On those plains, which were officially declared Canadian land in France in 1922, 3598 Canadian soldiers died, and over 5000 more were injured. The Battle of Vimy Ridge marked a profound turning point in the First World War, and has become a defining moment in the history of this nation.



The Canadian National Vimy Memorial.
Photo courtesy of Pvt. Taylor Lowry, PWOR

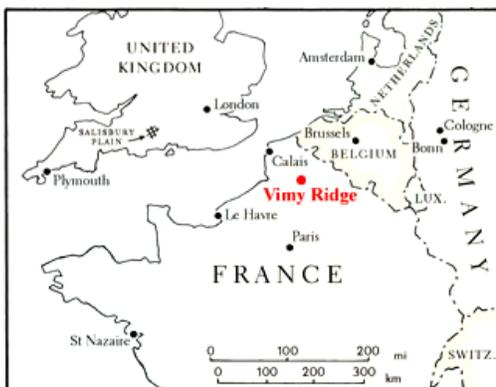
On April 9th 2007, Veterans, students and government officials alike joined together in a ceremony to commemorate our fallen soldiers and to unveil the newly restored monument. The Senate Subcommittee on Veterans' Affairs had the honour of attending the ceremony, and I was proud to have the opportunity to witness this important event in person. The ceremony was special not only because of the presence of many of our veterans, but also because of the emphasis it placed on Canadian youth. In an initiative to promote increased awareness of our proud history, 3598 Canadian high school students – one for every soldier who died during the four-day attack – were selected to make their own pilgrimage to

Vimy Ridge. What has resulted from this project is a renewed interest in Canada's military past, and an effort to keep the remembrance of the sacrifices made on behalf of the citizens of our great nation.

The 90th Anniversary and Rededication Ceremony were wonderful tributes to our fallen soldiers. The ceremony was made more poignant by the deaths of 6 soldiers in Afghanistan only a day before. The sacrifices of our military personnel both in the past and the present should never be forgotten, lest we forget what it means to be free and Canadian.



Names of the deceased soldiers are engraved on all sides of the memorial.
Photo courtesy of Pvt. Taylor Lowry, PWOR



Vimy Ridge is located in north eastern France, an important strategic location during the Great War.

Did you know...

- An estimated 200,000 soldiers of all nationalities died during the combined attacks on Vimy Ridge?
- The Vimy Memorial is Canada's largest war memorial?
- There are 11 285 names engraved on the memorial; those of the Canadian soldiers who have no known grave.
- The restoration is Veterans' Affairs largest project to date. Work commenced December 2004, and was completed for the 90th Anniversary in April 2007.

The Simplified Passport Renewal Program

The delays and line-ups that plagued Canadians waiting for passports were unacceptable and we have been working hard to have that situation rectified by the government. As a result, Passport Canada has announced that they will begin implementing a series of updates to the application process. These updates are designed to simplify and improve the passport issuing system without jeopardizing the security of the Canadian passport.

The new measures include:

- A simplified renewal process, whereby Canadians who hold a valid passport and meet eligibility requirements need not submit proof of citizenship or a guarantor declaration.
- A simplified guarantor policy, which would allow most adult Canadian passport holders to act as a guarantor for a first-time applicant.
- Opening of new passport offices in various locations, increasing staff in large volume areas and increasing working hours of current passport offices in an attempt to better manage the current volume of applications.

These new measures will come into place between August and October. Citizens will be able to file their applications electronically, as well as in person and by mail. We will be monitoring the effectiveness of these changes.



- An adult passport costs \$87
- A passport for a child 3-16 costs \$37
- A passport for a child under 3 costs \$22

For more information, please visit the Passport Canada website at <http://www.pptc.gc.ca/>

The Canada Summer Jobs Program



Canada Summer Jobs is a new initiative by the Harper government designed to provide wage subsidies to help Canadian employers of not-for-profit, public sector, and small private sector organizations create career-related summer jobs for students who have trouble finding employment because of where they live and/or other barriers. This new program replaced the Summer Career Placement Program which had established itself as a valuable tool for students seeking relevant employment experience.

Unfortunately, the new Canada Summer Jobs program included \$11-million less funding than the previous program. As a result of these changes many organizations in Fundy Royal were denied funding under the new program which led to a significant amount of pressure from community groups and Opposition Members of Parliament.

As a result of the many complaints received by Parliamentarians, the Minister of Human Resources and Social Development, the Honourable Monte Solberg was convinced to make a change to the program, and declared that he would have the situation re-evaluated, and has since declared that all not-for-profit groups who received funding last year would receive funding again this year. This declaration ensured that many of the New Brunswick groups who had originally been denied funding have been able to hire students again this year.

While Minister Solberg has temporarily fixed this problem, the situation still looms. Why was the original program cut? Why were so many not-for-profit groups denied funding originally? And most importantly, what will happen next year?

National Security & Defence Committee

Over the course of the past 6 months the National Security and Defence Committee has been working at an assiduous pace. The security of all Canadians and the defence of Canada's interests abroad are at the core of our Committee's directive.

Throughout the winter and spring the Defence Committee released 5 reports. The first of those five reports is entitled Canadian Troops in Afghanistan: Taking a Hard Look at a Hard Mission. Released in February, this report focused on the challenges faced by Canada's current mission in Afghanistan. Members of the Committee see this report as a contribution to what we believe should be a national debate on Canada's deployment to Afghanistan.

The following 4 reports are part of a series entitled Canada's Security Guide Book 2007 which were released during a two week period in March.

The first report, 2007 Security Guide Update: Airports contains 16 new recommendations from the Committee that we believe would help the Government address the security gaps in the Canadian air passenger system. This report acts as a follow-up to a January 2003 report which also focused on airport security.

The second report to be released in March focused on the security of Canada's seaports. Canadian Security Guide Book: Seaports contains 11 recommendations for the Government and focuses on eight problems that the Committee believes pose a security risk for Canadian seaports. This report also provides a status report on recommendations made by the Committee in October 2003.

The third report, Canadian Security Guide Book: Border Crossings is focused on keeping goods and people out of Canada that could endanger Canadians. This report offers 10 new recommendations to the Government including a dramatic increase in the number of border guards and suggestions for improved documentation required to enter Canada.



The Gator vehicle, shown here, will no longer be used as part of the Canadian fleet in Afghanistan due to security risks.



The Senate Committee on Security & Defence on a Fact-Finding mission in Cold Lake, Alberta

The final report released in March is entitled Canadian Security Guide Book: Coasts. As the report explains, one of Canada's most obvious vulnerabilities is the sheer size of the perimeter we must defend. At 243,000 kilometers, Canada has the world's longest shoreline. This report follows up on recommendations made in October 2003, and includes 10 new recommendations.

Information regarding the Committee and electronic copies of the reports can be obtained on my website. If you would like printed copies of any or all of these reports, please contact my office in Ottawa, or the Committee Clerk at defence@sen.parl.gc.ca

China-Canada Legislative Assembly Visit to the Maritimes

As Co-Chair of the Canada-China Legislative Association, it was my pleasure to host a delegation of Chinese law makers during a recent visit to Canada. The delegation began their visit in Ottawa where they had the opportunity to meet with Canadian parliamentarians from all four political parties and participate in bilateral discussions.

From Ottawa I took the delegation on a wonderful tour of the Maritimes. Most of the delegates present had never visited Eastern Canada, and were impressed by the beauty of our region and the trade potential between China and the Maritime provinces.

One of the primary objectives of this trip was to encourage trade partnerships between China and the Maritime region. Our visitors were hosted by a number of political officers, from mayors to the Speakers of Provincial Legislative Assemblies. During the delegations time in New Brunswick they visited both the University of New Brunswick and Mount Allison University, where they discussed the courses of interest to the many Chinese students who attend these schools.

Delegates also toured the Chinese Commerce Centre in Saint John, the Moncton Flight Centre, the Halifax Port Authority, and met with officials from CANlink Global and Clearwater Seafoods.

I believe the visit went quite well, and that the Chinese delegates were able to return to China with a more accurate perception of Atlantic Canada and some of the Maritime's many trade possibilities.



Members of the Canada-China and China-Canada Legislative Assemblies outside of the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa

Did you know...

Many people comment that the Senate does it's best work through it's Committees. There are 5 types of Senate Committees.

- **Standing Committees** – these are permanent committees that oversee the activities of government departments, and study proposed legislation and Estimates.
- **Special Committees** – the Senate may appoint such special committees as it deems advisable and may set the terms of reference and indicate the powers to be exercised and the duties to be undertaken by any such committee.
- **Legislative Committees** – study a bill referred to them by the Senate and report it back to the Senate with or without amendments. It ceases to exist once the bill has been reported to the Senate.
- **Joint Committees** – are made up of a proportionate number of members of both the House of Commons and the Senate. Each may be either a standing or a special committee.
- **Subcommittees** – standing committees may delegate any or all of their powers to their subcommittees, except the power to report directly to the Senate.



Senator Day and our Legislative Assistant, Josh Morgan, during National Finance hearings on Bill C-52, the Budget Implementation Act

The Enduring Controversy

Throughout the spring session of parliament the Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs, of which I am Chair, examined a controversial panel in the Air War display, at the Canadian War Museum which focused on the strategic bombing campaign during the Second World War.

Veterans, especially those who served with the Royal Canadian Air Force Bomber Command, feel that the display entitled the 'Enduring Controversy' unjustly questions the value of their service, as well as their own ethics and morality. It reads:

"The value and morality of the strategic bomber offensive against Germany remains bitterly contested...."

In response to the public outcry the Museum insisted that it was not their intention to denigrate the ethics, morality or value of the individual aircrew veterans, however, they refused to alter the text in question, and argued that the 'Enduring Controversy' panel is an accurate and reasonable statement of fact.



Minister of National Defence Gordon O'Connor, Senator Day and Mr. Grant "Ted" Mahood, National President, Air Force Association of Canada. Senator Day hosted Air Force Appreciation Day on April 19th, 2007.

The purpose of the Subcommittee's examination was not to engage in a historical argument, but to facilitate a reasoned and timely resolution to this unfortunate debate. In the opinion of the Subcommittee, the dispute was an entirely unintended consequence of a genuine effort on behalf of the Canadian War Museum to present a historically accurate depiction of the allied strategic bombing effort during the Second World War.

While testifying before the Subcommittee, most Veteran's agreed that a valid academic controversy exists about strategic bombing. However, such controversy existed above and beyond bomber command personnel, who loyally and professionally carried out missions which were assigned to them by political leaders and military commanders.

Ultimately the Subcommittee agreed that the existence of the dispute over the display indicates that the panel text is liable to misinterpretation by the public. As a result the Subcommittee made the following recommendation;

After due consideration, the Subcommittee respectfully suggests that the Canadian War Museum has both the public responsibility and professional capacity to take the lead in resolving the disagreement. We feel they have the duty to review the detailed presentation of the display panel in question and that they will want to consider alternative ways of presenting an equally historically accurate version of its material, in a manner that eliminates the sense of insult felt by aircrew veterans and removes potential for further misinterpretation by the public.

To obtain a copy of the Subcommittee's report on the examination of the 'Enduring Controversy' exhibit, please visit my website.

Did you know...

- **The RCAF founded in 1924, but did not become a purely military organization until 1936.**
- **During WWII, the RCAF was the fourth largest Allied air force. By 1944, Canada had 215,200 Air Force personnel serving in all ranks.**
- **The Bomber Command units had the most Air Force casualties during WWII.**



The Canadian War Museum
Photo Credit, Harry Foster, Canadian Museum of Civilization

North Atlantic Treaty Organization



In late May I had the opportunity to travel to Madeira, Portugal for the first of two NATO Parliamentary Association meetings in 2007. It is an honour for me to participate and contribute during these important debates, which range from international defence and security, to global poverty and aide, and I am always encouraged to see how similarly my international colleagues think, when compared with our Canadian perspective.

To give you an idea of the purpose of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly I have included a list of aims which were endorsed by the NATO Parliamentary Assembly's Standing Committee in November 2004;

- To foster dialogue among parliamentarians on major security issues;
 - To facilitate parliamentary awareness and understanding of key security issues and Alliance policies;
 - To provide NATO and its member governments with an indication of collective parliamentary opinion;
 - To strengthen the transatlantic relationship;
 - To assist in the development of parliamentary democracy throughout the Euro-Atlantic area by integrating parliamentarians from non-member nations into the Assembly's work;
 - To assist directly those parliaments actively seeking Alliance membership;
- To assist in the development of parliamentary mechanisms, practices and 'know how' essential for the effective democratic control of armed forces.

10 Environmentally Friendly Tips

Now more than ever before, Canadians are aware of the impact that their actions have on the environment. For far too long the quality of the air we breathe and the water we drink has been sacrificed, and it is up to each of us to reduce our carbon footprint.

There are innumerable ways one can reduce their impact on the environment. By adopting two or three new habits an individual can make a small difference, but the same few changes by 100 people or even 1000 people can make a substantial difference.

Please scan the list below for 10 simple changes that you could make to your daily routine which would reduce your carbon footprint.

1. Purchase a water saving showerhead and use half the amount of water.
2. Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs.
3. Buy local produce whenever possible.
4. Change your furnace air filter regularly.
5. Take your own bags to the grocery store.
6. Fill your vehicle with ethanol fuel.
7. Use cold water to wash your clothes and your dishes.
8. Fix air leaks with weather stripping and caulking.
9. Turn down the heat or air conditioning when going to sleep.
10. Walk, bike, carpool or take public transit as often as possible.



Fiscal Balance

On September 27, 2006, the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance was authorized to examine and report on issues relating to Canada's vertical and horizontal fiscal balances. The term 'fiscal balance' refers to the balance between the expenditure responsibilities of the various orders of government and the ability to fund the services resulting from those responsibilities. A 'fiscal imbalance' may exist, either among provinces (horizontal) or between orders of government (vertical).

This spring the Senate Standing Committee on National Finance began Part II of its study into Canada's Fiscal Balances. Part I of the study focused on the Horizontal Fiscal Balance (federal equalization program), and Part II of the study focused on the Vertical and Municipal Fiscal Balance (health, education and social transfers).

Over a period of seven weeks, committee members heard testimony and received written submissions from various provincial and territorial governments, municipal associations, cities, academics and social policy experts. As the testimony progressed it became clear to committee members that municipalities of all sizes are faced with limited resources and growing responsibilities. Compounding the problem is the fact that municipalities are constrained by provincial governments in terms of what revenues they can raise, how much they can borrow, and what expenditures they are required to make. As a result, committee members agreed that municipalities need a wider range of stable and predictable revenue sources which are directly linked to economic activity.

After considerable reflection committee members made the following recommendations to the federal government:

- That the federal government consider increasing the annual escalator for the Canada Social Transfer from 3% to 4.5%, effective 2009-2010.
- That the federal government consider giving municipalities access to growth taxes, including the GST.
- That the federal government make permanent the Gas Tax Fund, and introduce an escalator to protect its value over time.
- That the federal government develop, in collaboration with the provinces territories and municipalities, a national plan that would guide long-term government investment in infrastructure. The plan should take into account the unique needs of smaller urban as well as rural, remote and northern communities.
- That a national urban transit strategy include permanent, long-term funding dedicated to urban transit.

Please check my website or contact my office in Ottawa if you are interested in receiving a copy of this report.

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