



## CARNEY'S COMMENTS

### Disaster planning and urban sustainability: B.C. hosts the world

**T**he 2010 Olympic Games are center stage, but the premier sporting event is not the only game in town when it comes to international players on BC's turf.



Sen. Pat Carney

During Easter break I was a Canadian delegate to the Asia-Pacific Parliamentarians' Conference on Environment and Development (APPCED). This year's Conference, "Natural Disasters – Prevention and Response" took place at Whistler, where nearly 100 delegates from 19 countries compared notes on national emergencies.

And in June, Vancouver will host an estimated 10,000 delegates to the World Urban Forum, which will mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of HABITAT: The United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, which in many ways marked the emergence of Vancouver as one of the world's great cities.

At Whistler, where the weather was fine, parliamentarians discussed how emergencies and natural disasters are on the increase due to urbanization, weather and climate change. We are familiar with the Boxing Day tsunami in 2004, where 260,000 people died in Indonesia alone.

Each country faces different challenges. The Philippines are located on a "typhoon highway" and experience about 20 cyclones a year. Rising ocean levels affect the 7100 islands at high-tide; there are more islands at low tide.

Tiny Tuvalu, where 8,000 people share nine atolls in the South Pacific, has no technical staff to manage disasters as seawater invades its taro fields. Kiribati, an atoll nation whose highest

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

## Softwood lumber war ends Harper government reaches softwood deal to end decades-old dispute with US

**“***I am pleased to announce today that the United States has accepted Canada's key conditions for the resolution of the softwood lumber dispute. Canada's bargaining position was strong, our conditions were clear, and this agreement delivers.”*

On April 27, 2006, Prime Minister Stephen Harper told the House of Commons the key terms of a new deal to end the twenty year-old softwood lumber dispute with the U.S.

Terms of the deal include:

- Four billion dollars in returned duties – The American government agreed to return to Canadian lumber producers more than 80 percent of the estimated \$5 billion in duties it collected on Canadian lumber.
- Stable and predictable market access – Canadian-sourced lumber will be kept at its current 34 per cent share of the U.S. softwood market.
- No quotas or tariffs on Canadian softwood lumber exports under current market conditions – Canada will collect an export tax on softwood lumber exported to the United States if the price drops below \$355 a thousand board feet.
- Long-term stability – The agreement remains in effect for seven years, with the possibility of renewal.
- Regional flexibility – The deal provides provinces and industry with the flexibility to respond to their specific circumstances. It will also provide relief to Canadian exporters if they lose U.S. market share to a third country.

Prime Minister Harper said that the agreement would provide certainty and stability to the industry and to the workers, families and communities whose livelihoods depend on the forest sector. He said it would also pave the way for a stronger bilateral trade relationship with the United States,

*(Softwood continued on page 2)*

## Vancouver loses community giant

**D**r. Kwok Chu Li – respected psychiatrist, community leader and philanthropist – died in Vancouver on April 15, 2006. As an early member and Chair of S.U.C.C.E.S.S., one of BC's largest immigration and social service agencies, Dr. Li's commitment to the well being of his community and his country will be deeply missed.



**Dr. Kwok Chu Li**

Born in Hong Kong in 1930, Dr. Li built a successful medical practice there before immigrating to Canada in 1969.

With a fellowship in psychiatry, Dr. Li went on to pioneer the cultural aspects of medicine in his new home. Working with S.U.C.C.E.S.S., he had many opportunities to apply this work.

S.U.C.C.E.S.S. was formed in 1973 to assist in the settlement and integration of immigrants and citizens of Chinese and other ethnic origins in Canada.

Dr. Li served as the chair of its advisory council from 1975 to 1981 and as the organization's chair from 1978-1979. Dr. Li was also former chair of the Vancouver Refugee's Assistance Association and the BC Medical Association's Section of Psychiatry.

Dr. Li is survived by his wife May, family and many devoted friends. We extend to them our sincere condolences.

For more information about S.U.C.C.E.S.S., visit its website: [www.success.bc.ca](http://www.success.bc.ca).

### *Softwood continued from page 1*

and set a more positive tone as Canada and the U.S. move forward in collaborating to make North America more competitive on a global scale.

B.C. Premier Gordon Campbell backed the deal, calling it a "reasonable deal for Canada and a good deal for British Columbia." B.C. is responsible for over half of Canada's softwood exports to the United States. "Our market share has been protected and for the first time ever we have some ability for our market to grow without penalty", said Campbell.

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

point is only 13 metres above sea level faces a similar threat.

Low lying villages in Fiji are under threat as rising sea levels obliterate the coral reefs that protect the shoreline. Malaysia and Viet Nam cope annually with both flash floods and drought. Mountainous Nepal, located in an active seismic zone, suffers damage from lightening, landslides and hailstones, and the constant threat of earthquakes.

Korea and Mongolia talked about the "fifth season" of dust and sand storms which turn the air yellow, the result of overgrazing as poverty forces the urban poor back to the land. Canada's country report lists ice storms, flooding and forest fires, and several trends suggest our problems will only get worse.

Disaster response by each nation is divided into:

- **mitigation**, such as dams and floodways;
- **preparedness**, such as emergency plans;
- **response** from police, firefighters and medical personnel; and
- **recovery** to rebuild and restore communities.

Delegates agreed on the need for international credentials so volunteers from donor countries can work without threat of legal action.

The conference made me wonder just how prepared we British Columbians really are to cope with emergencies, despite all our planning. What IS the alternative route on our Saturna Island if a landslide takes out the East Point road? It is our individual responsibility to ensure we are familiar with our community's emergency plan.

Thirty years ago my twin brother and I worked for the HABITAT conference, Jim with the UN and me with the Canadian Habitat Commission. The conference sparked huge attempts by nations to deal with the problems caused by urbanization. People are the planet's greatest polluters!

Already 10,000 delegates – mayors, planners, environmentalists – representing civil society from 100 countries have registered for the World Urban Forum, the first to be hosted by a national government. They are coming to Vancouver to explore what makes a city sustainable. Vancouver is considered the litmus test for sustainable cities, say WUF planners. We have come along way in 30 years!

*Senator Pat*

## Planning for global warming

Senator Pat's assistant Sarah Jane Cuff also attended the 2006 APPCED Conference in Whistler, and prepared this report:

“This is a remarkable moment in history. Never before has a species been capable of creating disasters that rival the power of nature!”

With this comment, Dr. David Suzuki opened the Asia-Pacific Parliamentarians' Conference on Environment and Development in Whistler, BC. While the conference covered disaster prevention and response, it also addressed the issue of global warming which, according to Dr. Suzuki, “is a very difficult but absolutely necessary topic to address”.

He gave five reasons for why our future is at risk:

1. Population Growth – In the early 1800's, the world population count was at 1 billion. By 1936 it had reached 2 billion. Today there are over 6.5 billion people in this world.
2. Science and Technology – Chemical use, such as pesticides, and pollution, such as fuel emissions, are slowly destroying our atmosphere.
3. Dwelling Location – Over the last 100 years, there has been a huge shift in population away from rural areas into the world's cities.
4. Information Age – This is a remarkable time of 'information explosion', giving the average citizen access to far too much conflicting and often incorrect information largely due to the internet.
5. The Global Economy – We have constructed a global society that values humans as consumers. The problem is that we no longer see the need of the natural world for survival.

We are ultimately dependent on nature for clean air, water, soil, and uncontaminated fish, meat and food. As Suzuki says, “Canada has much to lose from a rapidly changing, warming and more disrupted climate”. Let's work toward putting the world back together and make it our goal to achieve sustainability. For more information, visit [www.davidsuzuki.com](http://www.davidsuzuki.com).

## Budget highlights 2006

Canada's Conservative government has presented a balanced budget that significantly cuts taxes, focuses federal spending, and pays down the debt.

This differs considerably from the previous government that overtaxed Canadians while spending erratically on ever-changing priorities.

### Tax Cuts

In its first budget, the Conservative government delivered \$20 billion in tax relief over two years – more tax relief than the last four federal budgets combined.

Twenty-nine federal taxes will be reduced in every area that the federal government collects revenue – GST, income taxes and business taxes, including targeted measures to help Canadians with the cost of:

- Transit passes;
- Tools;
- Text books;
- Kids' sports.

### Focused Spending

The Conservative government has clear priorities and focused spending including:

- Child Care - \$3.7 billion over two years for the new \$1200 Universal Child Care Benefit;
- Food Security - \$1.5 billion more this year for Agriculture;
- Public Safety - \$1.4 billion more over two years.

### Debt Paydown

Canada's New Government has also committed \$3 billion per year for debt paydown.

For more information and copies of the budget, visit the Department of Finance's website, [www.fin.gc.ca](http://www.fin.gc.ca), or call 1-800-O-Canada.



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

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

## Coastal Community Health Summit: Building health in BC's coastal communities

“Donny Wilson, a young First Nations man who grew up in Bella Bella and has now graduated as an obstetrician-gynecologist, says that for First Nations communities there are two huge events: one is birth and one is death.

“If you remove birth from the community and all that's left as a major event is the funeral and the funeral feast, it's no wonder that there are serious difficulties when the community can't get involved in the joy, the power and the sense of hope that the arrival of a baby brings to a small community.”



Reflecting on his experiences as a practicing physician on BC's coast, keynote speaker Dr. Peter Newbery, Acting Director of United Church Health Services, captured the key themes of the January 2006 Coastal Community Health Summit: the isolation of coastal communities; the common practice of sending remote-community members to larger centres for medical care; the important link between socio-economic determinants, cultural understanding and community health; and a growing recognition of the need for community input in community health planning.

Hosted by BC's Coastal Community Network, January 19 and 20, 2006, the Coastal Community Health Summit brought almost a hundred delegates to Prince Rupert to discuss the critical health issues facing BC's coastal communities. Participants included representatives of local and First Nations governments and health bodies, the provincial and federal ministries of health, and the four coastal health authorities.

Summit panel presentations examined the roles of the coastal health authorities in BC's health-care delivery system; health care in First Nations communities; successful innovations in health planning and service delivery; and climate change and the effects it's having already on community and individual health.

Summit delegates also welcomed BC Treaty Commissioner Mike Harcourt, who outlined the positive impact that treaties will have on the economic and social health of BC communities.

On Day Two of the Summit, delegates joined into discussion groups to share their communities' central health concerns and come up with realistic solutions. Three recommendations

emerged from these discussions:

1. That the regional health authorities develop a process that will include communities in the planning and evaluation of health services;
2. That the coastal health authorities develop a process to include communities in the development of standards and the guidelines for practitioners' scope of practice. This process will take into account the realities of rural and remote BC communities and help optimize the limited resources available to these communities;
3. That First Nations take the lead on initiatives that can build new relationships between coastal communities and improve health and health services:



Mitch Verde, CEO of the Nisga'a Valley Health Authority, speaks on First Nations health. Also pictured here are Allen Lehman of the Arthritis Research Centre of Canada, and Mary Kapelus, BC Ministry of Health.

The CCN has submitted these recommendations to the central stakeholders in coastal community health. Reports and presentations from the Coastal Community Health Summit are also available on the CCN's website, at [coastalcommunitynetwork.ca](http://coastalcommunitynetwork.ca).

For more information about the Summit and the Coastal Community Network, please contact the CCN's Executive Director, Patty Loveridge, at [ccn@shaw.ca](mailto:ccn@shaw.ca).

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