



The Day Report

THE SENATE OF CANADA

WINTER 2011

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Hello and welcome to another edition of the Day Report!

I hope that you had a wonderful holiday season and had plenty of time to catch up with family and friends alike. This past Parliamentary session was a busy one, here's what I have been working on for the past few months.

Fall 2010 recap

National Finance

It was a very busy Fall Session for the National Finance Committee, which I chair. We examined the second set of Supplementary Estimates stemming from the budget for the fiscal year 2010-2011. In examining these Supplementary Estimates, we heard from various departments regarding their spending for the upcoming year, and we reported our findings back to Parliament.

Additionally, the Committee studied Bill C-47, the Budget Implementation Act. We again heard from various witnesses, heard their testimony on the Bill, and reported our findings back to Parliament. For more on Bill C-47, please refer to page 3.

Finally, with the help of your feedback from our last newsletter, the committee released its long awaited report on the penny. Our Report was released in December of 2010, and the Committee will recommend to the Government that the penny has outlived its usefulness. To read more about the report, please check page 3.

Other committees

I am also a member of the Senate committee on National Security and Defence, and the Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs. The Defence committee has continued its study of several topics, including Arctic sovereignty, Afghanistan, and the state of the Canadian Forces. The Veteran's committee continued its study of the implementation of the New Veterans charter and how it affects our Veterans, including those returning from Afghanistan.

Parliamentary Associations

The Canada-Mongolia Friendship group, which I chair, had the privilege of meeting Mongolia's Prime Minister this year at a reception we hosted. Prime Minister Sükhbaataryn Batbold came to Ottawa along with his delegation on September 27th to October 1st, 2010.

Mongolia is a developing democracy having won independence on the fall of the Soviet Union in 1990. Canada is also the second largest investor in Mongolia after China. We have a lot we can share with one another.



Senator Day and Mongolian Prime Minister Sükhbaataryn Batbold

Quick facts about the Navy

-Term “Royal Canadian Navy” came into use in August, 1911

-The name “Royal Canadian Navy” was replaced with the name “Canadian Forces Maritime Command” in 1967.

-By the end of WWII, the Royal Canadian Navy was the third largest navy in the world, behind the United States and the United Kingdom.

Quick facts about Bill C-36

-1st reading in the Senate on November 2nd, 2010

-Contains provisions to implement and update consumer product safety laws

-Formerly Bill C-52 and Bill C-6

-75 clauses

-Received Royal Assent on December 15th, 2010

Royal Canadian Navy Update

If someone were to ask you to give the official name of Canada’s navy, chances are, like most Canadians, you would give a name that ended with the name “Navy.” This is not the reality. Since our Canadian Forces were unified into one force operationally in 1967, our navy has been officially known as “The Canadian Forces Maritime Command.” In a move to create fluidity throughout the new Canadian Forces, traditional naval ranks were replaced with those more in line with the Army, and the recognizable navy blue uniforms were made Army green.

However, recent years have seen a return of many naval traditions. Dark blue uniforms were reintroduced, traditional naval titles returned, and the Executive Curl was reincorporated into our naval officer’s uniforms. Recognizing this trend, my colleague Senator William Rompkey introduced a motion to give the navy a more appropriate name. This sparked a debate which centered on whether or not the navy should use the descriptive form the *Canadian*

Navy, or if we should return to its historic name, The *Royal Canadian Navy*.

Following testimony from former members, historians, and other accredited witnesses, the Senate Standing Committee on National Security and Defence issued the following motion: “That the Senate of Canada encourage the Minister of National Defence to change the official structural name of ‘Maritime Command’ to a new name that includes the word ‘Navy’.”

The decision now rests with the Government. I have encouraged the Minister of Defence to issue a return to the *Royal Canadian Navy*; this would appropriately capture the history of honour and sacrifice of both those who have proudly served, and those who presently serve under our navy’s flag. Should you desire a return to the *Royal Canadian Navy* as well, I encourage you to write the Prime Minister’s office with your thoughts.

Our navy sailed the world’s oceans for over 50 years as the *Royal Canadian Navy*, and in that time emerged as a force that was ready, willing and able to assist both our allies and those in need. Through my experiences with those men and women serving in today’s navy, I have been convinced they would be honoured to continue this tradition under the name the *Royal Canadian Navy*.



Senator Day and other NATO Parliamentarians in Afghanistan wearing flack jackets that had to be worn whenever they moved about outside

Bill C-36

Consumer Product Safety Act

As some of you may recall, I was formerly the critic for Bill C-6, the Consumer Product Safety Act before it died on the order paper when Prime Minister Harper prorogued parliament for the second time in one year. When this bill was reintroduced as Bill C-36, I was again asked to be the critic. Many Senators fought hard to make amendments to this legislation which we considered to be flawed. When the Bill was C-6, we proposed many amendments which were originally rejected by the Conservative government. When the Bill was reintroduced as C-36, many of these amendments had been included in the new Bill. There were however still changes that myself and other Honourable Senators would have liked to have seen made to this legislation.

We were accused by the government of “ragging the puck” on this legislation and not wanting the legislation to pass. The fact is, not one Senator disputed the importance of this piece of legislation. Our old Consumer Product Safety laws were outdated and in need of repair. We accepted our responsibility as Senators to improve legislation if it is in need of improvement. This was never a partisan issue. This legislation does not affect a small number of Canadians, it affects all of us. This is why we found it especially prudent to give very careful consideration to this Bill to ensure that it is a sound piece of legislation.

While some of our amendments were not made, I am confident that the changes we did make have improved the legislation and that Canadians are better off than before with this new legislation. I appreciate all of the feedback my office received from many of you related to this Bill. You were diligent voicing your concerns and we did our best to represent you in the chamber. Bill C-36 received Royal Assent in the Chamber on December 15th, 2010.

Quick Facts about Bill C-47

-Budget Implementation Act
-An second act to implement certain provisions of the budget tabled in Parliament on March 4th, 2010
-143 pages
-First Reading, September 30th, 2010
-9 Parts
-199 clauses

Quick Facts about Vimy Ridge

-The battle was the first time all four Canadian divisions fought together on the same battle field
-Before the Canadian victory, both the British and French armies had tried unsuccessfully to defeat the Germans on the Ridge
-By the end of the battle, Canadian casualties reached 10,602, of which 3,598 were deaths

The Penny Report

On December 14th, 2010, the Standing Committee on National Finance tabled its long awaited report on *The Costs and Benefits of Canada's One-Cent Coin to Canadian Taxpayers and the Overall Canadian Economy*. Over the course of this study, the Committee heard from a variety of stakeholders that included government officials, financial institutions, consumer associations, the retail industry, charitable organizations, universities, collectors and foreign governments. Additionally, in the last issue of the Day Report we asked for your feedback on the subject. Many of you responded with your thoughts on the elimination of the Penny and all of your ideas were very helpful in assisting us in making our decision. You raised a lot of helpful points and helped us to understand that this issue was far more complex than many imagined. For this I thank you.

Hearing from such a wide variety of witnesses helped us to come to the conclusion that the penny has simply outlived its value. Senator Irving Gerstein, who sponsored the motion, aptly stated, "The penny has simply outlived its purpose. It is a piece of currency, quite frankly, that lacks currency. In fact, a penny can't even buy a penny anymore, and this is the heart of the issue. It costs far more than a cent to produce and distribute each penny." It currently costs 1.5 cents to manufacture a penny. There are currently around 30 billion Canadian pennies in circulation but due to the storing of pennies in jars or pennies ending up in couches, the Royal Canadian mint has to produce 500 million new pennies every year just to keep enough in circulation.

The committee made the following recommendations:

- 1: That Canada's one-cent coin be removed from circulation.
- 2: That the Government of Canada, in cooperation with the provinces and with the retail and service sectors, issue clear voluntary guidelines for rounding after-tax total purchase prices symmetrically to the nearest five cents.
- 3: That price rounding be applied in cash transactions only.
- 4: That production of the one-cent coin for circulation cease as soon as practicable, that the one-cent coin be removed from circulation starting 12 months thereafter, and that the calling-in period last an additional 12 months.
- 5: That one-cent coins continue to be legal tender until the end of the 12-month calling-in period, so that Canadians may continue to use them in commercial transactions during that time.
- 6: That the Bank of Canada continue to redeem one-cent coins indefinitely, and that financial institutions be allowed to choose whether, and for how long, they will continue to facilitate the return of one-cent coins to the Bank of Canada after the calling-in period ends.
- 7: That the Government encourage charitable organizations to implement fundraising campaigns that would assist in the collection of one-cent coins for removal from circulation.
- 8: That the Royal Canadian Mint be allowed to decide on the basis of profitability whether to continue limited production of the one-cent coin for direct sale to collectors.

To read the full report or learn more about the activities of the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance, please visit <http://senate-senat.ca/fina-e.asp>

What you had to say...

"Get rid of the penny!..I have enough change in my pocket"
-Resident from Hampton, NB

"Definitely eliminate the penny! Many countries did this long ago..."
-Resident from Kingston, NB

"DO NOT eliminate the penny!!!"
-Resident from Quispamsis, NB

"...I disagree with the elimination of the penny as prices will soar even further"
-Resident from Hampton, NB

Canada/China

2010 was a big year for Canada and China relations. On October 13th, 2010, Canada and China celebrated their 40th Anniversary of diplomatic relations. Canada and China have a relationship built on cooperation and trust. It was on October 13th, 1970 that Canada recognized China and supported its request to be admitted into the United Nations.

The Canada-China Legislative Association of which I am a co-chair, also hosted its 14th Bilateral Meeting which took place in Vancouver, Whistler, and Ottawa. The purpose of these meetings are to discuss challenges which face both countries. Canadian Parliamentarians meet with their counterparts from the National Peoples' Republic of China in an effort to strengthen ties between the two countries and exchange ideas.



Vimy Ridge

This past year, I had the pleasure of meeting David Robinson, the organizer of the Vimy Ridge Remembrance Tour at the launch of the Vimy Ridge Remembrance Tour in Ottawa. In 2012, The Remembrance Tour will celebrate the 95th Anniversary of one of the most important battles in Canadian history. There are several tour packages available, and each offers its own journey through the different aspects of Canada's involvement in both WWI and WWII, ultimately leading you to the 95th anniversary of The Battle of Vimy Ridge in Vimy, France. During these tours, students have the option of being organized into groups and matched with a particular Commonwealth Cemetery where Canadian soldiers are buried. If they so choose, each student can be matched with two soldiers and provided with instructions on how to do research on these individual soldiers. These tours are important in

teaching our children Canada's rich past, and I encourage students both in New Brunswick and throughout Canada to take part in this enriching and unique educational experience. The following website offers more information on how to participate in this wonderful opportunity:

www.vimyridgetour.ca.



Photo credit: Whitney Allen

Nato PA

This past fall I had the honour of being elected Chair of the Defence and Security Committee (DSC) at the NATO Parliamentary Association in Brussels. The NATO PA brings together parliamentarians throughout NATO, helping build parliamentary and public consensus in support of NATO policies.

The DSC is one of several committees that carry out most of the substantive work that covers the major security and policy challenges confronting Allied countries. In general, the DSC examines ongoing operations, partnerships and programmes to find how NATO can continually improve its effectiveness as an Alliance; topics include defence budgets, interoperability, and military effectiveness. The DSC produces reports on issues affecting NATO and prepare policy recommendations for consideration by the Assembly.

Did you know...?

On February 15th, 2011, the Canadian flag will turn 46 years old. It was adopted on February 15th, 1965, and it replaced the Union Flag. This day is now known as National Flag Day

Have your say!

Currently, our navy is officially known as the "Canadian Forces Maritime Command". What are your thoughts on returning to its historic name, the "Royal Canadian Navy"?

Feel free to respond using the provided insert.

Senator Day wants your feedback!

Please take a few minutes to comment on the Day Report, the Senate, or any other matter of concern using the insert provided. No postage is necessary!

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