



The Senate

REPORT

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Business Highlights

With the launching of war in Iraq and the outbreak, both here and abroad, of cases of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, it was the international scene that captured most of the attention over the winter. International events also influenced the Senate, in particular by affecting the meetings planned by the National Security and Defence Committee for its visits to Washington in February.

The recent months saw the first time that the new procedure for Royal Assent by written declaration was used. On February 13, the Honourable John Major, Puisne Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC), acting as the Deputy of the Governor General, gave assent by written declaration at his office at the SCC to Bill **C-4**, *An Act to amend the Nuclear Safety and Control Act*. It was only on March 19, however that Her Excellency, the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, Governor General of Canada, gave Royal Assent by written declaration at her official residence, to Bill **C-12**, *An Act to promote physical activity and sport*.

More flexible and faster, the written declaration form will probably be used increasingly in the future for Royal Assent, becoming the rule while the formal ceremony in the Chamber will become the exception.

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On March 19 at her official residence, Her Excellency, the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, Governor General of Canada, gave Royal Assent to Bill C-12 by written declaration.

On another front, the committees have been very active, interested as always in all aspects of life in community, from marriage to the environment by way of good governance, mental health and equal rights.

A review of trade between Canada and its American and Mexican neighbours took the Foreign Affairs Committee to Vancouver, Calgary and Winnipeg; many witnesses from the public and private sectors were heard, in particular on the impact of the free trade agreements of 1988 and 1992.

Every winter, the Senate welcomes groups of high school students from all corners of the country who come to learn about parliamentary institutions and practices. Between January and April, more than 1,200 young people visited the Upper House. A large number of enthusiastic senators made a generous contribution to these visits by meeting with the students, explaining their role and their many functions, and answering their questions, which were numerous and to the point.

Senators' Forum

*The Honourable Elizabeth Hubley,
Senator (LIB, Prince Edward Island)*



Continuing Canada's Leadership on Landmines

In 1996, following years of discussions between governments and lobbying by the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, Canada challenged the world to sign a comprehensive treaty banning the weapon. The Ottawa Convention was opened for signature on December 3, 1997. To date 143 countries have signed the Convention; 131 have passed laws in their own countries making it criminal to produce, use or trade in the weapon. This marks the first time in the history of the world that governments and civil society have come together to ban a weapon that has some military use, because it impacts on civilians.

Landmines are among the cruellest of all weapons because they don't recognize the difference between the foot of a soldier and the foot of a child. They kill and maim long after the soldiers have left the battlegrounds. They are not only a weapon of terror, but also an impediment to economic and social recovery. They kill innocent people, regardless of age, and ruin entire societies. Sadly, there are now between 50 and 100 million landmines lying in wait in some of the most disenfranchised countries in the world.

The presence or threat of landmines prevents refugees from returning to their villages. Mines keep farmers from planting crops, irrigating fields, and grazing livestock. They also prevent engineers from rebuilding roads destroyed by hostilities, and hinder international relief and peacekeeping efforts. In fact, landmines are the single

greatest threat facing Canadian peacekeeping forces. The removal of landmines is one of the most pressing humanitarian issues of our age.

In support of Canada's commitment to the landmine issue, the government created the Canadian Landmine Fund in 1997, allocating \$100 million to advance the global implementation of the Ottawa Convention and provide direct assistance to mine-affected communities in every region of the world over five years. Last November, the government announced \$72 million in new funding which will be disbursed over a five-year period and will support global mine action activities, including mine-clearing projects, assistance to landmine victims and their communities, mine risk education, and the destruction of stockpiled mines. The fund will also be used to promote universal adherence to the Ottawa Convention and to support the development of Canadian-made mine action technologies.

Canadians can be proud of this international leadership and the achievements of our government and non-government organisations. Yet if we are to achieve the global target to eliminate this weapon in our lifetime, we must all work together and do what we can to end the human and economic suffering caused by this weapon.

Spotlight on Students

*Importance of the institution illustrated through
involvement*

Canadian youth – the next generation of our country's leaders – benefit immensely from senators' continued involvement in educational initiatives like Encounters with Canada and Forum for Young Canadians. These programs provide an opportunity for senators to help youth, from all over Canada, to gain a better understanding of not only the key role the Senate has in the legislative process, but the day-to-day responsibilities of a senator. Students hear first-hand about senators' activities; from preparing speeches for Senate debates, reviewing materials and participating in Committee meetings, answering correspondence and responding to requests for their participation in various events either in Ottawa or in their regions.

During the better part of the school year, close to 130 students aged 15 to 17 visit the Senate Chamber each Monday morning as part of the Encounters with Canada program. From various backgrounds and all regions of

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Legislative Activities

Canada, the students spend one week in Ottawa learning about Canada's institutions. This visit is their first-hand introduction to the Senate and its function within Parliament. In an 8-week period in early 2003, several senators addressed more than 1,040 youth during one-hour question and answer sessions in the Chamber.

Senators also have a long-standing history of involvement with the Forum for Young Canadians, a national educational program that dates back to 1975. Four week-long sessions are held during March and April immersing more than 550 students between the ages of 16 and 19 into the national political arena. Students, whose participation has been recommended by their principals, spend one full day in the Senate. The day begins with a breakfast hosted by the Speaker and then it's off to the Chamber to hear from various Senate representatives. Throughout the day, students watch the debates, see Committees at work and then put what they've witnessed to practice in simulated activities.



Senator Laurier LaPierre welcomes students participating in "Forum for Young Canadians."

The unparalleled experience that these high school students are afforded during their time at the Senate is invaluable; the hands-on learning of the legislative process, extraordinary. It is hoped that these events might encourage their future career decisions, and for those with a particular interest in the parliamentary affairs, perhaps spur a desire to pursue a position as a Senate page once they reach the university level. Goals begin as small seeds, the proper coaching and words of encouragement can help them germinate.

The following list indicates the status of bills at the review stage in the Senate and in Committee on April 03, 2003.

Bills Introduced in the House of Commons

C-2, *An Act to establish a process for assessing the environmental and socio-economic effects of certain activities in Yukon.*

Stage: In Committee (Energy, Environment and Natural Resources)

C-6, *An Act to establish the Canadian Centre for the Independent Resolution of First Nations Specific Claims to provide for the filing, negotiation and resolution of specific claims and to make related amendments to other Acts.*

Stage: In Committee (Aboriginal Peoples)

C-10, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (cruelty to animals and firearms) and the Firearms Act* was divided:

C-10A, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (firearms) and the Firearms Act* was passed by the Senate on December 3, 2002;

C-10B, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (cruelty to animals)* was referred to the Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs for consideration.

C-15, *An Act to amend the Lobbyists Registration Act.*

Stage: In Committee (Rules, Procedures and Rights of Parliament)

Private Members' Bills Introduced in the House of Commons

C-300, *An Act to change the names of certain electoral districts.*

Stage: Under debate at second reading

Senate Government Bills

S-13, *An Act to Amend the Statistics Act.* The purpose of Bill **S-13** is to make census records available for research and to the public after a certain period of time.

Status: In Committee (Social Affairs, Science and Technology)

Private Senator Public Bills

S-3, *An Act to amend the National Anthem Act to include all Canadians* (Senator Vivienne Poy). This enactment substitutes a few words in the English version of the national anthem.

Status: Under debate at Second Reading

S-4, *Federal Nominations Act* (Senator Terry Stratton). This enactment provides for increased transparency and objectivity in the selection of suitable individuals to be named to high public positions.

Status: Under debate at Second Reading

S-5, *An Act respecting a National Acadian Day* (Senator Gerald Comeau). This enactment proposes that the 15th day of August in each and every year be designated a national day.

Status: In Committee (Legal and Constitutional Affairs)

S-6, *Public Service Whistleblowing Act* (Senator Noel Kinsella). This enactment aims to assist in the prevention of wrongdoing in the Public Service by establishing a framework for education on ethical practices in the workplace, for dealing with allegations of wrongdoing and for protecting whistleblowers.

Status: Under debate at Second Reading

S-7, *An Act to protect heritage lighthouses* (Senator Michael Forrestall)

Status: In Committee (Social Affairs, Science and Technology)

S-8, *An Act to amend the Broadcasting Act* (Senator Noel Kinsella). This enactment primarily proposes to enable the CRTC to make regulations establishing criteria for the awarding of costs, and to give the Commission the power to award and tax costs between the parties that appear before it.

Status: In Third Reading

S-9, *An Act to honour Louis Riel and the Metis people*.

Status: Under debate at Second Reading (Senator Thelma Chalifoux)

S-10, *Personal Watercraft Act* (Senator Mira Spivak). This enactment proposes to require the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to make regulations forbidding or restricting the use of personal watercraft in designated waterways.

Status: In Committee (Energy, Environment and Natural Resources)

S-11, *An Act to amend the Official Languages Act* (Senator Jean-Robert Gauthier). Designed to clarify the scope of section 41 and clearly establish that it is binding.

Status: Under debate at Second Reading

S-12, *Statutes Repeal Act* (Senator Tommy Banks). An Act proposes to repeal legislation that has not been brought into force within ten years of receiving royal assent.

Status: In Committee (Legal and Constitutional Affairs)

S-14, *An Act to amend the National Anthem Act* (Senator Noel Kinsella). This enactment proposes to combine portions of the English and French versions of the national anthem to create a version that reflects the linguistic duality of Canada.

Status: Under debate at Second Reading

S-15, *An Act to remove certain doubts regarding the meaning of marriage* (Senator Anne C. Cools). This enactment proposes to define marriage as a voluntary union of one man and one woman as husband and wife to the exclusion of all others.

Status: Under debate at Second Reading

S-16, *An Act to amend the Constitution Act, 1867 and the Parliament of Canada Act* (Senator Donald Oliver). This enactment provides for the election of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Senate.

Status: Under debate at Second Reading

S-17, *Canadian International Development Agency Act* (Senator Roch Bolduc). In particular, this enactment provides for the continuation, governance, administration and accountability of the Agency.

Status: Under debate at Second Reading

S-18, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code* (Senator Jean Lapointe). This enactment proposes to limit the installation of lottery terminals and slot machines to racetracks and premises dedicated to gaming.

Status: Introduction and First Reading

Royal Assent

The following bills recently received Royal Assent:

C-4, *An Act to amend the Nuclear Safety and Control Act*
February 13, 2003

C-12, *An Act to promote physical activity and sport*
March 19, 2003

C-29, *An Act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service of Canada for the financial year ending March 31, 2003*
March 27, 2003

C-30, *An Act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service of Canada for the financial year ending March 31, 2004*
March 27, 2003

C-3, *An Act to amend the Canada Pension Plan and the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board Act*
April 3, 2003

C-227, *An Act respecting a national day of remembrance of the Battle of Vimy Ridge*
April 3, 2003

Speaker's Statement

In recent months, there have been few points of order or questions of privilege requiring the Speaker to intervene and make a ruling or statement. This changed, however, on March 26, 2003, when Senator Laurier LaPierre rose to request leave to correct an inaccurate interjection attributed to him in the *Debates of the Senate* of the previous day. This occurred when Senator Buchanan was making a Senator's Statement at the beginning of the sitting. In response, the Senate did not agree to grant leave and this decision provoked exchanges among the Senators on both the nature of the request and whether it was in fact to correct the Hansard record or to change it. The issue was particularly sensitive as it related to Canada's international relations and the current war in Iraq.

After listening to the audio tape of events on March 25 to verify the record of the exchange, the Speaker made a statement to the Senate on March 27. Speaker Hays determined that Senator LaPierre was entitled to the benefit of doubt and that his request was intended to correct the record rather than change it. The Speaker put forth the request of the Senator to correct the record once again and this time, the Senate agreed and the record was corrected accordingly.

Committee Activities

Aboriginal Peoples

The Committee has been continuing its special study to develop an "Action Plan for Change" for issues affecting urban Aboriginal youth. A number of meetings were held in Ottawa and the Committee heard testimony from Aboriginal service delivery agencies from across the country. The Committee also held public hearings and hosted youth roundtables in Winnipeg, Vancouver and Edmonton from March 17 through 21. The Committee will complete this study over the next few months and anticipates tabling its final report in June 2003.

Agriculture and Forestry

The Committee on Agriculture and Forestry is now more than five months into its in-depth investigation of the impact of climate change on agriculture, forestry and rural communities. In its quest to examine how today's farming and forestry practices will need to adapt in order to cope with our changing environment, the Committee is presently studying various proposed scenarios and strategies that might assist food production and forest resources management industries to adapt to climate change.

Since beginning public hearings on November 20, 2002, the Committee has heard testimony from over 90 witnesses, including Canadian government officials, on the current state of our environment and the proposed steps to slow climate change. Recently, the Committee returned from a week of hearings in Western Canada where it listened to witnesses in Regina, Edmonton, Lethbridge and Vancouver.

The Committee has also met with researchers and stakeholders to review the regional impact of climate change and the local options available for industries to adapt to its effects. The members of the Committee anticipate making recommendations that will assist the agriculture and forestry industries in making decisions that will improve their sustainability.

Banking, Trade and Commerce

In addition to the hearings it held in Ottawa on the present state of the domestic and international financial system (and, more specifically, the Canadian dimension of the ENRON collapse), the Senate Standing Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce travelled to New York and Washington between

March 30 and April 2. During their trip, the members met, among others, Mr. Alan Greenspan, the Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, and Senator Paul S. Sarbanes and Representative Michael Oxley, the authors of the *Sarbanes-Oxley Act*. They also met with the managers of the New York Stock Exchange and the Securities Industry Association.

Energy, the environment and Natural Resources

Since the resumption of work in February, the Standing Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources studied Bill **C-4**, *An Act to amend the Nuclear Safety and Control Act*, and reported it without suggesting any amendments.

The Committee also examined the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol. Since the protocol was put forward in 1997, the arguments for and against ratifying it have been a matter of debate, and the issues have been studied and deliberated in many public and private forums. There has been a great deal of debate concerning measures that would be likely to reduce emissions, but much less discussion about procedures to implement such measures. The Committee believes that it can make a contribution by reviewing in detail the procedures involved in the various implementation strategies from the federal standpoint.

In view of the scope of the protocol, the committee focused on three areas:

1. How can people achieve the goal of reducing emissions to one tonne?
2. Alternative sources of energy.
3. Emissions trading and other "Kyoto mechanisms" (joint implementation, specific development mechanisms and international emissions trading).

The Committee began its hearings in February, primarily by holding information sessions with officials of the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources to obtain an overview of the protocol and Canada's obligations under it.

The Committee also sent a mission to California to obtain evidence for its comprehensive study. California is a large and expanding market for energy exports from Canada, particularly natural gas and electricity. The state is also a leader in terms of innovative approaches for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The government, industry and business people also have a great deal of experience with emissions trading mechanisms.



Senators Isobel Finnerty and Pana Merchant in front of a hydrogen battery powered SUV in Sacramento, California.

The committee met representatives of the government, business people and academics in California to discuss a variety of topics related to its mandate.

The discussions centred on the regulations that led to problems with electricity in California, and how this would affect Canada's interests and actions in this area.

Foreign Affairs

In compliance with the order of reference passed by the Senate on Thursday, November 21, 2002, the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs focused its work on an examination of the Canada-US trade relationship and on the Canada-Mexico trade relationship. In particular, the committee considered: a) the 1998 Free Trade Agreement; b) the 1992 North American Free Trade Agreement; c) secure access for Canadian goods and services to the United States and Mexico; and d) the development of effective dispute resolution mechanisms, with particular emphasis on Canada's economic relations with the countries of the Americas and the World Trade Organization's Doha Round of trade negotiations.

In February, the committee held hearings in Vancouver, Calgary and Winnipeg, where it heard witnesses from the public and private sectors, industry representatives (lumber, agriculture, fishing, etc.), academics and other experts in Canada-United States-Mexico trade relations, including the Minister of International Trade, officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the Hon. Roy MacLaren (former Minister of International Trade), the Free Trade Lumber Council, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, the Business Council on National Issues, the British Columbia Lumber Trade Council, the Canadian Cattlemen's Association, the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, the Canadian Wheat Board and the Canada U.S. Border Trade Alliance.

Legal and constitutional Affairs

The members of the Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs have been quite busy since the fall of 2002 examining three pieces of proposed legislation: Bill **S-5**, *An Act respecting a National Acadian Day*; Bill **C-10**, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (cruelty to animals and firearms)* and the *Firearms Act*, and Bill **S-12**, *An Act to repeal legislation* that has not been brought into force within ten years of receiving royal assent.

The study of Bill **S-5** regarding a national Acadian day was the first item on the Committee's agenda in the second session of the 37th Parliament. The first witness was Senator Gerald Comeau, the bill's sponsor, followed by Dr. Neil Boucher, a historian from St. Anne University in Nova Scotia. When the Committee was referred bill **C-10** on November 20, 2002, its work on Bill **S-5** was suspended. The Committee anticipates being able to return to the study of Bill **S-5** in the near future.

First among the first tasks when Bill **C-10** was referred to Committee in November 2002, was to divide this proposed bill into two separate bills, namely Bill **C-10A** (Firearms) and Bill **C-10 B** (Cruelty to Animals.)

Bill C10A: Among the first witnesses to testify on the firearms segment of the bill were the Minister of Justice, the Honourable Martin Cauchon, Department of Justice officials Richard Mosley, Assistant Deputy Minister (Criminal Law Policy), Kathleen Roussel, Counsel, Legal

Services for the Canadian Firearms Centre and Gary Webster, Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian Firearms Centre. Other groups who provided testimony were the National Firearms Association, the Coalition for Gun Control, the Canadian Police Association, the Canadian Shooting Sports Association, and the User Group on Firearms. The Committee reported the firearms portion of Bill **C-10** on November 28, 2002 without amendment.

Bill C-10B: On November 27, 2002, the Committee began hearing witnesses with respect to the cruelty to animals provisions. A large number of witnesses were heard, including representatives from the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, the Canadian Council on Animal Care, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, REAL Women of Canada and the Canadian Council of Criminal Defence Lawyers. Testifying on behalf of the Department of Justice were Joanne Klineberg, Counsel, Criminal Law Policy, and Richard Mosley. Particularly interesting and enlightening testimony came from two experts on pain in animals: Dr. Alexander Livingston, a vertebrate specialist and dean of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, and Dr. Shelly Adamo, an invertebrate specialist and researcher at Dalhousie University.

The Committees study of the proposed animal cruelty amendments continues. Once complete, it hopes to resume its study of Bill **S-5** and then begin its examination of Bill **S-12**.

National Finance

During
February and
March 2003, the

Committee on National Finance completed its examination and presented final reports on the government's Main Estimates for 2002-2003 and the Supplementary Estimates "B". These two reports, which were presented concurrently, were the culmination of a lengthy review process and meetings with senior government officials including the Minister of Canadian Heritage, Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat and the

Auditor General. In the first three months of 2003, the Committee produced a total of three of the six reports dealing with the Main Estimates for 2002-2003.

As the examination of the Main Estimates unfolded, the Committee took particular interest in two issues, namely the financing of foundations at arms length from the government and the Canadian hosting policy on major international events. The Committee will be studying these issues further and will formulate their reports when those examinations are complete.

National Security and Defence

Over the past
few months, the
Committee

maintained an active pace as it continued its study of a national security policy. During the week of January 27, Committee members travelled to western Canada for a combination of fact-finding visits and public hearings.

In Regina, the Committee toured the RCMP Training Depot and municipal emergency facilities. Hearings were also held with first responders and representatives of various reserve units throughout the province. The Committee also paid a visit to the City of Edmonton's emergency response operations center and later heard evidence about how various levels of government coordinate their activities during a national emergency or disaster. The Committee also visited the Edmonton Garrison, Canada's largest army base and home of the Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry who served in Afghanistan. While in Vancouver, the Committee continued to meet with first responders, this time focusing on the City of Vancouver's preparations in case of an earthquake. Committee members also met with senior Officers from eight Vancouver area army reserve units.

The Committee's public meetings in Ottawa focused on two areas of study: first responders, and briefings related to the Committee's Washington visit. Witnesses who appeared before the Committee regarding first responders were from Health Canada and the municipalities of Ottawa, Gatineau, Saint John, St. John's, London and Hamilton. Several Committee

members also conducted a fact-finding visit to Windsor where they met with local first responders in addition to studying border issues.

In preparation for the Committee's meetings in Washington during the week of March 24, several on-the-record briefings were held with senior officials from the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, the Canadian Coast Guard, the Department of the Solicitor General of Canada, the Security and Intelligence Coordinator of the Privy Council Office, the head of the Communications Security Establishment, the head of the Canadian Security and Intelligence Service, the Department of National Defence, the head of the Borders Task Force at the Privy Council Office, and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

The timing of the Committee's pre-scheduled trip to Washington coincided with the first week of the war against Iraq, a factor that greatly influenced the availability some of the legislators, representatives of the Administration and a cross section of think tanks that the Committee was scheduled to meet with. Nevertheless, the Committee succeeded in meeting for some 30 hours with a total of 40 persons, including 18 legislators and senior officials from the Pentagon, the White House, the Department of Transport and the Transportation Security Agency. Numerous issues were discussed including: defence capabilities, Northern Command, coastal defence, border security, customs enforcement, entry/exit requirements, safe third country agreement, intelligence gathering and analysis, and port and airport security.

Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs

The Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs

has kept a steady pace and continues its study on benefits for veterans. The Subcommittee concentrated its attention on the specific benefits provided to members of Canada's military who are killed or severely injured while on duty – benefits payable under the provisions of the Service Income Security Service Plan (SISIP). The Subcommittee members learned that senior officers with a rank of Colonel or higher qualify for a payment of up to \$250,000 while junior ranks do not.

The Subcommittee received moving testimony about this inequitable treatment from Major (retd) Bruce Henwood, who lost both legs while serving in Bosnia. Testimony that the provision for this type of insurance is usually available for a small sum was received from representatives from both the public and private sector.

Shortly before senior officials from the department of National Defence were scheduled to appear, the Minister announced changes to the military plan so that new all members of the Canadian Forces, regardless of their rank, are eligible for coverage. A week later, on February 19, the Minister appeared before the Subcommittee to provide further details. The issue of the plan's retroactivity to allow for individuals like Major Henwood to receive payment has yet to be resolved. The Committee released its report on this study entitled *Fixing the Canadian Forces' Method of Dealing with Death or Dismemberment* on April 16. The report is available on-line at www.senate-senat.ca/vets-comb.asp.

The Subcommittee returned to its study on post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Witnesses from the Department of National Defence and Veterans Affairs Canada, told Subcommittee members about a new program where people with first-hand experience with PTSD are able to reach out to those suffering this malady. The Subcommittee also traveled to Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, Quebec, on April 3 to Ste Anne's Hospital there they visited the mental health unit and PTSD centre.

Rules, Procedures and the Rights of Parliament

The Government's Ethics Package was

the Committee's main focus in February and March of this year. Committee members heard from witnesses representing the Government, the Parliamentary Spouses Association, Democracy Watch, provincial Ethics Commissioners, the federal Ethics Counsellor as well as former parliamentarians.

The Committee also presented a report recommending that the Senate adopt a new rule that would allow for a process where once a committee tables a report, it could be referred to the Government for a comprehensive response within 150 days. Debate on this recommendation is ongoing.

Social Affairs, Science and technology

The Committee continues its multi-

phase study on health and health care. This past February, members began an in-depth study into the complex subject of mental health and mental illness in Canada. Three meetings were convened involving government officials, researchers, physicians and individuals who were personally touched by the issue of mental illness.

This comprehensive study is a result of the Committee's roundtable discussion on the same subject that was held in June of 2001. It was demonstrated that a person's mental health is an integral part of their health and wellness, and is as important as physical health is to their daily living. According to data provided to the Committee, the economic burden of mental health problems and illnesses was estimated at \$14.4 billion in 1998. Armed with this important information, the Committee sought and received permission from the Senate to initiate this study.

During the last few months, the Committee also initiated an examination of Bill **S-13**, *An Act to amend the Statistics Act*. The Committee anticipates that its review of the legislation will be completed shortly.

Transport and Communications

The Committee finished its

examination of Bill S-8 on February 1, a Private Senator Public Bill that would grant the CRTC the power to award costs to interveners appearing before it on cases under the Broadcasting Act. Following extensive hearings that dated back to October 2002, the Committee reported the bill to the Senate on March 20, without amendments but with observations. Consideration of Bill S-8 originally began in the first session of the 37th Session of Parliament.

On March 20, the Committee was authorized to undertake a major examination of Canada's media industries, emerging trends and developments in these industries; the media's role, rights, and responsibilities in Canadian society; and current and appropriate future policies relating thereto.

Interparliamentary Activities

Assemblée parlementaire de la francophonie

The executive of the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (APF) met in Strasbourg from March 14 to 16. The Chair of the Canadian Section, Bernard Patry, MP, and the Vice-Chair, Senator Pierre De Bané, participated in the work.

The Canadian Section welcomed members of the Commission de coopération et de développement de l'APF in Ottawa from March 25 to 28.

Among the many topics on the agenda, Senator Rose-Marie Losier-Cool submitted her report on sustainable development, which is the theme of the next Francophonie Summit to be held in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) in 2004.

Ten new recipients of the *Ordre de la Pléiade* were decorated on March 27. The Pléiade award, which is international in scope, recognizes the merits of people who have served the ideals of the APF with distinction. Senator Jean-Robert Gauthier, Honorary President of the APF, made Dr. Bernard Patry, the President of the Canadian Section of the APF, a *Commandeur* of the Order. He also made Senator Pierre Claude Nolin a *Chevalier*.

Canada-China Legislative Association

The 11th Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from January 13 to 15. The Honourable Jack Austin, Senator, and Joe Volpe, MP, Co-Chairs of the Canada-China Legislative Association were in attendance. The delegation was led by Byron Wilfert, MP, Co-Chair of the Canada-Japan Inter-Parliamentary Group.



From left to right: Canada-China Legislative Association Co-Chairs Joe Volpe, MP and Jack Austin, Senator.

Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association

Senator Noel Kinsella was part of the delegation of the Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association to London at the end of January to attend a meeting of the Committee on Economic and Development Issues of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly at the headquarters European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The delegation was led by Aileen Carroll, MP, Vice-Chair of the Association and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Senator Kinsella distinguished himself with an intervention on the committee's report on *The Reform of the Public Service in Europe*. He then went to Strasbourg for the first part of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly session. The session provided an opportunity for lively debate over the Iraq issue, plans for a referendum in Chechnya, globalization and sustainable development and a code of conduct for elections. Senator Kinsella took part in the debate on the European Convention for the Repression of Terrorism.

On February 13, there was a Parliamentary Round Table on Canada-Europe relations, with many members of the European diplomatic corps and members of the Association in attendance, including numerous senators. The Round Table, which was co-chaired by Mr. Charles Caccia, Chair of the Association, and his Excellency Mr. Leonidas Chrysanthopoulos, the Greek Ambassador,

as Greece is chairing the European Union until July 2003, discussed two main subjects: 1) Canadian-European relations in the wake of the Canada-Europe Summit of December 2002; and 2) the proposed European Convention.

Ambassador Eric Hayes, the Head of the European Commission delegation to Canada, presented the first topic, and the Danish Ambassador to Canada presented the second. At the dinner afterwards, the Greek ambassador set out his country's priorities for Europe.

Canada-France Inter-Parliamentary Association

Following the reconstitution of the French Section of the Association following the legislative elections in France in June of 2002 and the appointment of Mr. Marc Laffineur, member of the French National Assembly as Chair, the standing committee of the Association met in

Ottawa on February 18 and 19, to establish the Association's program of activities for the coming years.

Mr. Laffineur was accompanied by MNA Jérôme Colombier. The Chair of the Canadian Group, Senator Lise Bacon, co-chaired the standing committee, which decided to hold the next annual meeting of the Association in the French West Indies (Martinique, Guadeloupe and French Guiana) in July 2003. The following topics are to be discussed at working sessions: a) bioethics; b) justice and public security; c) the expansion of Europe and d) relations between Canada and Europe.

The France-Canada Aerospace Cooperation Program will also be discussed during the visit to Guiana, which is where French Ariane rockets are launched. The Association is preparing the Champlain 2004 celebrations, which will include a parliamentary symposium and the twinning of parliamentarians.

The Canadian Group held its annual general meeting on February 19. Senator Bacon was re-elected Chair of the Group and Senators Gérald A. Beaudoin and Shirley Maheu were also re-elected as Vice-Chair and member of the Executive Committee respectively.



From left to right: Senators Lucie Pépin, Gérald Beaudoin, Shirley Maheu and Speaker of the Senate, Dan Hays; Marc Laffineur, MNA and Chair of the French Section of the France-Canada Inter-Parliamentary Association; Senator Lise Bacon, Chair of the Canada-France Inter-Parliamentary Association and Georges Colombier, MNA.

Canada-Japan Inter-Parliamentary Group

The Canada-Japan Interparliamentary Group held a symposium on relations between the two countries, on April 8. The Minister for International Trade, Hon. Pierre Pettigrew, gave an address on Japan, our second largest trading partner—challenges and opportunities. His Excellency, Kensaku Hogen, the Ambassador for Japan, was in attendance.

While our two countries have long maintained solid economic relations, our trading relations have not reached

their full potential. By holding this sort of bilateral consultation annually, the interparliamentary group intends to play a proactive role in creating and seizing opportunities for business.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

Members of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) attended several international functions this past February and March.

Senator Joseph Day attended the CPA Working Group on Parliament and the Media in Perth, Western Australia, from February 17 to 21.

There was a visit to Guernsey from March 24 to 28. The delegation consisted of Senator Joan Cook; Bill Blaikie, MP (NDP); Chuck Cadman, MP (CA); Sébastien Gagnon, MP (Bloc); John Harvard, MP (Liberal); Steve Mahoney, MP (Liberal) and John Maloney, MP (Liberal).

Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas

Senators Céline Hervieux-Payette, John Lynch-Staunton and Michael Biron attended the 2nd Plenary Meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas (FIPA) in February. The two-day meeting was held in Panama City, Panama from February 21-21. Senator Hervieux-Payette is the Vice-Chair of the Canadian Section of FIPA and Senator Lynch-Staunton is a Counsellor on the Executive Committee. They were joined by John Godfrey, MP, Chair of the Canadian Section, John Williams, MP, Vice-Chair, Canadian Section and Yves Rocheleau, MP.



From left to right: Senator Céline Hervieux-Payette, Vice-Chair of the Canadian Section of the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas (FIPA); Marco Ameglio, president of Panama's Foreign Relations Commission; and Mateo Barney, Secretary of the FIPA executive Committee.

Inter-Parliamentary Union

Senator Joan Fraser attended the meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Executive Committee held in Geneva on February 19 and 20. A number of items were on the agenda, including the Iraq issue, the reform of the IPU, relations with the UN and other international organizations such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) and UNESCO, and the admission of Saudi Arabia to the Union. The Executive Committee noted that it was deeply concerned by the crisis in Iraq. It supported a peaceful settlement of the crisis within the structure of the United Nations Security Council and it urged Iraq to comply fully and immediately with Resolution 1441.

Senator Fraser also attended the Geneva WTO parliamentary meeting, which was jointly organized by the IPU and the European Parliament, and held on February 17 and 18. Five hundred representatives of 76 Parliaments were in attendance, and in a final declaration, they supported further trade liberalization within an equitable rules-based trading system, in addition to supporting the need for the WTO to have a parliamentary dimension, and efforts

to enhance the transparency of WTO activities. On the other hand, the parliamentarians said they had misgivings about a number of developments with respect to some of the specific concerns of developing countries over the liberalization of trade, particularly access to medicines and farming subsidies in developed nations.

Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Parliamentary Assembly held its second Winter Session in Vienna, Austria on February 20-21. Three members of the Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association attended this event. Clifford Lincoln, MP, who serves as the Rapporteur of the Political Affairs and Security Committee, led the delegation. He was accompanied by Senator Jerry Grafstein, Treasurer of the Parliamentary Assembly and Svend Robinson, MP, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions.

In addition to its regular briefings from the OSCE, the Parliamentary Assembly held an emergency debate on Iraq. The Assembly also planned its Annual Session, which will be held in Rotterdam in July 2003. There, parliamentarians will review the role of the OSCE in light of NATO and EU enlargement.

Senate Standings

(April 25, 2003)

Liberal Party	63
Progressive Conservative Party	30
Independent	4
Canadian Alliance	1
Vacant seats	7
Ontario (2), Quebec (1), Prince Edward Island (1), New Brunswick (1), Nova Scotia (1), Alberta (1)	
TOTAL	105

Milestones

Awards

Senator Pierre Claude Nolin was awarded the Order of *La Pléiade* by the Canadian branch of the *Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie* (APF) at a ceremony held in Ottawa on March 27. Senator Nolin, who practiced law prior to his appointment in June of 1993, was presented with the Order's *Chevalier* medal for his professional contributions to numerous Senate Committees as well as his volunteer efforts with several foundations in Montreal.

The *Chevalier* medal is the first of five levels within *La Pléiade*, the Order of the international French-speaking community and cultural dialogue that recognizes individuals who have served APF ideals with distinction. Created in 1967, APF is headquartered in Paris, France.

Passings

The Honourable Richard J. Doyle, who represented the division of North York, Ontario, in the Senate from 1985 to 1998, died in Toronto on April 9, 2003. The funeral was held on April 16.