



The Day Report

THE SENATE OF CANADA

SUMMER 2008

Hello and Welcome to another edition of The Day Report!

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The Senate has had very busy Winter and Spring sessions, and I am very pleased with both the Chamber work and the Committee work that Senators were able to accomplish. On a national scale, many exciting events also took place; the Government, in a historic gesture of outreach, issued a public apology to Canadian aboriginals for their treatment with regards to residential schools. Regrettably, the same Conservative government continues to ignore the equally historic Kelowna Accord with our First Nations peoples, which the previous Liberal government had reached. The Liberal Party also announced its environmental Green Shift plan to reduce carbon emissions.

I have been honoured to represent Canada as part of various delegations in New Zealand, Washington, Brussels, China, Afghani-

stan and Berlin in the past several months. During these visits I have been able to exchange views on various international challenges, learn about different parliamentary systems, be informed on the work of



Senator Day with RMC friend, Cpt. Jody Jane Lochery, whom he met on a visit to Afghanistan

Canadian organizations and associations internationally, and help develop the relationships that Canada has with those countries. I am continually pleased with the outcome of such trips, because I feel that our international relationships are the key to our success as a trading nation.

I also had the pleasure of hosting several special groups in the Senate

Chambers. For example, Air Force Appreciation Day and Intellectual Property Day were both celebrated in April with a formal reception at the Senate. I continue to try and raise awareness of the tremendous contributions

of Bomber Command by participating in debate in the Senate Chamber on this important subject.

After each trip and following each study by Senate committees a report is made to the Senate. Those reports are all available for your review on the internet. Please let my office know if you would like printed copies of any reports.

I hope you are having a wonderful summer. Please do not hesitate to comment on any of the articles in this newsletter. I would also welcome any comments on the role of the Senate.

July is Canadian Forces Appreciation Month

This summer, VIA Rail is extending a special offer to our men and women in uniform. During the month of July, all current and former Canadian Forces personnel, including Reservists, employees of the Department of National Defence and Public Fund employees can ride VIA's comfort class free of charge. This offer is valid for unlimited travel within the month, and is available

for any trip offered by VIA. Additionally, up to five family members travelling with the eligible Canadian Forces member receive a 50% discount off their fare.

This is a wonderful opportunity for our military personnel to travel the country in an economical and environmentally friendly way. I am very pleased that our national

rail carrier has decided to recognize the good work of our present and former Canadian Forces personnel by offering them this opportunity to see the country they have committed to serve and protect.



“General Rick Hillier was a model soldier, and went to great lengths to support our military personnel working in Afghanistan and in other international operations.”

Change of Command Ceremony—Chief of Defence Staff

The Change of Command Ceremony for the Chief of Defence Staff was held early in July, after Gen. Rick Hillier's announcement this spring that he would be stepping down from the position. The role of Chief of Defence Staff is first and foremost to lead the Canadian Forces. He or she must also inform the Minister of National Defence, and through him, the Prime Minister of the status of the Canadian Forces; and of their requirements, of their progress and potential. The Chief of Defence Staff is also charged with the responsibility to provide military advice and updates to the government.

Outgoing Chief of Defence Staff General Rick Hillier was a model soldier, and went to great lengths to support our military personnel working in Afghanistan and in other international operations. He was forthright in his views on the Afghanistan situation, and brought the reality of that war to Ottawa, and to the general public. We thank General Hillier and wish him well in his “retirement.”

The incoming Chief of Defence Staff, General Walt Natynczyk, is very well prepared to lead our Canadian Forces. As Vice-Chief of Defence Staff to Gen. Hillier, he has shared in the chal-

lenges and the successes of Canada's Armed Forces over the past two years.

He has been a member of the forces since 1975, and has participated in and led many missions both at home and abroad.

I am pleased to welcome Gen. Natynczyk to the position of Canada's highest military officer, we look forward to our Armed Forces continuing to serve and protect under his leadership in the upcoming years.

Truth. Duty. Valour.

John Peters Humphrey—Father of the Modern Human Rights System

For several years I sat on the Board of the Hampton John Peters Humphrey Foundation. On Fathers Day of this year I was pleased to attend and speak at the unveiling a monument to the Father of international Human Rights; John Peters Humphrey. This was a very special occasion for the many in attendance. John Humphrey was a native of my hometown of Hampton, New Brunswick. What made the day even more special was that the monument unveiled was de-

signed by another of Hampton's famous sons; John Hooper.

John Humphrey was asked by Eleanor Roosevelt, after the Second World War, to draft a declaration of human rights. This declaration was later adopted by the United Nations, and is arguably one of the most important international documents of the 20th century. It has been praised by the likes of Eleanor Roosevelt and Nelson Mandela.

I would encourage you all to visit Hampton, New Brunswick to see this wonderful monument.

Special thanks to the members of the Board of the Hampton John Peters Humphrey Foundation for a job well done.



Senator Day with Gordon Fairweather, appointed by Prime Minister Trudeau to be the First Chief Commissioner of the Canadian Human Rights Commission, at the Hampton John Peters Humphrey monument unveiling



Senator Day learning some traditional Maori dancing at the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum in Auckland, New Zealand. (He's wearing the white shirt!)



Senator Day with General Gene Renuart, the highest officer at NORAD. Air Force Appreciation Day, April 8th, 2008.

Senate Committees Report

During the past session, the Committees on which I sit have released several critically important reports. I would like to briefly describe some of them for you.

The **National Security & Defence Committee** released its report entitled *How Are We Doing in Afghanistan? Canadians Need to Know*. We recommended a total of 16 actions the government take to help ensure continued successes, and the safety of our Canadian soldiers as well as their Afghan counterparts. These recommendations include a call for the Prime Minister to better inform the Canadian public as to the situation in Afghanistan, fast tracking the purchase of much needed equipment to help maintain the safety of our soldiers, increasing the number of deployed military and civilian law enforcement personnel, and increasing aide to the government of Afghanistan so that they may continue the building of a strong and democratic society. As Canada's role in Afghanistan lengthens, our Committee will continue to monitor the situation and will report back to Canadians with our findings.

The **National Finance**

Committee released several reports this session. They include: *Report on Infrastructure Programs and Regional Development Agencies*, *Report on the Human Resource Management Issues in the Public Service*, and *Report on the Financial Security for Seniors: Entitlements and Retroactivity Provisions Under the Canada Pension Plan*. Although all National Finance Committee reports have an impact on Canadians, these studies more directly affect our citizens in an ongoing way. Our deteriorating infrastructure requires immediate and serious attention from all levels of government. Rebuilding our infrastructure will take some time, but I believe that we will be successful if all levels of government work together for Canadians. We also looked at how the Public Service is staffing open positions, and who is filling those positions. We learned that minority groups generally do not fill a proportionate number of positions as they represent in our society. With respect to the Canada Pension Plan, we learned that many eligible seniors are not currently receiving their monthly payments. Late filers are only entitled to 11 months of retroactive compensation, which could be a significant loss on their part. We recommended that this 11 month period be discarded, so that late applicants are able to receive all of their pension entitlement. We also recommended that the

government develop a new campaign to increase awareness among those senior citizens entitled to but not currently receiving their Canada Pension Plan benefits.

I also had the chance to study the *Report on Reductions of Service Income Security Insurance Plan Long Term Disability Benefits with the Veterans Affairs Committee*. In preparation for this report, our Committee heard from many witnesses regarding the reduction of long term disability benefits that many disabled veterans face. Generally, injured military personnel will be granted 75% of their salary. However, some individuals are entitled to a further disability benefit, in which case their initial benefit is reduced so that they make no more than they would without the additional benefit, and at times even less. The Veterans Affairs Committee recommended that the practice of deducting benefits stop immediately. I believe it is in our country's best interests to ensure that our veterans are treated fairly after their discharge from military service, regardless of their physical condition, and I am pleased to have been able to learn help correct some of the ongoing difficulties they face.

If you would like to read the full report, each is available online. Alternately, my office would be pleased to send you a hard copy at your request.

CFB Gagetown celebrates 50 years of success

This year marks the 50th Anniversary one of Canada's largest military bases: CFB Gagetown. Officially opened in 1968, Base Gagetown is today one of the provinces' largest employers, not to mention the foremost training centre for military units in Canada.

Today, CFB Gagetown houses two main organizations; 3 Area Support Group, which provides support to not only

Base Gagetown, but also to outside units and organizations in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island; and the Combat Training Centre, where national infantry, artillery, armour & tactics schools are located. The Canadian Forces School of Military Engineering is also housed at CFB Gagetown, as well as Camp Argonaut, the Atlantic Region Army Cadet Camp. Each summer 1200 cadets are trained at CFB Gagetown.

Many Canadian Forces personnel who have been proudly serving Canada over the past 50 years received much of their training at CFB Gagetown. I hope and expect that Base Gagetown will continue in that tradition of excellence and diligence for the next 50 years and beyond.



Recognizing the role of Bomber Command

As many of you may know, Chair and Vice-Chair of the Senate Sub-Committee on Veterans Affairs have been working with Senate colleagues to gain fair recognition for the role of World War II Bomber Command personnel.

Last year we studied the *Endur-*

ing Controversy panel at the Canadian War Museum. Many Bomber Command veterans were upset by the panel because they felt that the wording implied a lack of morals and that their role had little value in the overall war effort. Although the campaign did result in unfortunate civilian casualties, the main directive was to lower morale through the destruction of industrial and military bases.

This year, my colleague and now Chair of the Sub-Committee on Veterans Affairs, Senator Michael Meighen introduced a motion "to end the long

and unjust delay in recognition of Bomber Command service and sacrifice by Canadians in the liberation of Europe during the Second World War."

With much research, I have concluded that it is impractical to attempt to have a medal or bar created and issued to our Bomber Command veterans. Instead, I believe that it would be more timely and appropriate to have a memorial erected to honour the efforts of those men and women of Bomber Command.

I would welcome your feed back on this issue, and would suggest that you write to your MP or Senator should you feel strongly about recognition of the services rendered by Bomber Command personnel during the Second World War.



Senator Day with a group of RCAF personnel, including NORAD's General Gene Renuart in the Senate Chamber, April 8th, 2008

The Liberal Green Shift

The Liberal Party recently launched its proposed Green Shift plan to address the environment and the economy. The Liberal Party's plan is to charge for carbon dioxide pollution, and to redirect the money returned to Canadians in the form of income tax reductions and other benefits. It is now clear that global warming and carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere are directly related, which is why it is imperative that Canadians do their part in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The amount of carbon dioxide emitted when fossil fuels are burned will determine the charges levied. The fossil fuels included are: coal, natural gas, propane, oil and diesel. *Gasoline is not included*, as there is already a tax levied on it. Greenhouse gas is generally measured in tonnage of carbon. The proposed charge per tonne of carbon in the first year is \$10, rising to \$40 by the fourth year of the programme. It is difficult to calculate precisely how much greenhouse gas an individual or family produces on a daily or yearly basis due to the high number of variables, but a safe average is

approximately 5 tonnes per person per year, excluding industry, heating or electrical usage. Many will recall the previous government's programme entitled the *One Tonne Challenge* encouraging each individual to reduce his or her eco-footprint by 20%, or one tonne per year. There are many things that individuals can do to reduce their eco-footprint.

The Green Shift is intended to be revenue neutral. All money received through the Green Shift is to be returned to Canadians in the form of income tax reductions and other benefits. Each income tax bracket will be reduced. Additionally, there are many other refundable or annual

Did You Know...

- **The Green Shift will be monitored by the Auditor General to ensure its revenue neutrality**
- **Each tax bracket will see a reduction in income tax; 10% for the lowest bracket, 5% for the middle, and 4% for the highest**
- **Gasoline will not be taxed any further, as it already has a tax built into the pump price**

bonuses for families with children, rural and northern taxpayers, and the disabled.

I believe that it is very important that we all do our part in helping to reduce the emissions of harmful greenhouse gasses into our environment so that we can preserve the Canada of today, and the Canada that we pass down to our children and grand-children. I support the Liberal Party Green Shift as a positive step in the right direction!



Senator Day with Liberal leader Stéphane Dion

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Please take a few minutes to comment on The Day Report, the Senate, or any other matter of concern.

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Comments on The Day Report

General Comments

Please add me to your electronic distribution list

Email _____

Please remove me from your distribution list

Please change my mailing address to the following:

Name and address:

Thank you!

Paul Cardegna, Committee Secretary with Bob Mills, MP, and Senator Day, Co-Chairs of the Canada-China Legislative Association at the National People's Congress in China



Senator Day with an Ottawa Regional Science Fair winner, Intellectual Property Day, April 15th, 2008

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in Canada*

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