



Carney's Comments

Happy Chinese New Year!

SENATOR PAT CARNEY, PC

It is a good time to say goodbye, after more than 25 years service as an MP and Senator, since the Year of the Rat (Wu Zhi) which begins on February 7 is a time of renewal in the Chinese Zodiac.

The first in the annual cycle of 12 animal symbols, the Year of the Rat is traditionally a time of hard work, activity and new opportunities. It is a good time to start a new venture or job or make a fresh start.

This will be true of myself and my wonderful staff, Sarah Jane Cuff, Aneel Rangi, Patty Loveridge and Janice Mellor. The qualities associated with Wu Zhi describes them: clever and bright, gifted in many ways, active and pleasant, tactful and fantastic.

I have been extremely touched by the letters and e-mails that I (continued on page 2)

On Senate Accountability & Leaving the Future in Good Hands: Senator Pat Carney's Final Speech to the Senate

On December 12, 2007, Senator Pat Carney delivered her final speech in the Senate. Here are some excerpts:

I have been honoured to serve in the Canadian Parliament, and particularly to represent my beloved province of British Columbia, both as an MP - the first Conservative woman ever elected in B.C., and that was only in 1980 - and as a senator, supporting the importance of B.C. in a strong and united Canada...

The role of senators is sometimes disparaged by the public, and even more by some senators; but our responsibility to ensure the quality of legislation before us is paramount. One example was the 1991 Bill C-43, which dealt with abortion... This, again, raised the principle of accountability, in my mind. The issue was not simply a matter of a woman's choice to choose, which I supported. In this case, I viewed the proposed legisla-



"I often think of what would have happened if we had wavered in our responsibilities and passed a bill that we knew was a bad bill."

tion as badly flawed and unlikely to be effectively implemented, since some abortions would be deemed legal and others would be deemed a criminal act. Pregnancies, as we know, are not that predictable.

Senators routinely deal with poorly drafted legislation in our role as arbiters

of sober second thought, and abortion is a highly emotional issue in our society. Although Prime Minister Mulroney had declared a free vote on the bill, I was subject, along with others, to unrelenting pressure from government ministers to support the legislation. I

still recall that I was chilled to the bone when I became the first Conservative senator to stand in my seat to vote "no" to the bill, supported by colleagues such as Senator Fairbairn.

The abortion bill was the first government bill to be defeated in the Senate in 30 years. (continued on page 2)

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have received from so many of you thanking us for our help and support and wishing me well in my retirement from politics—but not from other adventures!

Here is my New Year's Wish List for British Columbians and for all Canadians, whom we have had the honor and privilege of serving over the past quarter of a century:

May we enjoy good health, the foundation of a fulfilling and productive life.

May we be sustained by loving families and friends, who are the source of all true happiness.

May we be gifted with the spirit of adventure and with the energy to sustain life's journey, seeking new challenges and experiences with a sense of wonder in the beauty of this world of ours. And may we all work to protect it and the people who share it with us.

May we have work we find rewarding, a secure roof over our heads, a good book to read, art to refresh us and music in the air.

May we find comfort and inspiration in the Spirit which sustains us, whatever our faith or belief.



Senator Carney with present and past staff members (right to left) Aneel Rangi, Sarah Jane Cuff, Janice Mellor, Fiona MacLeod, Patty Loveridge and Cathy MacEachern.

May we have peace in the New Year.

Take care,

Senator Pat.

Farewell Speech (continued from page 1)



Senator Pat Carney with the Hon. Noel Kinsella, Speaker of the Senate

I often think what would have happened if we had wavered in our responsibilities and passed a bill that we knew was a bad bill. That is an example, I think, that history overlooks. It was not just the defeat of the abortion bill; it was a perfect example of senatorial accountability...

As a long-time mentor of women in politics, I leave the future in good hands. I have here a letter written by an 11-year-old girl from British Columbia. She wrote:

Dear Pat Carney: I am a 11 year old girl who lives in Richmond and part time on Saturna... I am very interested in politics and have been since I was 5. At the age of 6 I could name all the political parties and their leaders. Some day I want to be party leader or maybe even Prime Minister although Premier would do. I swing more left than right. I think politics is like feet. I have a left foot and a right foot; by themselves you fall over but put them together and you are sturdy. That is why I think everyone's views should be heard, no matter what politics they believe in. I wish you a happy retirement, though I know you will be busy.—Ania.

Read the rest of Senator Carney's Final Speech to the Senate and the Tributes to her at www.patcarney.ca. ☎

Update: Bill S-215, An Act to Protect Heritage Lighthouses



Vancouver Island's Pacheña Point lighthouse hit the news recently when Canada Post incorrectly printed its image on a stamp. The error has since been corrected.

On November 1, 2007, Senator Pat Carney re-introduced legislation to help protect and conserve Canada's heritage lightstations.

Bill S-215, An act to protect heritage lighthouses was co-authored originally by Senator Carney and the late Senator Michael Forrestall. It has been introduced seven times in the Senate: five times by Senator Forrestall and twice by Senator Carney, most recently after the bill died on the order paper with the prorogation of Parliament in September 2007.

On December 13, 2007, Bill S-215 was passed by the Senate and sent to the House of Commons, where it will be considered by the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans.

The Hon. John Baird, Minister of Environment and the minister responsible for Canadian Heritage, supports Bill S-215. However, the government wants to change the wording of the bill in a way that we fear will limit the ability of the bill to protect not only the light towers but also the docks and other structures (helipads, etc.) that allow access to many isolated lighthouses on both coasts.

Senator Carney and staff are now working with representatives of the Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society, The Heritage Canada Foundation, The Land Conservancy in BC, as well as Senator Lowell Murray and MPs Alexa McDonough and Peter Stoffer to ensure that Bill S-215 passes through the House of Commons quickly and without amendment. ■PC

Update on Bill S-217, An Act to amend the International Boundary Waters Treaty Act (bulk water removal)

This fall Senator Carney also re-introduced her private member's bill *An Act to amend the International Boundary Waters Treaty Act (bulk water removal)*. Bill S-217 will close a loophole in present legislation which could enable the Minister of Foreign Affairs to license bulk water exports without parliamentary debate or approval. If this were to happen, it could inadvertently trigger NAFTA provisions which might allow the U.S. and Mexico access to Canadian fresh water in the Great Lakes basin.



The current legislation governing bulk water removal from Canada is *An Act to amend the International Boundary Waters Treaty Act*, which received royal assent in December 2001. As the Conservative critic on the original Bill C-6 in 2001, Senator Carney pointed out that the legislation does not include an adequate definition of "bulk water removals" (which are defined in the regulations and which could easily be changed without recourse to Parliament) and that the unfettered ministerial discretion permitted in the legislation is too broad. This judgment was subsequently supported by committee witnesses and the Privy Council Office.

Senator Carney's proposed amendment would define "bulk water removals" in the legislation, not in the regulations, and would restrict ministerial discretion by requiring that any licenses to remove bulk water be approved by both Houses of Parliament. Bill S-217 is currently awaiting second reading in the Senate. With on-going debate about the ability of C-6 to protect Canada's fresh water, Senator Carney is working to have S-217 sent to committee and the issue clarified on record.

More information about both of Senator Carney's private member's bills is available at www.patcarney.ca. ■PC

MAILBOX

AU REVOIR!



I received numerous cards, letters, and emails from you with kind wishes on my retirement. Here are only a few...I wish I had room to share them all! ☺

Hi Pat, I will forever affectionately associate my campaign in 2005/06 with your gracious efforts - especially of canvassing in the rain at the Burrard St. IGA. You were a great mentor. -Tony Fogarassy, M.Sc., LL.M.

Senator Carney, Thank you so much for your support for BC Lighthouses over the years. Boy, are we going to miss having you in Ottawa. Sincerely, Ron Ammundsen, Principal Lightkeeper, Quatsino Lightstation

Pat: To put it plainly, you have been a great force in the Senate with a healthy spirit that is particularly adept at your adopted causes including mostly involving your beloved British Columbia. And the Senate needs more of that! -Honourable Senator Trevor Eyton

Hello Pat, I read today that you are about to retire after an impressive, devoted and, I'm sure, rewarding career. I wish you the very best for your time on one of our most beautiful islands. Wishing you a very happy and well deserved retirement, Rob Shaw

Dear Senator Pat, Not only do I want to congratulate you in making this decision to retire but I want to say a big "THANK YOU" for all you have accomplished on behalf of our Province. If any one thing stands out, in these latter years of your political career, I believe it must be your victory in the saving of our **manned** coastal lighthouses. In my opinion, this was your crowning glory! Your hard work and dedica-

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tion paid off. ... I wish you good health and happiness in your well deserved retirement. Sincerely, Peter J. Eastick

Dear Senator Pat: I'm saddened to think that I will no longer have a friend in those high places. But you have served us all well, and deserve the chance to enjoy life with your lovely Paul. ... I wish you many happy years ahead, Senator Pat, and thank you for all you did for us. -Kay Alsop

Dear Senator Carney, I hope you enjoy your retirement--you have certainly had a busy life and are entitled to coast a bit now. Years ago I remember enjoying your book about your childhood in Shanghai, and shaking your hand on Davie Street as you campaigned as the Tory candidate in my riding. Best wishes, Clifton Bancroft

Pat, Just saw the note that you will be leaving the senate. Please accept my thanks for your years of service and dedication to the Canadian public. You were a strong advocate for Western Canada in the Mulroney cabinet. You did your country proud and I wish you all the best in your well-deserved retirement. -Bruce Gardner

Dear Pat: I was pleased to hear that you will retire from the Senate--not that BC and the country won't miss

your good work, because we will. But I am pleased to see a Senator resign when she wants to and doesn't just sit in the Senate for your waning days--you have set an excellent example, as usual. May your retirement years be all you have thought they could be, on your island, not at the beck and call of the country, and near (I hope) to your children and other fond relatives and friends...My thanks for your years in government and best wishes for all the rest. Sincerely, Anne Edwards

Dear Pat, Thank you as well for all the wonderful things you have done for us in BC and Canada through your years as an MP, Minister and then Senator - Quite a record!! I heard you on CBC before Christmas and you were so great! I shall always remember you going to the podium of your nomination meeting in 1984 with my daughter Sorcha (who was then just a little girl) and she remembers it well too! Of course there were so many memorable moments from the years we served in government together - well some more memorable than others! Cheers - much happiness, good health and peace for 2008! -Mary Collins President Amarok Holdings Ltd.

Hello Pat, I remember telling a friend away back that I was impressed with this Pat Carney because she had town-hall meetings on Granville Island and purposed to bring information from the Capital as well as to take back citizens' concerns from her jurisdiction. Throughout the impressive, powerful years of high responsibility for you, I picked up a sense of your speaking for my values... Thank you for your service on our behalf, on my behalf, and thanks to God for the stamina, health (yes-health!), grit, interest and all the resources given to you in order to accomplish this length of service! Happy New Year, Neysa