



KEEPING TOUCH



SPRING 2007

ISSUE NO. 26

Senator Carney Introduces Bill to Ban Water Exports

BC Senator Pat Carney has tabled a private member's bill, Bill S-225, *An Act to amend the International Boundary Waters Treaty Act (bulk water removal)*, which would restrict the government's authority to approve exports of bulk water without Parliamentary approval.

Senator Carney says the bill will close a loophole in present legislation which permits a minister to license exports of bulk water through the regulatory process, without the involvement of MPs, Senators or the general public.

"Under Conservative governments, Canada has a National Water Policy which prohibits bulk water exports from international boundary waters," Carney said. "But in fact, the present legislation says Thou Shalt Not Export Water unless the minister says

so. My bill restricts that ministerial power."

Senator Carney identified the loophole when she served as critic on an earlier amendment to the

International Boundary Waters Treaty Act introduced by the Liberal government on October 3, 2001. At the time, Foreign Affairs Minister John Manley dismissed Carney's

Continued on Page 3



Transport Minister Lawrence Cannon greets Senator Pat Carney at the Gatineau Marina.

Tory Green Ocean Plan

On May 8, 2007, Canada's Conservative government announced Regulations for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships and for Dangerous Chemicals. These new regulations promise better protection for Canadian waters from marine pollution and penalties for the discharge of ship-source pollution into the marine environment.

Coastal Canadians in BC have raised concerns about the discharge of sewage by cruise ships in their waters. Coastal Canadians welcome the cruise ship industry, but they are justifiably concerned about the possible pollution created by the ships.

"The new regulations dealing with marine pollu-

Continued on Page 2

CARNEY'S COMMENTS

Senate Reform and BC: A region is a region

The appointment by Prime Minister Stephen Harper of Alberta's new Senator Bert Brown, the farmer who carved "Triple E"—equal, elected and effective—in his wheat fields, and who was elected by Albertans as a "senator-in-waiting", has revived interest in Senate reform.

This spring I attended a UBC conference on the subject featuring academics from Canada, the US, Britain, Germany, Australia and others, including Senator Marjory LeBreton, Leader of the Government in the Senate and her Liberal counterpart, Senator Céline Hervieux-Payette, Leader of the Opposition.

Curiously, although some of the papers were brilliant, they never dealt directly with the three questions of most interest to many Canadians. In my view they are: What is the role of the Canadian Senate? How should the number of senators, with their voting power, be distributed among the ten provinces and three territories? And how should the powers of an elected Senate be shared between the Upper Chamber and the House of Commons? Prime Minister Harper's government has introduced two Senate-reform bills. Bill S-4, *An Act to Amend*

Continued on Page 2

Carney's Comments (continued from page 1)

the Constitution Act, 1867 (Senate tenure), would limit an appointed senator's term to eight years after it becomes law. Existing senators would still retire at 75 years. The bill just passed Committee Stage and the report of the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs is now being debated in the Senate.

Bill C-43 would allow electors to choose their senators at election time. Senators would then be appointed by the Prime Minister, in order to avoid constitutional changes. It was introduced at First Reading on December 13, 2006, but has not yet been referred to committee.

I outlined my own views on Bill S-4 in a speech I gave on November 21, 2006. Briefly, the role of the Senate is to defend Canada's Constitution, to represent the regions, as indicated in the Constitution, and to defend the rights of minorities which may be trampled in legislation passed by the Lower House, where members are dominated by the more populous provinces.

Since British Columbia has been recognized as one of Canada's five regions, it should receive as many Senate seats as Quebec and Ontario, which each have 24 seats, or votes. The Maritime provinces in total have 30 senatorial votes. At present BC, with 13.2 per cent of the population, has only six senatorial votes.

The current Senate has 105 senatorial votes. Aside from BC, Ontario and Quebec: Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba each have six seats; Prince Edward Island has four; Nova Scotia has ten; New Brunswick ten; Newfoundland and Labrador six; and Nunavut, Yukon and the Northwest Territories each have one



Hon. Pat Carney, PC

seat in the Senate.

There seems to be little support for my argument. Senator Jack Austin (now retired) and Senator Lowell Murray have proposed that BC have twelve senators, double the present number but only one half of the other four regions. "A region is a region is a region", I argue. (You can read my whole speech on my website: see *Senator Pat's Priorities* at www.patcarney.ca.)

On the third question, as a two-term former MP, I argue that Members of Parliament must have the upper hand over the Upper House, since MPs are closer to their constituents at the grassroots level. At present the unelected Senate and the elected House of Commons have roughly similar powers, although senators cannot introduce money bills.

What about Triple E? Interest in the idea has diminished, says Roger Gibbons of the Canada West Foundation. He says the regional momentum has lost its steam. Before the slogan was "the West wants in". Now, we have a western-based Prime Minister, who lives down the street in Calgary.

And with BC and Alberta growing faster than the national average while some other provinces are declining, the notion of the equality of the provinces is off the table.

What do YOU think? You can give me your views by email at carnep@sen.parl.gc.ca or calling me at 1-800-267-7362. I will post your ideas on my website and include them in my Senate speeches. It is now YOUR turn. *PC*

Senator Pat

Tory Green Ocean Plan (continued from page 1)

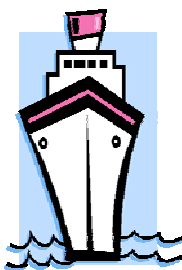
tion are a positive step to better protect the marine environment" says BC Senator Pat Carney. "For the first time, voluntary compliance will be replaced by enforceable laws which harmonize with international standards governing marine activities such as bilge water, sewage, garbage, and air pollution. A grace period is provided for the establishment of adequate pump out stations on BC's sparsely settled coast."

She raised the concern with Transport Minister Lawrence Cannon when he appeared before the

Standing Senate Committee on Transport and Communications on Wednesday, April 25, 2007. She urged the Minister to address the problem of sewage dumping in coastal waters by hastening the introduction of regulations and enforcement. Minister Cannon concurred

that our waters simply cannot be used as a dumping area for sewage.

At Minister Cannon's invitation, Senator Carney attended the announcement of the new regulations on May 8, 2007 at the



Gatineau Marina. These new regulations can be viewed on the Transport Canada website at: www.tc.gc.ca/marinesafety/rsga/cmac/menu.htm.

Vancouver Port Authority estimates that the cruise sector generates more than 13,000 jobs annually and that each ship brings \$2 million to the region every time it ties up at the dock. Twenty-seven Vancouver-based cruise ships will churn through BC about 300 times this summer carrying nearly 1 million passengers, each of whom produce 3.5 kg of garbage per day, not including liquid waste. *PC*

Senator Carney's Bill to Ban Water Exports *(continued from page 1)*

concerns that the amendment in fact permitted bulk water exports as "a belief in conspiracy theories that confounds me." But some expert witnesses before the Committee supported her view.

Carney, who was the minister responsible for the Canada US Free Trade negotiations in 1987 said bulk water was not included in the original agreement. However she said that once bulk water is exported and becomes a tradable commodity, water could come within the jurisdiction of NAFTA and be available to Americans and Mexicans.

Her bill would remove the existing regulation-making authority granted the minister to approve bulk water exports beyond limited exceptions, such as fire fighting or water used in a vessel, aircraft or train.



All other exceptions to the prohibition on bulk water exports would require the approval of the House of Commons and the Senate. Some provinces have indicated a desire to export bulk water, she said, so safeguards need to be in place for international boundary waters. ♣

Update: Bill S-220, An Act to Protect Heritage Lighthouses



Point Atkinson lighthouse in West Vancouver.

In October of 2006, Senator Pat Carney introduced Bill S-220, *An Act to protect heritage lighthouses*, in the Senate. This is the sixth time since 2000 that Parliament has attempted to preserve and protect heritage lightstations. None of these previous attempts completed the legislative process before Parliament was prorogued. This time we hope we'll be successful.

So far the signs look good. In December 2006, the bill passed third reading in the Senate. On Wednesday, February 7, 2007, it was introduced into the House of Commons by Nova Scotia MP Gerald Keddy (South Shore - St. Margaret's).

The purpose of Bill S-220 is to preserve and protect federally-owned heritage lighthouses by allowing for their selection and designation, by providing an opportunity for public consultation before authorization is given for their removal, alternation, destruction, sale, assignment, transfer or other disposition, and by ensuring that heritage lightstations be reasonably maintained.

West Vancouver's Point Atkinson lightstation is a perfect example of why we need Bill S-220. Despite designation as both a National Historic Site and a Federal Heritage Building, the tower and adjacent buildings at Point Atkinson are showing a lot of wear.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the department responsible for Point Atkinson and most of the 256 federally-owned lighthouses, has no mandate or budget for heritage protection. As a result, these buildings are at risk of decay and destruction.

This spring, Elaine Graham, former lightkeeper at Point Atkinson

and now park attendant at neighbouring Lighthouse Park, and Senator Carney hosted a "We Love our Lightstations" news conference at Point Atkinson to urge the public to support Bill S-220.

If you love our lightstations, you can show your support for Bill S-220 by writing:

- Prime Minister Stephen Harper: pm@pm.gc.ca
- Hon. Loyola Hearn, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada: hearnl@parl.gc.ca
- Hon. John Baird, Minister of Environment: bairdj@parl.gc.ca
- Gerald Keddy, MP: keddyg@parl.gc.ca

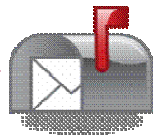
For more information about Bill S-220, visit my website, <http://www.patcarney.ca>; e-mail me at carnep@sen.parl.gc.ca; or call me on the Senate toll-free line: 1-800-267-7362. ♣



Senator Pat with Point Atkinson's Elaine Graham and Barry MacDonald from the Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society, with Point Atkinson's Fresnel lens.

MAILBOX

Airport Drama



I received some quick responses to my *TERROR AND TOOTHPASTE* article in the *National Post*:

Dear Senator,

I can fully relate to your airport frustration. I am a 78 year old WASP—former teacher, Sunday school teacher, Brownies and CGIT leader, etc. At Air Can in Halifax, I made a tiny beep. The guard went over me and said that it seemed to be coming from my bra. I told her I always pin money in my bra in case of an emergency. The guard said, “Well, you’ll have to prove it!” Off we went to a tiny room, where I removed the pin and handed it to her... I’ve been through Vancouver, Heathrow and Holland—all with no problem. I just wish they’d be as vigilant of HUGE carry-on luggage.

Sincerely, The Bra Bomber—not related to the Shoe Bomber (J. Barnes, Haliburton ON)

Dear Senator Carney,

My wife and I had a very similar experience... My wife had purposely prepared her carry-on bag and had packed any liquid-like items in a pair of zippered (real zippers) plastic holders... There was a pre-security lady armed with ziplock bags – we were told all items would have to be in ziplock bags and some of the items were too large! I said there should be consistency with what all airports are doing. We were promptly told Toronto was not doing it right! ... I applaud you for your letter.

Sincerely, Gary Shaw

Dear Senator,

Thanks for your open letter... In September (I had) five tubes of lipstick and a compact confiscated thanks to ‘security’. I said, “You guys are nuts.” The security woman rifling through my purse said, “We are not nuts. We are trying to save your life.”... Not only are we delayed and inconvenienced, we’re treated like undesirables. Welcome to Canada.

Elizabeth (Vancouver, BC)

Since my piece ran in the *Post*, the Senate Committee on National Security and Defence has released a report concluding that security in Canada’s airports is still dangerously lax. Read the report at www.parl.gc.ca.

Write to Senator Pat at:

The Senate of Canada
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A4

E-mail her at:

carnep@sen.parl.gc.ca

Or call Senator Pat, toll free:

1-800-267-7362

Website: www.patcarney.ca

Protecting Our Lightstations

Dear Senator Carney:

I just wanted to express my thanks to you for giving your support to the group who is working on (the preservation of our light-houses)... As far as I’m concerned they’re an important part of our heritage and contributed to the safety of seafarers on all our coastlines in a way that inanimate automated stations cannot. The very least the Government should do is assist in their protection and preservation, and give support to the group trying to do this.

Sincerely, J. Maureen Tuttle (North Vancouver, BC)

Dear Senator Carney:

Lighthouses represent a part of Canadian history. The people who inhabited these light-houses endured hardships we can only imagine as well as loneliness, fierce weather conditions as well as a responsibility so strong that they kept the lives of many sailors in their hands... We should be proud of our Canadian heritage and the people who came before us to make this country a wonderful place to live.

Sincerely, Linda Gargaro and Carmine Vescio (Toronto, ON)

Senator Carney,

First allow me to say thank you for all your hard work in keeping the Lights lite. You have worked hard on our behalf and I am very grateful. As a west coast Light keeper I have benefited directly from your work... Thanks again for your hard work.

Regards, Calvin Martin (Pachena Point Lightstation)

ecoTrust Funding for British Columbia



By the year 2020, British Columbia plans to reduce carbon and greenhouse gas

emissions by 33 per cent from current levels. Prime Minister Stephen Harper has committed Canada’s New Government to this plan by providing British Columbia with \$199.3 million to support provincial projects that will result in real reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants.

“Canada’s New Government is investing to protect Canadians from the consequences of climate change, air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions,” said the Prime Minister when he announced the funding in March. “Today’s announcement recognized British Columbia’s ambitions plans in this area, and provides support for measurable progress that benefits all Canadians.”

The government of British Columbia has indicated that it will use the Canada ecoTrust funding to move forward on several provincial projects, which may include:

- Extracting energy from sawmill scrap and wood infested with pine beetles;
- Providing clean electricity to remote rural areas now fuelled by dirty diesel;
- Support for the development of a “hydrogen highway” a network of hydrogen fuelling stations for fuel celled buses and vehicles, and;
- Support for new geothermal and bio-energy projects, including the capture of bio-gas from landfill sites.

The Canada ecoTrust for Clean Air and Climate Change will be designed to allow each province and territory to develop technology, energy efficiency, and other projects that will provide real results. The Government of Canada will work with all provinces and territories to fully develop this new, national fund. ■*PC*