



Senator Pamela Wallin



Photo: Tom Sandler, Central Image Agency

During the Royal visit to Saskatchewan, I had the chance to meet Suzanna, a 4-year-old yellow Labrador retriever that the Queen presented as a gift to the Mounties three years ago. Suzanna and RCMP Assistant Commissioner Roger Brown, Commander of RCMP Depot in Regina, are inseparable .

With summer upon us, and as I look back over the spring months, it has been a very busy time. Saskatchewan, of course, warmly welcomed Prince Charles and Camilla as we celebrated The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee—60 years of continuous and devoted service to the UK, Canada and the Commonwealth.

Our Government celebrated its first anniversary of a majority victory , which means we have been able to implement the agenda we campaigned on.

MPs and Senators are working hard to ensure that Canada safely weathers today’s rough economic times. The Jobs, Growth and Long Term Prosperity Act, Bill C-38, contains a wide range of important budgetary and other measures that improve conditions for investment and the management of public finances to ensure we get back to balanced budgets ahead of schedule.

But we are also making important and long delayed changes to immigration policy, access to employment insurance, ensuring common sense practices at Fisheries and Oceans and reducing red tape and duplication in environmental assessments, which is very important for our growing energy sector.

In fact, most economic development in Saskatchewan will benefit greatly from the “one project, one review” approach—a streamlined, more efficient environmental approval process that will continue to protect our beautiful province.

Employment insurance will focus on those who truly need it by removing all the disincentives to work. Immigration of skilled workers will be more flexible to meet Canada’s urgent labour market needs—and we know something about that right here in booming Saskatchewan. And all provinces will receive predictable federal funding for health care and education.

So enjoy your summer and we will get the policies in place so we can continue to be the envy of the rest of the world!!



Defence Committee goes to Washington. See page 10.



No. 5 Bombing and Gunnery School commemoration near Dafoe. See page 11.

wallinp@sen.parl.gc.ca

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

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

Meetings and Greetings



Photo: Bryan Davies Photography

With Jim Trott (left), Albert Walmsley (right) and Dr. Kellie Leitch, M.P. for Simcoe-Grey, Ontario. Kellie is the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Human Resources and to the Minister of Labour. Kellie is also a pediatric orthopedic surgeon. And we're lucky to have her as part of our team!



M.P. Bev Shipley and I kicked off a fundraising drive to benefit local hospitals in his riding. Following the announcement in the federal budget that penny production will end this fall, pennies are being collected at various events for charity.



Saskatchewan's Rui Song, a grade 11 student who won second place in the Sanofi BioGENEius competition for her research into a more nutritious lentil in Ottawa, with M.P. Kelly Block and me.



At the Parliamentary Dining Room with Sam and Ruth Robinson, highest bidders in a silent auction to raise money for the Family Services Saskatoon Foundation.



Photo: Steve Gerecke, The Hill Times

With Stockwell Day and his wife, Valorie at the *Politics and the Pen* Literary Fundraiser.



Photo: Caroline Phillips

I recently spoke at an executive network event at the Ottawa home of Janice McDonald of Canadian Women in Communications, pictured here with her mother Betty.

Royals in the Queen City



Chatting with Her Royal Highness, the Duchess of Cornwall.

Despite rain the Royals were all the rage in the Queen City, May 23rd. Prince Charles and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, helped Saskatchewan honour Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee Year. At the legislature, Prince Charles presented six Diamond Jubilee Medals honouring significant contributions to community. Prince Charles is Honorary Patron of the Regina Symphony Orchestra which, in the evening, gave a concert at RCMP Depot Drill Hall that included a piece specially composed for the Royal Couple. Prime Minister Harper then named Prince Charles Honorary Commissioner of the RCMP. The Queen was recently named the Commissioner-in-Chief.



Photo: Tom Sandler, Central Image Agency

Celebrating the Royals with Saskatchewan's Lt. Governor Schofield.

Charles and Suzanna

The Prince of Wales finally met Ken-side Wallow of Sandringham, or Suzanna as she is known to those at the RCMP Academy Depot Division in Regina. Suzanna—a four-year-old yellow Labrador retriever was a gift from the Queen to the RCMP three years ago. She is affectionately named after a book called *Susannah of the Mounties* that the Queen loved as a girl. The royal couple greeted the Lab when RCMP Assistant Commissioner Roger Brown brought her to the royal reception at Government House in Regina. Originally trained as a bomb-sniffing dog, Suzanna now serves as a mascot for the Mounties and is never far from Depot Commander Brown's side.



Energy Showdown

Blaming Ontario and Quebec's economic woes on the oilsands and energy sector—as NDP leader Tom Mulcair has done—shows a profound ignorance of how this country's economy works. And as our Premier Brad Wall has stated, it is also “very, very divisive”.

Today, the energy sector is generating employment in almost every segment of our economy and in all corners of this country. The oilsands alone are responsible for close to 400,000 direct and indirect jobs in skilled trades, in manufacturing, in the clerical field and in the financial sector—right across Canada.

Alberta's oil industry alone will buy some \$65 billion worth of goods and services from companies in Ontario over the next 2 decades.

Then there is the benefit to government revenues. Over the past 5 years, the oil and gas industry has contributed an average of \$22 billion to government coffers—money that helps pay for everything from education to health care to roads and bridges to the environment.

Even for Mulcair—the Liberal turned New Democrat—this is a risky political ploy to pit eastern citizens against those in the west.

Blaming energy production for the hollowing out the manufacturing sector in Ontario simply makes no sense. Even a visit to oilsands operations didn't inform or change the opposition leader's mind.

Mr. Mulcair says he wants to be Prime Minister but playing divisive politics like this shows he is far from ready for serious consideration.

Fish Stories

Farmers, municipalities, fishermen and even those in the mining business have welcomed the federal government's changes to the ways the Department of Fisheries and Oceans operates. The new rules will finally allow routine, low risk activities or small projects—such as docks—to go ahead. And there will be real deadlines for the granting of these permits. Too often in the past, projects have been rejected in order to “protect” fish in ditches or in sloughs in farmers' fields. Highway construction and mining operations have been stopped by Fisheries Act rules which often defied common sense. This resulted in delays and significant additional cost, without ever providing protection for the fish population or habitat in our lakes and rivers.

High Flying in Winnipeg

CFB Winnipeg is the Royal Canadian Air Force's multi-tasking hub at the centre of the country. 17 Wing is very impressive. It hosts the headquarters of two vital and large operations. 1 Canadian Air Division provides air power to the Canadian Forces. Its commander is also in charge of the Canadian headquarters for defence of North America. 2 Canadian Air Division oversees Air Force training and doctrine.

It is no surprise then that 17 Wing is a key training centre, turning out some of the best multi-skilled personnel in the world at the Flying Training School, the CF Aerospace Studies School, the Meteorology School and the School of Survival and Aeromedical Training.

The three squadrons at 17 Wing provide navigation training, heavy airlift, search and rescue capabilities and air-to-air refuelling. 17 Wing also maintains a Canadian Forces ammunition depot in Dundurn and transport facilities at Yellowknife—and supports units from Thunder Bay to the Saskatchewan-Alberta border as well as in the Far North.

RCAF Station Winnipeg first opened in 1922 and became a major air base as part of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan during World War Two. And today, the base more than ever lives up to its long held reputation.

It is always an incredible experience to see our military operations up close. I want to thank 17 Wing's Commander, Colonel Blaise Frawley, and the Canadian Forces for the work they do on behalf of Canadians.



With Colonel Blaise Frawley, 17 Wing Commander.



Brigadier General Pierre St-Amand, Deputy Commander, 1 Canadian Air Division, Brigadier General Jack Briggs (DC/JFACC – Combined Air Operations Centre) and Lieutenant Colonel van Dieppen (1 CAD HQ CO).



Major Elliott, DCO 435 Squadron, demonstrating the controls in the cockpit of a CC-130 Hercules.



Attending a mess dinner that night hosted by Colonel Frawley.



With Master Corporal Portman, Search and Rescue Technician with the 435 Squadron. He is one of our amazing SAR Techs, and these men and women give a whole new meaning to the phrase "multi-tasking". Those who sign on for search and rescue operations are a very special breed. They are trained to climb mountains, parachute into danger or dive into icy arctic waters, often having to improvise to turn a piece of rope or a tree branch into rescue equipment. They are truly selfless men and women who risk their lives for others. The RCAF keeps five squadrons on alert, based at Gander, Greenwood, Trenton, Winnipeg and Comox, as search and rescue (SAR) is a huge challenge in our vast country. The CC-130 Hercules and CC-115 Buffalo are the backbone of SAR, along with the CH-146 Cormorant helicopter—but any RCAF aircraft can be used if needed. The Buffaloes are 50 years old; it's anticipated a new aircraft will replace them starting in 2014. At Winnipeg's 17 Wing, 435 "Chinthe" Transport and Rescue Squadron flies the CC-130 Hercs.

Honorary Colonels

Honorary colonels in the RCAF gathered in Halifax in May to share insights about their volunteer work behind the scenes to provide a much needed connection between the Canadian Forces and the civilian community.

The Honorary rank is just that—"honorary and advisory," and does not confer authority or command function. But an Honorary Colonel is an officer on virtually all issues except operations.

Some HCOLs are former Air Force members, but most come from a diverse range of backgrounds, and include many well-known public and community figures who can offer a different kind of expertise.

The very talented performer, Loreena McKennitt, spoke for all of us when she offered her farewell speech about her time as an HCOL:

"I accepted this role, largely inspired by the sentiment, that democracy does not thrive as a spectator sport—that if we care about the democracy we live in, we should all do our part to preserve it—and through this position one can become, even in small ways, conduits of reflection, communication, between the civilian population, our Canadian Forces personnel, and the political forces which give them direction...Our present Canadian Forces are the extension of the history and traditions of the very brave men and women, who from across this land, fought and died in vast numbers in two great wars and more. It is they who have afforded us this life of liberty, privilege and affluence."



Returning from a flight on CH-124 Sea King over Halifax Harbour along with HCOL Eben James III from 2 Air Movements Squadron, Trenton.



With LGen Deschamps and HCOL Loreena McKennitt, 435 Transport and Rescue Squadron Winnipeg. Loreena is an Internationally acclaimed Canadian singer/composer, harpist, accordionist and pianist who has sold more than 14 million records worldwide.



With Maj Colin Bylsma (12 Wing, 423 (MH) Sq, Standards and Training Officer) at the Shearwater Air Museum. Colin is the nephew of Jack and Winnie Bylsma of Wadena.



Major General (Ret'd) Marc Terreau and Honorary Colonel Karl West.

Rick Hansen Appointed Honorary Colonel

The Defence Department is marking the 25th anniversary of Rick Hansen's round-the-world wheelchair marathon by naming him Honorary Colonel of its Joint Personnel Support Unit. The unit offers services and programs to sick or injured military personnel, both serving and retired, and their families, as well as the families of those killed. Hansen said he hopes to be able to provide encouragement to soldiers dealing with serious problems. "We each have the power within in us to take small steps to overcome extreme obstacles," he said. "When we have hope, we have possibility."



Homegrown Heroes



Jill Byers, a grade 4 student at Oxbow's Prairie Horizons School, emailed to say she had chosen me for her project on Saskatchewan heroes. I was thrilled and so contacted Jill and her principal, Pat Jeannot, to see if we could do an interview via Skype. It worked! The children took turns asking me questions, and I then asked them about the heroes they had chosen which included many great Saskatchewanians, from the late Sandra Schmirler to hockey great, Gordie Howe.



Photo: Lizz Bottrell, The Oxbow Herald

Calgary Petroleum Club

For many years, the famous Petroleum Club in Calgary was “boys” only. But the energy industry now has many women at the helm and the president of the club is Saskatchewanian, Bonnie Dupont, who served as a vice president at Enbridge Inc. for 12 years. I was invited to address club members—both men and women—about achievement, leadership and the importance of where we come from.



From left to right: Stephanie Felesky, Co-Chair of Upstart (formerly the Calgary Children's Initiative); Thalia Kingsford, Senior Investment Advisor, Vice President, BMO Nesbitt Burns Inc.; Dawn Farrell, President and Chief Executive Officer, TransAlta Corporation; Bonnie DuPont, President of the Board of the Calgary Petroleum Club, Karen Prentice, Chair of the Banff International Research Station for Mathematical Innovation and Discovery.

A Tale of Two Women

In her new book, author Nazanin Afshin-Jam tells her first-hand story of helping to save the life of a young Iranian woman who shared not only her first name but her country of birth.

The Tale of Two Nazanins: A Teenager on Death Row in Iran and the Canadian Who Vowed to Save Her is a powerful story of how determination and perseverance and hope can truly make a difference.

Nazanin, who is a committed human and women's rights activist, is married to Peter MacKay, our Minister of Defence. The new book was celebrated at a reception hosted by Lauren Harper at 24 Sussex Drive.



With author Nazanin Afshin-Jam at the Prime Minister's residence.

A Majority Win One Year Later!

On May 2nd, Conservatives celebrated the anniversary of the first majority Conservative government in 18 years. While there were gatherings across the country, I travelled with the Government Leader in the Senate, Marjory LeBreton, and with Lauren Harper, the Prime Minister's wife, to British Columbia. Lauren is a genuine, down to earth person who loves meeting people.

These events are all about the importance of leadership. And leadership is about ideas, vision and a 24/7 willingness to work. As we gathered to mark the one year anniversary, we recalled the Prime Minister's words on election night:

"Five years ago we began to build the Canada that would be truly strong and free, the true north of our national anthem. That work is well begun, and it is within our grasp to make that dream come true, to become a country that is as prosperous, as united, and as strong as it can be. The best country in the world but always striving to be more...We campaigned on this new Canadian reality. Not on a dream or a fantasy or a slogan, but upon the reality of this great country rising. A country founded on great principles. A courageous warrior, a compassionate neighbour, a confident partner."



Andrew Saxton, M.P., Senator Marjory LeBreton, Wai Young, M.P., Lauren Harper, me & James Lunney, M.P.



Senators and M.P.s, past and present, along with Marjory LeBreton, Lauren Harper and myself.

Chilean Miner



One of the now world famous Chilean miners—José Henriquez (he was number 24 to be rescued of the 33 miners) was in our province recently to address the Saskatchewan Mining Association and the Regina District Chamber of Commerce. He also visited a potash mine in Colonsay where he ventured underground for the first time since being rescued. José, who is also known as "The Preacher" was joined by Rev Alfred Cooper, Chaplain to the President of Chile and interpreter on his visit to Saskatchewan.

Archerwill's Own

Congratulations to Archerwill's Codie Prevost who took three trophies at the recent Saskatchewan Country Music Awards, in Prince Albert. Codie won Best Male Vocalist, Music Video of the Year and Entertainer of the Year—an honour he's taken home four years in a row! We ran into each other recently when our families were celebrating Mother's Day at Grandma Viv's in Archerwill.



F-35: Jobs for Canadians, Safety for Our Pilots

A few pages back you saw me aboard a Sea King helicopter—now 50 years in service. Back in the 80's the Liberals rejected the Mulroney government's choice of a new maritime helicopter to replace the ancient Sea Kings, and then scrapped the contract, calling it a "Cadillac" choice. Canadian taxpayers forked over nearly half a billion dollars in penalties, and we "bought" a machine that wasn't designed for military use and that is still not in service today! Having the wrong equipment—or no equipment at all—is simply too dangerous in this day and age.

9/11 proved to be a global game changer and Gaddafi's brutal Libya regime provoked nations, including Canada, to respond. Who can say what's next—Syria, Iran or perhaps another humanitarian disaster?

As we discovered in Afghanistan, after the Liberal "Decade of Darkness", our forces were woefully ill-equipped and short-changing our military put them at unnecessary risk. We cannot let it ever happen again.

That is why countries, just like people must be ready. I remember, as a kid, keeping candy and blankets in the car for long winter trips—just in case. As adults, we have health coverage, savings accounts, RRSPs and pensions—and in our homes we keep smoke detectors—so we can be prepared for the unknown.

Countries, too, must be ready, commensurate with their standing in the world. Canada now punches well above its weight as a NATO ally. We have interests to defend and allies to whom we owe a true partnership. We can either act as a responsible ally, or we can sit back and depend on others—a strategy which never served our national interests or our sovereignty and put us in harm's way.

The fact is, the F-35 has already been flying for years, and according to Forbes magazine, its test program is ahead of schedule for the third straight year. As for those allegedly "covered-up" costs to maintain the F-35 over their lifetime? This is truly disingenuous. Of course costs would be higher if you're going to include things like salaries for the pilots, and fuel and oil and the cost of hangars and runways. But we'd be paying for the pilots and the fuel anyway, regardless of what we fly. But it is important to consider maintenance cost and upgrades and we have done that.

When people buy a car, they consider the purchase price and the financing costs not how much fuel will cost over the car's lifetime. They'll put fuel in any car. So do the critics want you do this again and buy an inferior fighter instead of a 5th generation plane that our allies want, need and are committed to?

And Canada is already benefiting from huge contracts and jobs in R&D and manufacturing because we are an early partner on the project. So, let's for once do the right thing when it comes to military procurement and give the men and women who risk their lives for all of us the support and the equipment they will need to do the jobs we ask them to do.

"Tomorrow's operating environment will require stealth, the ability to sense and process vast quantities of information in a very short time, and to be able to operate with others, starting with our closest allies, anywhere around the globe."

**LGen André Deschamps
Commander, RCAF**

Air Forces of the Americas



Commander RCAF LGen André Deschamps, his wife Gayle, me, Linda Lightbody, Silvia Costantino Astorga and her husband, Brigadier-General Normando Costantino, head of the Argentinian Air Force.

Top air force officers from the Americas met in Ottawa in June. Members from 19 air forces in North, Central and South America, and five observer nations, gathered for four days of talks. *Air Forces of the Americas*, founded in 1961, strengthens and promotes ties and mutual support among member countries. Canada joined in 1992 after 20 years as an observer. It was my privilege to attend as Honourary Colonel of the RCAF.

Hero's Homecoming



One of our Canadian heroes, Major-General Mike Day, just returned from Afghanistan, where he was deputy commander of the NATO Training Mission—preparing Afghan soldiers and police to take control of their country's security in 2014. MGen Day testified at the defence committee, which I chair, about lessons learned by Canadian Forces in the 10 years they have been in Afghanistan. MGen Day has also commanded Canada's military anti-terrorism unit, Joint Task Force Two, and the entire Canadian Special Operations Forces Command.

The Queen's Representative



Her Honour, Mrs. Vaughn Schofield, S.V.M., at her installation ceremony as the twenty-first Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan. I know that Vaughn will represent Saskatchewanians with heart and energy and with focus on our military men and women and their families.

Rotary Club of Saskatoon Nutana



Bill Christensen, Program Chair, Haiti Fundraising Dinner, and Boris Kishchuk, Chair of the Saskatoon Nutana Rotary Club Haiti Project.

More than two years have passed since the devastating earthquake hit Haiti in January 2010. Although the disaster has faded from the front pages of newspapers, the aid and development work continues. In June, I spoke to the Rotary Club of Nutana, who've partnered with the Van Norman Charitable Foundation to raise \$100,000 to support a school on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince. It was a great opportunity to highlight Canada's role in a complex and changing world and to pay tribute to the work of volunteer organizations that are so critical in lending a hand.

Sask Municipal Awards

The City of Yorkton's Aviva Project won two Saskatchewan Municipal Awards: the Community Life Enrichment Award and the special Judge's Award. The Saskatchewan Municipal Awards were established in 2006 and celebrate the excellent and innovative practices of Saskatchewan's municipal governments.

Following the catastrophic flood in July 2010, residents of the City of Yorkton saw an opportunity to construct a skateboard park in conjunction with the work being done to mitigate any future flooding. Through the use of social media and online videos a volunteer campaign committee engaged citizens, businesses, First Nations groups, municipalities and influential community members to build their support network. All of this work paid off as the team finally made the skate park a reality.

I serve as a Awards jury member and I'm always inspired at the creative ideas and projects springing up across our province in small towns and municipalities. My congratulations to all the winners!



Lisa Washington (City of Yorkton) and key volunteers Nathan Grayston, Aaron Kienle and Dave Nussbaumer worked together to make their idea a reality. Aaron and Nathan were very much the social media experts and Nathan produced the videos for the Aviva submission.

Habitat for Humanity



Delegates from across Canada attended the Habitat for Humanity Annual General Meeting and National Conference in Regina in May. The theme was "Building a Habitat for Tomorrow" and I spoke about the importance of community, of helping your neighbour and of offering a hand-up rather than a hand-out.

Senate National Security and Defence Committee in Washington



Senators Pierre De Bané, Don Plett, me, Roméo Dallaire and Fabian Manning in front of Capitol Hill.

The Canada-U.S. defence and security relationship is a top priority for both our countries. That's why the Senate committee which I chair visits Washington each year, as we did again in June. Canadian senators meet with our defence and security partners at the Pentagon, Homeland Security and on Capitol Hill. We were also briefed by Canadian embassy defence and security specialists. These sessions help keep both sides informed on this increasingly important partnership as we move forward together on the Border Action Plan, intelligence sharing, combating cyber threats and transforming our militaries for an era of smaller budgets.



(Top) Senators Pierre De Bané, myself and Fabian Manning were among committee members who held several meetings at the Canadian embassy on various subjects, including (bottom) with Canadian Forces officers and the Canadian Space Agency about Canadian-American cooperation in space.



A Forum for Formers

The 25th Annual Public Policy Forum Dinner & Awards night honoured Canada's former Prime Ministers. This extraordinary event brought together almost 1,500 Canadian business and policy leaders to recognize all living former prime ministers of Canada. Quite a roomful and the stories were wonderful!



With the Right Honourable Brian Mulroney, Bob Rae and the Right Honourable Joe Clark.

Working Wages Up

Saskatchewanians should feel a bit better off these days. The province posted the largest year-over-year increase in average weekly earnings in Canada this past March, says Statistics Canada. "In Saskatchewan, average weekly earnings were \$918.15 in March, up 5.9 per cent from 12 months earlier. Earnings in the province have exceeded the national average since August 2011," the federal agency said.

Economic Partnership with Japan

Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz and Prime Minister Stephen Harper have launched negotiations for an Economic Partnership Agreement with Japan—the third largest economy in the world and Canada's second largest agriculture market. Japan's market is worth almost \$4 billion for Canadian farmers and food processors and is the second largest market for Canadian exporters with total pork and pork products worth almost \$900 million in 2011. Canada's "heart smart" canola oil also holds 40 per cent of Japan's edible oil market and is worth approximately \$1.4 billion to Canada.

Royal Celebrations and Military Memories in Dafoe

On June 2nd, exactly 60 years after Princess Elizabeth became Queen, I had the pleasure of joining hundreds at the old Dafoe airbase to celebrate Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee. We were also there to mark a key chapter in Canada's military history—re-dedicating the cenotaph commemorating the days when the airbase was home to No. 5 Bombing and Gunnery School, part of the vast British Commonwealth Air Training Plan.

I was honoured to present two Queen's Jubilee Medals. Lt Krystal Klenk, 23, has done tremendous community service work as commander of 553 Sherlock Squadron of the Royal Canadian Air Cadets in Davidson. Jim Golley, 93, from Ponoka, Alberta, is an R.C.A.F. veteran who served as Leading Aircraftsman and air mechanic at Dafoe during the Second World War.

Before the Jubilee medal ceremony, the Wynyard branch of the Royal Canadian Legion hosted a remembrance service, re-dedicating the cenotaph in honour of the 41 air crew who perished at Dafoe during the war. Thousands from Commonwealth and allied nations trained at the No. 5 Bombing and Gunnery School. Many more trained at 150 other British Commonwealth Air Training Plan schools across Canada, 20 in Saskatchewan alone—the most of any province aside from Ontario. The BCATP led U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt to call Canada, "The aerodrome of democracy."



Queen's Jubilee Medal recipients Lt. Krystal Klenk and Jim Golley.



With Cadet Sydney Reynolds of Nokomis, who assisted me in laying a wreath at the re-dedication of the Dafoe cenotaph. Sydney serves with 797 Lanigan Knights of Columbus Squadron, Royal Canadian Air Cadets.



I presented a Queen's Jubilee Medal to Jim Golley, 93, a Leading Aircraftsman who served at the No. 5 Bombing and Gunnery School at Dafoe during the Second World War.



Training planes from Brandon Air Museum, including a Harvard (centre), were on display on the very same airfield that saw young pilots training on them during the Second World War.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal marks the 2012 celebrations of the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the Throne as Queen of Canada. The medal is awarded to those who have made a significant contribution to a particular province, territory, region or community within Canada, or an achievement abroad that brings credit to Canada. During the year of celebrations, 60,000 deserving Canadians will be recognized.

Cutting Your Taxes

The federal government has cut taxes over 140 times since 2006, reducing the overall tax burden to its lowest level in nearly 50 years. And now more than one million low income families, individuals and seniors pay no tax at all. In fact, our Conservative government's low-tax record has provided tax savings for a typical Canadian family totaling over \$3,100.

We've cut taxes in every way that government collects them—personal taxes, consumption taxes, business taxes and excise taxes are lower, including:

- ◆ Cutting the lowest personal income tax rate to 15%.
- ◆ Increasing the amount Canadians can earn tax free.
- ◆ Providing seniors with pension income splitting.
- ◆ Reducing the GST from 7% to 5%, putting nearly \$1,000 back in the pocket of an average family.
- ◆ Introducing the Children's Fitness Tax Credit and Children's Arts Tax Credit.
- ◆ Bringing in the landmark Tax Free Savings Account – the most important personal savings vehicle since RRSPs.
- ◆ Reducing the small business tax rate from 12% to 11%.
- ◆ Lowering business taxes to 15%, as passed in Parliament in 2007.

Economic Action Plan 2012 builds on our Conservative Government's low-tax record, including tax breaks such as:

- ◆ Extending the Hiring Credit for Small Business for an additional year, providing business with a credit of up to \$1,000 against a small firm's increase in its 2012 Employment Insurance (EI) premiums over those paid in 2011. This new credit will help up to 536,000 employers with additional hiring, reducing small business' 2012 payroll costs by about \$205 million.
- ◆ Increasing the Traveller's Exemptions on the value of goods Canadians can bring in duty- and tax-free from \$50 to \$200 after a 24-hour trip and from \$400 to \$800 after a 48-hour trip, beginning June 1, 2012.

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