



Senator Pamela Wallin



As we look forward to the holiday season, we think about the importance of family and the time – often too short – that we spend together. Remembrance Day is also a family time for me and across the country people turned out in record numbers, signalling a genuine re-connection with our troops.

Before heading home to Wadena, I attended the True Patriot Love Dinner in Toronto, which was a huge success. But I could not help but think how we had led the way in Saskatchewan, with a spectacular “Support Our Troops Gala” dinner in Regina in October – the first ever in Saskatchewan!

The province rallied to raise \$200,000, much needed money for the seriously injured soldiers and their families. Your Saskatchewan MP’s and Senators were out in full force in a great show of support for our troops.

Earlier that day there was a poignant ceremony on the grounds of the Legislature to unveil the names of those from Saskatchewan who have fallen in Afghanistan . . . as so many of the families said to me that day – why are we leaving Afghanistan before our work is done?

Our government listened. Canada will stay on to continue to our mission in Afghanistan as trainers. Right from the beginning our mission has been to create the circumstance for Afghans to regain control over their own sovereignty and security. The Canadian Forces’ unique combination of warrior and humanitarian skills keep Afghans hopeful. General Jon Vance – twice our commander in Kandahar – says hope has a “galvanizing effect”. And hope is what our troops have created.

There are now more than seven million kids in school – and nearly 40% of the students are girls! And Canada has already surpassed our targets for literacy and vocational training and for the training of corrections officers. All of this is creating a sense of optimism and Generals on the ground report that operations are proceeding “more rapidly than was anticipated”.

“Winning,” says Vance, “is that the Afghans are able to manage their own security without there being a clear and present danger every day to their capacity to continue to govern”. It takes time, focus and patience. And we have also asked the democratically elected President to move more forcefully to quell the corruption.

Our government is also determined to see that our soldiers, our veterans – and their families – receive all the care, the services and the support they need and deserve when they return. And we are adding another \$2 billion for increased veterans benefits (see details on page 6). There is also a change in attitude, which will mean giving the benefit of the doubt to veterans when dealing with bureaucracy.

On another front, I was both pleased and proud when Ottawa’s final decision on potash supported the very compelling case made eloquently and forcefully by our Premier and the people of Saskatchewan. Brad Wall’s strong stand reassures us that our province and future jobs and revenue for province coffers is in safe hands.

All your MP’s and Senators made sure your voices were heard on why this matters so much to all of us. The whole world was watching and we must reassure our trade and investment partners that we are open for business — and, just remember, the world needs us more than we know.

Saskatchewan is expected to again be one of the country’s strongest economic performers with growth of more than 3%. The recovery is being led by commodities – potash, new investment in the resource sector, the expansion of the service sector — all aided by a strong influx of people willing to work hard and embrace the Saskatchewan way.

Population growth fuels and sustains the recovery so employment is moving up and so are the numbers of jobs being created. We still have some who are hurting. And both the province and Ottawa are helping where they can when Mother Nature deals us a blow.

Have a Merry Christmas with family, and say a little prayer for our young men and women who are still in harm’s way.



Senator Wallin with her father Bill and sister Bonnie at the spectacular *Support Our Troops Gala Dinner* in Regina in October.



HCOL Wallin in front of a C-130 Hercules aircraft at CFB Trenton at the 50th Anniversary celebration of “the workhorse of the Canadian Forces” at CFB Trenton in November.



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

Summer in Saskatchewan



LEFT: Senator Wallin meets with Mayor Rolly Zimmer (bottom right), MP Randy Hoback (to her right) and others at the July 20 Tisdale Town Hall roundtable discussion on issues of local importance. Tisdale is a major centre for canola and honey production, and boasts the world's largest honey bee statue, weighing in at over two tonnes!

RIGHT: Senator Wallin's hometown of Wadena hosted the 100th birthday celebration of the Rural Municipality of



Lakeview on August 7. Senator Wallin (joined onstage by Wadena MLA and provincial Minister of Social Services Hon. June Draude, Wadena Mayor Greg Linnen and Lakeview representative Reeve Kryzanowski) welcomed guests at the opening ceremony and cairn dedication.

Living and Leading with Passion

This fall, Senator Wallin spoke at the annual meeting of the Saskatchewan Region's National Managers' Community in Saskatoon. The theme of the event was "Living and Leading with Passion". Over 140 managers and leaders in Saskatchewan's Federal Public Service attended to learn how living with passion can spread to others in the workplace and all aspects of their lives. Participants were challenged to engage others and be a part of influencing positive change in the workplace.



TOP RIGHT: Senator Wallin with fellow speaker Amy Alsop, multiple gold-medalist in the sport of Goalball. Goalball is a Paralympic sport played by athletes who are visually impaired or blind.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Senator Wallin with Rob Kelln, Steering Committee Chair of the National Managers' Community and Jennifer Wessner, National Managers' Community Governing Council Representative.



ABOVE: Senator Wallin stands between her parents Bill and Leone Wallin (seated, left). To her left is Rob Kelln, his daughter Karissa (standing) and his parents Lillian and Elmer Kelln (seated, right).

Mrs. Wallin and Mrs. Kelln taught together for many years in Wadena!

It was a proud moment for Rob and Senator Wallin to say thank you to their families.

CGA Saskatchewan: Local Pride, Global Strides

Senator Wallin was this year's keynote speaker at CGA (Certified General Accountants) Saskatchewan's Annual Conference 2010. The theme of this year's conference was "Local Pride, Global Strides". The conference, in partnership with the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, offered Saskatchewan's business community a wide variety of professional development sessions and networking opportunities. Senator Wallin addressed the success of Saskatchewan's economy both locally and abroad with the message: "Canada: No Longer a Spectator Nation".

In April 2010, Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan launched the New West Partnership, creating an economic powerhouse of nine million people with a combined GDP of more than \$550 billion. The New West Partnership is an ambitious agreement that will create Canada's largest interprovincial barrier-free trade and investment market and see the three westernmost provinces work together in unprecedented ways to the benefit of workers, businesses and investors in all three provinces.

LEFT: Senator Wallin with Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce CEO Steve McLellan.



CPBI Celebrates 50 Years

In October, Senator Wallin gave the keynote address at the 50th anniversary celebration luncheon of the Canadian Pension & Benefits Institute (CPBI)'s Saskatchewan Region at TCU Place in Saskatoon. Over 75 CPBI members attended the event.



Established in 1960, CPBI is a volunteer non-profit organization composed of 3500 members who provide educational events throughout the year. It provides an open forum to share and discuss ideas and serves as a gathering place for those in the pension, benefits and investment industry.

LEFT: Senator Wallin with Bob Wilhelms, Vice-Chair, and Tracy McLean, Chair, CPBI Saskatchewan Regional Council. Photo credit: Trina Kistner

Special Olympics Saskatchewan

In September, Senator Wallin met with delegates from Special Olympics Saskatchewan visiting Parliament Hill to raise awareness about their programs. Forty communities in Saskatchewan offer over 100 Special Olympic sport programs for athletes of all ages and ability levels.

Special Olympics athletes compete at the community level all the way up to the international level, including the Paralympics. The programs give people with intellectual dis-



abilities a chance to receive a lifetime of learning through sport.

LEFT: Senator Wallin with Special Olympics Saskatchewan representatives (L-R) Roger Dumont, Crystal Thiesen, Lindsay Kinnear, Kim Kinnear and Howard Schweitzer.

University of Regina in Our Nation's Capital

Senator Wallin co-hosted a reception for alumni of the **University of Regina** (her alma mater) in September at the Rideau Club to bring together former students living in the Ottawa region. The university celebrates 100 years of excellence in 2011! For the third straight year, University of Regina President Vianne Timmons has been named one of Canada's top most powerful women by the Women's Executive Network.

Centennial initiatives include an alumni homecoming, the prestigious Trudeau Foundation Lecture, a recognition of the university's important 30-year relationship with China, and an initiative to raise \$1 million in new scholarship awards to support students.

In November, three University of Regina professors were renewed as Canada Research Chairs (CRC) and one additional research chair was awarded by Industry Canada. As a result, the university will receive \$4.7 million over seven years to support CRC research and add new researcher positions in many disciplines, including social justice, environmental change and society, energy and environment, and computational learning theory.



RIGHT: Senator Wallin and University of Regina President Dr. Vianne Timmons. Photo: Miv Photography

News from the University of Saskatchewan

The Government of Canada is a key partner of the University of Saskatchewan and Prime Minister Stephen Harper paid a visit on September 9 to announce \$1.33 million in federal funding to rejuvenate the Diefenbaker Building. American Ambassador David Jacobson visited on September 14, and entertained an audience of students, faculty and staff with anecdotes of past experiences in Saskatoon and stories of his friend, U.S. President Obama.



Good news for the University of Saskatchewan. The new \$30-million federally funded Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) in water security will fund and create 85 new positions at the U of S, and they'll join more than 65 faculty and hundreds of student researchers already making a difference in water research.

LEFT: Amb. Jacobson speaks to U of S students and staff. Photo: David Stobbe



ABOVE: Prime Minister Harper and Premier Wall at the Diefenbaker Canada Centre.

Women Making a Difference

The International Women's Forum conducted its World Leadership Conference and Leadership Exchange in Montreal in October, bringing together hundreds of influential women leaders from around the world along with today's leading thinkers to discuss the global threat of water scarcity. Canada is one of the world's most water-wealthy nations, and supports global commitments agreed to in the Millennium Development Goals and at the World



(L-R) Conference Co-Chairs Monette Malewski and Kathleen Sendall on stage with Senator Wallin.

Summit on Sustainable Development held in 2002, to provide access to safe, clean water and basic sanitation by 2015 to at least 50 percent of the people who do not have it now.

Over 2.2 million people, mainly children under five, die every year around the world from water-borne diseases – more than the population of Montreal. Through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Federal Government supports a number of water-related projects in developing countries including Afghanistan, Iraq, Zambia, and Cambodia.



Senator Wallin addressed over 600 attendees from 40 nations at the conference's opening reception.

Persons Day Celebration

On October 19th, Equal Voice, a multi-partisan organization promoting the election of more women, invited Members of Parliament to 'elevate the debate' in the House of Commons in recognition of the historic significance of Persons Day.

Over 100 girls and young women visited Parliament Hill to learn about the different roles female MPs play on the Hill. Senator Wallin spoke to MPs and Senators from all parties who attended a reception celebrating Persons Day, which recognizes the October 18, 1929 court decision that women were considered "persons" for all purposes under the British North America Act.

Senator Wallin with Equal Voice Ottawa Executive Member Heather-jane Robertson (left) and the Executive Director of Carleton University's Centre for Women in Politics and Public Leadership, Clare Beckton. Photo credit: Joan Weinman



Manning Innovation Awards

Promoting and Celebrating Canadian Innovation since 1982

In September, Senator Wallin, along with the Hon. Bernard Lord, hosted the Manning Innovation Awards in Ottawa. This year's winners included: Drs. Werner Ens and Ken Standing for their work in mass spectrometry; Dr. Donald Mavinic for developing Crystal Green, a waste-water fertilizer; Ray Roussy and his Sonic Drill invention; and Geoff Gosling who created the DIRTT Connecting Wall System. The Young Canadian Program of the Manning Innovation Awards recognizes youth projects and this year's recipients are: Alyson Bell, A.J. Hutchings, Kyle Schole and Eddy Fortier.

The Ernest C. Manning Awards Foundation (named for Senator Ernest C. Manning) honours, financially supports and draws public attention to Canadian innovators. The Foundation celebrates accomplishments of outstanding Canadians whose curiosity and hard work have led them to create and develop products that are making a real difference in the lives of people. The work of the young innovators, some of them still in high school, is breathtaking.

For more information on the amazing projects these established and budding scientists have produced, please visit www.manningawards.ca.



Senator Wallin with former New Brunswick Premier Bernard Lord (left) and former MP Preston Manning, son of the Innovation Awards' founder, Ernest Manning. Photo credit: Ernest C. Manning Awards Foundation.

International Security Forum



On November 6, Senator Wallin moderated the panel discussion “A World Without Nukes: Really?” at the prestigious 2nd Annual International Security Forum in Halifax. The Forum, hosted by the German Marshall Fund of the United States with the support of the Government of Canada, attracts defence ministers from around the world, a U.S. congressional delegation, policymakers, and analysts from North America, Europe, and Asia for in-depth intellectual exchange on security and defence challenges.

Senator Wallin with panel members (L-R) Hiroshi Oe, Japan’s Director General for International Affairs, Ministry of Defense; Michèle Flournoy, United States Undersecretary of Defense for Policy; Christian Schmidt, Germany’s Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister of Defense; United States Senator Jeanne Shaheen.

9/11 – A Day of Commemoration

Senator Wallin spoke at the 9/11 Memorial ceremony at Beechwood Cemetery, Canada’s National Cemetery, in Ottawa on the anniversary of the terror attacks. The service was attended by families of Canadian 9/11 victims, military personnel and Canadian and American dignitaries, including Canada’s Defence Minister Peter MacKay and the US Ambassador to Canada, David Jacobson. Twenty-four Canadians lost their lives that day nine years ago. Their names, along with the names of the over 150 Canadian soldiers killed in Afghanistan, were read by family members.



Senator Wallin and Defence Minister MacKay speak to participants at the 9/11 memorial service in Ottawa. Photos: Richard Lawrence

An excerpt from Senator Wallin’s remarks on the 9th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks:

“Today we also honour those who have not stood aside, but who’ve stood up to senseless, heartless terrorism – especially those who serve in our military. We can never repay the sacrifice of those who’ve fallen, those who’ve been grievously hurt while fighting – nor the sacrifice of your families. But we can pay you tribute by understanding that your mission is about creating hope, both for us and for the people of Afghanistan.

The actions of our civilian and military volunteers are more powerful than the hate they battle every day. They, along with our 9/11 families, are a powerful inspiration. I am proud to be a Canadian, and proud to stand here with you today to remember.”

Update on the National Day of Service Act

Senator Wallin’s bill, the National Day of Service Act (Bill S-209) was recently delayed for a third time by Liberal Senators. The bill would designate September 11th of each year as a day of service to our communities to commemorate Canada’s 9/11 victims and all Canadians killed by acts of terror. Senator Grant Mitchell called the selection of September 11th as a Day of Service “arbitrary” and suggested that recognizing the Day of Service as a way for Canadians to give back to their communities would diminish the importance of other official days in Canada. Senator Tommy Banks called the idea of the bill “sacrilegious” and wants proof that the victims of 9/11 had shown “courage” and “sacrifice”. Senator Wallin is offended by these heartless statements. Canada is fully invested in the fight against terror with over 2500 troops currently serving in Afghanistan. We have lost over 150 troops in Afghanistan to date. Canadian citizens died in the terror attacks on 9/11 and in the Air India bombing. Terrorism doesn’t only affect others. It affects Canadians too.

What can you do to help? Call and email opposition Senators and let them know you support the National Day of Service Act, Bill S-209.

Senator Grant Mitchell
P: 613-995-4265
E: mitchg@sen.parl.gc.ca

Senator Claudette Tardif
(Deputy Leader of the Senate Opposition)
P: 613-947-3589
E: tardic@sen.parl.gc.ca

Senator Tommy Banks
P: 613-995-1889
E: bankst@sen.parl.gc.ca

For more info, visit Senator Wallin’s website: www.pamelawallin.com, click on “Senate”.

Remembrance Day in Wadena



Many proud veterans braved chilly conditions to pay their respects at the Wadena Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion's annual Remembrance Day ceremony as well as the town's parade and wreath laying. Piper Delbert Kidd led the parade, which included veterans, Legion members and the #2271 Pipestone Royal Canadian Army Cadets who formed the Colour Party.

LEFT: Legion members (L-R) Ben Tweidt, Grace Griffiths, Jack Bylsma, Thelma Holmstrom and Al Cherny attend the annual ceremony. Photo: Anne Sanderson/Wadena News

50 Years of Hercules in Canada



LEFT: HCol Wallin joined over 400 current and former pilots, navigators, and other crew at CFB Trenton in November to celebrate 50 years of the C-130 Hercules in Canada. The "mighty Herc" has the longest continuous production run of any military aircraft in history.

Did you know?

The Federal Government provides a 100% GST rebate on Remembrance Day poppies and wreaths acquired by the Royal Canadian Legion from private sector suppliers? The rebate is retroactive to January 1, 2010 to cover this year's poppies and wreaths.



Photo credit: Striatic

Getting Results for Veterans

What the Federal Government has done to help our nation's heroes

Over the past five budgets the government has invested \$2.5 billion of new money in veterans programs and benefits. Recently, this amount was nearly doubled with a further infusion of more than \$2 billion – for a total of more than \$4.5 billion in new spending to help our veterans.

For severely injured veterans:

- ◆ At least 3,500 more will be eligible for financial assistance due to cuts in red tape;
- ◆ Those unable ever to work again will receive an additional \$1,000 each month for life;
- ◆ Those with severe, permanent service-related injuries will be eligible for the Permanent Impairment Allowance benefit.

To ensure an adequate monthly income:

- ◆ The monthly Earnings Loss Benefit will be adjusted so that everyone will receive a minimum annual income of \$40,000.

New Legacy of Care – \$52.5 million over five years:

- ◆ Payments of up to \$100 a day to family or close friends who leave their jobs to care for ill or injured soldiers;
- ◆ Easy-access transitional housing for injured soldiers being treated at Canadian Forces rehabilitation centres;
- ◆ Services such as wheelchair transportation to medical appointments during rehabilitation;
- ◆ Better access to information and individual attention.

Disability Award

- ◆ Greater payment flexibility so the Award can be received as a lump sum, as a combination of lump sum and annual payments, or only as an annual payment. Veterans can choose one method, then change it later if they wish.
- ◆ For more information, visit: <http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/general/> or call: 1-866-522-2122 (English) or 1-866-522-2022 (French)

Support Our Troops Gala Dinner

Senator Wallin was proud to be the Gala Patron of the “Support Our Troops” dinner in Regina on October 23. Over 700 guests, including the Chief of the Defence Staff, Gen. Walter Natynczyk, Premier Brad Wall and 13 of Saskatchewan’s 15 Silver Cross families attended the sold-out event which was the largest fundraiser for the military in recent memory. The event raised \$200,000, benefitting the Military Families Fund, the Soldier On Fund, and the Hospital Comforts Fund. These Funds are administered by the Canadian Armed Forces to wounded soldiers and the families of fallen soldiers to help them through their darkest days. Vaughn Schofield did an amazing job, and along with her wonderful volunteers, made Saskatchewan very proud of its support for our troops.

The province rallied to raise much needed money for the seriously injured soldiers and their families. Resource Centres located at 15 Wing in Moose Jaw and at Dundurn help families cope with all the moves and long absences from loved ones; and the Hospital Comforts Fund provides some of the basics for soldiers who are in hospitals for extended periods.

For more information on these Funds and other programs assisting our Armed Forces, please visit www.cfspa.com.



LEFT: City of Regina Councillor Jocelyn Hutchinson presents Senator Wallin with a gift from the Province of Saskatchewan.



ABOVE: Senator Wallin and General Natynczyk with Army and Air Force cadets.

RIGHT: Senator Wallin with her father, Bill (left), General Natynczyk and Mrs. Leslie Natynczyk.



BELOW: Senator Wallin with her father, Bill (left), Premier Wall and Mrs. Tami Wall.



RIGHT: Senator Wallin and General Natynczyk with (L-R) Hon. LCol Vaughn Schofield, Chair of the Support Our Troops organizing committee; Sandy Gauthier, National Manager, Support Our Troops Fund and Outreach; Maj. Jacinta Fitzmaurice and Heather Connolly, Canadian Forces Personnel and Family Support Services Organization; and Maj. Joanne Ubell, Wing Administration Officer in Moose Jaw.



Continuing to Upgrade the Canadian Forces

Excerpt from a recent speech

By Senator Pamela Wallin, Chair of the Senate Committee on National Security and Defence

The war in Afghanistan has become the lens through which we view nearly everything about Canada's armed forces today, and so too will it frame the vision of their future.

Gone is the cherished but outdated notion that Canada is simply a nation of kinder, gentler peacekeepers – outdated because we haven't done much peacekeeping in recent years! In fact, last September, Canada ranked 50th in the world in troop contributions to peacekeeping operations.

The mission in Afghanistan has made it clear, as General Rick Hillier, former chief of defence staff stated, that Canadian troops are warriors – not civil servants! Canada has indeed been in a brutal, full-on combat role from the get-go, as our troops took on the toughest of assignments, fighting in Kandahar province, the Taliban stronghold.

Despite our troops being ill-equipped when first deployed, our Government moved to support the men and women who stood up, providing the much-needed equipment for this ambitious job.

The Canadian Forces have adapted and grown, and because of their continuing successes, Canada is back at the international table with a credible voice. Thank you from all Canadians.

Our troops continue to acquit themselves superbly – fighting, training and mentoring Afghan security forces, and serving alongside civilians in our Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRT) in a whole-of-government approach to help the Afghan government rebuild its nation. The high quality of our Forces has been noted time and again by our NATO and Afghan partners. In fact, the work of our brave warriors together with our civilians on the PRTs has been called “wildly successful.”

The success of NATO forces and the Afghan army, says General Jonathan Vance, is having a “galvanizing effect” on the people. He points out that as schools and health clinics open, it gives the people a sense of confidence and progress. And thanks to the security provided by the CF, Canada has already met or exceeded several of the 2011 targets for Afghanistan, whether in training of corrections staff and health care workers, providing literacy and vocational training, or making micro loans. And across the country, nearly 40% of students are now girls – a radical, powerful change that will help move Afghanistan forward, undoing some of the worst sins of the Taliban reign of terror.



Canadian soldiers assess a blast site in Afghanistan.

So what about the future? How does Canada ensure that we keep our military relevant and in top form and that we never return to that “Decade of Darkness” when the defence of our nation and our military families suffered demoralizing and debilitating Liberal spending cuts?

Defence of the nation is a country's first and primary commitment. It cannot be contracted out to others. We must keep making substantial contributions to equip and support our troops so we are not dependent on our allies to do the heavy lifting.

This is the challenge facing Defence Minister Peter MacKay and Chief of the Defence Staff Walt Natynczyk as they make plans to shape our military post the combat mission in Afghanistan.

Whatever the new missions or challenges that will face us, Canada's armed forces have successfully recast their image into one that fits Canada's newly imagined community where ordinary men and women from next door carry out dangerous work with professionalism, decency and fair play. Our troops are us – not outsiders or strangers any more. They represent the best of Canada, and we must never again let them down by sending them into harm's way without the equipment they need.



A Canadian soldier mentors Afghan soldiers on a bridge reconstruction project.

Out and About, Across Canada and In Wadena!

RIGHT: Senator Wallin with MP Harold Albrecht (right) and Harry Watts in September at the annual Big Tent Event in the riding of Kitchener-Conestoga. Photo: David Drewe



RIGHT: Senator Wallin with Peter and Melanie Munk at a gala dinner honouring heart surgeon Dr. Tirone David in Toronto in November.

The black-tie event was organized by the Toronto General and Western Hospital Foundation and the Peter Munk Cardiac Centre.

Senator Wallin led guests in a friendly "roast and toast" of Dr. David, one of the world's leading cardiac surgeons.



An Order of Canada recipient, Dr. David is also a researcher, inventor, author and lecturer who travels the world teaching new techniques to other doctors. He has performed over 10,000 surgeries and developed the world-renowned Toronto SPV, a biological heart valve.



LEFT: With St. Joseph Media President Doug Knight (centre) and The Walrus magazine editor/co-publisher John Macfarlane at the Empire Club of Canada's panel "The Future of Media".

ABOVE: Chris Cottingham (left), and Bill Palmer of the Burlington Conservative Association Board with Sen. Wallin at MP Mike Wallace's September event in Burlington.



LEFT: Auctioneer Milo Mahlum helps Senator Wallin show off one of the scarves she contributed to the first-ever WADENA CARES auction at the Wadena Community Legion Hall on November 13. The auction, organized by her sister Bonnie Wallin, raised over \$3000 for WADENA CARES, an organization raising funds to help townspeople in need. Local businesses and individuals donated dozens of prizes, including an autographed Roughriders jersey and an autographed photo of hockey star Joey Leach. Joey Leach started playing hockey in Wadena at the age of three. He played both AA and AAA before moving on to the WHL to play for the Kootenay Ice where he was named Rookie of the Year. He was the number two pick for the Calgary Flames in the NHL draft this past summer.

The new fund will provide families and individuals in the Wadena district with a source of crisis income. Bonnie Wallin, chair of WADENA CARES, says, "the idea was born earlier this year when the clients of Mallard Diversified Services were preparing to make a donation to the people of Haiti."

The donation prompted a conversation about all the money that goes to help people in need around the world. "It was apparent that we needed a vehicle to help people right here at home. We decided there needs to be some resources available to meet any crisis that may arise," explains Bonnie Wallin. Senator Wallin was delighted to contribute several items to the auction from her travels around the world. She thanks everyone who attended the auction and gave so generously to help their community. Saskatchewan people are a generous lot! Anyone can make a contribution to the WADENA CARES fund and will receive a tax receipt. For more information, please contact the Town of Wadena office at 306-338-2145.

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Families Come First

This year, we have delivered on our commitment to help make Canadian communities safer for families. As part of our action to protect children from sexual predators, we've asked Craigslist – a network of online communities – to remove the erotic services ads from their Canadian websites to deter criminal organizations profiting from child prostitution and human trafficking.

We're also ensuring that when it comes to the sexual exploitation of children – the punishment fits the crime. Our Government is proposing tougher mandatory prison sentences for those who commit sexual offences against children and youth.

Today's complex computer and telecommunications environment provides countless new ways of committing crimes, making it harder to investigate. That's why we've introduced legislation that would provide law enforcement and national security professionals with up-to-date tools to fight crimes related to gangs, terrorism and child sexual exploitation.

That's why we are establishing and upgrading Child Advocacy Centres across Canada. These centres will be a strong support system for young victims and witnesses of crime, making it easier for children's voices to be heard throughout our criminal justice system.

True Patriot Love Dinner

The second annual True Patriot Love dinner to support soldiers and their families raised over \$2.4 million in Toronto on November 10. Senator Wallin, along with General Walt Natynczyk, Chief of the Defence Staff, Defence Minister Peter MacKay and General (Ret'd) Rick Hillier, and 1800 others attended the gala event.

The proceeds will assist the Canadian Military Families Fund, established by former chief of defence staff General (Ret'd) Rick Hillier to cover costs that government programs don't already cover, from travel costs for relatives to attend the repatriation ceremonies of fallen soldiers, to education costs for returning veterans.



Also assisted will be the Soldier On Fund, a fund that uses sport to help heal wounded soldiers; Military Family Resource Centres and other charities that step in and assist military persons where governments are unable.

Last month, the Foundation held its first regional event in New Brunswick where more than \$310,000 was raised for local charities and a second regional event will be held in Vancouver in March 2011.

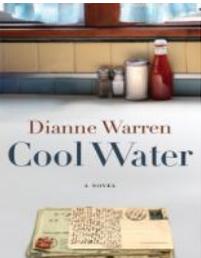


(L-R): Min. Peter MacKay, Gen. Walter Natynczyk and True Patriot Love Foundation chairman Shaun Francis at the True Patriot Love dinner in November.

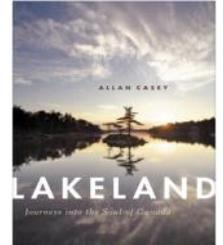
Congratulations to Homegrown Talent!

Saskatchewan writers Dianne Warren and Allan Casey took home the coveted fiction and non-fiction prizes at the 2010 Governor General's Literary Awards in November.

Set in the fictional town of Juliet, Saskatchewan, Warren's debut novel *Cool Water* "immerses readers in the difficulties and joys of everyday life". Warren resides in Regina and is the previous recipient of three Saskatchewan Book Awards and the Marian Engel Award from the Writer's Trust of Canada. She was also long-listed for this year's Giller Prize.



Saskatonian Allan Casey's *Lakeland: Journeys Into the Soul of Canada* begins at Emma Lake, Saskatchewan and crosses the country exploring the vast landscape of Canada's lakes, the people living near them, and those striving to protect them. *Lakeland* was also short-listed for this year's Edna Staebler Award for creative non-fiction.



Federal Government Programs Helping Saskatchewan

The Province of Saskatchewan was recently approved for 12 low-cost infrastructure loans for almost \$67.4 million to ten different municipalities as part of Canada's Economic Action Plan. The Plan provides up to \$2 billion in direct low-cost loans to municipalities over two years through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC)'s Municipal Infrastructure Lending Program (MILP) for housing-related infrastructure projects in towns and cities across the country. Loans are available to any municipality in Canada and will be approved largely on a first-come, first-served basis, provided the proposal meets eligibility requirements. For more information or to make an application, municipalities can visit CMHC's website at www.cmhc.ca/housingactionplan.

Crop farmers who are unable to access their granaries in order to haul their product due to wet or flooded road and fields now have more time to repay cash advances under the Advance Payment Program (APP). In October, Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz announced a Stay of Default on the repayment of advances until January 31, 2011 for crop producers in Saskatchewan who have received a 2009 advance through the Canadian Canola Growers Association (CCGA). The Government of Canada will continue to pay interest on the interest-free portion of farmers' outstanding advances until January 31, 2011. For more information, please visit www.ccca.ca.

Saskatchewan municipalities are moving forward as nine regional projects, representing 52 municipalities with a total population of 520,000, were announced as the initial successful Planning for Growth program applicants. In June, the Federal Government announced a total contribution of \$600,000 to the Planning for Growth Initiative through the Gas Tax Fund, and the Government of Saskatchewan invested an additional \$500,000 through Enterprise Saskatchewan. A second round for applications opened on November 15, with a deadline for applications of December 31, 2010. For more information on the projects, please visit www.municipal.gov.sk.ca/Funding/PlanningForGrowth.

Tackling Crime in Canada

Our federal government is focused on making our streets and communities safer for Canadians. Legislation tackling auto theft and property crime, and limiting pardons for serious crimes, has received Royal Assent. In addition, the government has introduced bills to:

- ◆ Expand use of adult sentences for young offenders, allow judges to lift publication bans (C-4)
- ◆ Make it mandatory for internet service providers to report child pornography (C-22)
- ◆ Eliminate certain entitlements for prisoners (C-31)
- ◆ A bill to eliminate the “faint hope” clause which gives a chance at early release to those serving life sentences (S-6) is currently winding its way through Parliament. Another bill (C-48), recently introduced by the federal government, could make multiple murderers and serial killers ineligible for parole for their entire lives.

Judges would be empowered to impose consecutive periods of parole ineligibility on murderers who kill more than one person, so that a killer who murders three victims, for instance, could receive a life sentence with no parole eligibility for up to 75 years, rather than the current Criminal Code provision permitting first-degree murderers to apply after 25 years, regardless of the number of people they killed.

Clifford Olson was the inspiration for another piece of proposed legislation (C-31), which recently passed in Parliament and is now before the **Senate**. It would ban incarcerated seniors from receiving federal old-age benefits while imprisoned. The bill was introduced following a news report last March that Olson was receiving \$1,100 monthly.

For more information: <http://www.parl.gc.ca/common/bills.asp>

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