

PARLIAMENTARY NEWSLETTER

The Honourable Claudette Tardif

Senator for Alberta

Spring 2006

Issue 2



Dear friends,

Spring has arrived! The feeling of renewal that spring triggers in each of us coincides perfectly with the launch of the 39th Parliament. It is against this backdrop, and with great enthusiasm, that I am sending you the second issue of my parliamentary newsletter.

The months since my last newsletter have been filled with many events and activities, several which are highlighted in this newsletter.

In September, the Standing Senate Committee on Official Languages, of which I am a member, went to Nova Scotia on a fact-finding mission. We had the opportunity to meet with representatives of various Acadian communities and to discuss the reality experienced by francophone minorities. Shortly afterwards, as a member of a parliamentary delegation led by the Speaker of the Senate, the Honourable Daniel Hays, I travelled to Ireland and Romania. It was a wonderful experience for me at the foreign policy level.

Once back in Canada, I took part in a great number of activities in Alberta, met with a variety of organizations and gave numerous speeches. In the Senate Chamber, I tabled a motion calling for a study of the effects of moving federal head offices from bilingual regions to unilingual regions. I also sponsored my first bill for the government, C-37, amending the Telecommunications Act to make possible the creation of a national "do not call" list. You will find this and much more covered in the newsletter. Dear friends, I hope you will find the newsletter informative and interesting.



Contact information:

Senate of Canada
Room 314, Victoria Building
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A4

☎ (613) 947-3589 or 1-800-267-7362

☎ (613) 947-3609

✉ tardic@sen.parl.gc.ca
www.sen.parl.gc.ca/ctardif

Executive Assistant: Josée-Lyne Larose
Research Assistant: Chantal Terrien
Administrative and Research support: Rachelle Ancil
Research and Speech writing Assistants:
Andy Grabia / Momar Diagne



Alberta Centennial Medal Presentations

In my capacity as Senator, the Honourable Gary Mar, Minister of Community Development, offered me the opportunity to present 25 medals to deserving Albertans. By establishing the Alberta Centennial Medal, the government wanted to pay tribute to our most remarkable fellow citizens.

I had the privilege, on October 1st 2005, to present medals to three members of the 15th (Edmonton) Service Battalion, Canadian Army in recognition of their contribution to Alberta and Canada and as an expression of our gratitude for their years of service to the Canadian Forces and to their fellow citizens.

On October 15th 2005, at the annual general meeting of the Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta (ACFA), I had the privilege of honouring the contribution of a number of people to the development of Alberta's francophone community, as part of the celebrations of our beautiful province's 100th birthday.

In consultation with the Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta (ACFA), I decided to recognize the presidents of our province's francophone associations. Through their devotion, perseverance and unflagging enthusiasm, these people have made possible important progress for Franco-Albertans at the community, provincial and federal levels and in a number of areas such as education, culture, communications, youth, and health. Congratulations, and our heartfelt thanks!



Photo: I am accompanied by many of the recipients from the francophone community of the Alberta Centennial medals:
 Ms. Nicole Buret, Mr. Paul Denis, Dr. Denis Vincent, Mr. Denis Tardif,
 Mr. Guy Goyette, Mr. Zacharie Tardif, Mr. Léo Piquette,
 Mr. Ernest Chauvet, Mr. Corey Loranger, Mr. Hervé Durocher,
 Mr. Paul Blais, Mr. Paul Dumont, Mr. Laurent Godbout,
 Mr. François McMahon, Mr. Jean Johnson.

Absent :

Mr. Georges Arès, Ms. Suzanne Dalziel, Mr. Pierre C. Desrochers,
 Mr. John Moreau and Ms. France Levasseur-Ouimet.



Alberta Francophone Delegation Visits Ottawa

On November 22nd, I had the opportunity to welcome a delegation from Alberta. The group, made up of representatives of Francophone associations, were in Ottawa to attend an intensive three-day training seminar under the theme "Increase Your Knowledge."

The seminar was organized by several national organizations, including the *Fédération des communautés francophones et acadienne du Canada* (FCFA) and the *Fédération de la jeunesse canadienne-française* (FJCF). For two years now, the FJCF has provided intensive training seminars to its youth network, with immense success, and has gained valuable experience. Employees are more involved, and the employee retention rate in organizations has increased significantly. As a result of these positive results, the FCFA and the FJCF combined their strengths to create and organize the three-day training seminar.

I was moved by the energy and enthusiasm of the Franco-Albertan delegation. It was a great pleasure to welcome them to the Parliament of Canada.



Photo (top): Group photo taken at a luncheon at the Parliamentary Restaurant with members of the Alberta Francophone Community, the Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta and Ms. Chantal Terrien, my research assistant.



Benefit Dinner for Ubuntu Edmonton Initiative

The 1994 genocide in Rwanda left more than one million dead. This human catastrophe has shattered Rwandan society for many years to come.

Aware that the most vulnerable Rwandans need assistance to regain control of their lives, Edmonton resident Nicole Pageau and former Director General of the *Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta*, Edmonton region has launched a project called Ubuntu Edmonton. "Ubuntu" means humanity toward others. In African cultures, the principles of Ubuntu are based on a belief in the universal obligation to share which binds all humanity together.

This francophone initiative is a gesture of solidarity that encourages the people of Edmonton to help restore hope to the widows and orphans left by the tragedy of 1994. The project's target population is the Kimironko "Widows' Village". These women found refuge with their children in this little community but they were abandoned with no one to turn to. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Mrs. Pageau as well as all members of Ubuntu Edmonton and to reiterate my support for their project.

Ubuntu Edmonton's humanitarian assistance is really changing the daily lives of its recipients. Thanks to sponsorships, poor children are able to lay the foundations for a better future by going to school. The economic survival of the Widows' Village has been made easier by the building of three hen houses and a sewing workshop. Ubuntu Edmonton has also set up the Centre Communautaire César which will house a health consultation room and a food bank.

The people of Edmonton have responded warmly to Nicole Pageau's initiative. I saw that for myself at the benefit dinner to which I was invited to speak. I urge you to continue supporting Ubuntu Edmonton in its noble task of helping devastated people rediscover their reason for living, with respect for the dignity to which every human being is entitled.

Photo: I am joined by Mrs. Shoshana Pollack, sales director at Fantasyland Hotel, Mrs. Nicole Pageau, Coordinator of Ubuntu-Edmonton in Rwanda and Mrs. Jeanne Ndatirwa, Vice-President of Ubuntu-Edmonton.

School Visits

As a former teacher and professor, parent and Canadian citizen, I feel it is extremely important to teach our children about how Parliament works and the importance of democracy in Canada.

This type of public outreach is a way to get young people excited about the democratic political process in Canada and to pass on the values and beliefs that unite us as Canadians.



Photo: On my right Ms. Géromar Fils-Aimé and on my left Mr. Joshua Fibke, and Mr. Jean-Daniel Tremblay, Principal of École Gabrielle-Roy.

On November 9th, I had the pleasure of visiting the students of École Gabrielle-Roy and explaining to them my role and responsibilities as a French-speaking senator from Alberta. The fifty or so students from grades five to nine asked relevant questions, and I enjoyed their enthusiasm and keen interest.

Last February 3rd, I also had the opportunity to visit a class of grade six students from Ste-Jeanne-D'Arc School.



Photo: (from left to right): Ms. Jasmine Laplante-Iversen, Mr. Jonathan Loewen, Mr. Maxime Chapados, myself, Mr. Jonathan Laberge, Ms. Kathleen Stevens (teacher), Ms. Melissa Coupal, Ms. Claire Plamondon and Mr. Anthony Carmona.



At the invitation of the Speaker of the Senate, the Honourable Dan Hays, I had the privilege of being the francophone member of a parliamentary delegation that went to Ireland and Romania last October 7th to the 14th.

In Ireland we met with many politicians, including the Speaker of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and a number of senators. In addition to attending hearings of the Health Committee and the inauguration of the Canada Room at the Glencree Centre for Reconciliation, we visited a number of Ireland's historic sites, such as Glendalough, the Irish National Stud Farm and Dublin Castle.

Ireland and Canada maintain a close relationship, having cultural affinities and shared political and democratic traditions. The convergence of the two countries' values and interests has made possible a strengthening of our relationship in recent years, especially as regards national and global governance. There is increasing dialogue and cooperation on the sharing of best practices in development assistance, education, parliamentary reform, health care and other social and economic sectors.

On our arrival in Romania, we had the honour of meeting the country's President, the Speaker of the Senate, the Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, the Deputy Prime Minister, the Secretary of State, the Rector of the Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies, and students in the Canadian MBA program in Romania.

Photo: As member of a senate parliamentary delegation, shaking hands with Mr. Adrian Nastase, President of the Chamber of Deputies, Romania.

Senatorial Parliamentary Delegation in Ireland and Romania

As it does with Ireland, Canada maintains excellent bilateral relations and close political ties with Romania, which is a member of La Francophonie and now one of our NATO allies. Canada was the first member of NATO to ratify Romania's membership, thereby demonstrating in a very concrete way our long-standing desire to expand the Organization. Over the next few months Canada will be working closely with Romania, which in September 2006 will be hosting the next Francophone Summit, attended by 52 countries. Economically, Canada has made a major contribution to the development of Romania's energy sector: CANDU reactors produce 10% of the country's electricity, and another reactor, on which construction is almost completed, will produce an equivalent amount. Canada is also a significant investor in Romania.

This trip was an unforgettable experience for me, personally and at a foreign policy level.



Relocation of Federal Head Offices

Last October 20, I tabled a motion in the Senate calling for a study of the impact of relocating federal head offices from bilingual regions to unilingual regions. The Senate agreed that its Standing Committee on Official Languages should take an in-depth look at the issue of moving head offices to unilingual regions and the effect on the employees' ability to work in the official language of their choice.

In my motion, I also asked the Committee to examine measures that could be taken to prevent such relocations from adversely affecting the application of the *Official Languages Act*, particularly Part V, which sets out public servants' right to work in the official language of their choice.

The motion was part of the debate sparked by the relocation of the Canadian Tourism Commission's head office from Ottawa to Vancouver. If other head offices or federal institu-

tions are relocated, it is important "to protect the rights of federal employees who are moved to some other part of the country to work in the official language of their choice. [...] Moving to a new city and changing all your habits is already hard enough; finding yourself obliged to lead a professional life deprived of rights that make a real difference to the quality of the work you do only compounds the difficulty."

I had hoped that this initiative would smooth any move by a federal institution, and that the federal government would always ensure that the *Official Languages Act* is complied with and its employees' language-of-work rights respected.

Unfortunately, the motion died on the Order Paper when Parliament was dissolved. However, I can assure you that I intend to introduce my motion once again this session.

In the wake of the debates over the Canadian Tourism Commission's move to Vancouver, it is important that the government establish clear regulations and guidelines in this regard.

The full text of my speech is available on my Web site.



Before the dissolution of the 38th Parliament, I had the satisfaction of sponsoring my first bill, C-37, which amended the Telecommunications Act to allow for the creation of a national "do not call" list.

The bill, which received Royal Assent on November 25th 2005, gives the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) the power to set up and administer a national list of telephone numbers that telemarketers are forbidden to call. The aim is to help diminish the number of disruptive phone calls from telemarketers. The amended Act also increases the financial penalties for telemarketers who do not respect its provisions and continue to call even if you are on the national list.

Once the list has been set up, you will be able to get your number on the list through a single contact. Before the Act was amended, if you wanted to put a stop to calls from telemarketers you had to inform each company individually. Each company was supposed to have and to update its own "do not call" list.

"Unsolicited phone calls have become an inconvenience and a nuisance for many Canadians. [...] The need to make changes to the *Telecommunications Act* was identified by the CRTC itself and by the Canadian Telemarketing Association. The government thus decided that it needed to intervene in order to

Bill C-37 An Act to Amend the Telecommunications Act



resolve the problems in the current system by introducing this bill to facilitate the establishment of a national 'do not call' list."

Now it will be possible to sign up, for free, through a single contact, and telemarketers will be responsible for making sure that they have the most up-to-date version of the national list.

While certain exemptions are provided for, the amended Act will make a concrete contribution toward reducing the number of disruptive phone calls that you receive. I was glad to be part of this initiative, which has broad support

among Canadians and which meets a real need both of Canadians and of the telemarketing industry.

For further information, you can go to the CRTC Web site at http://www.crtc.gc.ca/eng/info_sht/t1022.htm or the Canadian Marketing Association Web site at <http://www.thecma.org/>. The verbatim text of my speech in support of the Bill is available on my own Internet site (www.sen.parl.gc.ca/ctardif)

2006 Alberta North Central Teachers' Convention

On February 10th, I had the privilege of speaking to educators of the Cercle local francophone at the North Central Alberta Teacher's Convention about civic literacy, civic engagement, and the dissemination of Canadian values. Specifically, I spoke about the important role that teachers can play in transmitting these values and activities to Canada's youth. Tremendous work is being done in schools across the country—in Alberta, curriculum is being modified and study guides are being created to address the need for greater civic education. We must continue this work so that future generations of Canadians are fully engaged in their communities, and with their democracy.

Canada is a diverse, just and prosperous nation, and it has become this way due to the ideals and practices of our citizenry. Our continued prosperity, in fact our very survival as a nation, depends upon the values that have formed our common identity and weaved us into a community. This includes the values of civic responsibility and civic engagement, which observed through the fundamental act of participatory democracy—voting—have gone through precipitous and dangerous decline in recent years. It is our responsibility, as politicians, teachers, parents and citizens, to ensure that the youth of this nation understand that their continued happiness, stability, safety and liberty can only be guaranteed through their active involvement in the democratic process.

We must also continue to pass on to the youth of this country our robust and passionate belief in multiculturalism, bilingualism, social obligation, tolerance, plurality of opinion, all of which are enshrined in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. We must do so because it is these values, along with others, that make us one country, one nation, one people. It is these values that make us... Canadian. They help us develop a shared culture and history. They help us reach consensus through open conversation, rather than through armed conflict. They help us create social capital, a sense of community, a pride in what we have done, and a certainty in what we can still accomplish. Taken all together, these values have set off a chain reaction, a chain reaction resulting in a grand and meaningful narrative called Canada, and it is a narrative I wish to see continued.

For nearly 139 years, Canada has worked. We must be relentless in teaching our children that it can still work, that the grand experiment of a nation united by its differences, a country paradoxically defined by its collective individuality, is one worth learning about, pursuing, and defending.

A full copy of this speech is available on my website.

Water in the West: Under Pressure

Fourth Interim Report of the Standing Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources



When the Senate resumed sitting last fall, I was appointed to its Standing Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources. The mandate of this Committee is to consider and examine bills and any other matter involving energy, the environment and natural resources in general, including mines, natural resources (other than fisheries and forests), pipelines, transmission lines and transportation of energy, and the environment. The Committee's work is especially relevant and interesting for me as a senator from Alberta.

On November 24th, 2005, as part of its proceedings, the Committee published a report entitled *Water in the West: Under Pressure*. The report focuses on threats to Canada's water supply, especially in the western provinces. My colleagues and I were surprised to hear, both from researchers and from government officials, that the data on water are incomplete and inadequate. Furthermore, my colleagues and I heard scientists assert that Alberta is the region for which there is the greatest concern, because in addition to being an extremely arid area, it is experiencing very rapid development. Our report was the fruit of 16

meetings held between November 2004 and November 2005 with federal ministers, government officials, scientists, specialists, academics and other experts in this area.

In this report, the Committee presents five recommendations on a variety of crucially important water-related issues that demand the federal government's attention. In our view, the federal government must formulate a policy for protecting the country's water sources from demographic, economic and commercial pressures.

Given the economic importance of natural resources for Alberta in particular, I am pleased to continue my work on this Committee during the new Parliament.

Our report is available at this address:
www.senate-senat.ca/EENR-EERN.asp

Pacific Gateway Strategy — A Boom for Alberta

Canada is a trading nation. In fact, Canada is the most trade dependent in the G7. As such, its prosperity depends on the ability to import and export globally. In order to maximize our efficiency in moving goods, services and people both in and out of Canada, we must create safe, seamless corridors to emerging markets and gateways. One such emerging gateway is the Asia-Pacific region, in countries such as Korea and India. The economies in the Pacific continue to grow, and trading patterns continue to shift in order to meet the demand. As a Pacific nation close to these emerging markets—a sailing time advantage of about two days over other countries in the West—Canada is faced with the opportunity of a lifetime. By developing and implementing a Pacific Gateway Strategy intended to maximize our ability to reach these gateway markets in a safe, proficient and timely manner, the federal

Government, in cooperation with western provincial governments, has the chance to secure relationships and guarantee future prosperity for all Canadians. In particular, a Pacific Gateway Strategy will be a great boom to the province of Alberta. In November, the President & CEO of the Vancouver Port Authority stated that, "the Port of Vancouver is Alberta's Port." 24% of the port's total exports come from Alberta, including 87% of the total foreign liquid bulk exports (petroleum and chemical products). A Pacific Gateway Strategy—especially one that also develops transportation infrastructure in Northern British Columbia—will enhance the capability of businesses and innovators in Edmonton, Calgary, Red Deer, Grande Prairie and Fort McMurray to reach global markets. It is also likely that the strategy will see a great deal of investment in improving the transportation infrastructure throughout the

province; for example, in improving railroad and trucking transport through the Rocky Mountains.

If Canada wishes to remain a global leader and a prosperous nation, the development and implementation of a Pacific Gateway Strategy is required. I encourage all Albertans, and all Canadians, to learn more about this critical policy issue, and to speak on its behalf to both their provincial and federal representatives.



Standing Senate Committee on Official Languages in Nova Scotia

On September 18th through the 23rd members of the Standing Senate Committee on Official Languages travelled to Nova Scotia on a fact-finding mission. The trip was a follow-up to the Committee's recent report on education in Canada's francophone minority communities, entitled *French-Language Education in a Minority Setting: A Continuum from Early Childhood to the Postsecondary Level*.

However, during the trip the Committee expanded its areas of interest, looking into issues other than education such as the media, the economy and culture, with a view to being able to draw a more detailed portrait of the daily reality experienced by francophones living in minority settings.

My colleagues and I had the privilege of meeting with representatives of Nova Scotia's Acadian and francophone communities as well as with provincial officials including the Minister of Acadian Affairs, the Honourable Chris d'Entremont.

We visited the communities of Argyle (Yarmouth County), Clare (Digby County), L'Isle Madame (Richmond County), Chéticamp and Saint-Joseph-du-Moine (Inverness County) on Cape Breton, and Halifax. We met over 30 representatives of francophone government bodies and nongovernmental organizations from various regions of Nova Scotia.

At our meetings, we found that Nova Scotia's francophone and Acadian communities are scattered across the province, which makes it hard for them to join forces. And yet, despite the relatively small number of francophones in Nova Scotia, and their geographic separation, they have a strong interest in and commitment to promoting French in their province.

The Committee is continuing to work on the draft of a report it intends to table during the first session of the new Parliament.



Photo (From left to right): Hon. Senator Eymard Corbin; Hon. Senator John Buchanan; Hon. Senator Maria Chaput; Hon. Senator Claudette Tardif; Ms. Andrée Tremblay, official languages research branch; Hon. Senator Gerald Comeau; Mr. Brice Graham, Senate logistic support; Ms. Maryse Durette, Senate communications; Ms. Dagmar Raphjem, Senate logistic support; Ms. Gaëtanne Lemay, Official languages committee clerk; and Mr. Gérard Finn, Official language Commissioner.



I am pleased to welcome to my office on a part –time basis Ms. Rachele Antcil, student at the University of Ottawa in International Development and Political Science. She is a native of Jean-Côté, of the Peace River Region, Alberta.

Please take note that I have a new Internet web site if you want to learn more about the Senate and my activities.

www.sen.parl.gc.ca/ctardif

Do not hesitate to communicate with my office if you have any concerns, questions or comments.

Sous les pas d'une sénatrice *Following the footsteps of a senator*



Edmonton — 17/09/2005

Accompagnée de l'honorable premier ministre Ralph Klein, tous les deux récipiendaires de l'Ordre de la Pléiade, décerné par l'Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie.

With the Honorable Premier Ralph Klein, fellow recipient of l'Ordre de la Pléiade awarded by the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie.

Calgary — 22/10/2005

Conférencière d'honneur à la conférence annuelle de l'organisme « Canadian Parents for French » de l'Alberta, accompagnée de Dr Bob O'Reilly, président de l'organisation régionale de l'Alberta de Canadian Parents for French.

Keynote speaker at the Canadian Parents for French of Alberta annual conference. I am accompanied by Dr. Bob O'Reilly, President of Canadian Parents for French of Alberta.



Edmonton — 9/11/2005

Achèvement du projet de recherche du Centre folklorique ukrainien sur la culture locale et la diversité des prairies canadiennes, University of Alberta. Accompagnée à ma gauche du professeur Dr Frank McMahon, Mme Teresa Warencya, M. Rahim Jaffer, moi-même, Doyen Marc Arnal, Mme Nadya Foty et Dr Andriy Nahachewsky directeur du Ukrainian Folklore Centre de la University of Alberta.

On the occasion of the completion of the Local Culture and Diversity on the Prairies Research Project, University of Alberta. From left to right: Dr. Frank McMahon, Ms. Teresa Warencya, Mr. Rahim Jaffer, myself, Dean Marc Arnal, Ms. Nadya Forty and Dr. Andriy Nahachewsky, Director of the Ukrainian Folklore Centre, University of Alberta.





Red Deer — 18/ 11/2005

Tribute evening in my honour organized by l'Association canadienne française de l'Alberta régionale de Red Deer in connection with the Festival de la chanson française. I am accompanied by Minister Lyle Oberg and Mrs. Monique Auguste, President of l'Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta, régionale de Red Deer.

Soirée hommage en mon honneur organisée par l'Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta régionale de Red Deer, dans le cadre du Festival de la chanson française. Accompagnée du ministre Lyle Oberg et de Mme Monique Auguste, présidente de l'ACFA régionale de Red Deer.

Edmonton — 11/12/2005

Christmas party at the Youth Emergency Shelter in Edmonton. I am accompanied by Santa Claus, Mr. Rahim Jaffer, member of parliament Edmonton-Strathcona and members of the 15th (Edmonton) Service Battalion, Canadian Army.

*Fête de Noël au « Youth Emergency Shelter » d'Edmonton.
Accompagnée du Père Noël, M. Rahim Jaffer, député parlementaire pour Edmonton-Strathcona et des membres du 15th (Edmonton) Service Battalion, Canadian Army.*



Edmonton — 31 /01 /2006

Official Launch of the International Conference "Building World Peace: The Role of Religions and Human Rights", organized by the John Humphrey Centre to be held in October 2006. Accompanied by Mrs. Louise De Pape, director of the conference, the Honorable Douglas Roche, conference chair and on my left, Mr. Gurcharan Singh Bhatia, former citizenship judge.

Lancement de la conférence internationale "Building World Peace: The Role of Religions and Human Rights", organisée par le John Humphrey Centre et qui aura lieu en octobre 2006. Accompagnée à ma droite de Mme Louise de Pape (directrice de la conférence), de l'Hon. Douglas Roche (président de la conférence) et à ma gauche l'ancien juge de la Citoyenneté, M. Gurcharan Singh Bhatia.



Ottawa — 14 /02 /2006

Panel moderator for the Forum on Woman Activism and Constitutional and Democratic Reform. Accompanied by Mrs. Janet Buckmaster, Coordinator of the One Woman One Vote initiative for YWCA Edmonton and Mrs. Josephine Pallard, Executive Director of Changing Together: A Centre for Immigrant Women, located in Edmonton.

*Présidente de session lors du « Forum sur l'activisme des femmes dans la réforme constitutionnelle et démocratique »
Accompagnée à ma droite de Mme Janet Buckmaster, coordonnatrice de l'initiative du YWCA d'Edmonton : One Woman One Vote et à ma gauche de Mme Josephine Pellard, directrice exécutive du centre pour les femmes immigrantes Changing Together d'Edmonton.*

