



# Senator Pamela Wallin



Life takes unexpected turns but the route from Wadena, Saskatchewan to the Senate of Canada could not have been planned – it's just too unlikely! From social worker to journalist, from diplomat to Senator, I am a believer in public service and in giving back to your community and country. And as I have often said, everything I've learned about life I learned first in Saskatchewan. So each and everyday, I follow these life lessons in my work, on your behalf, here in the nation's capital.

My time covering national politics, serving as Canada's Consul General in New York after 9/11, or traveling to Afghanistan as a member of the Independent Panel on Afghanistan has given me very valuable and useful experience in my role as Deputy Chair of the Senate National Security and Defence Committee and as a member of the Foreign Affairs and International Trade Committee, where we study Canada's role on the world stage. And I am also a proud member of the special Veteran's Affairs Committee. All three committees give me the opportunity to help our men and women in uniform who are in Afghanistan risking their lives to protect ours.

Our relationship with the U.S. is also an issue I care deeply about. The Americans are our friends, our allies and our most important trading partner and I am proud of the way Prime Minister Harper handles this relationship. It is respectful and business-like and when we do disagree, we do so agreeably.

Trade is our economic oxygen and expanded trade helps create jobs at home. Saskatchewan, already one of the strongest economies in North America, is benefiting because we have what other people need—be it uranium, potash, oil or natural gas. There is everything from lentils to diamonds, not to mention 45% of Canada's arable farm land!

And most important of all, we now have an abundance of optimism because we know that our kids can stay home and have a future here.

Premier Brad Wall is doing an amazing job. His principled leadership is equally guided by common sense and profound compassion. He's the Premier that was saying "yes we can" long before the U.S. President borrowed the phrase!!

This summer our Saskatchewan caucus – both MPs and Senators - got a read on the issues of the day by meeting groups such as the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association, Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association, and the Council of Saskatchewan Forest Industries. I also had the opportunity to visit some very innovative Saskatchewan companies - Cameco's uranium mines at MacArthur River, the Oilsands Quest operations north of La Loche, the new Bayer Canola Breeding Centre near Saskatoon, and Foam Lake's bio-diesel plant, Milligan Bio-Tech. These are all businesses that are helping to transform our province's economy.

Stimulus measures introduced this spring have also been taking hold as projects in more than 46 towns and villages such as Wadena, Kelvington, Watson and all across our province have begun! No wonder we're seeing expanded economic activity for the first time in 11 months, more jobs and higher housing starts. The Finance Minister, Jim Flaherty, has explained that the economic recovery will take longer but we will balance the budget without raising taxes or cutting money for people or provinces.

While things are improving, this will continue to be a difficult year for the Canadian and global economies. The recovery is still tentative and very fragile and we definitely don't need the distraction of an election, as both polls and common sense will attest.

Canadians want politicians to put their differences aside and focus on Canada's economic recovery. So let's hope cooler heads prevail so that we can carry on building our economy.

I thank you for trusting me with the responsibility of representing our province. I hear from many of you by email or when I see you face to face but please feel free to write or call to share your ideas and concerns.



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## Canada Day in Wadena



Canada had its 142nd birthday this year and Senator Pamela Wallin was in Wadena to celebrate. In addition to delivering a warm Canada Day tribute, the Senator was kept busy on July 1 in the food booth during the Wadena Kin Club Canada Day activities.

Photo by Layne Sanderson, a 14 year old cub reporter for the Wadena News.

## Saskatchewan Team Meets With Stock Growers



In August the Saskatchewan Caucus met in Regina. The Sask Caucus often meets with Saskatchewan organizations who explain their concerns to the MPs and Senators. Standing with the Sask Caucus are Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association representatives Chad MacPherson, Mark Elford, Calvin Knoss, and Eileen Davidson.

Senator Pamela Wallin is standing in the middle of the group holding the SSGA license plate that has the organization's logo: "I love Canadian Beef."

Story and photo appeared in **Maclean's** magazine in a feature article called: What I did on my summer vacation

*Pamela Wallin (Senator, Wadena, Sask.) "This town is the centre of my universe. It is the place where I was raised and learned all of life's important lessons. It is where my family—and my heart—still lives. Many years ago I received the highest honour—not from peers in the media or even the governor general – but from the people of Wadena who named a street after me. I never see the sign without a sense of pride and gratitude welling inside. They taught me well. Home really is where the heart dwells."*



# Local Industry Leading the Way



## Milligan Bio-Tech

Senator Wallin and her father Bill Wallin chat with Ryan Junop, (centre) biodiesel plant manager at Milligan Bio-Tech. Milligan Bio-Tech is a leading edge Canadian bio-diesel production and research. The company, established in 1996, is based in Foam Lake, Saskatchewan and plans to continue expansion of its operations in Western Canada. All of its products are environmentally friendly and made from non-food grade canola, a renewable resource.



## Bayer Canola Breeding Centre Grand Opening

← Western Economic Diversification Minister Lynne Yelich, Senator Pamela Wallin, and Saskatchewan's Agriculture Minister Bob Bjornerud at Bayer's Centre of Innovation Grand Opening— located near Saskatoon.



← Tour looks at Bayer's canola fields at the new Canola Breeding Centre that is one of the few such state-of-the-art research facilities in the world and in Canada.



## Cameco's MacArthur River Uranium Mine

← Senator Wallin visited Saskatchewan's uranium mines this summer. Saskatchewan is actually the world's largest uranium producer, with one quarter of the world's supply.

Mining is Saskatchewan's third largest industry and the world's richest deposits of uranium are located in the northern part of the province. → MP Garry Breitkreuz, Senator Pamela Wallin, Minister Lynne Yelich, MP Ed Komarnicki, and MP Rob Clarke were all on the tour. (L-R)



# Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities



**S**enator Wallin spoke at the **Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) March 12, 2009** where she addressed close to 1,900 people. This was her first "official" event as a Saskatchewan Senator.

*"... anytime I have a reason to come home – I am grateful to be with my family and in my community because of course, everything I've learned about life I learned first in Saskatchewan. It is the centre of my universe.*

*"There is no comparable canvas than a prairie sky at sunset or the northern lights or the breathtaking beauty of hoarfrost on the trees in the morning. Yes, our geography has always been our inspiration but our people are what truly matter.*

*"They are a special breed – from my grandparents who homesteaded, who first tamed and broke our prairie soil – undeterred by Mother Nature's cruel tests – to today's pioneers who are unearthing*

*in novel ways our rich resources and the human talent that will unleash the potential for the next generation and for this century.*

*"Recently we caught the attention of the folks at CNN – they have discovered – despite the weather – that we are a HOT SPOT.*

*"And we are the world's largest producer of uranium – we have one quarter of the world's supply – and one third of the world's supply of potash. The country is the second largest producer of oil and the third largest producer of natural gas!*

*"Mining is the third largest industry in the province after oil and gas and agriculture! We have coal, copper, zinc, lentils, peas and yes, diamonds -- and we still have 45% of Canada's arable farm land!*

*"We have wind farms, heavy oil up-graders, and balanced budgets and rules for spending – and guarantees to pay down the debt or invest in growth."*

**To read more of Senator Wallin's comments published in the Rural Councillor visit her website at [www.pamelawallin.com](http://www.pamelawallin.com).**

## YOU SHOULD KNOW ...

The taxes you pay at the pumps are going **right back into your community, and faster than planned.**

The federal Gas Tax Transfer cheques for your local municipality arrived **3 months ahead of schedule.**

And the amount has been **doubled**, which means **\$60 million** for Saskatchewan infrastructure.

This rebate should allow municipalities to **better plan and finance** new infrastructure. For more info visit [www.buildingcanada.gc.ca](http://www.buildingcanada.gc.ca)





**Prime Minister Stephen Harper with Minister Nicholson inspecting infrastructure projects.**

## Canada's Federal Government *Getting the Job Done for Saskatchewan!*

Stephen Harper's Saskatchewan team has been busy making sure the people of Saskatchewan get their fair share of the government's economic stimulus funding.

- Over \$434 million in infrastructure projects including:
  - ⇒ \$73 million under the Building Canada infrastructure fund
  - ⇒ \$35 million under the Municipal Infrastructure Lending Program
- Over \$2.5 million under the Recreational Infrastructure Canada program, targeted to assist small-town rinks, swimming pools and other fitness facilities
- \$234 million for Agriculture
- Almost half a million for seniors
- \$35 million for employment development
- Over \$35.5 million in scientific research and development
- Over \$71 million for disadvantaged groups in society, including:
  - ⇒ Over \$2 million in aid for the homeless
  - ⇒ \$652,000 in assistance to the disabled
  - ⇒ Almost \$3 million targeted to help at-risk groups, including unemployed youth, victims of sexual abuse and people struggling with substance abuse
  - ⇒ \$66 million for affordable housing
  - ⇒ \$44 million for community economic development
  - ⇒ \$4.7 million for arts, culture and heritage, including funds to build new community theatres and performing arts centres
  - ⇒ \$11.7 million to improve employment and health service delivery for northern and aboriginal populations

*Saskatchewan's Federal Team Working for you*



# Remembering 9/11



Senator Wallin participated in the 9/11 Memorial Dedication ceremony at Ottawa's Beechwood Cemetery this year. Legislation making it Canada's National Cemetery was ratified before Parliament rose for the summer. Heads lowered in prayer, Senator Wallin stands with U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Terry Breese and Prime Minister Harper.

Photo Credit: Richard Lawrence



In her speech, Senator Wallin paid tribute to the victims of 9/11. The Senator comforts Maureen Basnicki whose husband was killed in the twin towers attack—24 Canadians perished that day—eight years ago.

Photo Credit: Richard Lawrence

Senator Wallin initiated the introduction of *The National Day of Service Act* (Bill S-240) in the Senate. The bill designates the 11th day of September in each and every year as "National Day of Service." To find out more about Bill S-240 visit [www.pamelawallin.com](http://www.pamelawallin.com).

## Afghanistan

### Excerpt from Senator Wallin's Beechwood Ceremony Remarks

September 11, 2009

*Canada's first commemorative service for 9/11 was held this year*

*"Today we remember and mark the moment that changed us forever.*

*"We pay tribute to all those who would not stand aside but stood up in the face of terrorism, particularly the men and women of our military.*

*"To those who have fallen and to their families whose hearts are also broken, we can never repay your sacrifice. But, we are grateful to our core for your willingness to risk your lives to protect ours.*

*"And to those who still stand and fight so that this will not happen again, we honour you by understanding the true meaning of your mission - to create hope.*

*"Your courage and your character makes the preservation of that hope a possibility - not just for us - but for Afghanistan's sons and daughters.*

*"The selfless service of our civilian and military volunteers is far more persuasive - and far more powerful than the hate they battle everyday. And they, along with our 9/11 families, are a powerful inspiration to our nation."*



Prime Minister Stephen Harper travelled to Kandahar, where he visited with Canadian Forces. He announced an additional \$2M in Canadian funding to UNICEF to assist almost 18,000 children in Kandahar.



Canada is investing up to \$60M over three years toward the eradication of polio in Afghanistan, making Canada the largest international donor in this area.

## Justice Agenda 2009

The Federal Government has made great strides with a justice agenda that punishes criminals and protects victims. Since coming to office January 2006, the Government has:

- Passed the comprehensive Tackling Violent Crime Act, which
  - ⇒ has toughened sentencing and bail for those who commit serious gun crimes;
  - ⇒ better protects youth from sexual predators;
  - ⇒ better protects society from dangerous offenders; and
  - ⇒ gets serious with drug impaired drivers.
- Passed legislation to increase penalties for those convicted of street racing.
- Passed legislation to end conditional sentences for serious personal injury offences, including sexual assault.
- Passed legislation that will ensure all murders committed in connection with organized crime will become first degree murders, subject to a mandatory sentence of life imprisonment without eligibility for parole for 25 years. The bill also created a new broad-based offence to target drive-by shootings. (Bill C-14, Royal Assent June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2009)
- Established the National Anti-Drug Strategy to reduce the supply of and demand for illicit drugs in Canada.
- Established the Office of the Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime.

**W**hen an election is called, Government legislation that is in the works in the House of Commons or the Senate becomes defunct or "dead." Following an election, the Government must re-introduce important legislation.

If another election is held this fall, it will unfortunately "kill" over 12 tough-on-crime bills that are currently before Parliament. One example of needed legislation that is in jeopardy is Bill C-25 that will restrict '2-for-1' Credit for time served. This means that criminals would no longer be able to receive extra credit for time served prior to their trial. The Government feels that legislated guidelines such as these will help judges deliver stronger sentences, while the Opposition feels that judges should have more discretionary power when sentencing.

Although the Federal Government has taken strong action on their justice agenda, it is very difficult to proceed within a minority government because much of the legislation is often stalled or gutted by the Opposition during committee examination.

Another example of threatened legislation is the bill that would repeal the "faint hope clause." This Government bill needs to pass so that criminals who commit first or second degree murder will no longer be able to apply for early parole. Other important legislation that is threatened by an election includes laws that will help police fight organized crime: mandatory minimum penalties for serious drug crimes and stronger laws for identity and auto theft. The newly introduced law targeting white collar crime would also have to be shelved if the Opposition chooses to vote against the Government.



*"Instead of harassing farmers and duck hunters, we are cracking down on those who use guns to commit crime. Instead of fast-tracking visa applications for Romanian strippers, we are supporting legislation to clamp down on human trafficking. Instead of funding court challenges by left-wing fringe groups, we are supporting victims of crime. Instead of building a justice system that exalts the rights of the criminals, we are putting the safety of Canadian families and communities first...We have raised the age of protection from 14 to 16 to better safeguard our children from sexual predators. We've made it easier to keep the country's most dangerous repeat violent offenders behind bars forever. We've done away with house arrest sentences for many serious offences. Friends, we are rebalancing the scales of justice, and we've accomplished a lot, but there is more to do."*

Prime Minister Stephen Harper, July 2009

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## ...what this means for you

- The 15% credit can be claimed on eligible costs between \$1,000 and \$10,000, meaning that the maximum tax credit that can be received is \$1,350.
- Upgrades must be done before February 1, 2010.
- Renovation costs for projects such as finishing a basement or remodelling a kitchen will be eligible for the credit, along with associated expenses such as building permits, professional services, equipment rentals and incidental expenses.

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

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