



Senator Pamela Wallin



U.S. Ambassador David Jacobson is good-naturedly listening to Canada's concerns; he and his wife Julie are very active and host a huge annual holiday party at their Ottawa residence.



Man in Motion Rick Hansen and Warrant Officer Roger Perrault. WO Perrault was wounded in Afghanistan in 2007 and was awarded the Chief of the Defence Staff Commendation for deeds beyond the call of duty. He joined Rick as part of the 25th anniversary of the Man in Motion World Tour.

Choosing Our Future

Here in the nation's capital we are getting down to business. As we start the tough and complicated business of governing and budgeting in uncertain economic times, our international reputation for responsible handling of the economy continues to grow.

There will be savings found in every government department. But as the Prime Minister has said, if we don't take the tough action now we will become vulnerable, and we have seen what can happen—the problems in Europe and south of the border—if we turn a blind eye to debt and deficits.

Prime Minister Harper set out his vision for Canada's future during a speech at an important economic forum in Davos, Switzerland.

"Each nation," he said, "has a choice to make. Western nations, in particular, face a choice of whether to create the conditions for growth and prosperity, or to risk long-term economic decline. In every decision, or failure, to decide we are choosing our future right now.

"And, as we all know, both from the global crises of the past few years and from past experience in our own countries, easy choices now mean fewer choices later.

Canada's choice will be, with clarity and urgency, to seize and to master our future, to be a model of confidence, growth, and prosperity in the 21st century."

As we make those choices, we are caught in American election year politics. President Obama decided to reject the pipeline that would carry clean, ethical oil into the United States. The U.S. decision that puts the Keystone Pipeline on hold signals the growing American protectionist mood. "Buy American only" and unilateral cuts in U.S. defence spending will have repercussions for us.

But we are making progress behind the scenes on many fronts – for example, with the Canada-U.S. "Beyond the Border" agreement that will reduce trade barriers and improve security along our shared border so people and goods will be able to cross more readily and securely.

The Senate Foreign Affairs and Trade Committee travelled to Brazil in November to look at the prospects for a trade deal, following up on Prime Minister Harper's visit last August. Brazil is one of four target countries for trade – along with Russia, India and China. The Prime Minister visited India in 2009. He visited China this month.

And on the home front, we will finally see much of our long-promised legislation move forward – tough new crime bills and legislation to shut down the costly long gun registry.

We are, with responsible actions, continuing to build our reputation on the international stage. Our training mission in Afghanistan is working very well. We are taking bold stands on the Middle East. And we are leading the way on sensible economic measures. 2012 will be a key year for Canada but I think it will be an important and positive turning point.

wallinp@sen.parl.gc.ca

Senate of Canada, 621 Victoria Building, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A4

Tel: (613) 947-4097 . Fax: (613) 947-4091

To Brazil and Back

I travelled to Brazil in November as a member of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade. We visited the cities of São Paulo, Brasilia and Rio de Janeiro to meet with Canadian and Brazilian business and political leaders to explore opportunities for expanding trade. As a resource-based country, Brazil shares many of Canada's challenges and opportunities in the field of agriculture, oil and gas and energy. Brazil has some leading edge technology in these areas, as does Canada.



The view from the headquarters of Brookfield, an international company with Canadian roots. The committee heard from key business leaders about the challenges and prospects of doing business in Brazil.



The Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs met with the Federation of Industries of the State of Rio de Janeiro (FIRJAN) who told us about the economy of the state of Rio de Janeiro and the role of FIRJAN in promoting state development.



I was thrilled to reconnect with my old friend Sanjeev Chowdhury, Consul General, Rio de Janeiro and former member of the Afghanistan task force.



Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs along with Ruy Nogueira, Brazilian Secretary-General for External Relations (centre), and Canadian Ambassador Jamal A. Khokhar (right) who is doing a great job for his country in Brasilia.

Brazil and Olympic Facts

- | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---------|
| ◆ Population: | 203,429,773 (2011 est.) | ◆ Number of volunteers for 2016 Olympics: | 70,000 |
| ◆ Official Language: | Portuguese | ◆ Number of athletes: | 10,500+ |
| ◆ Area: | 8,514,877 km ² | ◆ Number of nations represented: | 205 |
| ◆ Major Cities: | Sao Paulo pop. 19.96 million | ◆ Number of organizers: | 100,000 |
| | Rio Di Janeiro pop. 11.84 million | | |
| | Brasilia (capital) pop. 3.79 million | | |

Out and About



On November 19 in Halifax I moderated the panel *It's the Economy, Dumb Eggs* at Defence Minister Peter MacKay's Halifax International Security Forum. Speaking were Jim Hoge, Chair, Human Rights Watch, Karl-Theodor Guttenberg, former German Defence Minister and Dr. Alan Mendoza, Co-Founder, Henry Jackson Society. This three day conference is an international "must attend" event.



During the Christmas season I had the privilege of attending the Chief of the Air Staff's Executive Christmas Dinner. LGen André Deschamps, Chief of the Air Force Staff, and his wife Gayle, another good Saskatchewan girl!



In October I was thrilled to attend an event for MP Cathy McLeod in Kamloops, BC. Here's Cathy and me with the President of the local Electoral District Association, Al Raine, who's married to Olympic Ski Champion and now Senator Nancy Greene Raine.

Bomb Girls

In December I had the pleasure of attending the premier of the new Global mini-series *Bomb Girls* at the Canadian War Museum.

Bomb Girls tells the story of the women who went to work in munitions factories on the home front during the Second World War. These women were pioneers in gaining a foothold in the workforce and starting Canada along the road to equal treatment of women in the workplace.

Without the contributions of these women the war effort would have been significantly weaker and those who were overseas may not have come back in as great numbers.

This often overlooked piece of Canadian history is important and I am thrilled that such care and attention went into the creation of this series. I know I'll be tuning in to every episode!



Here I am with some of the beautiful "Bomb Girls", actors Ali Liebert, Anastasia Phillips and Charlotte Hegele.



I also met a real "Bomb Girl", Queenie Cumoe, 2nd from right. To her left is Debi Drennan (a friend and my former makeup artist back in the Canada AM days) who along with Maureen Jennings (right) co-created the show. Debi's grandmother was a Bomb Girl!

Protections for the Primary Reserve

The Senate Committee on National Security and Defence recently tabled the committee's report, *Answering the Call - The Future Role of Canada's Primary Reserve*.

That future is currently under review as part of Canadian Forces transformation process, so the timing of this report is crucial.

The report states that Canada's "citizen soldiers" - the Primary Reserve - have become indispensable to the operations of the Canadian Forces, on missions abroad and here at home.

Reservists, who mostly serve part-time while holding down jobs or studying, at times comprised more than 20% of Canadian troops deployed during the combat mission in Afghanistan, and have been an important part of other missions at home and abroad over the last two decades.

As Chair of the Senate committee, I noted that on many trips to Afghanistan and to military bases here in Canada and abroad, I have found in the ranks of the Reserves the ultimate example of citizenship and sense of duty. They stand and serve alongside their full-time Regular Force counterparts. We are respectful and grateful for these citizen soldiers.

The committee recommended that the size and strength of the Primary Reserve be increased along with Reserve training days, and that pay be more predictable, with its own funding line, and that a small number of Reservists be kept at the same training level as the Regular Force, for faster deployment, and employing some Reservists in new specialities such as cyber defence.

Witnesses told the committee that without participation by Reservists, the combat mission in Afghanistan would not have been possible. They contributed capabilities that automatically put them at the centre of operations where they provided depth, breadth and expertise.

Reservists continue serving abroad. They stepped up during the crisis in Haiti and for the mission in Libya. And they serve at home through storms and floods and provide security, as they have done for international summits and during the Olympics. The Re-



Reservists from the Fusiliers de Sherbrooke disembark a vessel after crossing with Coy E and BBE (Boat Bridge Erection) while participating in a training mission in North Carolina.

Women's History Month Reception



Rear-Admiral Jennifer Bennett and I attended a reception hosted by the Speaker of the Senate and Minister Rona Ambrose, celebrating Women's History Month. Jennifer is the first woman to serve as Chief of Reserves and Cadets.



Celebrating with Senator LeBreton, Government Leader in the Senate, and the Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of Public Works and Government Services, and Minister for Status of Women.

On the Home Front



Canada's Most Liked Premier

Is it any wonder Saskatchewanians overwhelmingly voted Brad Wall and the Saskatchewan Party into office again?

An Angus Reid public opinion poll of 7,282 Canadians in nine provinces determined that Saskatchewan's own Brad Wall is Canada's most liked premier. Premier Wall received a 71% approval rating from those who were polled, miles ahead of Alison Redford in Alberta and Kathy Dunderdale in Newfoundland and Labrador, who came second and third.

I know Premier Wall's message of a Saskatchewan that looks and moves forward will continue to resonate with Saskatchewanians everywhere. Under his leadership our province has prepared itself for a bright and optimistic future as we come into our own.

I think the Premier said it best, "Today after years of lagging behind the rest of the provinces in this country, we are leading in so very many respects and we are not going back."

Groundbreaking Election in Saskatchewan

The Saskatchewan Party won a huge majority on November 7, capturing many of the urban ridings within the province.

Brad Wall and the Saskatchewan Party won 49 of the province's 58 constituencies with a record setting 64% of the popular vote. Wall, who campaigned with the slogan Moving Saskatchewan Forward, pointed out that the prospects for the province have now been fundamentally changed.

I spent a few days in Saskatoon with many of our MLA's and candidates. It was a high energy campaign and it generated a lot of interest.

Under Premier Wall Saskatchewan has enjoyed a steady climb in a number of sectors. Exports are up nearly 50%. With agriculture up 67% and mining, oil and gas rising 55% it is understandable why Saskatchewanians have churned out \$76 billion worth of exports.

In March, the provincial budget will fund the government's election commitments such as the new Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship that will provide up to \$2,000 over four years to new high school graduates to reduce the cost of post-secondary tuition in Saskatchewan.

Premier Wall points out that "Saskatchewan's economy is leading the nation. We have a growing population, low unemployment, the second-highest average wages in the country and a great quality of life in our province."

Reception for the Speaker

I had the pleasure of attending a reception in honour of the new Speaker of the House of Commons, the Honourable Andrew Scheer, M.P. and his wife Jill. Andrew has served as the Member of Parliament for Regina-Qu'Appelle since 2004. Mr. Scheer was elected Speaker of the House in June 2011 by secret ballot and became the youngest Speaker in Canadian history.

The reception in Ottawa was hosted by good friends Greg Kane and Adrian Burns. Adrian (another Saskatchewan girl) is the sister of Vaughn Schofield, my friend and fellow Saskatchewanian, who is the Saskatchewan Chair of the Canadian Forces Liaison Council and a committed supporter of our troops.



Newly re-elected Premier Brad Wall and me.



My MLA June Draude who was also re-elected in the Kelvington-Wadena constituency.



With host Greg Kane (right) and the Honourable Andrew Scheer, M.P. and his wife Jill.

Remembrance



Col Mike Minor points out the Kabul Military Training Centre (KMTC) to journalist Matthew Fisher and me. Atop the training hill we had a good view of the base that he commands as part of efforts to train and empower the Afghan military.



Col Minor (right) and his Afghan counterpart BGen. Aminullah Patyani explain to me the challenges they face at the KMTC and across Afghanistan. The previous day I was in Kandahar for Remembrance Day ceremonies with Canadian Forces.

The Training Mission

“Operation Attention” is Canada’s contribution to training Afghan soldiers and police so they can take over security for their country when our forces leave in 2014. Based in and around Kabul, some 1,000 Canadian troops are training Afghans in leadership, health care, literacy improvement, and the core professional skills of soldiers and police. I was privileged to see the training first hand last November and came away very impressed by the enthusiasm of the young Afghan trainees – many of whom had just learned to read and write, vital skills for modern soldiering. It also makes these young men role models in their own home communities.

Transition by

Shipping containers processed _____

Vehicles processed _____

Aircraft processed _____

Numbers of structures to be transferred _____

Soil remediated _____

Electronic records processed and repatriated _____

Paper records processed and repatriated _____

Contracts reviewed and closed _____

Support Our Troops

herofund.ca

cfpsa.com

truepatriotlovefoundation.com

in Afghanistan

The Transition Mission

Our Canadian Forces faced a daunting task last summer when Canada's Afghanistan combat mission began winding down. They not only had to bring home our 3,000 troops, they had a logistical nightmare on their hands – dealing with all the thousands of tonnes of gear – from tanks and heavy guns to chairs and tables and tents. It was the “Transition Mission”, the last phase of Canada's “Operation Athena”. By Christmas, everyone was home and all the equipment had been either repatriated or sold to our allies – sometimes for a profit. I was struck by the ingenuity of our Forces in carrying out this task with such efficiency and expertise.



I'm speaking here with Afghan National Army SSgt Yusufzai as BGen Aminullah Patyani (left), commander of the KMTC looks on. The KMTC was an impressive facility and I'm glad I got a chance to see exactly what kind of training we are giving the Afghan military as it takes over responsibility for the defence and security of the country.

the Numbers

More than 2,700

More than 1,030

16

More than 250

7,000 cubic metres

150 terabytes

120,000 pounds

More than 10,000



One of the highlights of my trip was witnessing our Forces as they got to see and touch the Grey Cup after CFL Commissioner Mark Cohon brought it to the base in Kandahar. One of those people was Jean Pachkowski, a Warrant Officer from Regina posted to 1 Service Battalion in Edmonton. Jean is a diehard Roughriders fan and was thrilled to be able to see the CFL's ultimate prize in person. I know, like me, she's hoping the Riders can bring it home for the fourth time this year.

Awards Season

Birchall Leadership Award

I had the pleasure of attending the annual Yellow Ribbon Gala in Edmonton for the presentation of the Birchall Leadership Award.

The Birchall Award is given to those Canadians who carry on a tradition of excellence and leadership in connection with Canada's military. The award honours Air Commodore Leonard J. Birchall who, after being taken as a prisoner of war by the Japanese during the Second World War, stood up for his comrades and "confronted his captors, often risking his own life, in order to preserve the morale, dignity and safety of lower ranked prisoners." This commitment to promote the safety and welfare of those under his command led to a distinguished career in the RCAF and as commandant of the Royal Military College.

This year the award was presented to a Guard of Honour—six members of the Canadian Forces and one civilian, who accepted on behalf of his late son—who were chosen to represent the entire Task Force Afghanistan. The individual members of the Guard of Honour also showed great leadership and integrity, the kind exemplified by A/Cdre Birchall throughout his career and life.

Specially selected from the many Canadians who served as part of Task Force Afghanistan, these soldiers were powerful examples of the bravery and leadership Canada's Armed Forces deploy across the country and around the world.

It was a wonderful ceremony and dinner and I was immensely pleased to be able to share in the honouring of Canadians who gave so much for their country and comrades and not only displayed leadership amongst their peers, but also helped make Canada a leader on the international stage once again.



Capt Kurt Schweitzer one of the awards recipients from the Task Force Afghanistan Guard of Honour.



DND Ombudsman Awards

The Department of National Defence Ombudsman Awards seek to recognize those members of Canada's Armed Forces who excel at conflict resolution.

My friend LCol Sean Lewis received the Liz Hoffman Memorial Commendation for Complaint Resolution. LCol Lewis ensured that 95% of his unit received alternate dispute resolution training, which helped his unit accomplish their objectives including closing and moving Camp Mirage in Dubai.

Meritorious Service Medal



Saskatchewan's Major Lee James Mossop, M.S.M., C.D., received the Meritorious Service Medal from Governor General David Johnston. Major Mossop served as a battle group operations officer in Afghanistan from September 2009 to May 2010. His comprehensive understanding of counter-insurgency operations and battle group capabilities led to greater stability in the Panjwai district.

His dynamic and aggressive leadership forged a proficient tactical operations centre and planning cell, empowering his subordinates to excel beyond all expectations. Major Mossop ensured that critical guidance was provided to all battle group operations, which was essential to their success.

Canada in a Leading Role

Manning Innovation Awards

In October I had the honour of chairing the Gala Dinner for the Manning Innovation Awards in Edmonton.

The Awards are named for Saskatchewan's own Ernest C. Manning who became the youngest cabinet minister in the British Commonwealth at the age of 26 and went on to have a distinguished career in Canadian politics including a 7 term run just next door as Alberta's longest serving premier.

"His belief in recognizing the intelligence of the common person as well as his strong ideals of honesty, integrity and sincerity allowed him to retire undefeated, the longest serving elected leader in Canada's history." - manningawards.ca

These awards celebrate his spirit of innovation and those Canadians who look forward in order to solve problems and create a better society for the rest of us.

This year there were many worthy recipients who have helped make life easier and more efficient for Canadians everywhere.

Winners received awards for everything from safer mud flaps to technology for cleaner burning diesel engines.



Presenting an award to Randal J. Marsden, for pioneering an easy-to-disinfect, buttonless, touch- and tap-sensitive keyboard called Cleankeys. This tool has proved invaluable to professionals working in a number of healthcare industries, from dentists to doctors.



In October I was invited by my good friend Pat Noble (above, she and I worked together at CBC Radio on *As It Happens*) to be a guest speaker at the Canadian Club of Hamilton on the importance of Canadian leadership on the international stage. I have excerpted below some points I feel are important in light of Canada's emerging role as an international leader in both economic and military affairs:

"Canada also has a clear purpose. And that purpose is no longer just to go along and get along with everyone else's agenda. It is no longer to please every dictator with a vote at the United Nations. Past attempts to do so were not in Canada's national interest ... we know where our interests lie, and who our friends are. And we take strong, principled positions in our dealings with other nations whether popular or not ... and that is what the world can count on from Canada!

We now have the tools to act, but also the capacity. Because we are no longer in the middle of the pack, but among the world's top performing nations...

In a brilliant address delivered some years ago in Canada, Ted Sorenson — himself a skilled observer of powerful leaders — said:

"Once in office those who wish to stand up and stand out and leave something enduring behind must build new institutions, not new images. They must look to the next generation not merely the next election.

They must talk in terms of fundamental values, not merely costs. They must appeal to our hopes as well as our needs, to what we long to be and what we know is right.

That's leadership."



Air Cadets

As an Honorary Colonel in the Royal Canadian Air Force I have a special appreciation and respect for members of the Air Cadet League of Canada.

In October I was invited to serve as a guest speaker at the 70th Anniversary Annual General Meeting and Conference held in Mississauga, Ontario. Along with fellow speaker the Honourable David Onley, the Ontario Lieutenant Governor, I was able to meet many of the approximately 400 Cadets, parents, guests, volunteers, military staff and supporters.

The event was held in honour of the provincial Air Cadets who had achieved high levels of academic and program goals. Many of these young students carry on their connection with military throughout their lives, either by serving in the reserves or joining the regular Canadian Forces.

With the dedication and perseverance these young Canadians show, I know the future is bright for our country.

Speaking to the Conference while MC, Warrant Officer 2 Danielle Andela stands at my side.

Alzheimer's Gala

In November I was invited to give a speech at the Saskatchewan Alzheimer Society's *A Night to Remember Gala* as an Honorary Patron.

The event raised over \$100,000 that will help maintain existing services and implement creative new opportunities for support, education, advocacy, awareness and research into this terrible disease.

Having the opportunity to speak on the trials and tribulations of an affliction which affects more than 250,000 people in Canada was very important to me and I'm glad I had the opportunity.



Sitting with Joanne Bracken, CEO, Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan. For more information on Alzheimer's Disease, visit: alzheimer.ca/en/sk

Awarding Our Seniors

On October 2nd in Saskatoon I had the honour of being the keynote speaker at the Saskatchewan Senior Volunteer Awards. These awards seek to both recognize individual seniors and raise awareness of the continuing contributions the elderly make to Canadian communities everywhere.

People across Canada are living longer—the average age for men and women is 78.5 and 83.1. During a period in which a significant portion of the population is entering their senior years, it is important that we recognize the wisdom and value of their experience across Canada.

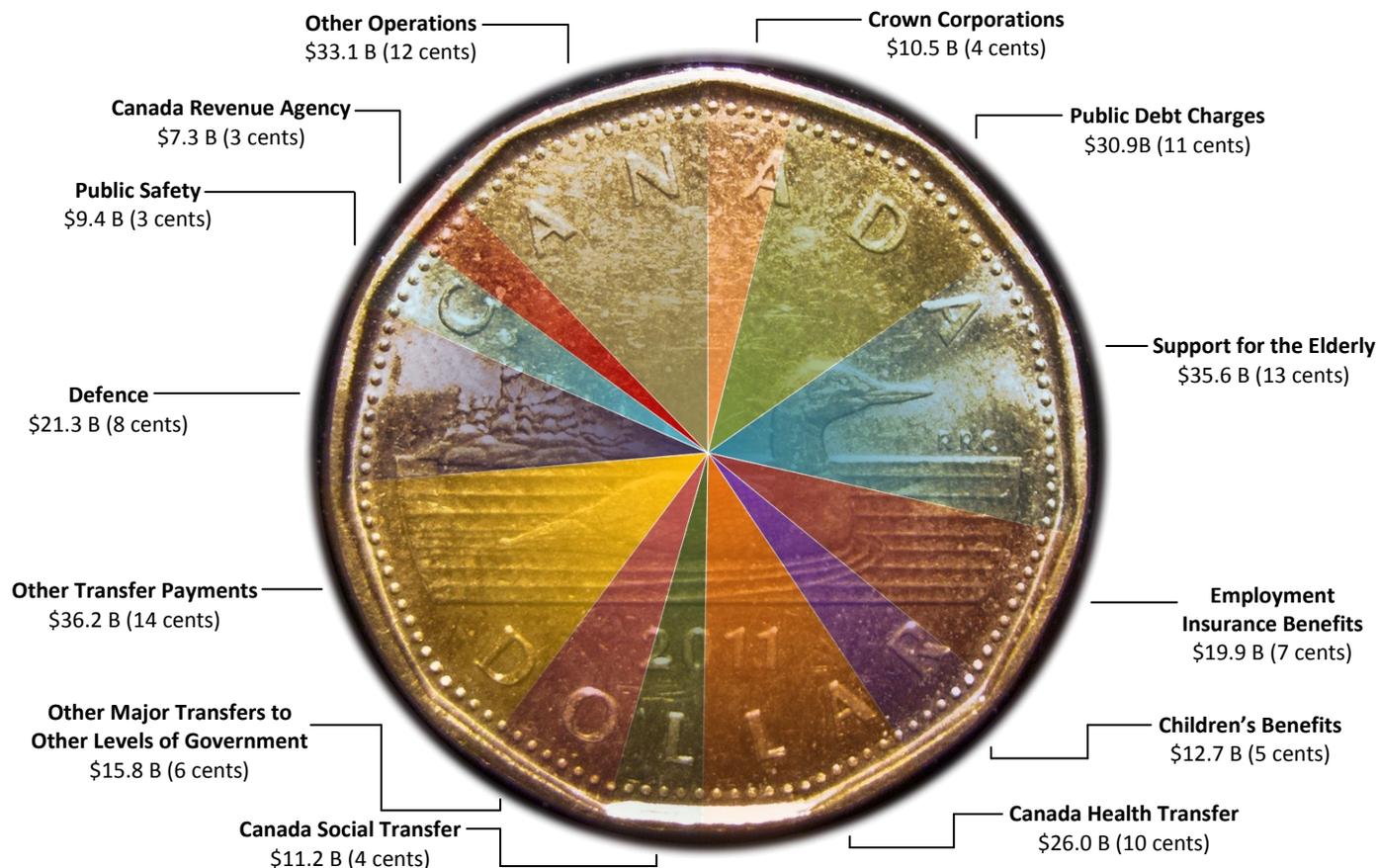


It was a treat to see the Honourable Dr. Gordon L. Barnhart, outgoing Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan. He addressed the seniors, commending them for their leadership and the mentoring role they play. Interestingly, despite their age, seniors serve longer hours while volunteering than their younger counterparts.

How Your 2011 Tax Dollar Was Spent

The Treasury Board is looking for savings in the cost of government in the upcoming 2012-13 budget and beyond

Nearly 70 government departments and agencies have submitted plans to streamline their budgets. As a country, we spend some \$80 billion on government programs. The government has also moved to cut red tape and unnecessary regulation that too often chokes or stymies business growth and job creation.



Cambridge Food and Wine Society

I was recipient of the 2011 Cambridge Lifetime Achievement Award for outstanding Achievement and Contribution to Multiculturalism in Canada from The Cambridge Food and Wine Society.

Since 1998 the Cambridge Food and Wine Society, founded by Professor Chef Leo Chan and J.P. Michelini of George Brown and Humber College in Ontario has provided annual scholarship funds to accomplished high school, university and community college students, a boost for the hospitality industry.

Ted Kotcheff, a Canadian icon and last year's recipient, presented the award. Ted has been a long time Executive Producer of Law & Order SVU and has been a TV and film director, writer and producer for years. Amongst his directing credits are *First Blood*, *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz* and *Weekend at Bernie's*.

It was wonderful to receive the award from this great Canadian and a great friend!



Two winners! Here's Ted presenting me the award that he received last year.

The Prime Minister in Davos for the World Economic Forum

"Forbes magazine ranks Canada as the best place on the planet for businesses to grow and create jobs. The OECD and the IMF predict our economy will again be among the leaders of the industrialized world over the next two years. And for the fourth year in a row, the World Economic Forum, says our banks are the soundest in the world.

These evaluations are the result of sound fundamentals. Among G-7 countries, Canada has the lowest overall tax rate on new business investment. Our net debt-to-GDP ratio remains the lowest in the G-7 - and by far. And, while we remain concerned about the number of Canadians who are out of work, Canada is one of only two G-7 countries to have recouped all of the jobs lost during the global recession. Indeed, more Canadians are now working, than before the downturn.

How was this achieved? We made historic investments in infrastructure. We encouraged businesses to invest and helped them to avoid layoffs. We put substantial funding into skills training. And we extended support for workers who lost their jobs. These things we did on a timely, targeted and temporary basis. We did not create permanent new programs or government bureaucracy.

But the wealth of western economies is no more inevitable than the poverty of emerging ones and that the wealth we enjoy today has been based on - and only on - the good, growth-oriented policies, the right, often tough choices and the hard work, done in the past. And regardless of what direction other western nations may choose, under our government, Canada will make the transformations necessary to sustain economic growth, job creation and prosperity now and for the next generation.

That further means two things: Making better economic choices now and preparing ourselves now for the demographic pressures the Canadian economy faces.

We will, of course, continue to keep tax rates down. We will continue to make the key investments in science and technology necessary to sustain a modern competitive economy. We will continue to advance our trade linkages. We will work to complete negotiations on a free trade agreement with India in 2013. And we will begin entry talks with the Trans-Pacific Partnership, while also pursuing other avenues to advance our trade with Asia.

We will also continue working with the Obama administration to implement our joint "Beyond the Border" initiative, our plan to strength and deepen our economic and security links to our most important partner. However, at the same time, we will make it a national priority to ensure we have the capacity to export our energy products beyond the United States, and specifically to Asia. In this regard, we will soon take action to ensure that major energy and mining projects are not subject to unnecessary regulatory delays - that is, delay merely for the sake of delay. This complements work we are already doing, and that we will move forward on, with the Canadian Federation of Independent Business to cut the burden of red tape on entrepreneurs.

One of the backdrops for my concerns is Canada's ageing population. If not addressed promptly this has the capacity to undermine Canada's economic position and, for that matter that of all western nations, well beyond the current economic crises. Our demographics also constitute a threat to the social programs and services that Canadians cherish." - Prime Minister Stephen Harper

For full text, visit: <http://pm.gc.ca/eng/media.asp?category=2&featureId=6&pageId=46&id=4606>

Saskatchewan's Federal Team Working for You



Please feel free to contact me anytime with questions and ideas.

wallinp@sen.parl.gc.ca

Senate of Canada, 621 Victoria Building, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A4

Tel: (613) 947-4097 . Fax: (613) 947-4091

www.pamelawallin.com