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THE HONOURABLE NOËL A. KINSELLA
SPEAKER

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THE SENATE

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

The Senate met at 1:30 p.m., the Speaker in the chair.

Prayers.

VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, just before calling for Senators' Statements, I wish to draw your attention to the presentation in the gallery of delegates of the Girls 20 Summit.

On behalf of all honourable senators, welcome to the Senate of Canada. As you can see, you are very welcome. The girls are the guests of the Honourable Senator Frum.

SENATORS' STATEMENTS

BOMBING OF AIR INDIA FLIGHT 182

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

Hon. Mobina S. B. Jaffer: Honourable senators, today marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Air India bombing, an event that is often referred to as the largest mass murder in Canadian history.

In 1985, shortly after the bombing took place, Prime Minister Mulroney called the Indian government and apologized. However, it took 25 years for the Canadian families of the victims to receive a similar apology.

Last week, Justice Major's report on the bombings was released. It was not until a quarter of a century after the bombings took place that it was officially recognized that the Government of Canada had made mistakes and owed an apology.

The events of the bombing were horrific for not only Canada and India, but for the entire world.

The Air India bombing claimed the lives of 329 people, most of whom were Canadian. However, the pain and suffering caused by the tragedy extended to the families whose loved ones were among the casualties.

For 25 years now, the families of these victims have been poorly treated by both our government and its agencies.

These families yearned for justice to be served. These families yearned for the answers to their many questions. These families yearned for compensation. Unfortunately, justice was not served, questions were not answered and compensation was not provided.

As Justice Major so eloquently stated:

The families of the victims of the bombing were poorly treated by their Government. For the longest period of time the Government seemed dedicated to self justification and

denial of fault that led it to cast a blind eye and a deaf ear to the suffering and the needs of the families.

There had been numerous calls by the families for a public inquiry into the event, as they felt unsatisfied with the response that they received at the time. The government, however, consistently refused. The families were left with a sense of frustration and uncertainty.

With the release of the report, one is led to ask why the overall process took so long. Why did it take a quarter of a century for us to get to where we are today?

Justice Major advanced the following theory:

... the callous attitude by the Government of Canada to the families of the victims might lead them to wonder whether a similar response would have been forthcoming had the overwhelming majority of the victims of the bombing been Canadians who were white.

Honourable senators, after 25 years, the Air India inquiry concluded that the families of the victims deserve an apology and compensation. Prime Minister Harper will issue an apology today, but when will our government provide these families with the compensation to which they are entitled?

I am aware that this will not happen overnight. However, it is crucial that we establish a timeline to ensure that these families are not forced to wait a long time for compensation.

Honourable senators, these individuals have suffered for two and a half decades. Let us finally dry their tears.

ATLANTIC REGIONAL ELECTRICITY ACTION PLAN

Hon. Fred J. Dickson: Honourable senators, I rise in this chamber as an Atlantic Canadian to encourage timely discussion to address regional electricity opportunities such as renewable energy options and challenges, including electricity transmission both internationally and interprovincially, with the goal being the development of an Atlantic regional electricity action plan by and for Atlantic Canadians.

This regional initiative would build on the agreement and work of the Council of Atlantic Premiers to develop and implement a regional electricity approach, taking into consideration clean and renewable energy technologies and transmission infrastructure and methods for competing in electricity export markets.

The need for a regional approach to energy and electricity issues has been for many decades on the Atlantic public policy agenda and has been the subject of many learned papers and conferences. However, from a regional perspective, up till recently, progress has been slow, to say the least.

The consensus some 30 years ago of those participating in a major conference on energy options for Atlantic Canada was that the four Atlantic provinces must develop a regional strategy compatible with a national plan and then they must realistically

plan for their own energy needs. This conference was held under the leadership of the Honourable Ron Barkhouse, Minister of Mines and Energy for Nova Scotia.

The present timing for developing a regional electricity plan is unique because of the actions taken by the federal government, including the announcement by the Honourable Peter MacKay and the Honourable Lisa Raitt of up to a \$4 million investment in the Atlantic energy gateway initiative to support the development of renewable energy resources in Atlantic Canada and the accessibility of export markets. The Standing Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources is authorized to examine and report on the current state and future of Canada's energy sector, which includes many matters similar to the opportunities and challenges identified by the Atlantic premiers.

The committee of which I am a member is to submit its final report no later than June 30, 2011. The federal round table discussion on renewable energy was convened in November 2009. Among the significant policy suggestions made by the round table was the need for a national energy strategy to manage the shift from the age of carbon to the age of renewables. Opportunities identified by the round table included the huge untapped potential for green energy and renewable resources, including wind, hydro and tidal power, which we have in abundance in Atlantic Canada, as well as solar energy.

No discussion of renewable energy from an Atlantic perspective would be complete without focusing on the undeveloped hydro potential of the Lower Churchill in Newfoundland and Labrador and the tidal potential of the Bay of Fundy in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. The two installations of the Lower Churchill at Gull Island and Muskrat Falls will have a combined capacity of over 2,800 megawatts.

• (1340)

Newfoundland and Labrador's direct transmission access, like that of Nova Scotia, is limited to export markets. Two routes are

being investigated and pursued for the Lower Churchill: an overland route through Quebec using Hydro Quebec's open access tariff and, after a process of some four years, the Régie de l'énergie of Quebec turned down the application; and a subsea route from the island into the Maritimes, which would bring power to Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, P.E.I and U.S. markets.

Honourable senators, in stressing the need for an Atlantic regional electricity action plan, I borrow the quote that Premier Williams used in his speech before the Canadian Club in Ottawa on June 9, 2010, of Sir Winston Churchill, who once said: "If we are together, nothing is impossible; if we are divided, all will fail."

FIRST NATIONS UNIVERSITY OF CANADA

Hon. Sandra Lovelace Nicholas: Honourable senators, I attended the annual spring graduation ceremony of the First Nations University of Canada in Regina this month. It was a proud moment for my people and my community, the Tobique First Nation of New Brunswick. I was there to attend the graduation of a young woman, Sabrina Bear, a member of my community, who —

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, the sitting is suspended.

(The sitting of the Senate was suspended because of an earthquake.)

(Pursuant to the order adopted by the Senate on April 15, 2010, the Senate was adjourned at 4 p.m. and the mace was duly removed in the presence of the Speaker, the Clerk and the Table Officers.)

(The Senate adjourned.)

THE SENATE OF CANADA

PROGRESS OF LEGISLATION

*(indicates the status of a bill by showing the date on which each stage has been **completed**)*

(3rd Session, 40th Parliament)

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

*(*Where royal assent is signified by written declaration, the Act is deemed to be assented to on the day on which the two Houses of Parliament have been notified of the declaration.)*

GOVERNMENT BILLS (SENATE)

No.	Title	1 st	2 nd	Committee	Report	Amend	3 rd	R.A.	Chap.
S-2	An Act to amend the Criminal Code and other Acts	10/03/17	10/03/29	Legal and Constitutional Affairs	10/05/06	0	10/05/11		
S-3	An Act to implement conventions and protocols concluded between Canada and Colombia, Greece and Turkey for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income	10/03/23	10/03/31	Banking, Trade and Commerce	10/04/29	0	10/05/04		
S-4	An Act respecting family homes situated on First Nation reserves and matrimonial interests or rights in or to structures and lands situated on those reserves	10/03/31	10/05/05	Human Rights	10/06/15	9			
S-5	An Act to amend the Motor Vehicle Safety Act and the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999	10/04/14	10/05/12	Transport and Communications	10/06/03	0	10/06/08		
S-6	An Act to amend the Criminal Code and another Act	10/04/20	10/05/05	Legal and Constitutional Affairs					
S-7	An Act to deter terrorism and to amend the State Immunity Act	10/04/21	10/06/17	Special on Anti-terrorism					
S-8	An Act respecting the selection of senators	10/04/27							
S-9	An Act to amend the Criminal Code (auto theft and trafficking in property obtained by crime)	10/05/04	10/05/26	Legal and Constitutional Affairs	10/06/03	0	10/06/08		
S-10	An Act to amend the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act and to make related and consequential amendments to other Acts	10/05/05							
S-11	An Act respecting the safety of drinking water on first nation lands	10/05/26							

**GOVERNMENT BILLS
(HOUSE OF COMMONS)**

No.	Title	1 st	2 nd	Committee	Report	Amend	3 rd	R.A.	Chap.
C-2	An Act to implement the Free Trade Agreement between Canada and the Republic of Colombia, the Agreement on the Environment between Canada and the Republic of Colombia and the Agreement on Labour Cooperation between Canada and the Republic of Colombia	10/06/15	10/06/16	Foreign Affairs and International Trade	10/06/17	0	10/06/21		
C-6	An Act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the federal public administration for the financial year ending March 31, 2010 (<i>Appropriation Act No. 5, 2009-2010</i>)	10/03/24	10/03/29	—	—	—	10/03/30	10/03/31	1/10
C-7	An Act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the federal public administration for the financial year ending March 31, 2011 (<i>Appropriation Act No. 1, 2010-2011</i>)	10/03/24	10/03/29	—	—	—	10/03/30	10/03/31	2/10
C-9	An Act to implement certain provisions of the budget tabled in Parliament on March 4, 2010 and other measures	10/06/08	10/06/10	National Finance					
C-11	An Act to amend the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act and the Federal Courts Act	10/06/15	10/06/17	Social Affairs, Science and Technology					
C-13	An Act to amend the Employment Insurance Act	10/06/17	10/06/21	Social Affairs, Science and Technology					
C-23A	An Act to amend the Criminal Records Act	10/06/17	10/06/21	Legal and Constitutional Affairs					
C-24	An Act to amend the First Nations Commercial and Industrial Development Act and another Act in consequence thereof	10/06/15	10/06/17	Aboriginal Peoples	10/06/22	0			
C-34	An Act to amend the Museums Act and to make consequential amendments to other Acts	10/06/15	10/06/17	Social Affairs, Science and Technology	10/06/22	0			
C-40	An Act to establish National Seniors Day	10/06/17							
C-44	An Act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the federal public administration for the financial year ending March 31, 2011 (<i>Appropriation Act No. 2, 2010-11</i>)	10/06/21							
C-45	An Act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the federal public administration for the financial year ending March 31, 2011 (<i>Appropriation Act No. 3, 2010-11</i>)	10/06/21							

COMMONS PUBLIC BILLS

No.	Title	1 st	2 nd	Committee	Report	Amend	3 rd	R.A.	Chap.
C-232	An Act to amend the Supreme Court Act (understanding the official languages)	10/04/13							
C-268	An Act to amend the Criminal Code (minimum sentence for offences involving trafficking of persons under the age of eighteen years)	10/03/04	10/04/21	Social Affairs, Science and Technology	10/06/03	0	10/06/17		
C-288	An Act to amend the Income Tax Act (tax credit for new graduates working in designated regions)	10/05/06							
C-302	An Act to recognize the injustice that was done to persons of Italian origin through their "enemy alien" designation and internment during the Second World War, and to provide for restitution and promote education on Italian-Canadian history	10/04/29							
C-311	An Act to ensure Canada assumes its responsibilities in preventing dangerous climate change	10/05/06							
C-464	An Act to amend the Criminal Code (justification for detention in custody)	10/03/23	10/06/22	Legal and Constitutional Affairs					
C-475	An Act to amend the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (methamphetamine and ecstasy)	10/06/10							

SENATE PUBLIC BILLS

No.	Title	1 st	2 nd	Committee	Report	Amend	3 rd	R.A.	Chap.
S-201	An Act to amend the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions Act (credit and debit cards) (Sen. Ringuette)	10/03/04	10/03/30	Banking, Trade and Commerce					
S-202	An Act to amend the Canadian Payments Act (debit card payment systems) (Sen. Ringuette)	10/03/04	10/04/20	Banking, Trade and Commerce					
S-203	An Act respecting a National Philanthropy Day (Sen. Mercer)	10/03/04	10/04/29	Social Affairs, Science and Technology	10/06/08	2	10/06/10		
S-204	An Act to amend the Criminal Code (protection of children) (Sen. Hervieux-Payette, P.C.)	10/03/09							
S-205	An Act to provide the means to rationalize the governance of Canadian businesses during the period of national emergency resulting from the global financial crisis that is undermining Canada's economic stability (Sen. Hervieux-Payette, P.C.)	10/03/09							
S-206	An Act to establish gender parity on the board of directors of certain corporations, financial institutions and parent Crown corporations (Sen. Hervieux-Payette, P.C.)	10/03/09	10/05/13	Banking, Trade and Commerce					

No.	Title	1 st	2 nd	Committee	Report	Amend	3 rd	R.A.	Chap.
S-207	An Act to amend the Fisheries Act (commercial seal fishing) (Sen. Harb)	10/03/09							
S-208	An Act to amend the Conflict of Interest Act (gifts) (Sen. Day)	10/03/09							
S-209	An Act respecting a national day of service to honour the courage and sacrifice of Canadians in the face of terrorism, particularly the events of September 11, 2001 (Sen. Wallin)	10/03/09							
S-210	An Act to amend the Federal Sustainable Development Act and the Auditor General Act (involvement of Parliament) (Sen. Banks)	10/03/09	10/03/18	Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources	10/04/22	0	10/04/27		
S-211	An Act respecting World Autism Awareness Day (Sen. Munson)	10/03/10	10/04/20	Social Affairs, Science and Technology	10/06/08	4			
S-212	An Act to amend the Excise Tax Act (tax relief for Nunavik) (Sen. Watt)	10/03/10	10/03/31	National Finance					
S-213	An Act to amend the International Boundary Waters Treaty Act (bulk water removal) (Sen. Murray, P.C.)	10/03/23	Bill withdrawn 10/05/27						
S-214	An Act to amend the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act and other Acts (unfunded pension plan liabilities) (Sen. Ringuette)	10/03/24	10/06/10	Banking, Trade and Commerce					
S-215	An Act to amend the Criminal Code (suicide bombings) (Sen. Frum)	10/03/24	10/03/31	Legal and Constitutional Affairs	10/05/06	0	10/05/11		
S-216	An Act to amend the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act and the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act in order to protect beneficiaries of long term disability benefits plans (Sen. Eggleton, P.C.)	10/03/25	10/06/17	Banking, Trade and Commerce					
S-217	An Act to establish and maintain a national registry of medical devices (Sen. Harb)	10/04/14	10/06/15	Social Affairs, Science and Technology					
S-218	An Act respecting Canada-Russia Friendship Day (Sen. Stollery)	10/05/12							
S-219	An Act to amend the Canada Post Corporation Act (rural postal services and the Canada Post Ombudsman) (Sen. Peterson)	10/06/01							
S-220	An Act to amend the Official Languages Act (communications with and services to the public) (Sen. Chaput)	10/06/09							
S-221	An Act to amend the Income Tax Act (carbon offset tax credit) (Sen. Mitchell)	10/06/10							
S-222	An Act respecting a Tartan Day (Sen. Wallace)	10/06/22							

PRIVATE BILLS

No.	Title	1st	2nd	Committee	Report	Amend	3rd	R.A.	Chap.

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