



## CARNEY'S COMMENTS I love China, but..

I returned home to Canada from China in October poisoned by pollution. At least that was what it felt like after eight days on a parliamentary delegation to Beijing, Guangzhou and Hong Kong. My lungs hurt from breathing the dirty air. My eyes teared from the smog. My senses were assailed from the stink of dirty rivers.



Sen. Pat Carney

“Guangzhou is like living in an exhaust pipe,” I noted in my Diary. On the ferry trip to Hong Kong I wrote: “The coastal freighters move through the polluted air like sea-slugs on a sludge-coloured sea.”

I love China. I was born there. Our delegation was impressed with China's successful efforts to lift hundreds of millions of people from poverty by providing food, shelter, education and jobs. While there are still disparities between urban and rural Chinese, there is also unprecedented prosperity and domestic stability for millions.

China is building new cities, roads, airports and other services at a phenomenal clip, with an annual GDP growth rate of nearly 10 per cent per year. China is now Canada's second largest trading partner, after the US, with terms of trade four to one in China's favour.

But this prosperity has come with a pollution price tag not many Canadians would be willing to pay. Some cities have made great improvements as Beijing prepares for the 2008 Olympic Games. But southern China is still a challenge.

*(Carney's Comments Continued on page 2)*

## British Columbians to benefit: B.C. will gain from \$591 Million Asia-Pacific Gateway and Corridor Initiative.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced on October 11, 2006 that the Conservative Government will invest \$591 million for more than a dozen projects that are part of the Asia-Pacific and Corridor Initiative.

As the G8's most trade-reliant nation, Canada must act strategically to continually strengthen its position in global commerce. We are in a unique position to capitalize on the dramatic growth that is occurring in the Asia-Pacific region, and our major West Coast ports are much closer to the main commercial ports of Asia than most of the American ports we compete with.

The goal is to help Canada capture a larger share of the West Coast shipping market. A total of \$321 million will be immediately committed to a variety of infrastructure, transportation technology and border security projects that are scheduled to be completed within four years. It is a collaborative effort involving all levels of government and the private sector. Private sector firms have committed more than \$3 billion for related investments up to the year 2010.

This initiative will boost Canada's competitive edge on the world stage, which will not only be good for British Columbians but will benefit all Canadians from coast to coast.



*Polluted air hangs over one of China's biggest cities*

## IT TAKES A LONG LEGISLATIVE PROCESS TO PROTECT CANADA'S HERITAGE LIGHTHOUSES



Point Atkinson light, built in 1874, is one of nine "Heritage" lights in B.C.

Lighthouses have long graced Canada's rugged coastlines and majestic shores, providing and symbolizing direction, hope and safe harbor to generations of mariners. Lighthouses also form an integral part of Canada's identity, culture and heritage, and are of historic and aesthetic interest and significance to our communities and our nation.

On October 3, 2006 I introduced into the Senate Bill S-220, *An Act to Protect Heritage Lighthouses*. This enactment protects heritage lighthouses within the legislative authority of Parliament by providing a means for the designation as heritage lighthouses; by providing an opportunity for public consultation before authorization is given for the removal, alteration, destruction, sale, assignment, transfer or other disposition of a designated heritage lighthouse; and by requiring that designated heritage lighthouses be reasonably maintained.

This will be the sixth time in six years that a Lighthouse bill has been introduced into Parliament. It was almost passed by both Houses the first five times. Let's hope that this time we are successful and can keep such an important part of our Canadian heritage alive for generations to come.

In September I had the opportunity to participate in a very special trip to the Broken Islands as a guest of the Tseshaht First Nations. The trip was organized to bring together the Council and its members with the groups of people whose decisions influence the day to day lives of the Tseshaht First Nation community.



Joining me on the excursion is Alan Dick, who grew up in the Islands and was making a return visit to his ancestral home.

## Carney's Comments (continued from page 1)

China is not covered by the Kyoto Accord. I support Prime Minister Harper's decision not to spend taxpayers' money to buy credits from China so both countries can continue to pollute the air we breathe.

The Conservative Government's new Clean Air Act, described elsewhere in this report, has been assailed as "smog and mirrors" by its opposition critics. Time will tell if measures such as the transit rider tax credit, effective July 1, and the \$1.3 billion public transit and infrastructure spending will make a difference.

But Canadians don't have to wait for governments to take action. We can act ourselves to improve our environment, effective immediately.

Here are some "ECO Tips" from Environment Canada:

- Energy: Wash your clothes using cold water. Many detergents clean just as well in cold water.
- Earth: Avoid waste by using reusable cloths and rags instead of paper towels to clean.
- Air: Compost your leaves and brush. Burning them will increase carbon dioxide emissions.

More information is available at: [www.ec.gc.ca/cleanair-airpur](http://www.ec.gc.ca/cleanair-airpur) )

*Senator Pat.*



Fifteen students from Vancouver's West Point Grey Academy U-13 soccer team visited my Ottawa office before they headed off to the Canadian Association of Independent Schools' soccer tournament in Montreal.

## LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WASTED \$6 BILLION ON INEFFECTIVE CLIMATE CONTROL INITIATIVES

The Report of the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development, which was tabled in the House of Commons on September 28, 2006, has identified major concerns with the previous Liberal government's approach to climate change on the home and international fronts. "Ever-shifting responsibilities between federal departments and ministers, turnover of key personnel, and changes from plan to plan have caused delays and loss of momentum....Our audits identified weaknesses in the government-wide system of accountability for climate change," states the report.

Since 1997, more than \$6 billion in funding for initiatives on climate change had been announced by the Liberal government. It did not have an effective government-wide system to track expenditures, performance and results on its climate change programs, resulting in the Liberal government not having the necessary tools for effective management, nor could it provide Parliamentarians with an accurate government-wide picture on spending and results they had requested.

The Commissioner's Report went on to say that "to date, the approach has lacked foresight and direction and has created confusion and uncertainty for those trying to deal with it. Many of the weaknesses identified in our audits are of the (Liberal) government's own making. It has not been effective in leading and deciding on many of the key areas under its control. Change is needed."

## CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT TABLES CANADA'S NEW CLEAN AIR ACT

Canada's Clean Air Act, which will set in motion the country's first comprehensive and integrated approach to tackle air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, was introduced into the House of Commons on October 19, 2006 by Prime Minister Stephen Harper.



Air quality is the No. 1 environmental concern of Canadians, and the Conservative government's approach is to "have a plan that is going to replace rhetoric with results, a plan that is going to move from short-term headlines to long-term progress, a plan that is going to get things done on the environment," said Prime Minister Harper.

Canada's Clean Air Act will allow the government to move industry from voluntary compliance to strict enforcement; replace the current ad hoc, patchwork system with clear, consistent, and comprehensive national standards; and institute a holistic approach that doesn't treat the related issues of pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions in isolation.

The government will consult extensively with industry, the provinces and territories to ensure these new regulations get measurable results on realistic timelines.



Senator Pat invites you to visit her new website:  
[www.patcarney.ca](http://www.patcarney.ca)

Check it out for links & information on:

- Senator Pat Carney's work in the Senate for B.C.;
- Speeches and committee work;
- News from the Senate of Canada;
- Federal Government programs and services;
- And more!

Send us your feedback: [carnep@sen.parl.gc.ca](mailto:carnep@sen.parl.gc.ca)

## Coastal Community Conference Communities Weathering Change: Is the Coast Clear?

After fifteen years of weathering a storm surge of economic, social and environmental change, BC's coastal communities gathered at the 2006 Conference of Coastal Communities to ask, "Is the Coast Clear?"

"The answer is 'hell no'," said Bud Graham, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Oceans and Marine Fisheries Division, in BC's Ministry of Environment, "and the solutions do not lie with the federal government, the provincial government, coastal communities or the seafood sector. We all need to define an agenda for the seafood industry and move towards achieving it."

Graham's comments kicked off the conference's opening panel, "BC's Coastal Fisheries", and set a theme that echoed throughout the two-day conference, held October 5 and 6 at the Delta Vancouver Airport Hotel.

This was the 12<sup>th</sup> annual conference hosted by BC's Coastal Community Network, the only forum that represents West Coast regional districts, tribal councils, bands and municipalities, to promote social and economic community well being.

More than a hundred coastal British Columbians came together at the conference to find ways to keep BC's coastal communities viable and vibrant. They included many of the major stakeholders in the coast's future: representatives of communities, both First Nations and non-aboriginal; the federal and provincial governments; the fishing and forest industry; and non-governmental and academic groups dealing with the environment, climate change and health.

In her opening remarks to the conference, Senator Pat Carney noted how, from an early focus on fisheries, the CCN's scope had broadened to include forestry, climate change, the perspectives of coastal First

Nations, health and health-care delivery, and internet-based community development, all themes of the conference.



Senator Carney praised the federal Conservative government for recent initiatives that have helped coastal communities, including new funding for small craft harbors and the dedication of a new Coast Guard cutter. But citing increased log exports and the possible cancellation of Industry Canada's Community Access Program, she also warned delegates that, "There is much more to be done. Both federal and provincial policies are killing our coastal communities."

Quoting Mr. Justice Gordon Sloan, Senator Carney stressed that "the resources of a region should be used for the social and economic benefit of that region". The 2006 Conference of Coastal Communities offered stakeholders a clear view of how coastal Resources — both human and natural — benefit coastal communities and how a common agenda and a coordinated effort will ensure that BC's coastal communities thrive.

For more information about the 2006 Conference of Coastal Communities and the Coastal Community Network, visit [www.coastalcommunitynetwork.ca](http://www.coastalcommunitynetwork.ca).

**Your opinion counts:  
Call Senator Pat toll free at  
1-800-267-7362  
and visit: [www.patcarney.ca](http://www.patcarney.ca)**