



Senator Pamela Wallin



Prime Minister Harper and family on election night in his riding of Calgary Southwest. Photo by Jason Ransom, Prime Minister's Office.

We're back to work on Parliament Hill!

After a hard-fought campaign, Prime Minister Stephen Harper won an impressive majority on May 2nd, ending years of uncertainty and deadlock caused by minority governments.

Before the summer break there will be a Throne Speech, and Parliament will pass the Government's budget to benefit all Canadians, as well as getting down to the other important business of the nation. Speaking about the importance of the energy sector to our future, the Prime Minister stressed, "Western Canada can breathe a lot easier."

There are many reasons to be grateful we live in this country—and democratic elections are high on the list. As Prime Minister Harper said on election night, "Our Canadian political life is sometimes turbulent but it is nonetheless a thing of beauty and the envy of peoples who have yet to achieve it. It is without a doubt a big part of what makes this country Canada an island of stability and security in a troubled world."

We are indeed fortunate to live in Canada. Our economy has weathered the economic downturn very well. We're on track to eliminate the deficit

by 2015, perhaps sooner. And we're ensuring our economic future, whether it's with the leadership of Premier Brad Wall so effectively promoting the "Saskatchewan brand," or Prime Minister Harper's leadership as the government negotiates 58 trade deals around the world.

Speaking of leadership, I had a chance encounter with old friend Rick Hansen recently. He remains an incredible inspiration and leader.

I spent two-and-a-half months in a wheelchair because of a broken foot, and Rick was taken aback when he saw me wheel around the corner.

We talked about the new perspective I now have on life in a wheelchair. Snow, ice, rain, heavy doors, sharp turns—all deny you access to rooms and conversations and choices. You go into meetings and restaurants through the back doors and kitchens and there are a million moments a day when you are frustrated that you must ask for help to do the simplest things. Smiling, Rick said I was just beginning to get a sense for what life is like for the thousands who face this for a lifetime.

It is hard to believe that it is 25 years since his Man in Motion Tour but the 25th Anniversary Relay will be an exciting opportunity for Canadians to join the journey as Rick and many others retrace the Canadian portion of the original Man in Motion World Tour. It starts August 24th in Cape Spear, Nfld., and some 7,000 people across Canada who have also made a difference in the lives of Canadians will participate. See Rick's website for details and take a look at the ground-breaking work of his Foundation on Spinal Cord Injury—just Google "Rick Hansen."

I have also met some amazing young people in the last few months. Young Saskatchewanians who are serving as Legislative Interns in the current session of the Saskatchewan legislature visited with me in Ottawa and asked some very smart and tough questions of their Senator! (See p. 9.)

Another group of young Saskatchewanians entered an essay contest to attend an event in Yorkton where I was speaking at an gala dinner for our local MP Gary Breitkreuz.

And some amazing students and wonderfully willing teachers helped connect four generations across many miles using today's technology so we could celebrate a true local hero—Joyce Dann. Joyce is one of seven Canadians emblazoned on the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and she grew up on a farm outside Wadena!



We were a wheelchair duo—my friend Rick Hansen and me! Photo by Michael Pasloski.



Senator Wallin with students Danielle Mills from Endeavour and Tyana Katzell from Yorkton at gala for local MP Garry Breitkreuz.



Joyce Dann Robertson accepts a replacement Canadian Volunteer Service Medal, on which she is depicted during her Second World War service. See story p. 7.



Email: wallinp@sen.parl.gc.ca
Senate of Canada, 621 Victoria Bldg, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A4
Tel: (613) 947-4097 . Fax: (613) 947-4091
Website: www.pamelawallin.com

A National Securities Regulator: Why it's important for Saskatchewan and Canada

In January, I delivered a keynote address on the importance of a single national securities regulator for Saskatchewan and Canada at a luncheon organized by the Regina & District Chamber of Commerce.

I made the case that a single national securities regulator would strengthen businesses of all sizes by giving them better access to capital and making it easier for investors to invest in our province. This would position Saskatchewan and the country for success.

In my time as Consul General in New York, this was a message that I heard repeatedly—replace the current fragmented system of 13 provincial and territorial securities regulators with a single national body to reduce overlap and duplication and result in greater clarity for businesses, investors and other market players. I am very proud that Saskatchewan is one of the 10 participating provinces and territories working on with the Canadian Securities Transition Office and the federal Government on a single securities regulator.



With a broken foot, I was “sitting down” on the job in Regina.

Government Promotes Canada as Best Place to Invest

Our top priority continues to be the economy. With the economic recovery still fragile, we are focused on creating jobs and economic growth. That is why our government is actively promoting the advantages of Canada's low-tax and stable investment climate to global investors and businesses.

The Government's low-tax plan for the economy is helping lure job-creating businesses such as Tim Horton's back to Canada. And the Government is encouraging new businesses to set up shop and grow in Canada.

In less than five years, the Government has launched an ambitious trade agenda, opening doors for Canadian business by concluding new free trade agreements with Colombia, Peru, Jordan, Panama and the European Free Trade Association states—and entering into negotiations with many more including two of the world's largest economies: the European Union and India. But freer trade means we need to ensure security is in place.

Freer Trade Across Secure Borders

After the 9-11 terrorist attacks, the Canada-U.S. border “thickened” due to tightened security procedures. The result was a slowdown in the flow of trade and people across the world's busiest, longest border.



Prime Minister Stephen Harper meets with U.S. President Barack Obama.

In Washington on February 4th, Prime Minister Harper and President Obama are decided to “unthicken” the border, to help trade and security.

This is good news for Canada and Saskatchewan. In 2010, 65% of Saskatchewan's exports went to the United States, an astonishing \$15.6 billion dollars worth of business, making the U.S. far and away our province's biggest export market.

The Prime Minister and President unveiled a *Declaration on a Shared Vision for Perimeter Security and Economic Competitiveness* to address security threats; facilitate trade, economic growth and job creation; to integrate cross-border law enforcement; and to protect critical infrastructure, including in the cyber world.

The Prime Minister says this commits our two governments to finding new ways to keep out terrorists and criminals while eliminating barriers to trade and travel.

Saskatchewan economic growth to lead the nation in 2011

Saskatchewan's March budget has once again balanced the books, reduced debt, and done this with significant revenues in reserve. Both RBC Economics and the Conference Board of Canada predict that Saskatchewan's economy will outpace growth of all other provincial economies this year. The Conference Board forecasts growth of 3.9% in real GDP, while RBC Economic is even more hopeful, foreseeing 4.9% real growth in 2011, and a nation-leading 4.3% in 2012. The good news comes from an upturn in agricultural production and new capital investments spurred by in a strong global demand for Saskatchewan's natural resources.

Key Meetings in Washington, D.C.

Standing Senate Committee on National Security and Defence



Meeting with American Senator John McCain, member of the US Senate Homeland Security Committee

The Standing Senate Committee on National Security and Defence, which I chair, travelled to Washington in February to discuss mutual security and defence concerns with American counterparts.

After a substantive briefing by Canadian Ambassador Gary Doer and his staff, our Senators visited Capitol Hill. There we met with Senators John McCain (Arizona) and Susan Collins (Maine) about border issues—specifically, how Canada and the U.S. can follow through on the commitment by



Ambassador Gary Doer and his staff brief the Senate Security and Defence Committee at the Canada-U.S. issues.

Prime Minister Harper and President Obama to “unthicken” our joint border. The goal is to improve the flow of trade and people while at the same time tightening continental security. We also met with Representatives Buck McKeon and Mac Thornberry, members of the House Armed Services Committee. There was agreement that more than ever, Canada-U.S. cooperation is imperative.

As chair of the Committee, I led discussions at the Department of Homeland Security and the Pentagon. Tom Ferguson, Principal Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence, spoke warmly of successful Canadian-American intelligence-sharing in Afghanistan, and how that has helped break down barriers, leading to even greater cooperation. He also spoke about how “Wikileaks” affected the Pentagon, and some of the measures being taken to prevent such cyber-security breaches in future. Meantime, Steve Schlein, the Pentagon’s Principal Director for Cyber Policy, outlined steps the American defence department has taken to improve cyber-security—such as making cyberspace an operational domain for the U.S. military by creating U.S. Cyber Command.



Meeting BGen Paul Wynnyk, Commander, Land Force Western Area.

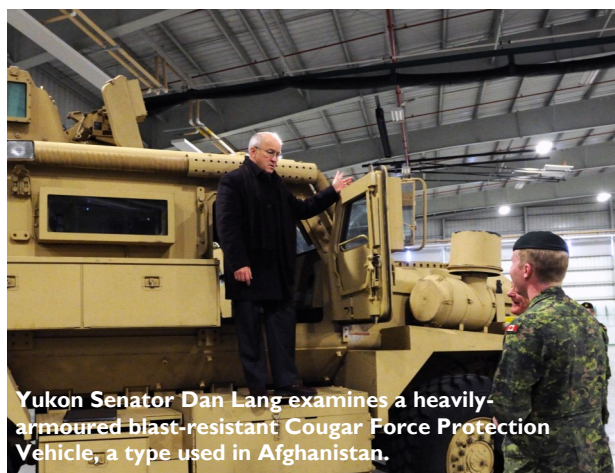
Senate committee visits CFB Edmonton & Land Force Western Area

Members of the Standing Senate Committee on National Security and Defence (SCONSAD) took a fact-finding trip to Canadian Forces Base Edmonton, December 5-7, 2010.

Senators met Reserve and Regular Force members from different Western Area units, including soldiers wounded in Afghanistan. The Committee is studying the state and future of the Canadian Forces Reserve, and continuing to examine Canada’s mission in Afghanistan.



Sharing a laugh with Sgt Gary Rolls (South Alberta Light Horse).



Yukon Senator Dan Lang examines a heavily-armoured blast-resistant Cougar Force Protection Vehicle, a type used in Afghanistan.



Me and my advisor, Mark Fisher, meeting with junior non-commissioned officers, many of whom have seen combat in Afghanistan.

Canadians and Americans together at Tyndall AFB

As Honourary Colonel in Canada's Air Force, I was guest-of-honour at the annual mess dinner of the Canadian contingent serving at Tyndall Air Force Base near Panama City in northern Florida. Tyndall AFB plays an important part in the defence of North America. It is home to the Continental US NORAD Region, First Air Force (Air Forces Northern), and several other operations. Dozens of Canadian Forces personnel serve in various units at Tyndall, but most are with the 702 Computer Systems Squadron and Systems Support Facility.



The 9/11 Memorial at Tyndall Air Force Base consists of charred limestone from the face of the Pentagon, girders from Tower 2 of the World Trade Centre and fieldstone from the site of the Flight 93 crash in Pennsylvania. With me is Canadian Air Force Brigadier-General Chris Coates, Deputy Commander of the Continental United States Region of NORAD.



Tyndall Air Force Base is the US Air Force training centre for F-22 Raptor air and ground crew. The F-22 is the most advanced aircraft in the American arsenal, with stealth technology, sensor fusion, and the most powerful engine in any fighter aircraft, helping it reach and cruise at supersonic speeds without using its afterburners. Here, Canadian Air Force Brigadier General Mike Hood escorts me. He is to become the Canadian Forces' new Deputy Director General International Security Policy in Ottawa.



Brigadier General James Browne is Commander, the US Air Force's 325th Wing Air Education and Training Command, which trains air and ground crew on the F-22 stealth fighter at Tyndall AFB.



A blast from the past. This Vietnam-era F-4 Phantom jet is definitely not a stealth fighter. At Tyndall Air Force Base, the old Phantoms are used as remotely-piloted flying targets to test missile systems. Yes, they shoot them down!



At left, United States Air Force Major-General Garry C. Dean, Commander, Continental U.S. Region of NORAD. Next to me are MGen Dean's wife, Lisa Dean, and Canadian Air Force Brigadier-General C.J. Coates, Deputy Commander, Continental U.S. Region of NORAD.

True North: Visiting Canadian Forces at Alert



The Boeing CC-177 Globemaster III, Canadian Force's new heavy-lift strategic transport aircraft, ready to depart Ottawa for the North.



Riding in the so-called "jump seat" on the CC-177.



Chief of the Air Staff, LGen Deschamps, with me and a member of the Canadian Rangers Patrol Group, part of the Canadian Forces Reserve. The Rangers are a key part of Northern and remote areas defence.



With the CC-177 crew and LGen Deschamps, Chief of the Air Staff, at Alert.

As an Honorary Colonel in the Air Force, I was recently privileged to be part of an Arctic re-supply mission aboard one of Canada's four new CC-177 Globemaster III strategic airlifters (also known as the C-17).

Our destination was Alert, last landfall before the North Pole—Canada's northernmost permanently inhabited place, a long-time Air Force station at the northern tip of Ellesmere Island in Nunavut.

The CC-177 carried several snow-track and other vehicles north and brought back hazardous waste that cannot be left in the Arctic.

Canada's Chief of the Air Staff, LGen André Deschamps, was my host, along with Aircraft Commander, LCol Iain Huddleston, Commander of 429 ("Bison") Transport Squadron, Trenton, which operates the enormous new aircraft.

Again I was reminded of the tremendous skill and competence of our people in uniform. They make me and all Canadians so proud.



With Lieutenant-General André Deschamps, Chief of the Air Staff, and Lieutenant-Colonel Iain Huddleston, Commanding Officer, 429 ("Bison") Transport Squadron (Trenton) and aircraft commander for this mission.



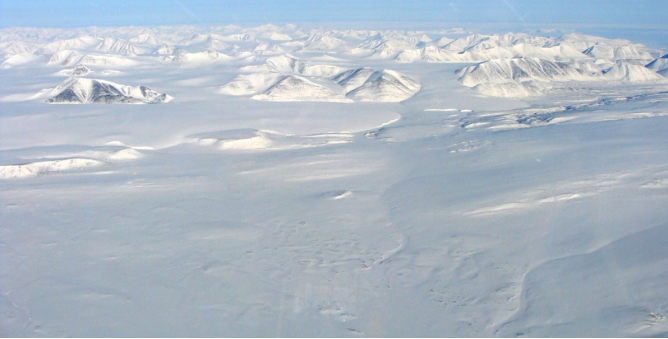
Canadian Forces Station Alert is under command of the Air Force, and is a unit of 8 Wing, Trenton, Ontario. Alert opened in the early 1950s as a weather station, but has been operational since 1958 as a signals intelligence unit.



From the air: Canadian Forces Station Alert, on Ellesmere Island, 817 km from the North Pole. So small in this vast Arctic landscape.

Canadian Forces Station Alert: Life at the top of the world

A vast expanse bound in ice and snow. But science tells us big changes are underway. The atmosphere is warming, the ice is shrinking and the Arctic will be open to more human activity—tourism, mining, oil and gas exploration, even shipping. The Government's Northern Strategy and Arctic Foreign Policy are preparing the North for change.



These signs show the distance from Alert to the home towns of those who have been here. Alert is extremely isolated.



Bowling is one of the ways that military personnel can unwind at CFS Alert. Two lanes only.

Construction is underway to upgrade the 1,676 metre semi-prepared gravel runway at CFS Alert, which, amazingly, can already handle the huge and heavy CC-177 Globemaster.



Misunderstanding “Arctic sovereignty” and “security”

From *Sovereignty and Security in Canada's Arctic*, a report by the Senate National Security and Defence Committee—which I chaired—tabled in the Senate in March.

“Arctic sovereignty” is a phrase much used and sometimes abused in Canada. The notion is often floated that that this country “claims” sovereignty in the Arctic, which suggests that our sovereignty there is somehow lacking or dubious. There has also been a tendency to think of sovereignty and security as the same thing.”

“Alan Kessel, legal advisor to the Department of Foreign Affairs [a committee witness] ... took issue with those who say Canada “claims” sovereignty. “This is a misnomer; you do not claim something that you own.”

“Mr. Kessel then highlighted the difference between sovereignty and security, and the danger in confusing the two.

“If you have a house and someone runs through your backyard in the middle of the night, you do not lose sovereignty of your house. You still own it. You may question the security of your backyard, and you may want to look into that, but you do not lose ownership of something just because you question whether it is secure enough. That is the key in understanding this particular issue because once you start falling into the realm of ‘If it is not secure, it is not mine,’ I think you have lost much of your argument. It is always yours.’

“Canada therefore does not claim sovereignty of the Arctic. We own it. As Mr. Kessel put it, ‘Canadian Arctic sovereignty is long-standing, well established and based on historic title.’

“The exercise of that sovereignty then becomes key, to demonstrate that we’re taking care of what is ours. Securing our Arctic is an important part of exercising our sovereignty, not tantamount to sovereignty itself.”

News.

A serendipitous reunion:

The story of a young woman, her missing medal and a high tech connection with Wadena



Joyce Dann, Canadian Women's Army Corps, World War Two

The story I am about to share is about a series of serendipitous moments and chance encounters—and it is a story friendship and heroes.

I was attending a ceremony last fall to honour those fallen soldiers from Saskatchewan who had served in Afghanistan. While there, a local military historian, Gordon Goddard, approached and asked if I knew that a woman from my hometown was one of the seven marching figures engraved on the face of the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal 1939-1945—which depicts the women and men of the army, air force, navy and nursing service. This medal is presented to all who volunteered to serve during World War Two.

Gordon was not sure of her name, so we set about mining the memories of our Second World War veterans in Wadena. I called my Dad and asked him to get in touch with all his Legion comrades. It was 90-year-old veteran Mike Sowa who remembered a young, beautiful neighbour girl named Joyce Dann who had grown up on a farm just outside Wadena!

She left the farm at age 18, determined to sign up for service. Joyce says she was at the right place at the right time to be chosen for a place of honour on the original cast for the medal. Again, a serendipitous moment.



Canada 1939-1945 Volunteer Service Medal—Joyce Dann is figure on far right.



Legion colour party, Branch 622, Stoney Creek, Ontario, at ceremony to replace Joyce Dann's lost Volunteer Service Medal

After returning from the Canadian Women's Army Corps, Joyce spent her adult life in British Columbia and now lives in Stoney Creek, Ontario, with her son, Wayne, and daughter-in-law, Linda. Just before Christmas, we traced her there and I went out to meet her. It was a great occasion for both of us.

It turns out that through the many moves during her married life she lost her own CVS medal. Veterans Affairs agreed to strike a new one for her and we conspired to have a special presentation ceremony. Through the miracle of modern

technology, a plan unfolded—more than we could have imagined. The Wadena Composite High School, teachers and students alike, the members of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 62 in Wadena, and Branch 622 in Stoney Creek all joined to pay tribute to Joyce and help reconnect her with her home town.

Shy and humble, Joyce shunned the moniker "hero" but there was not a dry eye as

veteran Mike touched the medal on his chest and told Joyce he had worn her so close to his heart for 68 years without ever knowing it was his childhood friend. Then he looked at her on the computer screen—thousands of miles away—and said "you are still as beautiful today as you were back then."

Serendipity, technology, and the compelling story of our war heroes all merged for a moment of history in the making. The high school kids were enthralled with the story of their hometown hero and were soon asking the local veterans to show their medals and tell their stories.

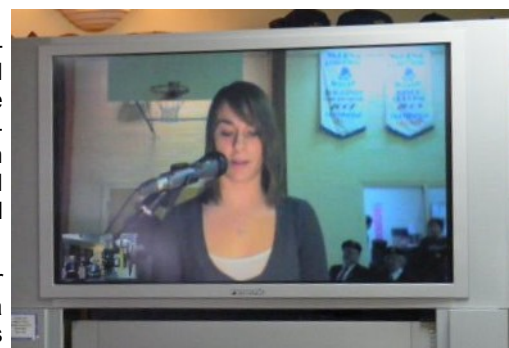
Using 21st century technology, four generations came together. It was a powerful connection between today's students and yesterday's warriors and made their incredible service and sacrifice real for a generation for whom war is a television event.



Bill Wallin (left) and fellow Wadena Legionnaires declared Joyce Dann Robertson a member of Branch 62 by video link with Stoney Creek, Ontario, from Wadena Composite High School.



Presenting Joyce Dann Robertson with her replacement Volunteer Service Medal.



Raelyn Hoffart, a student at Wadena Composite High School, was one of many who took part in the emotional cross-generational video-link ceremony.

SUMA 2011



Speaking at SUMA 2011 Convention

I was the keynote speaker at the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA) 106th Annual Convention in Saskatoon in January. SUMA represents cities, towns and villages and is the provincial voice of urban municipal governments.

I talked about the importance of our trade relationships—especially with the U.S., and about Saskatchewan's new found pride as we emerge as an economic powerhouse.

Pulse Industry

Pulse Canada's latest report—funded in part by the Agricultural Flexibility Fund says the pulse industry should promote sustainability and environmentally friendly practices. The AFF helps producers do just that. "Canadian farmers, producers and processors have always been tremendous caretakers of our land and their products will be more desirable by marketing them this way to the world," said Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz.

Premier Wall travels to India to promote Saskatchewan

Premier Wall promoted pulse crop sales, potash and Saskatchewan innovation during his visit. Saskatoon-based International Road Dynamics signed two contracts there worth \$1.1 million. In the federal budget, Ottawa committed \$22 million for research centres and an education cooperation strategy between Canada and India. We have also begun free trade discussions with this key emerging economy.

Saskatchewan Canola Growers Association AGM

On January 13th, I spoke at the annual general meeting of the Saskatchewan Canola Growers Association (SCGA) at Prairieland Park, in Saskatoon.

The SCGA is a member-based non-profit organization that promotes this burgeoning industry at home and abroad.

Saskatchewan's canola, once a specialty crop, is now worth \$5 billion at the farm gate, contributes \$11 billion to the Canadian economy, and employs more than 200-thousand people.



With the SCGA Board members Stan Jeeves; Matt Wallington; Tyler Markusson; Jeff Polatuk; Dale Leftwich; Jay Dixon; & Jeff Watson (missing: Brent Dunnigan).

Investing in agricultural research facilities

The federal government is contributing \$4.5 million to help enlarge the capacity of a specialized research facility at the University of Saskatchewan—part of a \$12.5 million total investment in innovation that will create new crops for Canadian farmers. The money from the Western Diversification Program will increase the capacity of the U of S phytotron—which provides a controlled environment where researchers can determine how soils, plants, water, light, wind and pests interact under a variety of conditions. Other contributors include the Government of Saskatchewan (\$2 million), University of Saskatchewan (\$3 million) and industry groups including Saskatchewan Pulse Growers and the Western Grains Research Foundation (\$3 million).

Second time around—budget still good news for SK

- ◆ New Family Caregiver Tax Credit on an amount of \$2,000 will benefit thousands of Saskatchewanians caring for aging or ill family members;
- ◆ Extension of eco-ENERGY Retrofit-Homes program with grants up to \$5,000 so Saskatchewan families can make their homes more energy efficient;
- ◆ Enhanced support for low income Saskatchewan seniors through increase in the Guaranteed Income Supplement—up to \$600 for individual, \$840 for couple.
- ◆ A new tax credit of up to \$3,000 for Saskatchewan's volunteer firefighters who provide at least 200 hours of service per year in their communities;
- ◆ A temporary \$1,000 hiring credit to help thousands of Saskatchewan small businesses offset EI premium increases;
- ◆ \$10 million more for an expanded Work-Sharing Program so Saskatchewanians need not face layoffs;
- ◆ \$4.5 million to expand Wage Earner Protection Program if business restructuring lasts longer than six months and is ultimately unsuccessful.
- ◆ A new Children's Arts Tax Credit of \$500 per child;
- ◆ Government-trade unions partnering to support Helmets to Hardhats Canada, helping Canadian Forces members transition from active duty to jobs in the construction industry;
- ◆ Student loan forgiveness to attract new doctors and nurses to practice in rural Saskatchewan;
- ◆ \$20.9 million to continue waiving of firearms licence renewal fees;
- ◆ \$53.5 million over five years to create 10 new Canada Excellence Research Chairs
- ◆ A new \$50 million Agricultural Innovation Initiative;
- ◆ Record high federal transfers to Saskatchewan of more than \$1.2 billion in 2011-12.

Gas Tax Fund

Ottawa promises a permanent annual investment of \$2 billion for municipal infrastructure through the Gas Tax Fund—a stable, predictable revenue source for improving the quality of life in our towns and cities.

A total of \$336.50 million in Gas Tax funding will flow to Saskatchewan municipalities before 2014.

From food security to Canada-U.S. Relations ...



As Chancellor at the University of Guelph I was invited to participate in an international panel on food security.



I travelled to Washington to participate in the Maclean's magazine round table considering the question: "Canada-United States: Best Friends or Perfect Strang-



Former Governor General Michaëlle Jean also took part in the "Hunger Has No Boundaries" conference, hosted by the University of Guelph. There, in a very special ceremony, I had the pleasure of presenting an honorary Doctor of Laws to Madame Jean, who is now UNESCO's special envoy for Haiti.



The Canada-US relationship were also the topic when I moderated a discussion on "Diplomatic Relations" in Montreal between Gary Doer, Canada's Ambassador to Washington, and David Jacobson, the American Ambassador to Canada. Both declared the relationship to be in great shape!

Leadership was the message at Ottawa mess dinner

As an Honorary Colonel in the Air Force, I was invited to speak at the Chief of Military Personnel's annual mess dinner in Ottawa in March. They are the military's human resources department. With the Afghanistan combat mission winding down and tight times ahead, big changes may be in the offing for the Canadian Forces. I spoke about our Government's commitment that our military would never be forced back into a "Decade of Darkness" such as it suffered in the 1990s. Through the coming post-Afghanistan



With high school friend Randy Helgason, Chief of Personnel Support Programs, whom I first reconnected with in Afghanistan, a long way and a long time from Wadena Composite High School days.

transformation, leadership will be invaluable—and that is the job of every member of the Canadian Forces. I recounted a story told by General David Petraeus, the top U.S. military commander. He was walking through a tough neighbourhood in Baghdad where he came across a command post with the following message pinned to the door. "In the absence of orders or guidance, figure out what they should have been and execute vigorously." Leadership is indeed the responsibility of us all. We need to ensure that our military is not blind to merit when choosing leaders and that its leaders are not risk-averse. We also need to reward the kind of sacrifice and creativity that we have seen throughout the mission in Afghanistan where Canada has regained its reputation as both war fighters and humanitarians.

Finally, much needed help for our Veterans

- ◆ \$2 billion in new spending on veterans over the next five years and increased access to this money for some 3,500 veterans.
- ◆ The one-time lump sum Disability Award payment can be paid out in yearly instalments or a combination of the lump sum and yearly instalments.
- ◆ An additional \$1,000 a month for severely and permanently impaired veterans.

The Queens of Curling

Congratulations to Team Saskatchewan and Skip Amber Holland. In her first outing on the international stage, her team won Silver at the Women's Curling Championship in Denmark! Before they left, while millions were watching the Oscars on TV—I was, along with hundreds of thousands of other Canadians—watching the **2011 Scotties Tournament of Hearts** where—upon a less glamorous stage—the women of curling were strutting their stuff—and sweeping their hearts out.

Team Saskatchewan with Skip Amber Holland, Third Kim Schneider, Tammy Schneider as Second and Heather Kalenchuk as the Lead Rock, won a down-to-the-wire 8-7 victory in Charlottetown. The last time Saskatchewan took the Hearts tournament was in 1997 with the late, great Sandra Schmirler—a true curling icon—at the helm.

“Schmirler the Curler,” as she was known, won three Canadian and World titles.

So, it seemed a fitting closing of the circle when Saskatchewan Skip Amber Holland won the Sandra Schmirler MVP Award, then went on to lead her team to the silver medal at the World Championships.



Team Saskatchewan, Silver Medallists at Women's World Curling Championship in Denmark: Amber Holland, Kim Schneider, Tammy Schneider and Heather Kalenchuk. www.teamholland.ca



The Delores Syrota rink, Sylva Broad, Gloria Leach, Bev Krasowski and Delores Syrota. Photo by Scott Comfort, Courtesy Wadena News.



Mickey Gowan, 91, of Moose Jaw, took part in the Women's Masters Provincial Curling Championship at the Wadena Curling Club. Photo by Scott Comfort, Courtesy Wadena

RCMP Heritage Centre



The federal government will be investing \$2.1 million in the RCMP Heritage Centre in Regina over two years. The Centre is a non-profit organization dedicated to the RCMP's history. Photo by Heidi Allred.

Red Friday Rally reunion



I ran into Wayne Eyre from Wadena at the 5th annual Red Friday Rally in Petawawa, Ontario, on May 6th. Wayne is a Colonel in the Canadian Forces and Commander of 2 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group, based at Petawawa. It was great to see him again!

Legislative interns visit Ottawa



Four Saskatchewan Legislative Interns visited me in Ottawa: Bennet Misskey, Shaheen Lotun, Nicole Hamm, Lance Hammell.

Fantasy auction winners



Thank you to Brian Gable and Sylva Jurney for supporting Family Service Saskatoon. Brian won lunch-for-two with me on Parliament Hill in the Midlife Madness auction. I had a wonderful time getting to know them.

Red Friday Rally at CFB Petawawa—supporting our troops!



It was an honour being invited to speak at the 5th annual Red Friday Rally in Petawawa, Ontario, home to Canadian Forces Base Petawawa.



They call themselves the Red Friday Ladies—Lisa Miller and Karen Boire—organizers of all five annual Red Friday Rallies in Petawawa. Here, they kiss Canada's Chief of Defence Staff, General Walt Natynczyk. CFB Petawawa is a 2 hour drive northwest of Ottawa.



Gesina Prowley, in baseball cap, wanted to give a painting she did to General Walt Natynczyk, Chief of Defence Staff. He suggested she come up on stage to present it! Needless to say, she was thrilled!



On stage now, Gesina presents her painting of a Canadian soldier with Afghan children. The man in red to her right is Canadian Forces Chief Warrant Officer Robert Clérout.

Honoured by the Seniors' University Group, University of Regina



With Gerri Wood, Chair of the Awards Committee.



It was great to meet those who attended the evening's event.

Each year, the Seniors' University Group Inc. and the University of Regina present their Distinguished Canadian Award. On May 12th, I was the 27th recipient. The first, in 1985, was Tommy Douglas! This is keeping very distinguished company and a great honour indeed for me.

British Columbia's Hall of Fame for leading entrepreneurs



I was invited to deliver the keynote address at the induction ceremony for the Business Laureates of B.C. Hall of Fame, in Vancouver on May 11th.



With co-chairs of Business Laureates of BC Hall of Fame, Terry Lyons and Barbara Brink.

Highlights from the Prime Ministers' election night message

"Canadians can now turn the page on the uncertainties and repeat elections of the past seven years and focus on building a great future for all of us. Canadians made this critically important decision. They chose hope, unity of purpose and a strong Canada. For our part, we are intensely aware that we are and we must be the government of all Canadians, including those who did not vote for us.

"Our first job will be to implement what we set out in our budget, our plan for jobs and growth, our plan to create jobs and growth without raising your taxes. Our second priority is to deliver on our program of support for our families and for the senior citizens of this country. Third we will continue with our plan to eliminate the deficit while growing the transfers to our provinces by six percent a year for the health care system in which Canadians believe. And of course we will at long last pass comprehensive measures to reduce crime and make our streets and neighbourhoods safer.



"I should also like to congratulate every Canadian who took the brave decision to run for office. This is what democracy needs, this is what citizenship is all about—the way that we choose our government, how we reconcile our differences, the manner in which we live by the decisions. Our Canadian political life is sometimes turbulent but it is nonetheless a thing of beauty and the envy of peoples who have yet to achieve it. It is friends without a doubt a big part of what makes this country Canada an island of stability and security in a troubled world.

"Travelling around our great country one gets a sense of its still greater potential. Nothing—not recession, not natural disaster nor war—have ever stopped the rise of this country. There is a spirit in this land, the true spirit, the true character of the Canadian people, a compassionate neighbour, a courageous warrior, a confident partner. That's the spirit of the Canada I know. Canadians are proud of that spirit and they trust us to live by that spirit.

"Fellow Canadians, our pledge to you is that the government I have the honour to lead will bind itself to these values and the government you elected will be a government that keeps these principles at its heart, at its very core.

"God bless all of you. God keep our land glorious and free."

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 Bldg, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A4

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

www.pamelawallin.com