



Senator Pamela Wallin



When a new year begins, it's a chance to reflect on what you've accomplished and what's on your own "to do" list. Modernizing the Senate tops my list.

I've learned a lot in my first full year in the Upper Chamber and I am more convinced than ever that we need change. The new Senators appointed in the last year are of all ages, come from every walk of life and have re-energized the place. We all believe in public service which is why we said yes! But we all agree that term limits would be a great idea. Do your best, make your contribution, then move over and give someone else the opportunity to do the same!

On the economic front, there is a growing consensus that we are emerging from the global recession and that the worst is over. Canada's careful and conservative fiscal approach has served us well. The IMF (The International Monetary Fund) says Canada's rebound will lead the pack of G7 countries.

We were in better shape than most when the global recession started and our targeted and timely economic stimulus has eased the pain by focussing on projects that not only create jobs but also help support our communities - the backbone of our country. More than 97 per cent of the money has been allocated and more than 70 per cent is already at work through the thousands of projects - modernizing local infrastructure, recreation centres, roads, even water filtration plants – all with long lasting benefits. The second phase is about to roll out but as you will no doubt see in the upcoming budget, as the economy improves, the government will begin to cinch the belt again to restore balanced budgets and get the deficit under control.



Prime Minister Harper and his wife Laureen personally drop off donation for Red Cross relief efforts in Haiti. The Government will match, dollar for dollar, Canadians' charitable contributions.

We must do this to balance the books and be prepared for the unexpected. After the so-called Christmas bomber attempted to blow up a plane over Canada, en route to Detroit, new and costly security measures had to be implemented.

Then, there is the heart-wrenching humanitarian disaster that is still unfolding in Haiti. Canadians and their Government have been very generous.

I was at the 8 Wing Canadian Forces Base Trenton, Ontario as part of my new duties as an Honourary Colonel for the Air Force in the hours after the earthquake. I watched in awe as our military men and women kicked into gear – working 24/7- loading giant C-17 transport planes with supplies and equipment.

Our troops, properly equipped, are a force to be reckoned with. It is an amazing contrast to our response to the tsunami in Sri Lanka five years ago. Then, without proper equipment, Canada was forced to delay sending help for weeks and we finally begged a ride on an old Russian plane to get our troops and supplies there.

Now, we are slowly but surely acquiring the right equipment and have a detailed and determined plan to rebuild our military over the next 20 years through the Canada First Defence Strategy.

The extended Parliamentary break has provided a useful opportunity to get ready for the challenges ahead. Prime Minister Harper has been criss-crossing the country, meeting and speaking with Canadians directly, without the media middle-man. The Prime Minister has also shuffled his cabinet and with that, signalled his focus on belt-tightening and tougher security and his intention to try again to stiffen our crime laws.

When Parliament's new session begins in March, the Conservatives will have a plurality of seats in the Senate but not a majority! There are five Senators that represent other parties or sit as independents and they usually vote with the Liberal party. So, although Government bills may have a less difficult road to travel - there will still be detours.

As you will see in the pages that follow, I had the opportunity to travel with Defence Minister MacKay back to Afghanistan for Remembrance Day Services. It was a powerful and humbling experience as we met with the families of the fallen who had made their way to Afghanistan to grieve and to heal.

So remember, whenever you see a soldier who goes willingly into harm's way to protect us or to respond to a humanitarian call, please just say thank you. And to their families too.



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Senator Wallin becomes Honourary Colonel of the Air Force



HCol Wallin shares a moment of pride with her father, Bill Wallin, a World War II tail gunner.

On November 16, Senator Pamela Wallin was named an Honourary Colonel for the Air Force. Wearing Air Force blue and her medals including the Order of Canada and the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, HCol Wallin talked of her family's heritage of military service.

"I feel a very strong connection to the [Air Force] blue today and a particular pride," HCol Wallin said. Seven members of her immediate family have served in the Air Force over the years including her father, Sergeant (Retired) Bill Wallin, who served as a World War II tail gunner. He travelled from Saskatchewan to be with his daughter for her investiture.

Excerpt from HCol Wallin's Speech



HCol Wallin after her investiture at the Royal Canadian Air Force Officers' Mess in Ottawa. Photo Credit: Sgt Ron Flynn.

It's a special honour to serve as an Honourary Colonel to Canada's Air Force and I promise to do my best to further the bond between Canadians and those who defend them.

One of the recommendations of the independent panel, which I was part of, concerned our Air Force. In particular, the need for secure medium-lift helicopter capability and high performance, unmanned aerial vehicles. Now, thanks to all of the hard work of the Air Force, this is all a reality. You are saving lives, and you are directly affecting combat operations. And believe me, it's working.

Our mission in Afghanistan has matured, and we are at the very heart of the allied effort. We are considered and acknowledged by our allies to be the brains of the operation. And they're all looking to put a little bit more Canada in their efforts. I remain convinced that we are in the right place for the right reasons. We chose to be there. Just as our allies had, we responded to

the attacks of 9/11 that killed our citizens, and we joined the American-led operation Enduring Freedom. But because we continue to be threatened both here and there, as others try not only to kill us but to undermine what we believe in and what we stand for, we chose to stay in a very significant way. And in Afghanistan there is no doubt of the monumental humanitarian need nor of the security imperative.

As we said in our independent panel report, "Our presence in Afghanistan is fully justified, whether considered from the point of view of international law, humanitarian need, or Canadian or global interest in security. If we are not willing to lend our military resources when asked to do so by the United Nations in a mission coordinated by NATO in a country whose democratically elected government wants us and whose citizens desperately need us, then we wonder where and when we would do so."

Whether saving the lives of millions from the brutality of the Nazis, saving the world from unchecked Soviet aggression in the Cold War, or saving the lives of men and women and children who would otherwise be at the mercy of the Taliban in Afghanistan today, Canada's Air Force is at the forefront. Canada's military has shown itself to be a group of men and women of character in difficult times. I thank you for all that you do every day and for the opportunity to walk amongst you.



HCol Wallin with LGen Angus Watt (Ret.), former Chief of the Air Staff. Photo Credit: Sgt Ron Flynn.



(L-R) Bill Wallin, HCol Pamela Wallin, Ambassador Brian Schumacher, his wife Denise and Senator Hugh Segal who is an HCapt for the Navy. Photo Credit: Sgt Ron Flynn.

International Security Forum



November 20, Senator Wallin attended the prestigious international Security Forum hosted by the German Marshall Fund in Halifax, NS. The event was held in Canada for the first time.

Participants came from all over the world and Pamela served as moderator for the opening session: *Global Transatlanticism: Where the Allies Are.*



General Hillier receives Birchall Leadership Award



Senator Wallin was the Master of Ceremonies at the Birchall Leadership Award Dinner in Calgary this past November. The current Chief of Defence Staff, General Walt Natynczyk (left) presents the Birchall award to the former Chief, General Rick Hillier (Ret.) for his achievements and commitment to his country.

The award commemorates the memory of Air Commodore Leonard J. Birchall, the "Saviour of Ceylon" and is awarded to those demonstrating extraordinary leadership qualities.

Photo Credit: Jess Bobyn



Manning Innovation Awards



Supporting creative Canadian minds, Senator Wallin presents the Manning Innovation winners their awards, including **Ryan Peng** from **Saskatoon** who developed a high-speed flash exposure for compact digital cameras, Caitlin Newnham of London, Ontario who developed a substance for chronic pain relief and Brent King from Calgary, Alberta (left) who developed a device which positions patients' limbs for optimum operating positions. All products are not only invented in Canada, but are being developed and marketed here.

Speaking Events

Senator Wallin speaks at dozens of events across Canada each year.



Sen. Wallin speaking to the May Court Club in Ottawa, the oldest women's service organization in Canada. The club supports and helps fund a long term care facility.



Senator and HCol Pamela Wallin with the Chief of the Air Staff at Trenton Air Force base, as troops load supplies for Haiti, using our new Griffon helicopters that are also saving lives in Afghanistan.



Minister Helena Guergis along with Sen. Wallin supporting provincial MPP Lisa MacLeod at an Ottawa event where "tea" was served by Ottawa's Mayor.

Olympic Torch at Moose Jaw's Air Force Base



The Air Force Snowbird pilots, Sen. Wallin and 15 Wing Torch Relay Team met the Olympic Flame with warm Prairie hospitality Jan. 10th.

Deputy Commanding Officer of the Snowbirds, Maj Dave Treanor shows Sen. Wallin the CT-114 Tutor plane controls - one of the planes the Snowbird Pilots use. The Major also took part in the Torch relay.



RCMP Depot Graduation in Regina



On October 30, Senator Wallin inspected the graduating troops from the RCMP Depot Division. Accompanying Senator Wallin were Assistant Commissioner Roger Brown and Chief Superintendent Bob Smart.



As the Deputy Chair of the Security and Defence Committee, Sen. Wallin has been impressed with the new changing face of the RCMP. There are an increasing number of women, minorities and older recruits joining the Force.

Communications for Northern Saskatchewan



Senator Wallin was in Meadow Lake with MP Rob Clarke to meet with Chief Helen Ben and Chief Jim Norman of the Meadow Lake Tribal Council. More than \$2 million in stimulus money will help serve nine First Nations and 30 northern Saskatchewan communities, assisting them with computer network upgrades and websites. This Federal stimulus money will help keep kids and communities connected across the north and is designated for high-tech skills training and long term job opportunities.

Senator Wallin recognized by Wadena Composite High School



(L-R) Bonnie Wallin, Kevin and Anna Karmark accepting the scholarship on behalf of their daughter Merrissa, Leone, Pamela and Bill Wallin.

On Jan. 8, Senator Wallin visited her high school alma mater, the Wadena Composite School (WCS) where a new scholarship was unveiled, named for her mother, Leone Wallin, a long time teacher in Wadena, Saskatchewan.

Senator Wallin was also officially honoured by the Composite High School with a place on their Wall of Fame.

Photo Credit: Anne Sanderson, Wadena News.



Wadena Composite School principal Darin Faubert with Sen. Wallin.

Meadow Lake—Desnethé-Missinippi-Churchill River

On December 5, Senator Wallin travelled with MP Rob Clarke through his federal riding of Desnethé-Missinippi-Churchill River, which is the largest riding in Saskatchewan, encompassing half of the province. Rob Clarke's constituency is actually bigger than the country of Germany!



Senator Wallin visited with local dignitaries, including Saskatchewan's Minister of Municipal Affairs and MLA for Meadow Lake Jeremy Harrison (standing) and Member of Parliament for the riding Rob Clarke (seated, with his wife Leanne).

"we all have to respond to the crisis that's underway." She added that funding like that announced on Saturday goes towards communities where it is needed most to improve and stimulate the economy, but that it is important for small towns to never lose sight of what they once were...

Wallin said, "...I'm so pleased, even in the last couple of days in the places I've been to see everybody really working together in these communities." She continued on, saying that Saskatchewan should be proud to be a "have" province, out performing the national average for growth. "I'm very proud of not only what we've got and where we're headed but how we are getting there."

Excerpt from the Meadow Lake Progress By Jennifer Blake

...Wallin grew up in small-town Saskatchewan, a point she brought up in her speech, which mentioned how being from a small place shapes who you are. "I think we learned some important lessons about life in these places," she said. "You have to be able to accommodate and get along with people when you live in a small town. It really teaches us tolerance and accommodation." Senator Wallin spoke with some humour and some poignancy. She spoke about Saskatchewan with fondness.

...Wallin said there is a lot going for small-town Saskatchewan and places like Meadow Lake have very bright futures. "When you see our young mayors and our young Cabinet Ministers and our young Members of Parliament, we are very lucky in this province to have people like that who will take up the mantle of public office," she said, referring to La Ronge Mayor Thomas Sierzycki, MLA and Cabinet Minister Jeremy Harrison and MP Rob Clarke, all in attendance that evening.

"Rob was here today making an announcement for part of the stimulus program that the government has been involved with...As part of the international community



Senator Wallin heard the issues and concerns of local residents, including Robin Parr and his wife Pat.

Shellbrook — a community working together for better health care



Sen. Wallin delivered the keynote speech on topics ranging from Saskatchewan's role in the world to Senate reform at the Shellbrook and District's Health Services Project Silver Spoon Dinner fundraiser which raised \$66,000 with 250 people attending.
Photo Credit: Brad Dupuis, Editor Shellbrook

Senator Wallin participating in the "Diamond Dig," a key fundraising event of the evening. There was, of course, a wonderful five course meal! Photo Credit: Betty Anthony



Remembrance Day in Afghanistan

Excerpt from a statement made in the Senate by Senator Pamela Wallin, November 17, 2009:

I had the privilege to attend November 11 ceremonies in Kandahar with 11 family members of fallen Canadian soldiers. Canada is the only country that has this kind of program that allows families to travel to the place where they lost their loved one and to meet fellow soldiers who knew, loved and worked with the lost soldier. One of the mothers said to us that she came with a broken heart and left with one that was healing.

Minister of National Defence Peter MacKay also presented a Canadian Sacrifice Medal, the first awarded in Afghanistan, to Sergeant Vince Adams who had been wounded by a bomb. After his recovery he returned to Afghanistan to finish his tour. He is now teaching his fellow soldiers about ways of detecting and avoiding roadside bombs.

This remains a brutal reality for our troops. We met with many of them, visiting not only the main base in Kandahar, but travelling as well to four forward operating bases where our troops are working with and living alongside Afghan soldiers and providing direct security to Afghan villages.

We also met with our volunteer civilians and military personnel working with the PRT, the Provincial Reconstruction Teams. We traveled to the Dahlia Dam, Canada's signature project designed to bring clean water to a thirsty desert.

It is nearly two years since I was in Afghanistan. It was with great pride that this time we travelled on Canadian Chinooks with Canadian pilots, with air cover provided by Canadian Griffons.



Senator Pamela Wallin speaking to the fallen soldiers' families during the Remembrance Day ceremony at the Kandahar Air Force base, the main base in the region.



Senator Wallin was in Afghanistan taking a look at the progress made since she was last there with the Independent Panel.

Progress in Afghanistan — the Canadian Way



Defence Minister Peter MacKay, Industry Minister Tony Clement and Senator Wallin along with Brig.-Gen. Jonathan Vance, Canada's former task-force commander in Kandahar.

**By Senator Pamela
Excerpt from the National Post, Nov. 2, 2009**

For the better part of eight years our soldiers and civilians have risked their lives to put some two million young girls in schools; to vaccinate seven million more children and to see that more than 80% of people now have access to at least some basic health care.

We are building the country's largest dam to supply clean drinking water, training up a police force and encouraging a fledgling free media. And Canadian sponsored micro-finance means war widows can work to support their families.

All the more troubling then that, at this crucial moment, we have some calling for Canada to cut and run -- to retreat...I am not only embarrassed but angry with such ill-considered rhetoric. Soldiers have spilled blood for the cause we said we believed in when we sent them into battle...Why would we retreat in the face of progress?

We all agree Afghanistan's recent election fell far short of our Western democratic standard.

Then again, national votes are more about what we want than how Afghans traditionally operate. That's why the allies have been decentralizing their efforts, working more closely with provincial and district leaders. **So let's not let perfection become the enemy of progress.**

Given Afghanistan's brutal history, two elections in eight years -- even with the taint of corruption--is a forward step. And the allies need the U.S. surge to secure the extraordinary effort and under-reported success of our military and civilian volunteers so far.

We need resolve. The situation is indeed dire. The neighbourhood is dangerous and unpredictable. And there is no decisive victory at hand. All the more reason for a little strategic patience -- and a very strategic surge.

Gun Registry On Its Way Out

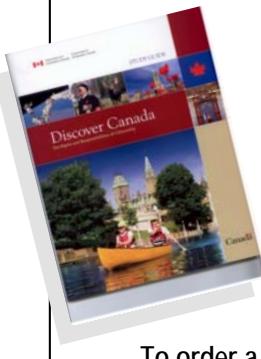
After years and years of hard work on the gun registry issue, we have achieved a significant victory. Candice Hoepner's (Portage-Lisgar) Private Member's Bill C-391, which calls for the repeal of the long-gun registry, passed second reading in the House of Commons by a vote of 164-137.

The progress of this bill is unaffected by the launch of a new session. It will be examined at the Public Safety Committee when the House begins its new session in March.

As we know, the registry is a multi-million dollar mistake that has unfairly targeted law-abiding farmers and hunters, and not the criminals it is supposed to target. There are many in Parliament that want to see the registry abolished—they should be encouraged. And for those that support the registry, they should be reminded that they are there to represent their constituents' views.

New citizenship guide - worth a look!

Discover Canada: The Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship includes information on Canada's commitment to values such as freedom, democracy, human rights, the rule of law and the equality of men and women. The new hand book promotes a greater understanding of Canada's history, values, symbols and important Canadian institutions, such as Parliament and the Crown. It also highlights the sacrifices made by Canada's veterans for our country. All of us could use a refresher course on citizenship and this booklet would be a great tool to spark discussion in classrooms as well.



"People come from all over the world to seek Canadian citizenship. It is highly valued," said Immigration Minister Jason Kenney. "We expect people who want to become Canadians to have a good understanding of their rights and responsibilities, and the values and institutions that are rooted in Canada's history. By strengthening the guide, we are increasing the value of Canadian citizenship."

To order a guide or print a copy visit www.cic.gc.ca, under Resources, click on "Publications," then on "Citizenship," then click on the guide title "Discover Canada" and follow the instructions.

Wallin Speaks in the Senate about the National Day of Service Bill

Senator Wallin will re-introduce the **National Day of Service Act** at the first available opportunity. This bill will designate **September 11 each year as a National Day of Service**.

In March of this year the United States passed a similar bipartisan bill called the Serve America Act, co-sponsored by 42 Senators who worked together to create a constructive and compassionate way for generations to remember 9/11.

Since the passage of the Serve America Act, thousands of organizations — non-profit, faith-based, employers — have mobilized hundreds of thousands of Americans.

A group of students launched a project collecting 2,974 pairs of shoes, representing each person lost in the 9/11 attacks, and donated them to a homeless shelter. Another person delivered goodie baskets to fire and police stations as a way of paying tribute to the first responders of 9/11. Small acts but important ones!

This is the sort of volunteerism the National Day of Service Act can inspire here in Canada.

In the Senate Chamber Senator Wallin explained, "This is a simple bill. There are not a lot of complicated clauses or legal language. It does not oblige us to participate or fund any ceremony, and there are no mandatory provisions within it. **It is simply about the spirit of giving back, or perhaps of paying it forward.**"

For more info visit Senator Wallin's website: www.pamelawallin.com, click on "Senate."

Senator Wallin supports a National Day of Service Act because she believes we need to not only remember the 24 Canadians who lost their lives, but to also remind us all of the many kindnesses of strangers and the many hands that reached out to someone in need during and since that horrific day in 2001.

What you can do to help? Call and email Senators to let them know you support the National Day of Service Act.

Visit www.parl.gc.ca, under Current Parliamentarians, click on "Senators" and then click on the individual Senator's name to access emails and phone numbers.

YOU CAN VISIT WWW.ACTIONPLAN.GC.CA

The economy continues to be the Federal Government's number one priority. Funds from Canada's Economic Action Plan have been committed to 12,000 projects, approximately 8,000 have begun, creating jobs for hundreds of thousands of Canadians and helping communities hardest hit by the recession. **Your Saskatchewan team has been busy making sure the people of Saskatchewan get their fair share.**

- The Home Renovation Tax Credit** has been a huge success! About 4.6 million families in Canada are expected to take advantage of the Home Renovation Tax Credit—half have undertaken renovations because of the credit.

Make sure you keep all your receipts from renovations you have done this year—you will need them to claim this credit at tax time!

- The Building Canada Fund** helps communities fix bridges, roads and water systems. Since Budget 2009 the federal government has announced over 309 infrastructure projects in **Saskatchewan** and the federal contribution has been more than \$450 Million.
- The Recreation Infrastructure Program (RInC)** assists communities refurbish or repair recreational facilities such as hockey rinks, arenas and swimming pools. Since Budget 2009, 121 rinks and swimming pools and other projects have been improved with \$14,621,000 funding here in **Saskatchewan**.
- The Community Adjustment Fund** helps communities create and maintain jobs. Twenty-seven **Saskatchewan** communities have received a total of \$30,374,000 through this fund.

Did you know?

Tax Freedom Day is now 18 days earlier than it was when Stephen Harper became Prime Minister 4 years ago.

The stimulus funds will continue to flow until the end of the 2010- 2011 fiscal year. And then, as both the Prime Minister and the new Treasury Board President Stockwell Day have said, we will begin to concentrate on balancing the budget, maintaining economic growth and creating many more much needed jobs. In 2010, if we stay the course, keep taxes low and continue expanding trade, Canada's and Saskatchewan's long-term economic prospects are among the best in the world!

Saskatchewan's Federal Team Working for you



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

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