

THE SENATE OF CANADA



LE SÉNAT DU CANADA

The Honourable Pat Carney, P.C.

Ottawa, Ontario

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NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

PAT CARNEY RETIRES FROM SENATE

Ottawa, ON.... B.C. Senator Pat Carney has announced that after 25 years in Parliament she is taking early retirement from the Senate of Canada at the end of the fall session. Her statutory term of office does not end until 2010. Carney stated that she is in good health but that it is time to focus on family and friends.

“It has been my great privilege to serve British Columbia and Canada in Parliament. I have enjoyed the challenges and have been sustained by the interest and support of my constituents as an MP and by the coastal communities, aboriginal and non-aboriginal, which I have served as a B.C. Senator. I am also honoured to have served four Conservative Prime Ministers in a number of roles over the last 25 years,” said Carney.

Carney was elected as the Member of Parliament for Vancouver Centre in 1980, the first woman to serve as a Conservative MP from British Columbia. She was re-elected in 1984 and withdrew in 1988 due to arthritis. Carney was summoned to the Senate of Canada in 1990 and is the second longest serving member of the Conservative caucus.

As an MP, from 1980 to 1984 Carney was Opposition Critic for Energy, Mines and Resources; Finance; and Secretary of State. Under the Conservative Government, from 1984 to 1988 she held three senior economic cabinet posts: Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, Minister of International Trade and President of the Treasury Board. She was the first woman to be appointed to these cabinet positions. The only China-born Canadian federal minister, she also served as the Minister Responsible for the Asia Pacific Initiative and has made many trips to Asia.

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As Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (1984-1986) she was responsible for negotiating the Principles of the Atlantic Accord with Newfoundland and Labrador and the dismantling of the National Energy Program imposed by the previous Trudeau government. While EMR Minister, Carney refused to meet oil executives in the Petroleum Club in Calgary, which famously banned women. Instead, she invited them to meet with her at the Calgary YWCA. "Today the president of the Petroleum Club is a woman," Carney noted.

She served as Minister of International Trade (1986-1988) and was the Minister responsible for the Canada-US Free Trade negotiations with the United States. In 1988, while President of the Treasury Board, Minister Carney initiated a Task Force on Barriers to Women in the Public Service. The Task Force's report "Beneath the Veneer" was released on April 23, 1990 and is considered a landmark publication.

Carney was the first woman to hold these three top economic cabinet posts. "Pat Carney left a powerful legacy of accomplishment for Canada," stated former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney when she retired from the House of Commons. "She's tough, she's Irish, and she's good! She came to Ottawa and she made a difference."

As a Senator, Carney has served as a member of several Senate Standing Committees, including Chair (1994-1996) of Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, producing the report *Protecting Places and People: Conserving Canada's Natural Heritage*. She also served as Deputy Chair (1996-97) on the Foreign Affairs Committee, and has served on Transportation and Communication, Aboriginal Peoples, and Fisheries and Oceans.

Carney co-chaired the Ad Hoc Parliamentary Committee on Lightstations, and is a founding member and past Chair of the BC Coastal Parliamentarians. During her Senate career, Carney has focused on BC coastal communities, marine safety issues and the preservation of heritage lighthouses.

Senator Carney lives on Saturna Island with her husband Paul S. White and their cat Jada.

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