

# Table of Contents

<u>Progress is being made in Afghanistan: Minister; On whirlwind visit with troops, Foreign Minister says Kandahar more secure today than it was a year ago.....</u>	1
<u>Names added to cenotaph.....</u>	4
<u>Foreign Affairs minister admits Afghanistan dangerous.....</u>	5
<u>Letters   Think when wearing yellow ribbons.....</u>	8
<u>PAS QUESTION D'ALLER MANGER DE LA PIZZA.....</u>	12
<u>MIEUX VAUT ÊTRE PARANOÏAQUE SUR LA ROUTE AVEC LE GROUPEMENT TACTIQUE DANS LA PROVINCE DE PANJWAYI.....</u>	13
<u>"LA ROUTE, C'EST UN COUP DE DÉ" – LE BOMBARDIER–CHEF FRANCIS LEBLANC.....</u>	15
<u>LU SUR LE BLOGUE DE FABRICE DE PIERREBOURG.....</u>	17
<u>" CE QU'ILS EN PENSENT ... ".....</u>	18
<u>IL ATTEINT KABOUL DENIS CODERRE.....</u>	20
<u>DES TONNES D'HÉROÏNE ET DE HASCHISCH SAISIES.....</u>	21
<u>25 MILLIONS EN AIDE ALIMENTAIRE POUR DONNER UN COUP DE MAINS AUX AFGHANS.....</u>	22
<u>CE BATEAU CONTINUERA À POLLUER 3 MOIS APRÈS L'ENQUÊTE DU JOURNAL.....</u>	24
<u>Celtic fun meets funk; Metis fiddler pays tribute to native roots; Shooglenifty takes audience through uncharted music territory.....</u>	25
<u>Mail star.....</u>	27
<u>WORLD.....</u>	28
<u>PROVINCE.....</u>	29
<u>Crews honoured: "These guys are on eternal patrol".....</u>	30
<u>Head injuries' hidden costs; Link probed between being knocked out, post-traumatic stress woes.....</u>	31
<u>Knock off the posturing, we don't need an election.....</u>	33
<u>Coderre to deliver 'message of solidarity to the troops'.....</u>	35

# Table of Contents

<u>Hillier's position stronger after rumour of demise.....</u>	36
<u>Improvement in Afghanistan; Foreign affairs minister says he's proud of work of Canadian soldiers.....</u>	38
<u>Foreign Service faces financial, morale crisis; feels muzzled.....</u>	40
<u>4 police officers, 4 Taliban killed in latest Afghan violence.....</u>	43
<u>Free Afghan mission debate from politics, focus on Afghans, activists say.....</u>	44
<u>Foreign Affairs Minister Bernier says Canadians have made Afghans more secure.....</u>	47
<u>1st Writethru The Canadian Press World News Budget – Sunday, Oct. 7.....</u>	49
<u>The Canadian Press News Budget, Sunday, Oct. 7, 2007.....</u>	50
<u>Two dead soldiers, one airman added to memorial in moving N.S. ceremony.....</u>	53
<u>INDEX:Politics, International.....</u>	54
<u>Top news stories for Sunday, Oct. 7.....</u>	55
<u>BC–Cda–News–Digest.....</u>	56
<u>Liberal defence critic to arrive in Kandahar as Tory ministers head home.....</u>	59
<u>INDEX:International, Politics.....</u>	61
<u>INDEX:International, Politics.....</u>	62
<u>--Eleventh NewsWatch--.....</u>	63
<u>CORRECTION–Afghan–Cda–Food.....</u>	65
<u>Prep–Today in History.....</u>	66
<u>--Seventh NewsWatch--.....</u>	69
<u>--Twelfth NewsWatch--.....</u>	71
<u>Afghan Violence.....</u>	73
<u>TOR OUT YYY.....</u>	74
<u>INDEX:Politics, International.....</u>	76

# Table of Contents

<u>--Eighth NewsWatch--</u> .....	77
<u>--Third NewsWatch--</u> .....	79
<u>INDEX:International, Politics</u> .....	81
<u>--Tenth NewsWatch--</u> .....	82
<u>Students: Step up and vote</u> .....	84
<u>Iraq war fuelling Al Qaeda, study says</u> .....	86
<u>A mission of baby steps; Diplomats and military commanders understand clearly Afghanistan is a nation that won't be rushed</u> .....	87
<u>Afghanistan in a 'difficult situation'; Bernier acknowledges danger on visit but says 'we have improvement'</u> .....	90
<u>Violence down thanks to troops, minister says</u> .....	92
<u>NATO alliance, effectiveness at risk, commander warns</u> .....	93
<u>Letters to the Editor Column</u> .....	95
<u>Canuck troops praised</u> .....	98
<u>Canuck troops praised</u> .....	99
<u>Canuck troops praised</u> .....	100
<u>Afghans more secure: Bernier The Foreign Affairs minister was on a whirlwind tour of Afghanistan</u> .....	101
<u>Grit Defence critic due in Kandahar</u> .....	103
<u>Bernier sees Afghan progress</u> .....	104
<u>Canuck troops praised</u> .....	105
<u>Bernier wraps up tour Minister says Canadians have made Afghans more secure</u> .....	106
<u>Report says war on terror fuelling al Qaida</u> .....	107
<u>Liberal defence critic visits Kandahar WAR IN AFGHANISTAN</u> .....	108
<u>Rim Shot</u> .....	109

# Table of Contents

<u>Playing for her rights; Girls banned from sports in some countries, Olympian says.....</u>	111
<u>Bernier, Oda treat troops with whirlwind Thanksgiving visit; Ministers spend 36 hours at Kandahar Airfield.....</u>	113
<u>THE AFGHAN MISSION Upbeat Bernier contradicts UN reports Foreign Affairs Minister declares Kandahar more secure despite statistics that say situation is worsening.....</u>	115
<u>Clashes claim 58 in Pakistani tribal areas.....</u>	117
<u>Afghan trip aimed at voters; Foreign affairs minister proud of role in Mideast.....</u>	118
<u>FOREIGN AFFAIRS: DISSENSION IN THE RANKS Diplomats face communications crackdown While Harper asks Canada to increase profile, Foreign Affairs department suffers from constant challenges from PMO, employees say.....</u>	119
<u>Good news from the front.....</u>	121
<u>ROBERT BATES, 96: MOUNTAINEER He chronicled amazing climbs as part of the 'Harvard Five' He escaped close calls from the Yukon to K2, writing books and inspiring others along the way.....</u>	122
<u>PAKISTAN Election? Military will keep power, no matter what Since Pakistan's independence, the army has grabbed hold of every corner of life. It's not about to let go, Marcus Gee writes.....</u>	125
<u>DOZENS DIE IN ARMY ATTACKS ON MILITANTS.....</u>	129
<u>Symphony No. 2 for night No. 1.....</u>	131
<u>Free trade has been vindicated; Twenty years ago the doomsday prophets claimed that free trade would make Canada the 51st state -- I think we can now call it a success.....</u>	134
<u>War on terror a 'disaster': think-tank; U.S. policies have backfired, fighting Iran will only add to mistakes, report says.....</u>	136
<u>War on terror a 'disaster': think-tank; U.S. policies have backfired, fighting Iran will only add to mistakes, report says.....</u>	138
<u>'I can tell you, it is more secure'; Bernier works on selling the mission to voters.....</u>	140
<u>Afghanistan to get \$25M in food aid; Canadian MPs announce contribution to UN program.....</u>	142

# Progress is being made in Afghanistan: Minister; On whirlwind visit with troops, Foreign Minister says Kandahar more secure today than it was a year ago

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Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier wrapped up a whirlwind tour of Afghanistan yesterday by conceding that the country is still a dangerous place.

But Bernier insisted progress has been made and said he's proud of the work of Canadian soldiers in the central Asian country.

"It's difficult. Yes, I will admit it," Bernier told reporters on the tarmac at Kandahar Airfield just before he and International Co-operation Minister Bev Oda boarded their flight home.

"It's a difficult situation but we have improvement because our civilian humanitarian workers are able to go out there and do their work," he said.

There was no mistaking the enthusiasm of Bernier and Oda on the weekend as they took their first steps on the dusty ground of the country that will dominate their portfolios. Both were recently appointed to their jobs in a cabinet shuffle by Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Bernier moved from one military machine to another during his tour yesterday, clapping his hands together like a kid in a candy store.

"So, what do you have here?" Bernier asked as he moved from a Nyala RG-31 with a remote control gun to a LAV-3 armoured vehicle.

Bernier and Oda both donned flack vests and helmets, took rides aboard an immense twin-rotor Chinook helicopter and quizzed soldiers about the workings of the military and its machines.

But outside the small talk, the ministers stuck to prepared statements and left tough questions to high-level civil servants.

The visit included about a dozen carefully staged photo-opportunities, a couple of funding announcements and just a handful of questions about affairs of state.

It wasn't until the pair were leaving, faced with a boycott of another photo-op, that Bernier agreed to answer questions from reporters.

Progress is being made in Afghanistan: Minister; On whirlwind visit with troops, Foreign Minister says Kandahar

While he said the situation has improved, Bernier, who visited two of Canada's forward operating bases outside Kandahar Airfield, said the presence of Canadian soldiers is still needed.

"The territory is more secure today here in Kandahar than it was a year ago, " he said.

Last year there were many attacks, he added.

"Those attacks have diminished," Bernier said. "It's still difficult. I saw that it's still difficult. But the situation has greatly improved."

A recent review by the UN Department of Safety and Security described the situation in Kandahar as "volatile."

Across the country, 2007 has been the bloodiest year since the Taliban was ousted from power in a U.S. invasion six years ago.

So far this year, there have been an average of 525 violent incidents a month, compared with 425 last year.

Oda made two announcements on the trip. She reconfirmed Canada's commitment to the World Food Program, pledging \$25 million to help some 400,000 people in Kandahar.

She also pledged \$3 million over three years to finance an archeological dig in Kabul where an ancient market neighbourhood is being rebuilt.

The ministers shook hands and made small talk with troops on several occasions, including during the now mandatory stop at the Tim Hortons at Kandahar Airfield.

Later, Bernier borrowed from an assassinated U.S. president to rally soldiers of the Provincial Reconstruction Team in downtown Kandahar.

"John F. Kennedy said to the Americans: 'Don't ask what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country,'" Bernier said.

"Now, today, I'm asking Canadians, 'Don't ask the Afghan government what it can do for us in Canada, but what we Canadians can do for the Afghan people.'"

His words echoed a recent statement by Afghan President Hamid Karzai, who gave another of a recent series of high-profile appeals for support for the mission.

On one of the final stops of the tour, Bernier hauled out a crate of gooey Joe Louis cakes and handed them to troops holding down Patrol Base Wilson, about 40 kilometres west of Kandahar city. "We've got a surprise for you!" Bernier said, wishing the soldiers a happy Thanksgiving as he handed out the cakes, which are manufactured in Bernier's hometown of Beauce, south of Quebec City.

Five soldiers who shared the cakes nearby were asked what the ministerial visit meant to them.

Four soldiers shrugged, but the fifth said it was important.

"At least they're letting us know they know we're here," said Cpl. Michel Turcotte a member of the Royal 22nd Regiment from Mont Laurier, Que.

Canada has some 2,300 soldiers based in southern Afghanistan. A total of 71 have died since Canada began its

Progress is being made in Afghanistan: Minister; On whirlwind visit with troops, Foreign Minister says Kandahar

Afghan mission in 2002.

# Names added to cenotaph

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Two fallen soldiers and an U.S. marine pilot had their names added to a war memorial in Tatamagouche during a quiet ceremony yesterday.

All three men had strong ties to the small Nova Scotia community of about 1, 000 people.

Pte. Nathan Smith, a Canadian soldier killed in 2002 in Afghanistan when an American jet mistakenly bombed his unit; Sgt. Darcy Tedford, a soldier killed by an ambush last year in Afghanistan; and Capt. Derrick Nichols, a U.S. marine pilot who died in a training exercise in 2004, had their names added to the local cenotaph.

Nichols grew up in Tatamagouche and attended school in the area.



# Foreign Affairs minister admits Afghanistan dangerous

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A total of 71 have died since Canada began its Afghan mission in 2002.

# Letters | Think when wearing yellow ribbons

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I am writing in response to the hostility directed at the Fredericton Peace Coalition following the Daily Gleaner article about the anti-yellow ribbon campaign.

As a lifelong New-Brunswick resident, I was sad to witness such behaviour.

First, some comments left on the coalition's website and below the online Daily Gleaner article were immature, misinformed, threatening and may I even add, cowardly. It is very easy to write harsh words when hiding behind a computer screen.

Most were personally attacking Glynn who was courageously putting into practice a right that is the foundation of our democratic country: free speech.

The other major reason I was so disappointed with my fellow New-Brunswickers is their failure to actually support our troops. As most people in the peace movement, I support the troops, but I do not support the mission.

The war on terror has not made us, the Afghanis or the Iraqis any safer and has done nothing but cause death and destruction.

That is why, to support our beloved young men and women, we need to bring them home and not merely display a yellow ribbon. It is easy for businesses or individuals to proudly display their ribbons without putting any more effort into assuring a safe and promising future for our troops.

The yellow ribbon campaign was started by the Department of Defence to spread approval for the war. The slogan over-simplifies the issue and shifts the focus away from the government's foreign policy.

Support our troops implies we should support our soldiers in Afghanistan without questioning the mission.

I realize many people displaying the slogan on their shirts, homes and cars are not necessarily doing so to rally support for the war, but I would encourage each and every one to recognize the reason for the ribbons and reconsider their position.

I applaud Glynn, the Fredericton Peace Coalition and everyone in the peace movement in Canada and the U.S. for putting so much of their time and effort into educating themselves and the public about the war in order to finally end it after so many devastating years.

The peace movement has done nothing but grow and will continue to do so until the war ends.

Hopefully, Canadians will soon realize what most Americans, including a large number of Iraq veterans, have realized already: the war on terror is wrong.

We owe this to our troops, as well as to the innocent civilians in the Middle East.

Marie–Christine Allard

Dalhousie, N.B.

Military not guinea pigs

I guess Canadian military people are seen as no more than guinea pigs for the U.S. government.

Why was permission given to spray Agent Orange and other herbicides on Canadian soil? Who gave that permission and have they been held accountable?

Anyone who was poisoned by this chemical should be compensated, including medical and pension benefits. Why are Dow Chemical and Monsanto not required to pay compensation?

Taxpayers are again expected to pay for something they didn't create, and giant corporations get off scott free.

There is no question the debilitating diseases caused by this poison are present in our people in Gagetown. It is a slap in the face to these people to not support them for the rest of their pain-filled lives.

Morality and ethics do not apply to our veterans and their families? We support our troops as long as they don't expect to be supported financially seems to be the government message.

It is amazing people still choose to serve in the military when they know they are on their own if they are injured. This incident is not the only example of our neglect. We should hang our heads in shame.

Maybe on Remembrance Day we should remember how our government and our corporations really view those who are brave enough to serve their country.

Rebecca Gingrich

Princeton, Ont.

Soldiers need our support

I am writing in response to the article in the Sept. 27 Daily Gleaner entitled Peace group wants yellow ribbons removed.

While I agree with the right to freedom of speech, I think time should be taken to reflect on how and why we have these rights today. Tracy Glynn's campaign, while using the rights gained by the sacrifices made by our men and women in the military, completely disregards the path taken to live the lifestyle we have all become so accustomed to and take for granted.

It is one thing to voice your opinion on a matter and speak out, but it is quite another when you are trying to influence others. The fact that Glynn admits to not knowing exactly what is going on in Afghanistan is a true testament of how ignorant some people can be.

Businesses and community members that choose to wear or post yellow ribbons, have done so voluntarily.

The yellow ribbon does not show support for the war; it shows support for past and present military personnel who have sacrificed so much so that we can continue living the way we do.

I agree with Glynn that we should think before we put on a yellow ribbon or a red shirt. We should think about all the men and women who have sacrificed without question. The very least that we can do is give them our support.

Jennifer Colpitts

Fredericton

Thank you for fun day coverage

Thanks to the Daily Gleaner and writer Lori Gallagher, for the fantastic article promoting Family Fun Day and to David Smith for the photo.

There was a great turn out, and it was a great day.

Of course it's easy to plan such an event if you have committee members such as the following– Mary Astle, Mitch Claybourn, Renee Cool, Susan Dickeson, Nancy Glendenning–Guitard, Ljiljana Kalaba, Haruka Kudo, Amy Tanner, Joanne Voye Page, and Sara Zuidhof.

This event would not have been possible without the support and time of a lot of local individuals for entertainment, activities and displays. If you weren't able to take it in this year, mark it in your calendar for 2008. It's always the Sunday before Thanksgiving Sunday.

Rhonda Broad

Fredericton

Bush cutting not adequate

I read the letter to the editor by Lorne D. Amos of Green Rapids N.B. in the Sept. 8 Daily Gleaner.

The same type of so-called bush cutter was used in our area last year. Amos is right. It was the poorest excuse of clearing bushes I have seen, big stubs, some two feet long, sticking up all over the place.

Plus it didn't reach far enough away from shoulder.

The idea of hiring people with thinning saws is excellent. It has been brought up to the local road maintenance supervisors in our area.

The excuses given for not doing this are include it's not in the budget and the union will cry bloody murder about taking work away from people already working on road maintenance crews.

In another year, our road will be down to one lane in places with white birch big enough to cut for firewood and maple and oak hanging over it.

Watch out if you cut them on your own. You need a stumpage permit. The shoulder and road belong to the government.

Wayne Kennedy

Cumberland Bay, N.B.

# PAS QUESTION D'ALLER MANGER DE LA PIZZA

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**COLUMN:** Le Journal en Afghanistan

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La peur est tellement présente que beaucoup de militaires affectés au poste avancé de Sperwan Ghar refusent d'aller passer deux jours de repos dans la confortable base de Kandahar.

C'est ce qu'ils ont affirmé au représentant du Journal.

Même le sergent Daniel Laplante, un des commandants du détachement, a mis son veto.

" Prendre la route pour un motif opérationnel, ok, mais pour aller manger de la pizza, non. Je m'y suis opposé. Je ne me sens pas à l'aise de dire à la femme d'un chum qu'il est mort en allant manger de la pizza. "

Plus cher que de l'argent

Christian Duchesne, mort le 22 août, était un ami de Daniel Laplante.

Ce dernier regrette que le Canada n'ait pas pu acquérir assez de Husky, ces véhicules neutraliseurs de mines, pour sécuriser chaque convoi.

" Nos vies valent plus cher que de l'argent ", lâche-t-il.



# MIEUX VAUT ÊTRE PARANOÏAQUE SUR LA ROUTE AVEC LE GROUPEMENT TACTIQUE DANS LA PROVINCE DE PANJWAYI

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**ILLUSTRATION:** 1. Photos Le Journal Le caporal–chef Patrick Potvin énumère les menaces qui planent sur l'itinéraire emprunté. Ci-dessous, le convoi s'est arrêté au milieu des champs de marijuana pour laisser le temps aux soldats de descendre sur le chemin pour chercher des explosifs éventuels. 2. Photos Le Journal

**BYLINE:** FABRICE DE PIERREBOURG LE JOURNAL DE MONTRÉAL

**DATELINE:** SPERWAN GHAR

**COLUMN:** Le Journal en Afghanistan

**WORD COUNT:** 438

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SPERWAN GHAR (Afghanistan) — En Afghanistan, la mort peut se terrer sous chaque centimètre de chemin. Pour espérer se rendre vivant à destination, mieux vaut être paranoïaque et perpétuellement à l'affût.

" Surveille le toit des bâtisses pour les embuscades. " " Attention, c'est très serré ici, surveille le véhicule à droite. " " Attention les boys, on est rendu dans le coin des DEI (dispositifs explosifs improvisés). Stop! On va checker la route. "

Depuis sa tourelle exiguë du LAV, un gros véhicule blindé, le major Warren Smith a les yeux partout.

Il doit tout voir, tout anticiper.

Pas de routine

Aucun déplacement n'est routinier pour les soldats canadiens. La seule routine tolérée, c'est celle des mesures de sécurité, comme le Journal a pu le constater lors de deux jours de " promenade " avec le groupement tactique dans la province de Panjwayi. Un coin chaud, le bastion historique des talibans.

Milieu d'après-midi. Le convoi qui doit se rendre à Ma'sum Gahr puis à Sperwan Ghar est stationné dans la cour du groupement tactique de Kandahar. L'heure est encore à la détente parmi les équipages, qui cherchent le moindre coin d'ombre

Certains grillent une cigarette, d'autres vérifient leur équipement. Un soldat rêve déjà à son futur voyage en Thaïlande.

Mines, embuscades et kamikazes

Une demi-heure plus tard, tous les hommes sont rassemblés en silence pour le briefing d'avant-départ autour du caporal– chef Patrick Potvin.

MIEUX VAUT ÊTRE PARANOÏAQUE SUR LA ROUTE AVEC LE GROUPEMENT TACTIQUE DANS LA PROVINCE DE PANJWAYI

Papier en main, le sous-officier détaille le menu des réjouissances à venir. Hormis un récent attentat contre un véhicule de la police afghane (voir autre texte), il énumère les endroits où l'on suspecte la présence de mines, ceux où l'on vient d'en trouver, les sites d'embuscades notoires.

Le sergent Seigny prend le relais pour les consignes en cas d'attaque directe ou d'attentat. Consignes que nous reproduisons partiellement pour des raisons évidentes de sécurité :

" Si le véhicule [...] est embusqué, on va engager l'ennemi. Si nous avons une attaque suicide, on [...] et si le véhicule est encore capable de bouger, on [...] "

Un quart d'heure plus tard, le convoi lourdement armé prend la route. Direction Kandahar, puis l'ouest de la province.

Attention permanente

Au volant, le bombardier Carl Jason Dunphy. Dans la tourelle, derrière une mitrailleuse calibre 25 mm, le canonnier Jimmy Leszczynski. À l'arrière, têtes hors de l'habitacle, fusil C7 en main, le bombardier Eric Rochefort et le sergent Eddy Huddon.

" Je regarde chaque centimètre devant moi, expliquera plus tard le bombardier Dumphy. À aucun prix il ne faut relâcher l'attention. "

Jimmy en est à son 10<sup>e</sup> trajet. Sa job est de protéger le véhicule avec son arme. Il y a deux semaines, le véhicule devant lui a sauté sur un DEI:

" J'ai vu la poussière lever. Puis, il y a eu l'onde de choc. La pression est tellement forte. " Le véhicule s'est retrouvé hors d'usage mais personne n'a été blessé.

" On sait que ça achève ces histoires-là, avec l'hiver qui s'en vient. "

La sécurité a un prix

Tout au long du trajet, chaque voiture, chaque piéton, chaque situation anodine chez nous en Occident sera observée, analysée dans ses moindres détails.

Chaque portion de route suspecte est sondée centimètre par centimètre. Le prix de la sécurité.

Notre retour vers Kandahar le lendemain soir se passera sans encombres, à part quelques cailloux lancés par des enfants.

fdepierrebourg@journalmtl.com

\* \* \*

JIMMY LESZCZYNSKI

# "LA ROUTE, C'EST UN COUP DE DÉS" – LE BOMBARDIER–CHEF FRANCIS LEBLANC

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**SOURCETAG:** 0710080118

**PUBLICATION:** Le Journal de Montréal

**DATE:** 2007.10.08

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** Nouvelles

**PAGE:** 4

**ILLUSTRATION:** 1. Photos Le Journal L'adjudant–maître Marc Gabanna n'a pas peur de mourir, mais plutôt de rester handicapé.

**BYLINE:** FABRICE DE PIERREBOURG JOURNAL DE MONTRÉAL

**DATELINE:** SPERWAN GHAR

**COLUMN:** Le Journal en Afghanistan

**WORD COUNT:** 427

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La première fois qu'ils sortent, les soldats ont des papillons dans l'estomac

Lorsque la lourde porte de l'imposant LAV s'est refermée, un silence édifiant a envahi la cabine. Puis, il y a eu le claquement des chargeurs que les trois soldats à mes côtés venaient d'enclencher dans leur fusil d'assaut. Sans le dire, nous pensions tous à la même chose.

" Bien sûr que tout le monde pense à ça ", reconnaît le colonel Nicolas Eldaoud, commandant l'élément de support national.

" Ça ", c'est l'éventualité de sauter sur une mine ou sur un engin explosif improvisé et d'en mourir, comme ça a été le cas pour plus de la moitié des 71 soldats canadiens morts en Afghanistan.

" La première fois que je suis sorti, mentionne l'adjudant–maître Marc Gabanna, j'ai eu des papillons dans l'estomac. "

" La route, c'est un coup de dés ", croit le bombardier–chef Francis Leblanc, qui conduit un camion chargé de munitions.

Moi aussi, j'ai eu le trac lors de cette première sortie. Faut dire que tout y était pour me mettre mal à l'aise.

Le matin même avant notre départ, une voiture de la police afghane avait sauté dans l'entrée de Kandahar, sur le chemin que nous allions emprunter plus tard.

Puis, il y a eu le briefing, avec toute cette litanie de menaces et de scénarios aussi catastrophiques les uns que les autres.

Bien sûr, le major Warren Smith était venu me rassurer. Me dire de ne pas m'en faire. Que ce briefing était une routine.

Mais il m'avait confié, peu avant, qu'un kamikaze s'était écrasé contre son blindé avec une voiture bourrée d'explosifs lors de sa première sortie.

L'avant gauche de notre propre véhicule portait encore les traces d'une autre attentat– suicide.

Enfin, le canonier Jimmy Leszczynski avait goûté lui aussi aux DEI (dispositifs explosifs improvisés), tout comme l'adjudant– maître Gabanna.

La trousse de premiers soins est là

Peu avant d'embarquer, l'imposant bombardier Éric Rochefort m'avait, d'un ton ferme, donné ces quelques directives:

" La trousse de premiers soins est là, les munitions ici, sous le banc, au cas où on aurait besoin de vous. Restez toujours avec le sergent Hudon. Si la porte s'ouvre, restez dedans, sauf avis contraire. "

Pendant tout le trajet, j'ai eu les yeux fixés sur l'écran vidéo où le paysage défilait. Le haut–parleur crachait les mises en garde du major Smith.

À un moment, notre convoi a stoppé. La porte s'est ouverte et deux soldats sont sortis pour ausculter la route et les bas–côtés.

Assis sur la caisse de munitions, je regardais parfois nerveusement mes pieds. Je me suis même surpris à les soulever. Ma bouche était sèche.

J'ai eu une pensée pour les deux soldats et l'interprète morts ainsi pour que le collègue de Radio–Canada, grièvement blessé le 22 août lorsque leur LAV a sauté sur trois mines antichars empilées les unes sur les autres.

Entre les mains du destin

À l'arrière, Hudon et Rochefort, la tête sortie, fusil à la main, commentaient le paysage. Le seul moment cocasse s'est produit lorsqu'une forte odeur de marijuana a envahi l'habitacle exigu du LAV, entre Ma'sum Ghar et Sperwan Ghar.

Silencieux, le soldat assis à côté de moi a passé la plupart du temps les yeux fermés, la tête couchée sur mon sac à dos. Il somnolait sereinement. Comme s'il remettait son sort entre les mains du destin.

" Il faut accepter jusqu'à un certain point que c'est Inch'Allah (si Dieu le veut), poursuit le colonel Eldaoud. C'est très fataliste ici et nous aussi, on embarque vite làdedans. "

Sur le chemin du retour, le lendemain soir, moi aussi, j'ai fermé les yeux.

# LU SUR LE BLOGUE DE FABRICE DE PIERREBOURG

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**SOURCETAG** 0710080117  
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**DATE:** 2007.10.08  
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**SECTION:** Nouvelles  
**PAGE:** 4  
**BYLINE:** FABRICE DE PIERREBOURG JOURNAL DE MONTRÉAL  
**COLUMN:** Le Journal en Afghanistan  
**WORD COUNT:** 405

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## SANS COMMENTAIRE

Lu sur une affiche d'encouragement envoyée aux militaires par les employés du supermarché Métro de Val-Bélair et fixée au mur de la Maison du Canada dans le camp de Kandahar: "Sacrez-leur une volée une fois pour toutes et ramenezvous icitte. " Petite suggestion à l'attention de l'auteur de cette dédicace expéditive: pourquoi ne viendriez-vous pas ici vous-même leur "sacrer une volée " aux talibans? L'Otan manque de soldats dans la région; toute contribution volontaire est toujours appréciée.

## DEUX ROQUETTES EN GUISE DE BOUGIES D'ANNIVERSAIRE

Mercredi 3 octobre. Aujourd'hui, c'est mon anniversaire. Fêter ça à Kandahar n'est pas commun. Fêter est un bien grand mot, car il n'y a ni pâtisseries ni magasin où acheter une bonne bouteille. [...] Cette journée va d'autant plus rester gravée dans ma mémoire que les talibans ont lancé deux roquettes à une heure d'intervalle alors que la nuit était tombée. J'ai clairement entendu le sifflement de l'obus au-dessus de la tente, ou pas loin en tout cas, suivi d'un bang. Cette fois, j'ai quitté mon ordinateur pour rejoindre le bunker voisin. Tant pis pour mes textes, je finirai demain.

## UN COYOTE SUR LA TABLE ET UN BLACKHAWK

Je suis provisoirement dans Kandahar même. Je ne verrai donc pas le pauvre Denis Coderre en train de frapper à la porte de la base de KAF pour demander l'asile à peine débarqué de Montréal. Le trajet s'est fait en hélicoptère Blackhawk de l'armée américaine. Une vraie machine de guerre, comme on en voit dans les films. Un truc qui fait rêver tous les petits gars, même les plus vieux qui ont gardé une âme d'enfant. Pourquoi un hélicoptère américain? Parce que les Canadiens n'ont pas d'hélicoptères en Afghanistan. Leurs Griffon ne supporteraient pas le choc à mon avis. Donc, il faut solliciter ceux des Américains.

## DE L'ARGENT PAR LES FENÊTRES

Aujourd'hui, en circulant dans la ville de Kandahar, j'ai vu des dizaines de femmes en burka, des mercenaires américains armés jusqu'aux dents, plus terrifiants que les vrais militaires, mais surtout, un truc complètement absurde : une grande roue, genre La Ronde, avec ses petites cabines de toutes les couleurs. Elle est plantée là, immobile et inutile. C'est un cadeau des Japonais. L'intention était louable. Certainement pour faire plaisir aux petits Afghans privés de musique et de cerfs-volants pendant le règne des talibans. Sauf que... sauf que... il n'y a pas d'électricité pour la faire tourner.

# " CE QU'ILS EN PENSENT ... "

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**SOURCETAG** 0710080095

**PUBLICATION:** Le Journal de Montréal

**DATE:** 2007.10.08

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**SECTION:** Nouvelles

**PAGE:** 36

**ILLUSTRATION:** 1. Photos Luc Bélisle "Je ne vois pas pourquoi il est parti, mais je comprends que le gouvernement l'ignore. Je trouve que ce sont des singeries!" – Simon Leblanc 2. Photos Luc Bélisle "Il a bien fait d'aller là-bas, mais le gouvernement devrait le soutenir et l'aider, ça n'a pas de bon sens!" – Wilfrid Saint-Gelais 3. Photos Luc Bélisle "Je ne sais pas si le gouvernement doit l'ignorer, mais la vraie question est : pourquoi il a décidé de partir comme ça?" – Stéphane Brunet 4. Photos Luc Bélisle 5. Photos Luc Bélisle "Je crois que le gouvernement devrait le soutenir, et même qu'il n'aurait pas dû le laisser partir. " – David Parseons 6. Photos Luc Bélisle "Le gouvernement a tort, mais Denis Coderre aussi. Il exagère, c'est dangereux!" – Sébastien Gagnon

**BYLINE:** RIM BOUKHSSIMI JOURNAL DE MONTRÉAL

**WORD COUNT:** 52

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Afghanistan : Est-ce que le gouvernement a raison d'ignorer Denis Coderre ?

"Le gouvernement

devrait être derrière lui malgré tout, la charité n'a

pas de limite. "

– Gérard Bertrand

\* \* \*

La question

Prévoyez-vous

participer aux célébrations entourant le 400e anniversaire de Québec en 2008 ?

RÉSULTAT DU SONDAGE DE VENDREDI

Question : Les pompiers de Montréal

veulent la semaine de deux jours. Devrait-on la leur accorder?

OUI 15 %

NON

85 %

" CE QU'ILS EN PENSENT ... "

NOMBRE DE RÉPONDANTS : 10 347

# IL ATTEINT KABOUL DENIS CODERRE

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**SOURCETAG** 0710080082  
**PUBLICATION:** Le Journal de Montréal  
**DATE:** 2007.10.08  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Nouvelles  
**PAGE:** 26  
**ILLUSTRATION:** 1. Photo d'archives DENIS CODERRE Rendu à Kaboul  
**WORD COUNT:** 136

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Le député et porte-parole libéral en matière de défense, Denis Coderre, a finalement réussi à se rendre à Kaboul, la capitale afghane, hier.

M. Coderre, qui a emprunté un vol des Nations unies en partance du Pakistan où il se trouvait depuis vendredi, dit qu'il a voyagé en toute sécurité.

Déjà, à son arrivée à Kaboul, le député affirme qu'il a rencontré des représentants de la Banque mondiale et d'un organisme indépendant afghan qui s'occupe de développement et d'éducation.

Troupes canadiennes

Denis Coderre entend se rendre à Kandahar, où sont basés les soldats canadiens, dès aujourd'hui, pour rencontrer les troupes canadiennes.

Le député de Bourassa souligne que son périple permettra de paver la voie à son chef Stéphane Dion, qui se rendra en Afghanistan plus tard cet automne.

Denis Coderre estime que le ministre canadien des Affaires étrangères Maxime Bernier, actuellement à Kandahar, aurait avantage à se rendre au Pakistan, comme il l'a fait lui-même, afin de mieux comprendre l'Afghanistan. !@MOTSCLES=DENIS CODERRE



# DES TONNES D'HÉROÏNE ET DE HASCHISCH SAISIES

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**SOURCETAG** 0710080081  
**PUBLICATION:** Le Journal de Montréal  
**DATE:** 2007.10.08  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Nouvelles  
**PAGE:** 26  
**WORD COUNT:** 98

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Les autorités afghanes ont annoncé hier la saisie de quatre tonnes d'héroïne liquide, l'une de leur plus grosses saisies, et d'une tonne de haschisch emballée dans des sachets de levure instantanée.

Les découvertes ont été faites séparément mais dans des provinces frontalières de l'Iran, l'une des principales routes du trafic de drogue de l'Afghanistan qui produit 93% de l'opium mondial, dont provient l'héroïne.

La drogue sous forme liquide a été saisie lors d'un raid samedi dans un laboratoire dans la province sud-ouest de Farah, a annoncé le ministre-adjoint de l'Intérieur, le général Daud Daud, lors d'un point de presse à Kaboul.

# 25 MILLIONS EN AIDE ALIMENTAIRE POUR DONNER UN COUP DE MAINS AUX AFGHANS

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<b>SOURCETAG</b>	0710080080
<b>PUBLICATION:</b>	Le Journal de Montréal
<b>DATE:</b>	2007.10.08
<b>EDITION:</b>	Final
<b>SECTION:</b>	Nouvelles
<b>PAGE:</b>	26
<b>ILLUSTRATION:</b>	1. Photo Reuters Maxime Bernier, ministre des Affaires étrangères, et Bev Oda, ministre de la Coopération internationale, ont mis fin à leur tournée en Afghanistan.
<b>DATELINE:</b>	KANDAHAR
<b>WORD COUNT:</b>	306

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Les ministres Maxime Bernier et Bev Oda en font l'annonce avant de rentrer au pays

Le ministre canadien des Affaires étrangères, Maxime Bernier, a conclu une visite éclair en Afghanistan, hier, en reconnaissant que le pays demeurait un endroit dangereux.

M. Bernier a cependant insisté sur le fait que des progrès avaient été réalisés, se disant fier du travail accompli par les soldats canadiens.

"C'est difficile. Oui, je le reconnais", a-t-il déclaré à des journalistes sur la piste du terrain d'aviation de Kandahar, juste avant qu'il ne monte à bord de l'avion qui devait le ramener au pays en compagnie de la ministre de la Coopération internationale, Bev Oda.

"C'est une situation difficile, mais nous avons de l'amélioration parce que nos travailleurs humanitaires civils sont en mesure d'y aller et de faire leur travail", a-t-il ajouté.

## Annonces

La ministre de la Coopération internationale a fait deux annonces durant le voyage. Bev Oda a annoncé hier, à Kandahar, la mise sur pied par le Canada d'un programme d'aide alimentaire de 25 millions \$ pour la région sud de ce pays.

Les fonds serviront principalement à l'achat de blé et d'huile de cuisson pour les résidents de cette région où se retrouvent le plus grand nombre d'insurgés talibans, et où combattent les soldats canadiens.

Cette année seulement, les autorités canadiennes estiment que 8700 tonnes de nourriture ont été distribuées à environ 400 000 personnes vivant dans la région.

## Distribution de gâteaux

La ministre Oda a aussi annoncée l'octroi de 3 millions \$ sur trois ans pour financer des fouilles archéologiques à Kaboul. Elle n'a répondu à aucune question des journalistes sur l'une ou l'autre de ces annonces de financement.

Mme Oda et M. Bernier ont aussi rencontré le président afghan Hamid Karzaï à Kaboul. Ils ont également rencontré des soldats Canadiens dans un restaurant Tim Hortons sur la base aérienne de Kandahar. Puis, ils ont distribué des gâteaux Jo-Louis, de Vachon, dont les installations sont situées dans la circonscription de M. Bernier, aux troupes qui se trouvaient sur une base située 40 kilomètres à l'ouest de Kandahar.

# CE BATEAU CONTINUERA À POLLUER 3 MOIS APRÈS L'ENQUÊTE DU JOURNAL

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**SOURCETAG** 0710080073  
**PUBLICATION:** Le Journal de Montréal  
**DATE:** 2007.10.08  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Nouvelles  
**PAGE:** 1  
**ILLUSTRATION:** 1. Photo d'archives 4 Photos  
**DATELINE:** Lundi 8 octobre 2007  
**WORD COUNT:** 25

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Front de la première page

Deux croisiéristes cesseront leurs rejets dans le fleuve mais...

Le Journal en Afghanistan

Déplacements hautement stressants

Céline, une mine d'or

Son départ fait trembler Las Vegas

Votre argent

Les secrets du roi de Bay Street

Le danger des boissons "diètes"

# Celtic fun meets funk; Metis fiddler pays tribute to native roots; Shooglenifty takes audience through uncharted music territory

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**PUBLICATION:** The Chronicle-Herald

**DATE:** 2007.10.08

**SECTION:** Entertainment

**PAGE:** D4

**ILLUSTRATION:** J.P. Cormier was in high spirits for his set Saturday night at the Celtic Colours International Festival in Cape Breton.

**WORD COUNT:** 721

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WHILE CELTIC culture naturally dominates the proceedings at the Celtic Colours International Festival in Cape Breton, it's not the only community deserving recognition on the island.

Since it was the Mi'kmaq nation that first greeted the French and Scottish settlers in Cape Breton, how appropriate at Saturday night's show in the First Nations community of Wagmatcook that history would repeat itself at the town's new culture and heritage centre.

Titled Mawita'mk: Getting Together, the evening began with a drum circle and dancers from Indian Bay, plus a smudging ceremony performed with an eagle feather, with participation by audience members and musicians alike.

Now cleared of evil spirits, the sold-out hall was ready for the main event, with a stellar lineup whose skill and repertoire would definitely remove any remaining bad mojo.

It started with Metis fiddler Sierra Noble.

Accompanied by veteran Cape Breton guitarist Brian Doyle, the 17-year-old Manitoban showed impressive skill and depth of feeling, winning points right off the bat by including Constitution Breakdown by Cape Breton Mi'kmaq fiddler Lee Cremo in her first set of tunes. Noble then paid tribute to noted Metis fiddler Calvin Volrath, playing Aurora's Reel, before pouring out the scotch on Whisky Before Breakfast and St. Ann's Reel, probably to make Doyle, whom she'd only met just three hours before, feel more at home.

"Brian learned the history of Metis music in an hour," she explained. "Lucky for me, he's a genius."

"Just don't listen too closely," quipped the Margaree musician, before launching into the delightful Gilbert's Duck Dance and the yearning True Heart's Waltz, "written for me by Oliver Schroer, one of my best friends in the world, when I was going through a tough time in my life," explained Noble.

Schroer, now going through a tough time himself, did her a great favour, with his lyrical, bittersweet composition.

Finally, Noble and Doyle proved their meeting was truly serendipitous with a set of tunes including Big John MacNeil and even a bit of the Flintstones, as their fingers seemed to move in unison like they'd been playing together for years. The good spirits had definitely taken hold.

J.P. Cormier was in high spirits for his set, playing some of his more lighthearted material and trading barbs with his wife Hilda Chaisson-Cormier behind the keyboard.

Celtic fun meets funk; Metis fiddler pays tribute to native roots; Shooglenifty takes audience through uncharted

Even when introducing The Wreck of the Molly Mae, he noted that he hadn't known it was a true story until after he wrote it.

"I must be psychic," the Cheticamp virtuoso mused.

"Well, you're definitely weird," Hilda countered, snickering.

All thoughts of comedy evaporated, though, when Cormier hunkered down and played, constructing the delicate framework of The Mathematician on his guitar fretboard with unerring ease, and impressing listeners with nimble sets on banjo and mandolin.

The pair ended the set on a memorable note with Cormier's recent composition inspired by his visit to Afghanistan. A vivid picture of men doing an impossible job in an unforgiving land, the song earned them an immediate standing ovation.

Headliners Shooglenifty displayed plenty of virtuosity and versatility, with a splash of irreverence as the electric and eclectic sextet took Celtic music through uncharted territory.

Fiddler Angus Grant described the tune Scraping the Barrel as the product of being unable to come up with an original new title, but the song itself was a delight, built on guitarist Malcolm Crosbie's cool tremolo guitar line, like the theme for a spy movie where Sean Connery stayed in Scotland.

Two Fifty to Vigo was the result of Grant's busking trip through Spain, and a terrifying ride on the back of a hippie's motorbike, but the slow, sun-baked melody was anything but scary, as Shooglenifty navigated its mysterious curves.

"If anyone feels like dancing . . . please don't, we hate it when people do that," deadpanned Grant, before pointing out that was a bit of Scotch humour. It was an apt preface, though, for a set of tunes including a Macedonian death song and a Tasmanian tango/breakdance, courtesy of Aussie mandolinist Luke Plumb.

Grant's violin and Plumb's mandolin chimed together nicely over James Mackintosh's churning Mediterranean rhythm, before Plumb broke out his tenor banjo, tricked out with fuzz tone and wah-wah for some seriously funky sounds.

There's always an element of funk lurking in Shooglenifty's songs, due in large part to Quee Macarthur's rubbery bass lines. Trim Controller began as kind of a lounge jazz number before turning into a rollicking jig, complete with Garry Finlayson's string-bending solo on the electric banjax (a customized banjo) and a few bars of the Kinks' You Really Got Me for good measure.

It just goes to show there's a fine line between fun Celtic and funk-Celtic.( )

**PUBLICATION:** The  
Chronicle–Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.10.08  
**SECTION:** SpeedRead  
**PAGE:** B8  
**WORD COUNT:** 276

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When a bomb blast knocks a soldier senseless in Afghanistan, the resulting concussion may be the least of his worries. Defence scientists plan to spend \$575,000 studying what may be an alarming correlation between closed head injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder. "Normally, when you have a closed head injury, you also have a loss of memory, you have a loss of consciousness," said Bob Cheung, a neurophysiologist with Defence Research and Development Canada. "That's where the controversy is. If you don't have the memory of the event, how could it be traumatic?" / B1

On a drizzly late-September night, Det. Sean Auld hits the gas in his unmarked sedan, speeds behind a closed auto dealership in north-end Dartmouth and makes his way toward a grey minivan. The van contains two working people. One is a fellow Halifax Regional Police officer – acting as decoy – and the other is a prostitute who is about to be busted. The decoy has just agreed on a price with the prostitute he picked up on Windmill Road about 10 minutes earlier. / B1

Halifax's 525 bus drivers will have to wait another week before casting their eyes on a proposed new contract from the city. Their scheduled vote on the deal Sunday was postponed until next week because no convention rooms were available, Dan MacDonald explained in an interview Sunday evening. "Halifax is selling itself pretty well," said the president of Local 508 of the Amalgamated Transit Union. / B1

# WORLD

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**PUBLICATION:** The  
Chronicle–Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.10.08  
**SECTION:** SpeedRead  
**PAGE:** B8  
**WORD COUNT:** 279

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CRANDON, Wis. – A local law enforcement employee went on a shooting rampage early Sunday in a small town in northern Wisconsin, killing at least five people, authorities said. Crandon Police Chief John Dennee, speaking outside the police department about two blocks from the shooting site, refused to say if the shooter was dead or had been captured. "We're not looking for anybody anymore," was all Dennee would say. / A3

Better late than never, Liberal Defence critic Denis Coderre is due in Kandahar, Afghanistan, today on his own impromptu visit with the Canadian military just as two senior members of Prime Minister Stephen Harper's cabinet completed a whirlwind tour. It's been a long road getting to Kandahar for Coderre, who has been travelling since Wednesday. He spent part of Sunday in Kabul after taking a United Nations flight to the Afghan capital early Sunday from Islamabad, Pakistan. Coderre's arrival comes as Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier and International Co-operation Minister Bev Oda completed a 36-hour photo-op tour of Afghanistan and Canadian military operations. / A3

LONDON – The shopping cart, derided for its wobble and failure to steer in a straight line, is seen as a new weapon to fight the British obesity crisis. Technology experts have devised an "intelligent" trolley that will alert shoppers when junk-food items are dropped in. Barcodes on foods high in fat, sugar and salt would trigger red warning lights on an interactive screen. Eventually, barcode information may be passed to mobile phones. / A8



# PROVINCE

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**PUBLICATION:** The  
Chronicle–Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.10.08  
**SECTION:** SpeedRead  
**PAGE:** B8  
**WORD COUNT:** 289

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When a bomb blast knocks a soldier senseless in Afghanistan, the resulting concussion may be the least of his worries. Defence scientists plan to spend \$575,000 studying what may be an alarming correlation between closed head injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder. "Normally, when you have a closed head injury, you also have a loss of memory, you have a loss of consciousness," said Bob Cheung, a neurophysiologist with Defence Research and Development Canada. "That's where the controversy is. If you don't have the memory of the event, how could it be traumatic?" / B1

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BRIDGETOWN – Town officials and members of Bridgetown's volunteer fire department hope the old saying "where there's smoke there's fire" rings true. The town has applied for \$250,000 in funding for a new building under the province's recently announced \$5-million Emergency Services Provider Fund, which is designed to help fire departments and other agencies purchase equipment and upgrade firehalls. MLAs say there should be a more consistent source of infrastructure funding for fire departments. / B2

# Crews honoured: "These guys are on eternal patrol"

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**PUBLICATION:** The Chronicle–Herald

**DATE:** 2007.10.08

**SECTION:** Metro

**PAGE:** B2

**BYLINE:** Paul Pickrem

**ILLUSTRATION:** Retired United States navy master chief Herb Parsons, centre, is shown during a memorial ceremony Sunday at CFB Greenwood, reading the names of 25 American airmen who were inducted into a book of remembrance. (PAUL PICKREM); Retired United States navy master chief Herb Parsons, centre, is shown during a memorial ceremony Sunday at CFB Greenwood, reading the names of 25 American airmen who were inducted into a book of remembrance. (PAUL PICKREM)

**WORD COUNT:** 340

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GREENWOOD – Another 25 names of maritime patrol crew killed while performing their duties have been added to a book of remembrance containing the names of over 1,800 aircrew from 14 countries who have died on patrol since 1947.

The names of 25 United States navy crewmen were read aloud during a ceremony at 14 Wing Greenwood on Sunday. It was organized by VP International, a worldwide volunteer association dedicated to researching and commemorating the deaths of crews flying fixed-wing, land-based maritime patrol aircraft employed in intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance operations.

"Their sacrifice took place during over 40 years of the Cold War period, where we never went to war," said retired air force major Norman Donovan, a navigator who knew some of the 73 Canadian crew members whose names are listed in the book of remembrance that he held during the ceremony in front of a monument just inside the main gate to the Valley airbase.

"We called ourselves the Cold War Warriors," he said. "We located and tracked Soviet missile subs so they knew we knew where they were."

Maj. Al Harvey, an air force pilot and the organization's international president, said in an interview that the names of an RAF crew killed while flying over Afghanistan in 2006 were added to the book last year.

"To this day we have various maritime aviators in harm's way," he said. "The spirit and skills used by previous generations are alive and well and continue to be of value to defend peace and freedom. It's the business we're in."

Retired master chief Herb Parsons of the United States navy, who read the names of the American airmen during the ceremony, has attended the annual remembrance vigils held by VP International since it placed a monument at 14 Wing Greenwood in 1997.

"Canadians have a saying 'Lest we forget.' We want the rest of the world to recognize some part of the U.S. navy still remembers," he said in an interview.

Retired U.S. navy senior chief Pete Lulis said he and Mr. Parsons will not forget their shipmates and comrades in arms.

"These guys are on eternal patrol. They are still out there and we'll never forget them." ( )

# Head injuries' hidden costs; Link probed between being knocked out, post-traumatic stress woes

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**SECTION:** NovaScotia

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**BYLINE:** Chris Lambie Staff Reporter

**WORD COUNT:** 546

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WHEN A BOMB blast knocks a soldier senseless in Afghanistan, the resulting concussion may be the least of his worries.

Defence scientists plan to spend \$575,000 studying what may be an alarming correlation between closed head injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder.

"Normally, when you have a closed head injury, you also have a loss of memory, you have a loss of consciousness," said Bob Cheung, a neurophysiologist with Defence Research and Development Canada. "That's where the controversy is. If you don't have the memory of the event, how could it be traumatic?"

"That's the \$6-million question. . . . Perhaps the loss of consciousness is not complete. That's the most obvious reason that I can think of at this point."

The study will focus on people who have had their bells rung but suffered no penetrating wounds.

"The closed head injury could be due to the fact that you have been knocked off by a blast wave, or you could be run into a wall, or somebody bumped you on the head," Mr. Cheung said.

The accompanying loss of consciousness comes courtesy of a space between the human brain and cranium.

"The brain tissues, in fact, will be hitting the cranium due to the acceleration and deceleration forces when you make that collision," he said.

Sometimes the blood vessels on the surface of the brain hemorrhage, causing blackouts.

While American military studies have shown that's an all-too-common occurrence in war zones like Afghanistan and Iraq, Canada has not gathered similar statistics, Mr. Cheung said.

"The way that we're doing it right now is, if somebody doesn't have any open wounds . . . even though you were near a blast explosion, as long as you don't have an open wound, you're fine. You're good to go."

But American military doctors are now starting to notice U.S. soldiers who suffered closed head injuries are developing cognitive problems when they return home, Mr. Cheung said.

People who have suffered concussions can experience the same symptoms as those with post-traumatic stress disorder, he said.

"For example, people become more irritable, they aren't able to concentrate, they might have impulsive behaviour, they might have bouts of depression," Mr. Cheung said.

Canadian military researchers now want to study both soldiers and civilians who have suffered closed head injuries.

"We want to do a retrospective study to find out whether they also experienced post-traumatic stress disorder," he said.

Scientists also plan to find a control group of people who have not experienced closed head injuries but complain of having post-traumatic stress disorder.

"We're trying to do a comparison study to see if we can objectively, as well as subjectively, evaluate the difference between the two groups," Mr. Cheung said.

His hunch is that some people who suffer closed head injuries are prone to post-traumatic stress disorder.

"That's just my educated guess at this point."

The three-year study aims to provide a method of evaluating and treating people who complain of neuro-cognitive deficits caused by head injuries.

"It can be as simple as you don't remember where your keys are, you become very forgetful, you become very impulsive, you feel very irritable, and also you may not be able to do simple arithmetic," said Mr. Cheung, noting that in some cases people even complain that they can't function or hold down a job.

If there is a link between closed head injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder, psychological counselling or drugs might prove useful countermeasures, he said.

"In the United States, they have been implementing a program using virtual reality to help people to relieve the PTSD symptoms," Mr. Cheung said.

"They ask them to look at a virtual reality picture (on a huge screen) of a very calm forest or a calm waterfall or something like that."

U.S. army scientists are also trying to figure out if some soldiers are genetically predisposed to develop nerve fibre damage due to head injuries, he said.

"We're not doing that," Mr. Cheung said. "That's big-money stuff." ('People become more irritable, they aren't able to concentrate, they might have impulsive behaviour, they might have bouts of depression.'

# Knock off the posturing, we don't need an election

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**BYLINE:** Dan Leger  
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PRIME MINISTER Stephen Harper says he doesn't want a fall election and I want to believe him, even if he's not being entirely sincere.

I want to believe him because if he's smart, Harper understands that Canadians like the minority Parliament the way it is. There is no demand for change out there, or for more power to be put in Conservative hands.

Canada, after all, has been governed by minorities since June of 2004. That's three years and three months of minority rule, first under Paul Martin and the Liberals and for the past 20 months, under Harper's Conservatives.

Now, another spasm of election speculation obsesses political Ottawa, fuelled by the prime minister himself. He says opposition parties must support his throne speech next week and all its legislation or an election will result. He says it's a matter of confidence.

I beg to differ. While I agree he has the right to say that, what the PM should be considering is whether he really needs a fatter mandate just to get things done.

Ask yourself: in this third–longest minority period since Confederation, has government worked? Put another way, has the country suffered from the lack of a parliamentary majority?

Here are the facts. Under successive minority governments, the unemployment rate has fallen to a 33–year low, 5.9 per cent. The dollar is at a 31–year high at \$1.02 US. The federal debt is at a 14–year low. The budget surplus is \$14 billion, a record high.

In that time, economic growth in Canada has outpaced growth in every country in the G–7 except for the U.S. Next year, the OECD predicts, we'll outrun the Americans, too.

There are other measures of economic health and security which have only improved during 39 months of minority rule.

Home ownership levels in the country are at an all–time high. More than 67 per cent of Canadians own their own homes.

More people than ever are getting an education. Enrolment rates in post–secondary institutions are rising, partly fuelled by an influx of foreign students, but also by a growing optimism about education as the key to a better life.

That's not to say there aren't poor people; there are. But as the economy continues to grow, more people will benefit from higher employment and education rates.

How about other measures, like national unity? In Quebec, support for separatism is eroding by the day. The Parti Quebecois got trounced in the last provincial election and the Bloc Quebecois lost a fortress seat to the Tories in the by-elections last month.

In foreign affairs, minority Liberals got us into the combat mission in Afghanistan. Minority Tories have had to manage it and they're doing a reasonably good job of it.

While Afghanistan is far from pacified, the campaign has brought new and needed equipment to the military and raised the combat capability of the army to levels not seen in decades. Significantly, Canadians are paying attention to the military for a change.

Yet none of this amounts to an argument for a Harper Tory majority mandate, quite the opposite.

Polls strongly suggest that Canadians want the minority to continue. The latest Canadian Press Harris-Decima poll puts the Tories in a statistical tie with the Liberals at 33–31, hardly a rallying cry for change.

That's why the recent posturing of all the party leaders is almost amusing.

The prime minister plays gunslinger with his election talk, double-dog daring the opposition to vote against the measures in his throne speech.

That leads Bloc Leader Gilles Duceppe and NDP Leader Jack Layton to declaim from high horses that they won't support the government, and hang the consequences!

They're all just play-acting. What they really want is to further isolate the beleaguered fellow running the Liberals, Stephane Dion, who must now be seeing minority rule as a thing of sublime beauty.

Despite his many problems and seething internal unrest, the Liberals are still within reach of the Tories and haven't been abandoned by the electorate.

Last week, Liberal MP Scott Brison told me he doesn't sweat the media's doom-saying about his leader. He says it's never as bad as reporters make it out to be.

If he's right and the Liberal brand is still strong, Dion might find a way past this latest game of political chicken. If he does, the election won't happen until next spring, just as the national minority government is about to turn four.

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Dan Leger is director of news content for The Chronicle Herald. The opinions expressed here are his own.

# Coderre to deliver 'message of solidarity to the troops'

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**BYLINE:** Sidhartha Banerjee  
**WORD COUNT:** 293

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Better late than never. Liberal Defence critic Denis Coderre is due in Kandahar, Afghanistan, today on his own impromptu visit with the Canadian military just as two senior members of Prime Minister Stephen Harper's cabinet completed a whirlwind tour.

It's been a long road getting to Kandahar for Coderre, who has been travelling since Wednesday. He spent part of Sunday in Kabul after taking a United Nations flight to the Afghan capital early Sunday from Islamabad, Pakistan.

"I'm going to go to Kandahar, meet the troops and visit the infrastructure and send a clear message of solidarity to the troops," Coderre said in a telephone interview from Kabul.

Coderre's arrival comes as Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier and International Co–operation Minister Bev Oda completed a 36–hour whirlwind, photo–op tour of Afghanistan and Canadian military operations.

Coderre decided to go on his own after the Harper government ignored his repeated calls to allow him to go. He accused the government of playing petty politics by not letting him accompany the two cabinet ministers on their trip.

Coderre, who spent some time in Islamabad meeting with a variety of contacts, says it's clear that Pakistan is a key to success of the NATO mission in Afghanistan.

"There's no question that we don't want to abandon the Afghan people," Coderre said. "If Mr. Bernier's trip was so important, he should have included a trip to Pakistan because Pakistan is very, very important to the mission."

Coderre says he has scheduled a few more meetings in Kabul and Islamabad before returning to Canada. Part of the Liberal's position on Canada's mission in Afghanistan post–February 2009, when the military mission is scheduled to end, will include looking to Pakistan for help.

The Montreal MP says his fact–finding mission comes with the blessing of Liberal Leader Stephane Dion, who plans to make his own trip to Afghanistan in the fall.

# Hillier's position stronger after rumour of demise

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**BYLINE:** Scott Taylor  
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THERE WERE PLENTY of backroom shenanigans and skulduggery afoot last week in the national capital. Prior to a small send-off ceremony for recently shuffled defence minister Gordon O'Connor, a couple of Conservative party insiders called up CTV reporter Bob Fife. The hot scoop fed to Fife was the news that the Conservative caucus was fed up with the manner in which Gen. Rick Hillier, the chief of Defence staff, showed disrespect to his political masters.

As a consequence, the anonymous sources claimed the decision had been taken to retire Hillier when his three-year tour of duty expired next February. Naturally enough, Fife ran with this exclusive bit of insider information and he used the O'Connor farewell luncheon to showcase the story.

Describing the parade square at the landmark Cartier Square Armoury as a "parking lot" and framing footage of O'Connor's honour guard with a backdrop of trash bins, the CTV report made it appear that the military brass were adding insult to injury for their outgoing minister.

When Gen. Hillier arrived late for the formal function, it was the icing on the cake: proof positive that he has little regard for his political overseers. Set within this context, the decision not to renew Hillier's contract seemed to make perfect sense. Fife's sources' anonymity and the lack of formal announcement regarding Hillier's employment had all the hallmarks of a trial balloon on the part of the Conservatives.

A couple of invisible individuals tossed out the rumour of Hillier's termination and used that news hook to remind Canadians of Hillier's past indiscretions vis-a-vis Gordon O'Connor.

If nobody shoots it down, then it will give the green light to an official replacement process. At the very least, spreading rumours that the Conservative party had concerns about Rick Hillier's expansion into the political arena would serve to rein in the good general.

Unfortunately for those who set this plan in motion, they failed to take into account several key factors. The most obvious of these is Gen. Hillier's incredible popularity – not just with his troops, but with the Canadian public.

Fife's story touched off an immediate and immense backlash against the notion that the Conservatives were going to fire the chief of defence staff. Before the trial balloon could even be inflated, Hillier supporters had shot it to pieces. Across the entire spectrum of military analysts called upon to give perspective and insight into the possible removal of Hillier, the response was unanimous. Even those who have rabidly challenged Hillier's policies in the past singularly concurred that to take him out of the equation at this point would be catastrophic for the Forces.

Whether one agrees or disagrees with Canada's involvement in Afghanistan, there is no doubt that Hillier is the heart and soul of the mission. That being said, Hillier is also the architect of the current transformation of the Canadian Forces, which is still in its infancy. Eighteen months ago Hillier announced a top-to-bottom



restructuring of the military. The office of the deputy chief of defence staff was abolished and a new command structure was put in place.

The result of that shakeup was the absolute empowerment of Hillier's office. A recent internal study into the progress of the transformation concluded that the widespread confusion created by the ongoing reforms is only offset by the personality-driven leadership of Rick Hillier. That dynamic charisma was illustrated once again the minute Fife's story hit the airwaves. Rather than defer comment about his possible retirement next February, the general confronted the press corps head-on.

At a luncheon speech the following day, every news outlet in Ottawa had reporters waiting like a pack of dogs to get Hillier's response to the whispered rumours of his replacement. None of them really cared about his keynote address; they just wanted a sound bite upon which to hang their stories.

Hillier did not disappoint. Jovial and confident, the general scrummed so long that cameramen were nervously eyeing their tapes and batteries. Despite a barrage of questions meant to provoke a negative response, the general stuck to a two-part message: "There is no fixed three-year term for a CDS," and the incumbent "serves at the pleasure of the government."

Traditionally, the chief of Defence staff post has been based on a three-year tenure and whenever a general served longer it was officially announced as "an extension."

But Hillier is correct in claiming that his contract is open-ended. By reminding everyone that he serves at the government's "pleasure" and that he is prepared to continue in his present post as long as this remains the case, Hillier has brilliantly drawn the battle lines. And if the Conservatives do wish to replace him, it's not going to happen any time soon.

In retrospect, Hillier has come out of this latest skirmish more powerful than before. In fact, he couldn't have played this better had he leaked the rumour of his firing. Scott Taylor is editor-in-chief of military magazine *Espirit De Corps*. ( )

# Improvement in Afghanistan; Foreign affairs minister says he's proud of work of Canadian soldiers

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**BYLINE:** Les Perreux  
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KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier wrapped up a whirlwind tour of Afghanistan on Sunday by conceding that the country is still a dangerous place.

But Bernier insisted progress has been made and said he's proud of the work of Canadian soldiers in the central Asian country.

"It's difficult. Yes, I will admit it," Bernier told reporters on the tarmac at Kandahar Airfield just before he and International Co-operation Minister Bev Oda boarded their flight home.

"It's a difficult situation but we have improvement because our civilian humanitarian workers are able to go out there and do their work," he said.

There was no mistaking the enthusiasm of Bernier and Oda on the weekend as they took their first steps on the dusty ground of the country that will dominate their portfolios. Both were recently appointed to their jobs in a cabinet shuffle by Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Bernier moved from one military machine to another during his tour Sunday, clapping his hands together like a kid in a candy store.

"So, what do you have here?" Bernier asked as he moved from a Nyala RG-31 with a remote control gun to a LAV-3 armoured vehicle.

Bernier and Oda both donned flak vests and helmets, took rides aboard an immense twin-rotor Chinook helicopter and quizzed soldiers about the workings of the military and its machines.

But outside the small talk, the ministers stuck to prepared statements and left tough questions to high-level civil servants.

The visit included about a dozen carefully staged photo opportunities, a couple of funding announcements and just a handful of questions about affairs of state.

It wasn't until the pair were leaving, faced with a boycott of another photo op, that Bernier agreed to answer questions from reporters.

While he said the situation has improved, Bernier, who visited two of Canada's forward operating bases outside Kandahar Airfield, said the presence of Canadian soldiers is still needed.

"The territory is more secure today here in Kandahar than it was a year ago," he said.

Last year there were many attacks, he added.

"Those attacks have diminished," Bernier said. "It's still difficult. I saw that it's still difficult. But the situation has greatly improved."

A recent review by the UN Department of Safety and Security described the situation in Kandahar as "volatile."

Across the country, 2007 has been the bloodiest year since the Taliban was ousted from power in a U.S. invasion six years ago.

So far this year, there have been an average of 525 violent incidents a month, compared with 425 last year.

Oda made two announcements on the trip. She reconfirmed Canada's commitment to the World Food Program, pledging \$25 million to help some 400,000 people in Kandahar.

She also pledged \$3 million over three years to finance an archeological dig in Kabul where an ancient market neighbourhood is being rebuilt.

The ministers shook hands and made small talk with troops on several occasions, including during the now mandatory stop at the Tim Hortons at Kandahar Airfield.

Later, Bernier borrowed from an assassinated U.S. president to rally soldiers of the Provincial Reconstruction Team in downtown Kandahar. "John F. Kennedy said to the Americans: 'Don't ask what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country,' " Bernier said.

"Now, today, I'm asking Canadians, 'Don't ask the Afghan government what it can do for us in Canada, but what we Canadians can do for the Afghan people.' "

His words echoed a recent statement by Afghan President Hamid Karzai, who gave another of a recent series of high-profile appeals for support for the mission.

On one of the final stops of the tour, Bernier hauled out a crate of gooey Jos. Louis cakes and handed them to troops holding down Patrol Base Wilson, about 40 kilometres west of Kandahar city.

"We've got a surprise for you!" Bernier said, wishing the soldiers a happy Thanksgiving as he handed out the cakes, which are manufactured in Bernier's hometown of Beauce, south of Quebec City. Five soldiers who shared the cakes nearby were asked what the ministerial visit meant to them.

Four soldiers shrugged, but the fifth said it was important.

"At least they're letting us know they know we're here," said Cpl. Michel Turcotte, a member of the Royal 22nd Regiment from Mont Laurier, Que.

Canada has some 2,300 soldiers based in southern Afghanistan. A total of 71 have died since Canada began its Afghan mission in 2002.

# Foreign Service faces financial, morale crisis; feels muzzled

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OTTAWA \_ There's a new breed of diplomat lurking in the country's missions around the world, a timid creature that recoils from the Canadian limelight and spends hours trying to reconcile an ever longer list of duties with a constantly shrinking budget.

The Department of Foreign Affairs is in the grips of a kind of existential crisis, say a range of current and recently retired staff, brought on by major challenges to their daily work. They speak of a chill that has descended on their ranks, thanks to a communications crackdown from Prime Minister Stephen Harper's office, and the more overarching problem of years of deep budget cuts.

In the meantime, Harper is expected to reiterate in next week's speech from the throne that he wants Canada to cast a longer shadow on the world stage, another in a line of prime ministers who ask more of diplomats while simultaneously cutting their resources.

A spokesman for Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier, Neil Hrab, said Canada's global influence declined under the previous Liberal government because money was ``diverted away from the important work of diplomacy and toward extravagant vanity projects."

He said the Harper government is working at restoring Canada's stature in the world through ``leadership, rebuilding our international capabilities and effective, focused diplomacy."

Christopher Westdal is a veteran diplomat who retired last year from the service.

``I spent 30 years learning how to drive: I'm unamused by an empty tank," he said. ``I don't care whether it's a Chevy or a Cadillac \_ if it's a go-cart, give me some gas!

``There's this deep fury that the things required to do our job well are damn hard to get a hold of and, believe me, there's no thanks for doing it well."

Said another department insider: ``There is nothing worse than a scared, timid, reclusive, protective bureaucrat. It doesn't give you either good public policy or good service delivery."

Foreign Affairs employees still in the system, who spoke strictly on condition of anonymity, describe a locked-down environment where even the most innocuous briefings for the media are rejected.

The Prime Minister's Office is said to conduct "witchhunts" when information leaks out against their wishes, and efforts to expand awareness of the accomplishments of the department are blocked.

Figures as high-ranking as Canada's ambassador to the United States \_ former Finance Minister Michael Wilson \_ and UN Ambassador John McNee are among the diplomats who have curtailed their contact with the Canadian media, despite their expertise and experience.

Wilson has not spoken to Canadian reporters since a round of interviews in February, although he provides access to American media. McNee directed reporters to Ottawa for questions about the Middle East when he first arrived in New York, even though he is one of the country's pre-eminent experts on the subject \_ having spent years in the region.

Recent requests by The Canadian Press to speak to diplomats working in international hotspots, such as the Sudan and Myanmar, were turned down by Foreign Affairs. Just about the only Canadian representatives authorized to speak to media regularly back home are those serving in Afghanistan, tasked with selling the controversial mission.

Conversely, American, British and Australian diplomats \_ among others \_ have been given new mandates to vastly increase their profiles abroad and reach out to the public back home. It's dubbed transformational diplomacy in Washington.

Globe and Mail correspondent Mark MacKinnon, who has dealt with Canadians in Moscow and the Middle East, says there's been a definite shift since the Conservatives took power in January 2006.

“People who would speak to me two years ago now won't even do it on an off-the-record, background basis,” MacKinnon said. “They're absolutely terrified.

“I'm relying more on diplomats from foreign countries, so the Canadian view goes away. I still have to get the same information, so I talk to the Americans and Brits.”

The lack of exposure back home is troubling to some diplomats, who worry that Canadians don't understand the work they do and don't understand why funding to the Department of Foreign Affairs is money well spent. It creates a vicious circle, where the government is able to slash foreign service budgets with little fear of public backlash.

Hrab rejected the suggestion that diplomats feel muzzled at home. He said that while ambassador to the UN in Geneva, Paul Meyer spoke to high profile audiences in Canada about his work -- including at the University of Toronto's Munk Centre for International Studies and the University of Winnipeg in late February 2007.

And while ambassador to France, Hrab said Claude Laverdure went on a major multi-city speaking tour of Fredericton, Moncton, Charlottetown, Halifax, St. John's, Toronto, Quebec City, Montreal and Ottawa in the fall of 2006 to remind Canadians about the importance of Canada's close ties with France.

Foreign Affairs is coping with a \$142.8 million cut this year, and the decrease will continue through to 2009, as first prescribed by the Liberals. Last fall, the Conservatives trimmed millions more, most notably slashing \$11 million from public diplomacy initiatives that help people understand the work the department does.

One of the country's best known diplomats, the recently retired Robert Fowler, says the public should be having a discussion about whether they want Canadians to be somebodies on the world stage.

“I suppose in answering broader questions like that, one could get into what diplomats ought to be allowed to do and say abroad, and how they do it,” said Fowler, former ambassador to the U.S. and Italy, and an adviser to several prime ministers. “Instead of that discussion, we have surrogate discussions around the edges of such issues about why diplomats are well housed and have cocktail parties.

“Frankly, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade is, for all intents and purposes, flat broke.”

The government has recently put historic diplomatic residences on the real-estate market, most notably in

Dublin and London where they will fetch many millions. New, more modest accommodations will be sought elsewhere.

Paul Heinbecker, former Canadian ambassador to the UN, says the public needs to understand that diplomats who are trying to help secure trade deals or address sensitive geo-political issues with foreign interlocutors need to project an image of excellence.

“You can't persuade people you're dealing with abroad that you're worth dealing with if you've got a condo in the suburbs,” said Heinbecker, now with the Centre for International Governance Innovation in Waterloo, Ont.

“When I'm the ambassador abroad, I'm trying to sell Canada and create a positive image of Canada. You can't do that out of an orange crate. You've got to have proper facilities.”

Said another former colleague: “If you look at what our European or Japanese or south Asian colleagues do in terms of diplomacy, they do much more than we do. Why, because they're stupider? Do they need to know why it's important that the ambassador of Singapore gives dinner parties? Is it something that's debated in the Singaporean parliament? Of course not.”

So, how then to encourage a real debate in Canada about the Department of Foreign Affairs, its mandate and its funding?

Former deputy foreign affairs minister Peter Harder says it should be sparked by figures outside of Parliament, ideally think-tanks or other non-political actors.

“I hope that debate can be generated by a number of us from the outside who actually think that having the capacity of a strong foreign ministry is hugely important for a country like Canada, given the way in which international affairs dominates our political and social and economic well-being.”

# 4 police officers, 4 Taliban killed in latest Afghan violence

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**KEYWORDS:** INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE  
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KABUL, Afghanistan \_ A bombing and a gunbattle killed four police officers and four militants in Afghanistan, officials said Sunday, while NATO soldiers in the east shot and killed three Afghans the soldiers thought constituted a threat.

Two officers were killed and two others were wounded when a bomb exploded under their car in Yaqoubi district in Khost province on Saturday, said police chief Wazir Pacha.

Also in eastern Afghanistan, a Taliban ambush in Nuristan province left two other officers dead, said police officer Mohammad Daud. Four militants were also killed in the Saturday clash, which occurred in the remote Kamdesh district.

Elsewhere in the east, two Afghan civilians were killed in Kunar province after speeding toward a checkpoint without stopping, NATO said. The checkpoint had been set up because intelligence indicated insurgents planned to launch an attack on a NATO base.

In Paktika province, a ``suspicious" man was shot and killed after being asked to halt, NATO said.

Afghanistan is going through its most violent period since the U.S. invasion six years ago. More than 5,100 people \_ mostly militants \_ have died in insurgency-related violence in 2007, according to an Associated Press count based on Afghan and Western officials.

# Free Afghan mission debate from politics, focus on Afghans, activists say

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**KEYWORDS:** INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL  
**PUBLICATION:** cpw  
**WORD COUNT:** 935

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VANCOUVER \_ Paraphrasing an assassinated U.S. president at the Provincial Reconstruction Team base in Kandahar on Sunday, Canada's foreign affairs minister sought to rally the troops.

“Don't ask the Afghan government what it can do for us in Canada, but what we Canadians can do for the Afghan people,” Maxime Bernier said.

It's a question both Afghan and Canadian politicians have been asking for months as they've crisscrossed the world to convince both their nations of the merits of Canada's mission in Kandahar.

But the answer is increasingly wrapped up in political rhetoric, activists say, and ordinary Afghans and Canadians are being left out of the debate.

“This is our generation's war,” said Norine MacDonald, president of the Senlis Council, an international think-tank focused in part on counter-narcotics initiatives in opium-laden Afghanistan.

“It's a defining moment for us on the international stage and it's a defining moment for each of us as a Canadian to say what does that really mean to me then? What does it mean when I say I want to stand with my Afghan brothers and sisters against Al Qaida, Taliban extremist elements, that would do them harm and would do us harm?”

Canada's current commitment to the NATO-led mission in Afghanistan is set to expire in 2009, with an April deadline for Canada to firmly decide whether it will stay or go.

Opposition political parties are demanding withdrawal. Prime Minister Stephen Harper has said Parliament would have the opportunity to debate and vote on extending the combat mission past February 2009.

He's also said he's prepared to fight an election campaign over Afghanistan if necessary.

The political debate over the mission manifested itself this weekend when two Conservative cabinet ministers and a Liberal critic hit the ground in Afghanistan in separate trips, filling their time with photo opportunities and fact-finding meetings.

The government has also flown over high-profile Afghan ministers, launched photo exhibits of development work on the ground and pledged to hold regular briefings on progress.

But it's all a sell-job, critics charge, not the actual grassroots debate that's needed on the future of the mission.

Dialogue now takes place at university-sponsored debates, through think-tank papers and in the opinion editorial pages.

But the government seems to be pushing its own agenda and not listening to Canadians who want answers, said Francisco Juarez, a former military reservist who refused to serve in Afghanistan and now is active in the



peace movement.

Juarez said what started as a mission ostensibly launched on humanitarian grounds and to protect national security interests has morphed into a war designed to retool the Canadian military and serve national economic interest instead.

“Our political leaders have really let us down,” he said. “The Conservatives are definitely taking advantage of some of the holes in our understanding of why we’re in Afghanistan.”

More than 10,000 Canadian soldiers have rotated through the dry and dusty land since the mission began in 2002, and 71 Canadian soldiers and one diplomat have died.

It’s those deaths that often frame the debate on Canada’s role in Kandahar, whether it be through rallies showing support for the soldiers or anti-war demonstrations calling the Canadian effort simply a puppet of U.S. government interests.

Juarez said the discussion so far has focused on what’s best for Canada when the debate is actually about the future of the Afghan people.

“We need leadership in this country that is honest about what it is it is doing with the military,” he said. “We need to have leaders who stand up and are recognized for standing up and saying there are other possibilities here besides these expeditionary wars that we go on.”

The debate should start in the halls of power, Juarez said, but it needs to trickle down into the communities, military or civilian, trying to decide whether the mission is something Canada should be involved in.

Ten years ago, thousands of Canadians agitated for Afghanistan, aghast at the violent suppression of human rights by the Taliban regime.

Fire in the bellies of Canadians for restoring those rights seems to have waned with the onset of Canada’s mission.

A recent Canadian Press–Decima research poll suggested that 67 per cent of those asked believe the number of casualties suffered by Canadian troops is unacceptably high, even with whatever progress has been made in rebuilding the war-torn country.

Two-thirds of respondents want Canadian troops to come home when the current mandate from Parliament expires.

Though Afghans are largely free from the legal restrictions imposed on them by the Taliban, the UN has said 2007 has been the most dangerous year for Afghans since 2001.

In the first half of the year, there were 525 security incidents, including attacks by the Taliban and other violent groups, bombings, terrorism of other kinds and abductions, every month.

The Associated Press estimates more than 5,000 people have been killed in the fighting.

The Canadian government touts schools being built, but they’re also being bombed by insurgents, keeping children away.

Though health care and the economy is also improving, opium production and addiction is also at record levels.

No one rallies in Canada about that.

But besides directly government-funded work, only one Canadian non-governmental organization appears to exist whose work is solely focused on human rights in the country Afghanistan.

“We need to be asking what is going on for the everyday life of an Afghan person and how do they see their lives improving and what are their needs,” said Janice Eisenhower of Women for Women in Afghanistan, which supports the military presence.

“We can set up an office for CIDA for development for example but if they're not able to leave the room because of security how effective can they be?”

Since 2002, her organization has raised \$700,000 for projects in Afghanistan ranging from the training of teachers to paying the rent for schools.

She said if her little not-for-profit group can reach out and make connections with ordinary Afghans, there is no reason the Canadian government and ordinary Canadians not to do the same.

The question of where Canada's focus should be is always evolving, she said.

“Those things have to be discussed and worked through with good strong leadership at every front because what we perceive to be the right path today might be completely different by tomorrow,” she said.

“We need to have some grounding principles in place to make sure we're always on the best course we can muster and Canadians understand what that course is.”

# Foreign Affairs Minister Bernier says Canadians have made Afghans more secure

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**DATE:** 2007.10.07

**KEYWORDS:** INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE POLITICS

**PUBLICATION:** cpw

**WORD COUNT:** 583

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KANDAHAR, Afghanistan \_ Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier wrapped up a whirlwind tour of Afghanistan on Sunday by conceding that the country is still a dangerous place.

But Bernier insisted progress has been made and said he's proud of the work of Canadian soldiers in the central Asian country.

“It's difficult. Yes, I will admit it,” Bernier told reporters on the tarmac at Kandahar Airfield just before he and International Co-operation Minister Bev Oda boarded their flight home.

“It's a difficult situation but we have improvement because our civilian humanitarian workers are able to go out there and do their work,” he said.

There was no mistaking the enthusiasm of Bernier and Oda on the weekend as they took their first steps on the dusty ground of the country that will dominate their portfolios. Both were recently appointed to their jobs in a cabinet shuffle by Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Bernier moved from one military machine to another during his tour Sunday, clapping his hands together like a kid in a candy store.

“So, what do you have here?” Bernier asked as he moved from a Nyala RG-31 with a remote control gun to a LAV-3 armoured vehicle.

Bernier and Oda both donned flack vests and helmets, took rides aboard an immense twin-rotor Chinook helicopter and quizzed soldiers about the workings of the military and its machines.

But outside the small talk, the ministers stuck to prepared statements and left tough questions to high-level civil servants.

The visit included about a dozen carefully staged photo-opportunities, a couple of funding announcements and just a handful of questions about affairs of state.

It wasn't until the pair were leaving, faced with a boycott of another photo-op, that Bernier agreed to answer questions from reporters.

While he said the situation has improved, Bernier, who visited two of Canada's forward operating bases outside Kandahar Airfield, said the presence of Canadian soldiers is still needed.

“The territory is more secure today here in Kandahar than it was a year ago,” he said.

Last year there were many attacks, he added.

“Those attacks have diminished,” Bernier said. “It’s still difficult. I saw that it’s still difficult. But the situation has greatly improved.”

A recent review by the UN Department of Safety and Security described the situation in Kandahar as “volatile.”

Across the country, 2007 has been the bloodiest year since the Taliban was ousted from power in a U.S. invasion six years ago.

So far this year, there have been an average of 525 violent incidents a month, compared with 425 last year.

Oda made two announcements on the trip. She reconfirmed Canada’s commitment to the World Food Program, pledging \$25 million to help some 400,000 people in Kandahar.

She also pledged \$3 million over three years to finance an archeological dig in Kabul where an ancient market neighbourhood is being rebuilt.

The ministers shook hands and made small talk with troops on several occasions, including during the now mandatory stop at the Tim Hortons at Kandahar Airfield.

Later, Bernier borrowed from an assassinated U.S. president to rally soldiers of the Provincial Reconstruction Team in downtown Kandahar.

“John F. Kennedy said to the Americans: ‘Don’t ask what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country,’” Bernier said.

“Now, today, I’m asking Canadians, ‘Don’t ask the Afghan government what it can do for us in Canada, but what we Canadians can do for the Afghan people.’”

His words echoed a recent statement by Afghan President Hamid Karzai, who gave another of a recent series of high-profile appeals for support for the mission.

On one of the final stops of the tour, Bernier hauled out a crate of gooey Jos.Louis cakes and handed them to troops holding down Patrol Base Wilson, about 40 kilometres west of Kandahar city.

“We’ve got a surprise for you!” Bernier said, wishing the soldiers a happy Thanksgiving as he handed out the cakes, which are manufactured in Bernier’s hometown of Beauce, south of Quebec City.

Five soldiers who shared the cakes nearby were asked what the ministerial visit meant to them.

Four soldiers shrugged, but the fifth said it was important.

“At least they’re letting us know they know we’re here,” said Cpl. Michel Turcotte a member of the Royal 22nd Regiment from Mont Laurier, Que.

Canada has some 2,300 soldiers based in southern Afghanistan. A total of 71 have died since Canada began its Afghan mission in 2002.

# 1st Writethru The Canadian Press World News Budget – Sunday, Oct. 7

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**DATE:** 2007.10.07  
**KEYWORDS:** ADVISORIES  
**PUBLICATION:** cpw  
**WORD COUNT:** 309

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Here are the budgeted stories as of 19:30 ET. The editor handling World news in Toronto can be reached at 416-507-2165.

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan \_ Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier wrapped up a whirlwind tour of Afghanistan on Sunday by conceding that the country is still a dangerous place. But Bernier insisted progress has been made and said he's proud of the work of Canadian soldiers in the central Asian country. 800 words. By Les Perreux. See CP Photos, CP Video. BC-Afghan-Cda-Ministers, 2nd Writethru. Moved.

UNDATED \_ Better late than never, Liberal Defence critic Denis Coderre is due in Kandahar, Afghanistan, on Monday on his own impromptu visit with the Canadian military just as two senior members of Prime Minister Stephen Harper's cabinet completed a whirlwind tour. 600 words. By Sidhartha Banerjee. BC-Afghan-Cda-Coderre, 3rd Writethru.

KHARTOUM, Sudan \_ A Darfur town under the control of Sudanese troops has been razed in apparent retaliation for a rebel attack on a nearby base of African peacekeepers. United Nations officials who inspected the town said Sunday that about 15,000 civilians had fled the area. 885 words. By Alfred de Montesquiou. BC-Darfur, 2nd Writethru. Moved.

CRANDON, Wis. \_ An off-duty sheriff's deputy went on a shooting rampage at a home early Sunday in northern Wisconsin, killing six people and injuring a seventh before authorities fatally shot him, officials said. 500 words. By Robert Imre. See Photos. BC-Wisconsin-Shooting, 3rd Writethru. Moved.

STOCKHOLM, Sweden \_ American scientists who discovered an enzyme that broke new ground in research on cancer and aging, and a British researcher who discovered genetic fingerprinting that has helped solve crimes and settle paternity disputes are seen as leading candidates to win the Nobel Prize in medicine. 600 words. By Karl Rittter. BC-Nobel-Medicine. Moved.

See also:

\_ BC-Nobel-Medicine-List. Moved Datafile only.

# The Canadian Press News Budget, Sunday, Oct. 7, 2007

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**DATE:** 2007.10.07  
**KEYWORDS:** ADVISORIES  
**PUBLICATION:** cpw  
**WORD COUNT:** 1760

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Here are coverage plans for top Canadian news as of 19:30 EDT. Please note plans may change as circumstances warrant. The next coverage advisory will move about 15:00 EDT Monday for Tuesday editions. If you have any questions, contact CP's National Desk at 416-507-2150.

Copy moves by 18:00 EDT unless otherwise noted; all times EDT.

For queries about non-Canadian Press syndicated copy, call the Specials Desk at 416-507-2152.

## CANADIAN

**HAY RIVER, N.W.T.** \_ Grieving people in the community of Hay River were hoping the RCMP would make an arrest soon in the shooting death of a local Mountie. Residents streamed into the community's four churches on Sunday to pray for Const. Christopher Worden, his widow and their young daughter. 600 words. BC-CRIME-RCMP-Shooting, 6th Writethru. Moved

**FREDERICTON** \_ A long-awaited report into alleged RCMP wrongdoing in relation to a child sex scandal in New Brunswick will be released this week, but at least one complainant doubts it will provide many answers. The Commission for Public Complaints against the RCMP will release its report Wednesday on a three-year probe into whether the Mounties failed to properly investigate alleged sexual abuse at the infamous Kingsclear training school near Fredericton. 750 words. By Chris Morris. BC-RCMP-Sex-Inquiry. Moved.

**OTTAWA** \_ There's a new breed of diplomat lurking in the country's missions around the world, a timid creature that recoils from the Canadian limelight and spends hours trying to reconcile an ever longer list of duties with a constantly shrinking budget. The Department of Foreign Affairs is in the grips of a kind of existential crisis, say a range of current and recently retired staff, brought on by major challenges to their daily work. They speak of a chill that has descended on their ranks, thanks to a communications crackdown from Prime Minister Stephen Harper's office, and the more overarching problem of years of deep budget cuts. 1,200 words. By Jennifer Ditchburn. BC-Foreign-Affairs-Crisis, 1st Writethru. Moved.

**VANCOUVER** \_ Canada's Foreign Minister rallied troops in Kandahar Sunday, saying Canadians should not be asking what Afghanistan can do for them, but what Canada can do for Afghanistan. Activists say it's a good question to ask but the answer is being wrapped up in political rhetoric. 1000 words. By Stephanie Levitz. BC-Afghan-Debate. Moved.

**MONTREAL** \_ Cracking down on refugee advocates is unlikely to stop an influx of refugees at the Canadian border, says an American immigration consultant who was arrested last month at the Quebec-New York state border and charged with human smuggling. Janet Hinshaw-Thomas, a 65-year-old refugee advocate from Chester, Pa., says perhaps some humanitarian organizations who previously thought they could operate without fear of legal reprisal will think twice before helping people who are seeking asylum in Canada. 850 words. By Sidhartha Banerjee. BC-Human-Smuggling. Moved.

EDMONTON \_ While finding shared values among Canada's four western provinces can be a frustrating exercise in Silly Putty stretchability, a Canadian Press Harris–Decima survey of 1,400 Western Canadian residents suggests that on the whole, they see themselves as cheerier, friendlier, more accommodating, more caring, and \_ in the case of Alberta and Saskatchewan \_ harder working. 950 words. By Dean Bennett. BC–West–Poll–Identity. Moved.

TORONTO \_ Premier Dalton McGuinty is wishing the message in the latest Progressive Conservative campaign ad was as positive as the one leader John Tory delivered at a Toronto church Sunday. Saying he'd never approve of a similar ad, McGuinty took issue with the hard–hitting commercial slamming him for mismanaging health care, suing the parents of autistic children, wasting tax dollars on ``Liberal insiders" and ultimately asks whether the public wants ``four more years" of the same. Tory, meantime, told about 1, 000 parishioners the reason he got into public life was to try to help Ontario's disadvantaged. 600 words. See CP Photos. By Tobi Cohen. BC–Elxn–Ont–Main, 2nd Writethru. Moved.

TORONTO \_ Liberal Premier Dalton McGuinty defended his government's efforts to curb street racing in Ontario Sunday. He says new legislation which he labels the toughest in North America along with adequately–resourced police and public awareness will cut into the number of deadly incidents like one that killed two women near Brampton, Ont. Saturday. However, Progressive Conservative rival John Tory accused him of being slow to act, and NDP Leader Howard Hampton suggested only the return of photo radar will solve the problem. 500 words. By Colin Perkel. BC–Elxn–Ont–Street Racing. Moved Regional (C)

TORONTO \_ Despite a healthy dose of skepticism, political observers are keeping a close eye on a southwestern Ontario riding where a veteran Conservative incumbent has a Green candidate nipping at his heels. Recent polls show Shane Jolley, a married father of three who sells organic and sweatshop–free clothing out of an ``alternative" bicycle shop in Owen Sound, Ont., has about 28 per cent support in the riding of Bruce–Grey–Owen Sound, nine points behind frank–talking Conservative ``maverick" Bill Murdoch. It's prompted Green leader Frank De Jong to alter his campaign schedule to head to Owen Sound in an effort to boost Jolley's hopes in Wednesday's vote. 850 words. By Tobi Cohen. BC–Elxn–Ont–Greens. Moved Regional (C).

TORONTO \_ If the fiasco over faith–based schools funding hadn't stolen the spotlight during the Ontario election campaign, a sideshow skirmish over Progressive Conservative Leader John Tory's promise to shave \$1.5 billion in government spending might have made more of a splash. Experts have given the fiscal plan mixed reviews, some calling it feasible while others maintain skepticism that it can be done without cuts to lesser priority programs like welfare and post–secondary education. 750 words. By Maria Babbage. BC–Elxn–Ont–Tory–Cuts, Rpt. Originally moved Saturday and repeated today Regional (C) and Business (B).

See also moving Regional (C):

\_ BC–Elxn–Ont–Liberals. Moved.

\_ BC–Elxn–Ont–Conservatives. Moved.

\_ BC–Elxn–Ont–NDP.

\_ BC–Elxn–Ont–Where–The–Leaders–Are.

CALGARY \_ Unsure of how Big Oil's procession of multibillion–dollar warnings is weighing on Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach, small energy players appear ready to play a more prominent role in the lobbying effort against royalty increases. Over the past week, four major energy companies have come out with vocal opposition to a recent royalty review report that says Alberta should boost its take by nearly 20 per cent or \$2

billion annually. 750 words. By James Stevenson. BC–Alta–Royalty–Fight. Moved General (G) and Business (B).

## BUSINESS

TORONTO \_ Conrad Black's summer has been long and "pleasant", with the comings and goings of visitors and some time out for gentle tomfoolery alongside more serious legal contemplations. But the troubling clouds that mark the end of November are approaching and in less than two months Black will have to depart the sanctuary of his Palm Beach, Fla., estate to face sentencing on his conviction for fraud and obstruction of justice. 800 words. By Romina Maurino. BC–Conrad–Black–Trial. Moved Business (B) and General (G).

MONTREAL \_ Plastics products company IPL Inc. (TSX:IPL.A) has scored big with a \$10–million contract in the manufacturing of heated hockey skate blades, a product endorsed by hockey icon Wayne Gretzky. Located near Quebec City, IPL will make the plastic components for the base of the heated hockey blades. 700 words. By LuAnn LaSalle. See CP Photo CPT103. BC–IPL–Heated–Skates. Moved Business (B) and Sports (S). Moved.

TORONTO \_ Question marks overhanging U.S. Federal Reserve intentions for interest rates could translate into cautious trading on stock markets this week. A better–than–expected reading on U.S. employment helped lift stock markets to a positive run last week. With employment growth at 110,000, the report exceeded economist expectations, while job creation for July and August was revised upward. 725 words. By Malcolm Morrison. BC–Dollar–Markets–Lookahead. Moved.

## ENTERTAINMENT

TORONTO \_ When most of the world looked away during the massacre of almost a million people in Rwanda in 1994, the United Nations vowed "never again." That's why humanitarians, including American actress Mia Farrow, were stunned when, a decade later, the first genocide of the 21st century got underway in Darfur, and again the world u and more significantly, the United Nations u did next to nothing to stop it. A new documentary by longtime CBC producer Neil Docherty, "Darfur: On Our Watch," is a disturbing look not just at the tragedy of Darfur but the utter failure of the UN, once again, to do anything meaningful to stop widespread genocide, this time in an arid region of western Sudan tense with tribal rivalries. 600 words. By Lee–Anne Goodman. See CP Photos CPT101–102. BC–TV–Darfur–Farrow. Moved.

TORONTO \_ Twenty–three years since David Lee Roth last rolled into Toronto as the frontman for the seminal American hard rock act Van Halen, fans were once again primed to hear classics like "Unchained" and "Panama" sung as they remember them u by Diamond Dave. After two decades of the band carrying on under different vocalists, the Van Halen brothers and Roth were set Sunday to play Canada together for the first time since reuniting this year. 500 words. See CP Photos. By Gregory Bonnell. BC–MUSIC–Van–Halen. A short item will move immediately after show begins, by about 21:30. A budgeted writethru will move after the show, by midnight.

RAMALLAH, West Bank \_ Canadian rocker Bryan Adams will headline concerts for peace in the West Bank and Israel later this month, with performances relayed by satellite to simultaneous events in London, Ottawa and Washington, organizers said Sunday. 400 words. By Dalia Nammari. BC–MUSIC–Adams–Mideast, 1st Writethru. Moved Entertainment (E) and World (W).

LOS ANGELES \_ There's something about a reunion of Ben Stiller and the Farrelly brothers that many filmgoers apparently didn't want to see. "The Heartbreak Kid," starring Stiller and the Farrellys, pulled in a modest US\$14 million on its opening weekend, coming in at No. 2 behind "The Game Plan," which remained the top flick for the second straight weekend with \$16.3 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. 550 words. By David Germain. BC–FILM–Box–Office. Moved.



# Two dead soldiers, one airman added to memorial in moving N.S. ceremony

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**DATE:** 2007.10.07

**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE

**PUBLICATION:** cpw

**WORD COUNT:** 160

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TATAMAGOUCHE, N.S. \_ Two fallen soldiers and an U.S. marine pilot had their names added to a war memorial in Tatamagouche during a quiet ceremony on Sunday.

All three men had strong ties to the small Nova Scotia community of about 1,000 people.

Pte. Nathan Smith, a Canadian soldier killed in 2002 in Afghanistan when an American jet mistakenly bombed his unit; Sgt. Darcy Tedford, a soldier killed by an ambush last year in Afghanistan; and Capt. Derrick Nichols, a U.S. marine pilot who died in a training exercise in 2004, had their names added to the local cenotaph.

Nichols grew up in Tatamagouche and attended school in the area.

Smith spent part of his childhood in Dartmouth, N.S., and moved to Tatamagouche with his parents.

“It means a lot,” said Lloyd Smith.

“The people of this community have been so good to us. It just really means a lot.”

Bill Cameron, a legion organizer, said it's important that the young men be remembered alongside those who died in previous wars.

“It's very important that we remember them in our community and have their names added to the cenotaph along with First World War and Second World War veterans,” said Cameron.

# INDEX:Politics, International

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**DATE:** 2007.10.07  
**KEYWORDS:** POLITICS INTERNATIONAL  
**PUBLICATION:** cpw  
**WORD COUNT:** 129

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KANDAHAR, Afghanistan \_ International Co-operation Minister Bev Oda today announced a \$25-million program to help feed people in southern Afghanistan.

The money will be used to fund the purchase of grain and cooking oil in areas hard hit by Taliban militants.

Canadian officials say this year alone 8,700 tonnes of food have been distributed to about 400,000 people.

Oda made the announcement as she and Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier continued the second day of their visit to Afghanistan.

Oda says ``this renewed partnership will help ensure that vulnerable Afghan children will continue to receive necessary food aid."

Oda and Bernier arrived in Kandahar after a visit to Kabul, where they met with Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

The two newly shuffled Canadian cabinet ministers arrived in the Afghan capital just 30 minutes after another deadly suicide bomb attack Saturday, but that didn't daunt their persistent pitch that life is getting better for ordinary Afghans.

Canada has 2,300 soldiers based in southern Afghanistan.

# Top news stories for Sunday, Oct. 7

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**DATE:** 2007.10.07  
**KEYWORDS:** ADVISORIES  
**PUBLICATION:** cpw  
**WORD COUNT:** 372

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The Canadian Press suggests the following for front-page consideration:

## TOP PHOTO

ZHARI DISTRICT, Afghanistan \_ PCH109 (horizontal) \_ Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier sits in a Chinook helicopter on his way to visiting Patrol Base Wilson at Zhari District, Afghanistan, Sunday.

## NWT MAYOR CALLS ON CITIZENS TO COME FORWARD WITH ANY INFO ON MOUNTIE SHOOTING

HAY RIVER, N.W.T. \_ The mayor of Hay River is calling on people in the community to come forward with any information, whoever small, that might lead to the capture of the killer of a local Mountie. Const. Christopher John Worden had been responding to a call for police assistance at a home at about 5 a.m. on Saturday when his radio went dead. Colleagues went looking for him, and found he had been shot. They rushed him to hospital, where he died. 500 words. BC-CRIME-RCMP-Shooting, 3rd Writethru.

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER BERNIER SAYS CANADIANS HAVE MADE AFGHANS MORE SECURE

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan \_ Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier wrapped up a whirlwind tour of Afghanistan on Sunday by conceding that the country is still a dangerous place. But Bernier insisted progress has been made and said he's proud of the work of Canadian soldiers in the central Asian country. 775 words. By Les Perreux. See CP Photos, CP Video. BC-Afghan-Cda-Ministers, 1st Writethru. Moved.

## WESTERN CANADIANS SEE THEMSELVES AS FRIENDLY BUT MISUNDERSTOOD: SURVEY

EDMONTON \_ While finding shared values among Canada's four western provinces can be a frustrating exercise in Silly Putty stretchability, a Canadian Press Harris-Decima survey of 1,400 Western Canadian residents suggests that on the whole, they see themselves as cheerier, friendlier, more accommodating, more caring, and \_ in the case of Alberta and Saskatchewan \_ harder working. 950 words. By Dean Bennett. BC-West-Poll-Identity. Moved.

The buzz . . .

## PAMELA ANDERSON GETS HITCHED \_ AGAIN \_ BETWEEN VEGAS SHOWS

LAS VEGAS \_ Pamela Anderson and Rick Salomon were married Saturday evening between the former ``Baywatch" star's performances on the Las Vegas Strip, according to published reports. Anderson, 40, wore a white denim Valentino dress, according to a report on People magazine's website. Her new hubby is 38 and best-known for making a sex videotape with hotel heiress-reality TV star Paris Hilton, his girlfriend at the time. 200 words. BC-TV-Pamela-Anderson. Moved.

# BC-Cda-News-Digest

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**DATE:** 2007.10.07  
**KEYWORDS:** ADVISORIES  
**PUBLICATION:** cpw  
**WORD COUNT:** 987

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HAY RIVER, N.W.T. \_ RCMP say they have a suspect in the shooting death of a Mountie in Hay River but won't identify the person or whether the suspect is being held in custody.

Chief/Supt. Tom Middleton said that police roadblocks in the area were taken down early Sunday morning.

During a news conference at the Hay River arena Middleton tried to reassure residents that they have nothing to fear.

“The investigative team has identified a suspect and we are actively pursuing all avenues of investigation. To protect the integrity of the investigation we are unable to share further details at this time,” he said.

“Investigators believe there is no immediate threat to the community of Hay River.”

Worden, 30, of Ottawa had been responding to a call for police assistance at a residence at about 5 a.m. on Saturday when his radio went dead.

Two colleagues went looking for him and found him in a wooded area suffering from gunshot wounds. They rushed him to hospital, where he died.

Up to 70 RCMP from the N.W.T. and Alberta scoured the town and surrounding area for the gunman.

Mounties set up roadblocks on Saturday on the main highway and were checking vehicles and passengers on the Yellowknife ferry.

John D. Pollard, the mayor of Hay River, called on people in the community Sunday to come forward with any information they may have about Worden's death.

Free Afghan mission debate from politics, focus on Afghans, activists say

VANCOUVER \_ Paraphrasing an assassinated U.S. president at the Provincial Reconstruction Team base in Kandahar on Sunday, Canada's foreign affairs minister sought to rally the troops.

“Don't ask the Afghan government what it can do for us in Canada, but what we Canadians can do for the Afghan people,” Maxime Bernier said.

It's a question both Afghan and Canadian politicians have been asking for months as they've crisscrossed the world to convince both their nations of the merits of Canada's mission in Kandahar.

But the answer is increasingly wrapped up in political rhetoric, activists say, and ordinary Afghans and Canadians are being left out of the debate.

“This is our generation's war,” said Norine MacDonald, president of the Senlis Council, an international think-tank focused in part on counter-narcotics initiatives in opium-laden Afghanistan.

“It's a defining moment for us on the international stage and it's a defining moment for each of us as a Canadian to say what does that really mean to me then? What does it mean when I say I want to stand with my Afghan brothers and sisters against Al Qaida, Taliban extremist elements, that would do them harm and would do us harm?”

Canada's current commitment to the NATO-led mission in Afghanistan is set to expire in 2009, with an April deadline for Canada to firmly decide whether it will stay or go.

Miscommunications led to arrest, American refugee advocate says

MONTREAL\_ Cracking down on refugee advocates is unlikely to stop an influx of refugees at the Canadian border, says an American immigration consultant who was arrested last month at the Quebec–New York state border and charged with human smuggling.

Janet Hinshaw–Thomas, a 65-year-old refugee advocate from Chester, Pa., says perhaps some humanitarian organizations who previously thought they could operate without fear of legal reprisal will think twice before helping people who are seeking asylum in Canada.

But with the current immigration situation in the United States, people will continue making a bee line for the Canadian border, with or without the help of intermediaries.

“I can't believe that people are not going to approach the border, they'll just pay other people to get up there,” said Hinshaw–Thomas in an interview last week, between seeing clients at her offices in Lancaster, Pa.

“It's not going to stop it, but it's going to stop an orderly process.”

There has been a recent influx of Mexican and Haitian refugees in Windsor, Ont., from the United States where the Immigration and Naturalization Service are in the midst of a clampdown on illegal immigrants.

“The deportations in the United States of Haitians as well as other people have gone up tremendously and people are living in great fear,” Hinshaw–Thomas said.

Hinshaw–Thomas, who was arrested on Sept. 26 in Saint–Bernard–de–Lacolle, Que. as she helped 12 Haitian nationals cross the border, says a series of miscommunications on both sides led to her arrest. In 19 previous trips by people from her organization, no one had ever been arrested or stopped.

Kingsclear victim skeptical about report on RCMP handling of sex scandal

FREDERICTON \_ A long-awaited report into alleged RCMP wrongdoing in relation to a child sex scandal in New Brunswick will be released this week, but at least one complainant doubts it will provide many answers.

The Commission for Public Complaints against the RCMP will release its report Wednesday on a three-year probe into whether the Mounties failed to properly investigate alleged sexual abuse at the infamous Kingsclear training school near Fredericton.

But John Fearon, who claims he was sexually assaulted while he was a boy at the school in the 1960s, says the commission did not get the information it needed.

Fearon says that because the federal government has refused to give RCMP officers the job protection they need to act as whistleblowers, critical evidence was withheld from the commission.

“They (the commission) did not have the powers to do a proper investigation,” Fearon said in an interview.

“They had no way of compelling witnesses to come forward. I'm sure you'll find the report will say that there are still witnesses out there who were unwilling to share information with them because they were protecting their jobs.”

The inquiry was launched in 2004 to determine whether the RCMP failed to properly investigate alleged criminal conduct by Kingsclear staff and by one of its own members, now-retired RCMP Staff Sgt. Clifford McCann.

Conrad Black keeping busy with TV shows, book signings and court filings

TORONTO \_ Conrad Black's summer has been long and “pleasant,” with the comings and goings of visitors and some time out for gentle tomfoolery alongside more serious legal contemplations.

But the troubling clouds that mark the end of November are approaching and in less than two months Black will have to depart the sanctuary of his Palm Beach, Fla., estate to face sentencing on his conviction for fraud and obstruction of justice.

“It is a pleasant summer and it hasn't ended here,” Black said in an e-mail to The Canadian Press.

The 63-year-old Lord Black of Crossharbour has been at his Florida home, where he's spending time with his wife and preparing various appeals ahead of sentencing.

The former head of the Hollinger newspaper empire has not been allowed to return to Toronto since the July verdict, despite promising to appear in a Chicago court for sentencing on Nov. 30.

Still, he says: “I am optimistic, active, and receiving many visitors, and in a community where I know many people.”

# Liberal defence critic to arrive in Kandahar as Tory ministers head home

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**DATE:** 2007.10.07

**KEYWORDS:** INTERNATIONAL POLITICS DEFENCE

**PUBLICATION:** cpw

**WORD COUNT:** 468

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UNDATED \_ Better late than never, Liberal Defence critic Denis Coderre is due in Kandahar, Afghanistan, on Monday on his own impromptu visit with the Canadian military just as two senior members of Prime Minister Stephen Harper's cabinet completed a whirlwind tour.

It's been a long road getting to Kandahar for Coderre, who has been travelling since Wednesday. He spent part of Sunday in Kabul after taking a United Nations flight to the Afghan capital early Sunday from Islamabad, Pakistan.

“I'm going to go to Kandahar, meet the troops and visit the infrastructure and send a clear message of solidarity to the troops,” Coderre said in a telephone interview from Kabul.

Coderre's arrival comes as Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier and International Co-operation Minister Bev Oda completed a 36-hour whirlwind, photo-op tour of Afghanistan and Canadian military operations.

Coderre decided to go on his own after the Harper government ignored his repeated calls to allow him to go. He accused the government of playing petty politics by not letting him accompany the two cabinet ministers on their trip.

But the government has maintained that it was the former Liberal administration, under then Defence Minister Bill Graham, who began a policy in 2004 of not allowing lone MP's to travel to Afghanistan.

A government spokesman said Graham told Tory MP Sheryl Gallant that all parliamentary travel had to be done by committee because of security and other reasons.

Coderre, who spent some time in Islamabad meeting with a variety of contacts, says its clear that Pakistan is a key to success to the NATO mission in Afghanistan.

“There's no question that we don't want to abandon the Afghan people,” Coderre said. “If Mr. Bernier's trip was so important, he should have included a trip to Pakistan because Pakistan is very, very important to the mission.”

Coderre says he has scheduled a few more meetings in Kabul and Islamabad before returning to Canada. Part of the Liberal's position on Canada's mission in Afghanistan post-February 2009, when the military mission is scheduled to end, will include looking to Pakistan for help.

“We don't put enough emphasis of our mission on the situation of Pakistan. Pakistan is clearly part of the solution.”

Coderre met a number of people in Kabul, including a senior infrastructure specialist from the World Bank and members of the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit, an independent research organization based in the Afghan capital.

He also had a briefing from the deputy head of the Canadian mission.

The Montreal MP says his fact-finding mission comes with the blessing of Liberal Leader Stephane Dion, who plans to make his own trip to Afghanistan in the fall.

Coderre brushed off suggestions from political adversaries in Canada that his trip is merely a political stunt, adding that he has taken precautions for his own security as well as others.

Both the Tories and the NDP have questioned Coderre's solo trip,

but the Liberal MP makes no apologies.

“I'm a former cabinet minister and I'm a member of the Privy Council,” he said. “I have a duty and I'm doing my duty.

Canada has some 2,500 troops in Afghanistan. Seventy-one Canadian soldiers and one diplomat have died since the Canadian mission began in 2002.



# INDEX:International, Politics

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**DATE:** 2007.10.07  
**KEYWORDS:** INTERNATIONAL POLITICS  
**PUBLICATION:** bnw  
**WORD COUNT:** 143

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(The Canadian Press)

# INDEX:International, Politics

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(The Canadian Press)

## --Eleventh NewsWatch--

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**DATE:** 2007.10.07  
**KEYWORDS:** ADVISORIES  
**PUBLICATION:** bnw  
**WORD COUNT:** 244

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R-C-M-P are not saying much, but they have a suspect in the shooting death of a Mountie in Hay River, the Northwest Territories.

They won't identify the person or say whether the suspect is in custody.

But Chief Superintendent Tom Middleton says the community is in no immediate danger.

Constable Christopher John Worden (WAR'-din) was shot while responding to a call from a home Saturday morning. (11)

(Wisconsin-Shooting) (Audio: 108)

The small northeast Wisconsin town of Crandon is trying to make sense of a mass killing.

Six young people were shot dead during a house party early Sunday by a gunman who was an ex-boyfriend of the host.

The suspect was also a local law enforcement officer.

He was killed by a police sniper.

A seventh shooting victim is in critical condition in hospital. (11)

(Afghan-Cda-Coderre) (Audio: 80)

Liberal Defence critic Denis Coderre rejects suggestions from political adversaries that his trip to Afghanistan is merely a political stunt.

He adds he's taken precautions for his own security as well as others.

Coderre says he's gone to Afghanistan with the support of his party and with the co-operation of the United Nations.

The Montreal M-P says his fact-finding mission comes with the blessing of Liberal Leader Stephane Dion.

It follows a government-sanctioned visit by the foreign minister and International cooperation minister. (11)

(Iraq-Blackwater)

The Iraqi government says its official investigation of a deadly shooting involving Blackwater U-S-A security guards has raised the number of Iraqis killed to 17.

It found the gunfire was unwarranted and recommended those involved stand trial.

The guards have said they came under fire first. (11)

(Diana Inquest)

A British coroner's jury probe of the deaths of the Princess of Wales and her boyfriend, Dodi Fayed (DOH'-dee FY'-ehd), is moving to Paris.

That's where they died in a car crash more than ten years ago.

Their driver also died while being chased by Paparazzi. (11)

(Monet-Damaged)

An important painting by French impressionist Claude Monet has a 10-centimetre gash in it, thanks to a group of drunken youths.

Police say they broke into the Orsay Museum in Paris through a back door early today and punched a hole in the renowned work.

A surveillance camera caught a group of four to five people entering the museum.

No arrests have been made. (11)

(NewsWatch by Roger Ward)

# CORRECTION–Afghan–Cda–Food

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**DATE:** 2007.10.07  
**KEYWORDS:** POLITICS INTERNATIONAL  
**PUBLICATION:** bnw  
**WORD COUNT:** 109

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Stations: Please substitute the following for Afghan–Cda–Food moved at 5:46 a–m EDT:

(clarifies it's details of previously announced funding)

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — International Co-operation Minister Bev Oda today announced details of a \$25-million program to help feed people in southern Afghanistan.

The funding, announced previously, will be used to purchase grain and cooking oil in areas hard hit by Taliban militants.

Canadian officials say this year alone 8,700 tonnes of food have been distributed to about 400,000 people.

Oda made the announcement as she and Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier continued the second day of their visit to Afghanistan.

Oda says ``this renewed partnership will help ensure that vulnerable Afghan children will continue to receive necessary food aid."

Oda and Bernier arrived in Kandahar after a visit to Kabul, where they met with Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

(The Canadian Press)

# Prep–Today in History

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**DATE:** 2007.10.07  
**KEYWORDS:** ENTERTAINMENT  
**PUBLICATION:** bnw  
**WORD COUNT:** 616

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Today is October 7th.

Today's highlight in history:

On this date in 1777, an American revolutionary force under the command of George Washington was routed at Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania by the 1st American Regiment. The regiment later became known as the Queen's York Regiment — one of Canada's oldest military units. It was organized before the American Revolution by Robert Rogers, famed for his Rogers' Rangers, but was later moved to Toronto by John Graves Simcoe, the first lieutenant governor of Upper Canada. The Rangers also served in the Northwest Rebellion, the Boer War and the First and Second World Wars.

Also on this date:

In 1663, Jean–Baptiste Legardeur de Repentigny was named Quebec City's first mayor.

In 1737, iron was first smelted in Canada, at St–Maurice, Quebec. In 1763, a treaty between England and France replaced New France with the much smaller province of Quebec. A Royal proclamation issued the same day awarded Labrador, Anticosti Island and the Magdalen Islands to Newfoundland.

In 1786, Louis–Joseph Papineau, leader of the 1837 rebellion in Lower Canada, was born.

In 1825, the great Miramichi (meer–ah–mih–SHEE') fire killed nearly 200 people and destroyed more than 15–thousand square kilometres. It laid waste to Newcastle and Douglastown and most of the other settlements in the region, now part of New Brunswick.

In 1849, American poet and short story writer Edgar Allan Poe died in Baltimore at 40.

In 1913, Henry Ford launched a new production process in Detroit. The assembly line revolutionized car production.

Also in 1913, oil was discovered at Okotoks, Alberta — near Calgary.

In 1949, the Republic of East Germany was formed.

In 1923, artist and sculptor Jean–Paul Riopelle was born in Montreal. Riopelle, who became one of Canada's best–known artists of the 20th century, died at 78 on March 12th, 2002.

In 1954, Marion Anderson became the first black singer hired by New York's Metropolitan Opera Company.

In 1959, the Soviet Union's ``Luna 3" took the first photos of the dark side of the Moon.

In 1969, a state of emergency was declared in Montreal when police and firefighters staged a 16–hour wildcat strike. The walkout resulted in two deaths, violence and looting.

In 1980, West German car dealer Jaromir Wagner became the first man to cross the Atlantic on the wing of an airplane. Wagner stopped four times during his trip from Glessen, West Germany to Goose Bay, Labrador.

In 1981, Egypt's parliament named vice president Hosni Mubarak, to succeed Anwar Sadat as president. Sadat had been assassinated the previous day.

In 1982, Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical ``Cats" opened on Broadway. It went on to become the longest-running musical in the history of American theatre with 7,485 performances.

In 1990, Canadian C-F-18 fighter jets began arriving at camp ``Canada Dry" in Qatar. The 25- (m) million-dollar planes joined a multinational force amassed in the Persian Gulf to blockade Iraq over its invasion of Kuwait.

In 1997, Arizona, Texas and Virginia abandoned midnight as the hour of execution. The idea was to reduce lost sleep for judges, overtime for prison guards and added strain on convicts.

In 1999, former broadcaster and Ontario diplomat Adrienne Clarkson was named governor general, becoming the first member of a visible minority to hold the post.

In 2000, a Slovenian ski instructor became the first person to ski non-stop down Mount Everest. It took 38-year-old Davo Karnicar (kar-NEET'-sar) five hours to travel the 35-hundred metres from the summit of the world's tallest mountain to a base camp.

In 2001, the United States began bombing Afghanistan in response to the previous month's terror attacks in New York and Washington.

In 2003, California voters decide to terminate governor Gray Davis in the recall election — and replace him with movie star Arnold Schwarzenegger. Schwarzenegger was by far the best known and best funded of the more than 130 candidates in the recall vote.

Also in 2003, an Ontario court reinstated the ban on possessing small amounts of marijuana. Possession laws had become virtually unenforceable after a lower court ruling earlier in the year.

Today's birthdays 2007:

Singer-actor Al Martino is 80.

South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu is 76.

Australian author Thomas Keneally is 72.

Musician John Mellencamp is 56.

Russian President Vladimir Putin is 55.

Cellist Yo-Yo Ma is 52.

American Idol judge Simon Cowell is 48.

Singer Toni Braxton is 40.

Canadian actress Rachel McAdams is 29.

Canadian actors Shawn and Aaron Ashmore — identical twins — are 28.

Thought for today: ``Never trouble trouble till trouble troubles you." — Anonymous.



## --Seventh NewsWatch--

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**DATE:** 2007.10.07  
**KEYWORDS:** ADVISORIES  
**PUBLICATION:** bnw  
**WORD COUNT:** 353

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Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier and International Co-operation Minister Bev Oda have wrapped up their 36-hour visit to Afghanistan.

Yesterday, they met with President Hamid Karzai in Kabul.

Oda announced details of Canada's plan to spend 25 (m) million dollars to assist the World Food Program's work feeding some 400-thousand people in Kandahar.

Today, they paid a visit to Canadian soldiers at Kandahar Airfield.

Some soldiers said they appreciated the visit, because it's an acknowledgement of the work Canadians are doing in Afghanistan. (7)

(R-C-M-P Shooting Manhunt) (Audio: 013)

The search continues across the Northwest Territories for a man wanted in the shooting death of a Mountie.

Sergeant Larry O'Brien says Constable Chris Worden, a 30-year-old officer originally from Ottawa, was gunned down while responding to a call from a home in the small community of Hay River, yesterday.

Reporter Patrick Teskey, a friend of Worden, says the young officer was one of the nicest people he's ever met.

Constable Worden, who is married with one child, joined the R-C-M-P in 2002. (7)

(Fatal Crash-Brampton)

Two brothers are due in a Brampton, Ontario, court today to face charges following a horrific five-vehicle crash that killed two women and injured seven other people.

The two men, driving separate cars, are alleged to have hit speeds of 140 kilometres per hour in an 80-kilometre zone.

One car apparently lost control, causing a chain-reaction series of crashes that scattered smashed vehicles and automobile parts over a long stretch of the roadway yesterday. (7)

(Iraq-Blackwater)

A U-S-Iraqi commission, headed by Iraq's defence minister and an American diplomat, has begun its review of private security operations in Iraq.

The panel was put together after the deadly shooting of Iraqi civilians, allegedly at the hands of guards working for Blackwater U-S-A, who were accused of acting like ``cowboys."

Private guards in Iraq must now operate under much stricter guidelines and all radio transmissions must be recorded. (7)

(Boy Bus Driver)

A 10-year-old boy, driving a stolen bus, led police on a 60-kilometre chase along a rural highway in Arkansas.

Officers from three counties, four towns and the state police were all following the bus as it travelled north toward Little Rock.

Eventually they were able to force the bus to a stop and it was only then that police realized the suspect was a child. (7)

(Clerical-Collars) (Audio: 71)

A church safety group in Britain is urging Catholic and Anglican clergy to remove their clerical collars while off-duty.

The group says the stiff, white neck pieces, also referred to as dog collars, often attracts thugs who have a grudge against God.

A University of London study done in 2001, found that seven in 10 clergy had experienced some form of violence between 1997 and 1999, and that more than one in 10 reported being assaulted. (7)

(NewsWatch by Phil Godin)

## --Twelfth NewsWatch--

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**DATE:** 2007.10.07  
**KEYWORDS:** ADVISORIES  
**PUBLICATION:** bnw  
**WORD COUNT:** 302

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A small community in the Northwest Territories is mourning the loss of a police officer.

R-C-M-P Constable Christopher Worden (WAR'-din) was shot to death as he responded to a call for police assistance in Hay River Saturday afternoon.

People in the small town are helping the family.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper issued his condolences in a release.

Meantime the R-C-M-P continue to hunt for Worden's killer, but are saying little about the investigation.  
(12)

(Afghan-Cda) (Audio: 52)

Two federal cabinet ministers are on a quick visit to Afghanistan. For security concerns the arrival of Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier and International Co-operation Minister Bev Oda wasn't announced until after they arrived in Kabul.

A U-S soldier and four Afghan civilians were killed when a suicide attacker set off a bomb on the road near the airport.

In another development Liberal defence critic Denis Coderre is heading to Afghanistan Sunday on a U-N flight.

He says the Harper government ignored his requests for a government-arranged visit. (12)

(Myanmar-Protests)

An emotional protest was held in Vancouver Saturday in support of protesters in Myanmar.

Dozens of people stood in the rain chanting and singing for the monks and people of the southeast Asian country who have been jailed for protesting against the military regime there in recent weeks.

Rallies were held in Montreal, Toronto and Ottawa, joining thousands of demonstrators in cities across Europe and Asia. (12)

(Pakistan-Politics) (Audio: 87)

Pakistan's General Pervez Musharraf has swept the country's presidential election.

The Supreme Court ruled the results will not be declared official until after it rules on complaints lodged by Musharraf's opponents that his candidacy is unconstitutional.

Only a handful of the government's opponents were among the 685 of the 11-hundred-70 eligible lawmakers who turned out to vote. (12)

(Armoured-Car-Shooting)

Philadelphia police say a man with a history of robbing banks has been charged with two counts of murder in the slayings of two armoured car guards.

The slayings happened Thursday while the guards were servicing an A-T-M.

The suspect, Mustafa Ali, gave a statement to authorities and appeared to have acted alone. (12)

(Columbus Day Parade Protest)

People for and against Christopher Columbus clashed in Denver Saturday in their annual parade.

Police arrested 83 people.

Most are accused of blocking a parade route.

Denver's parade has a history of arrests and confrontations between supporters and detractors of Columbus, who is credited with discovering America.

Protesters have called him a slave trader.

Supporters say he was a brave explorer. (12)

(NewsWatch by Roger Ward)

# Afghan Violence

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**DATE:** 2007.10.07  
**KEYWORDS:** INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE  
**PUBLICATION:** bnw  
**WORD COUNT:** 114

---

KABUL, Afghanistan – Police officials in Afghanistan say a bombing and a gunbattle has killed four police officers and four militants.

Two officers were killed and two others were wounded when a bomb exploded under their car in Yaqoubi district in Khost province on Saturday.

Also in eastern Afghanistan, a Taliban ambush in Nuristan province left two other officers dead.

Four militants were also killed in the Saturday clash, which occurred in the remote Kamdesh district.

Elsewhere in the east, NATO soldiers shot and killed three Afghans the soldiers thought constituted a threat.

NATO officials killed two Afghan civilians in Kunar province after the men sped toward a checkpoint without stopping.

The checkpoint had been set up because intelligence indicated insurgents planned to launch an attack on a NATO base.

The third man was killed in Paktika province.

The “suspicious” man was shot and killed after being asked to halt.

(The Associated Press)

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**DATE:** 2007.10.07  
**KEYWORDS:** ADVISORIES  
**PUBLICATION:** bnw  
**WORD COUNT:** 328

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Prime Minister Harper is expressing condolences to the family and colleagues of an R-C-M-P officer who was murdered in the line of duty.

Harper says Constable Christopher Worden was ``a brave officer who lost his life to a senseless act of violence."

Worden was shot yesterday while responding to a call at a house in Hay River in the Northwest Territories.

Worden -- a 30-year-old native of Ottawa -- was married and had a young daughter.

An intense manhunt is under way for suspects. (2)

(Fatal-Brampton)

Charges have been laid against two men after a high-speed crash that killed two women in Brampton, Ontario.

Witnesses say two men, each driving different cars, were driving in excess of 140-kilometres an hour in an 80-kilometre zone yesterday when one lost control and crashed into a car carrying the victims.

Twenty-two-year-old Steven Machado and his 27-year-old brother, Brian, appear in court today for a bail hearing on charges of criminal negligence causing death.

Police say street racing charges may be laid.

The Machados' vehicles were seized under an Ontario law which took effect a week ago.

That law allows police to impound for one week the vehicle of any driver caught exceeding the speed limit by 50-kilometres an hour. (2)

(Elxn-Ont) (Audio: 60)

With only three days left in the campaign for Wednesday's Ontario election, the opposition is ramping up its attacks against Liberal Premier Dalton McGuinty.

Conservative Leader John Tory blamed McGuinty for a reported 179-(m)-million-dollar cost overrun at a hospital project in Sarnia.

N-D-P Leader Howard Hampton says McGuinty will promise anything during a campaign, but adds ``all those promises mean nothing the day after the election."

McGuinty continues to blast the Tory plan for faith-based school funding, saying it would ``divide" and ``weaken" Ontario. (2)

(Afghan—Cda—Coderre)

Liberal M—P Denis Coderre's fact—finding trip to Afghanistan is being delayed.

Coderre — his party's defence critic — is in neighbouring Pakistan, where he was supposed to catch a flight today to Kandahar.

However, for some unexplained reason, his arrival in Kandahar has been delayed until at least tomorrow.

Coderre is travelling on his own because he says Ottawa refused his requests for help in making the trip. (2)

(NYC Explosion)

A gas leak is blamed for a fiery explosion that sent 20 residents of a New York City apartment building to hospital.

Four of the victims are children, who are being treated for critical burns. (2)

(BIZ—Auto Talks Chrysler)

Contract talks are being held in Detroit over the weekend between Chrysler and the United Auto Workers.

Neither side will say what — if any — progress is being made.

Elsewhere, General Motors workers in the U—S are due to wrap up voting on Wednesday on a tentative contract reached a week and—a—half ago. (2)

(NewsWatch by Bill Marshall)

# INDEX:Politics, International

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**DATE:** 2007.10.07  
**KEYWORDS:** POLITICS INTERNATIONAL  
**PUBLICATION:** bnw  
**WORD COUNT:** 92

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KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – International Co-operation Minister Bev Oda today announced a \$25-million program to help feed people in southern Afghanistan.

The money will be used to fund the purchase of grain and cooking oil in areas hard hit by Taliban militants.

Canadian officials say this year alone 8,700 tonnes of food have been distributed to about 400,000 people.

Oda made the announcement as she and Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier continued the second day of their visit to Afghanistan.

Oda says 'this renewed partnership will help ensure that vulnerable Afghan children will continue to receive necessary food aid.'

Oda and Bernier arrived in Kandahar after a visit to Kabul, where they met with Afghan President Hamid Karzai.



## --Eighth NewsWatch--

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**DATE:** 2007.10.07  
**KEYWORDS:** ADVISORIES  
**PUBLICATION:** bnw  
**WORD COUNT:** 344

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Deputy Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff says he doesn't believe Stephen Harper really wants the minority Parliament to work because the P-M thinks he'll get a majority if there's a fall election.

He says all Harper would have to do is reach out and offer to work with the Opposition to get bills passed.

Last week, Harper attached strings to the October 16th throne speech -- saying he will consider all future votes on his legislative agenda to be confidence matters that could trigger an election if they are defeated. (8)

(Afghan-Cda-Ministers) (Audio: 86)

Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier admits Afghanistan is still a dangerous place but says progress is being made.

He has wrapped up a whirlwind weekend tour of the region with International Co-operation Minister Bev Oda.

Both ministers say the situation for the Afghan people has improved thanks to the efforts of Canadians who are involved in various rebuilding and aid projects. (8)

(RCMP-Shooting) (Audio: 81)

People in the community of Hay River in the Northwest Territories are trying to come to grips with the shooting death of one of their Mounties.

Thirty-year-old Constable Christopher Wordon, originally from Ottawa was shot and killed after responding to a call at a house yesterday.

About 70 R-C-M-P officers from across the north are searching for a suspect, but so far, no-one has been arrested. (8)

(Wisconsin-Shooting)

At least five people have been gunned down in a shooting rampage in northern Wisconsin.

The killings early today were in the town of Crandon, about 360 kilometres north of Milwaukee.

Police are not saying what prompted the shootings.

The gunman, believed to be a sheriff's deputy, is still at large.

Residents have been advised to stay off the streets until the suspect is in custody. (8)

(Hong Kong-Democracy)

Thousands of people marched through Hong Kong's streets today, demanding the right to pick their city's leader and members of the legislature.

They hoisted yellow umbrellas to form the year 2012 — their target year for full democracy.

The former British colony returned to Chinese rule in 1997 but was promised a wide degree of autonomy under a "one country, two systems" formula.

Beijing has ruled out full democracy for the territory before next year. (8)

(Rubik's Cube Race)

A 16-year-old from Japan took the top prize at the Rubik's Cube world championship in Hungary, solving the puzzle five times in an average of 12.46 seconds.

But the fastest single attempt was a cool 10.88 seconds, just off the world record of 9.86 seconds.

Yu Nakajima won the main event for twisting the classic cube which has nine coloured tiles on each of its six sides into the winning position, where all like-coloured tiles are on the same face. (8)

(NewsWatch by Phil Godin)

## --Third NewsWatch--

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**DATE:** 2007.10.07  
**KEYWORDS:** ADVISORIES  
**PUBLICATION:** bnw  
**WORD COUNT:** 237

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Suspects are being sought after an R-C-M-P officer was slain on the job in the Northwest Territories.

Constable Christopher Worden was shot while responding to a call at a house in Hay River.

Worden -- a 30-year-old native of Ottawa -- was pronounced dead in hospital.

Worden was a Mountie for five years, and leaves a wife and a young daughter.

Police plan to release details of the investigation at a news conference this afternoon. (3)

(RCMP Shooting-Rxn)

The prime minister is expressing condolences to the family and colleagues of Constable Christopher Worden.

Stephen Harper calls him ``a brave officer who lost his life to a senseless act of violence."

Harper says it's a tragedy that reminds all Canadians of the ``courage and commitment" shown every day by R-C-M-P officers across Canada. (3)

(Afghan-Cda-Food

International Co-operation Minister Bev Oda today announced a 25-(m)-million dollar program to help feed people in southern Afghanistan.

The money will be used to fund the purchase of grain and cooking oil in areas hard hit by Taliban militants.

Oda made the announcement as she and Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier continued the second day of their visit to Afghanistan. (3)

(Afghan Violence)

Four Afghan police officers and four Taliban militants were killed in two separate clashes in eastern Afghanistan.

Elsewhere in that part of the country, NATO soldiers shot and killed three Afghans whom the soldiers thought were a threat. (3)

(Fatal Brampton) (Audio: 2)

Police say street racing charges may be laid after a high-speed crash killed two women in the Toronto suburb of Brampton.

The crash also left a trail of debris 150-metres long.

A bail hearing will be held today for 22-year-old Steven Machado and his 27-year-old brother, Brian.

So far, they're charged with criminal negligence causing death.

Their cars have been impounded for a week under an Ontario anti-street racing law that took effect a week ago. (3)

(ENT-Anderson-Weds)

Pamela Anderson got married last night in Las Vegas.

Anderson, who is 40, walked down the aisle with Rick Solomon -- the ex of actress Shannen Doherty.

Solomon, who is 39, is best known for making a sex tape with Paris Hilton.

Anderson has two exes -- singer Kid Rock and Motley Crue drummer Tommy Lee. (3)

(NewsWatch by Bill Marshall)

# INDEX:International, Politics

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**DATE:** 2007.10.07  
**KEYWORDS:** INTERNATIONAL POLITICS  
**PUBLICATION:** bnw  
**WORD COUNT:** 116

---

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier and International Co-operation Minister Bev Oda have wrapped up a ``feel good" Afghan tour.

The 36-hour visit started yesterday in Kabul with talks with President Hamid Karzai, and ended today at the Kandahar Airfield, with chats with Canadian soldiers and the mandatory stop at the Tim Hortons.

Outside of small talk, the ministers mainly stuck to prepared statements.

Oda made two announcements during the trip — 25 (m) million dollars to help feed some 400 thousand people in Kandahar, and three (m) million to finance an archaeological dig in Kabul.

Asked by reporters what a ministerial visit means to them, several soldiers just shrugged.

But Corporal Michel Turcotte says it's important because it acknowledges the work Canadian soldiers are doing in Afghanistan.

(The Canadian Press)

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# --Tenth NewsWatch--

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**DATE:** 2007.10.07  
**KEYWORDS:** ADVISORIES  
**PUBLICATION:** bnw  
**WORD COUNT:** 257

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R-C-M-P say they have a suspect in the shooting death of a Mountie in Hay River, but won't say if the person is in custody, or give a name.

Chief-Superintendent Tom Middleton says police roadblocks in the area were taken down early this morning.

During a news conference, he also tried to reassure residents they have nothing to fear.

Constable Christopher Worden (WAR'-din) responded to a call for police assistance at a home early yesterday when his radio went dead.

Two colleagues went looking for him and found him in a wooded area suffering from gunshot wounds.

He later died in hospital. (10)

(Wisconsin-Shooting) (Audio: 103)

The small northeast Wisconsin town of Crandon is in mourning after six young people were killed during a house party.

The suspect is believed to be a local law enforcement officer and the ex-boyfriend of the woman hosting the party.

He was killed in a shootout with police.

The town is about 360 kilometres north of Milwaukee. (10)

(Throne-Liberals) (Audio: 102)

Deputy Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff suggests Canadians just don't want a fall election.

He commented on that possibility today during an interview on C-T-V's ``Question Period."

Ignatieff says if Prime Minister Harper would compromise on some of his minority government's planned legislation, he could make Parliament work. (10)

(Afghan-Cda-Coderre)

Liberal Defence critic Denis Coderre has arrived in Afghanistan on his own personal fact-finding trip.

He says he has Liberal Leader Stephane Dion's blessing.

Coderre made his own travel arrangements because he says the Harper government has ignored his numerous requests to visit Afghanistan.

The Tories point out that it was former Liberal government policy not to take single M–P's on trips with ministers.

Foreign Minister Maxime Bernier and International Cooperation Minister Bev Oda just finished a trip to Afghanistan. (10)

(Runner Dies)

It has been a disastrous day for runners in the U–S.

High heat and humidity brought the Chicago Marathon to a halt.

One runner collapsed and died and 300 people went to the hospital.

And in Washington a runner died while nearing the finish line of the Army Ten–Miler race. (10)

(Box Office)

Looks like the people who made ``The Game Plan" had a good plan.

The comedy took the number one spot at the box office again this weekend.

The family flick stars Dwayne ``The Rock" Johnson as a pro–football star turned daddy.

It took in 16.3 (m) million dollars, beating Ben Stiller's new comedy ``The Heartbreak Kid." (10)

(NewsWatch by Roger Ward)

# Students: Step up and vote

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**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Star  
**DATE:** 2007.10.08  
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**SECTION:** Opinion  
**PAGE:** AA08  
**BYLINE:** Cait Thompson  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 552

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Being a new voter can be overwhelming. Within the span of one birthday you go from being someone with no tangible political influence, to feeling like the fate of the nation is on your shoulders.

Choosing the leader of our country or province or even municipality is a big decision with real consequences. What if you make the wrong choice?

"I don't feel like I know enough to make an educated vote," says Michael Smith, 19. "I don't want to vote for just anybody."

It's a theme that echoes among his age group. Most of the young people I interviewed said they haven't been following the provincial election, and I have to admit that I've been just as guilty in the past.

Where can you find accurate information? How do you know who to believe?

Election coverage is all over the adult world – on the 6 o'clock news, televised electoral debates, but where does that leave a demographic that finds Canadian politics bland and unappealing?

Youth–geared networks like Much Music encourage young people to get out there and vote, but they don't usually provide any candidate information, host debates or discuss electoral issues.

When you haven't yet developed your own political opinions, it's hard to know what to believe when faced with a sea of information that is, let's face it, misleading. We see candidates' commercials that do not inform us of the political issues at hand but drag their opponents' names through the mud. And I, quite frankly, am not going to vote for someone just because they told me not to vote for the other guy.

Young adults are just starting to search out who they are. Between school, part–time jobs and their social life, it's hard to find time to research an educated vote. Maybe that's why only 38 per cent of voters between the ages of 18 and 21 voted in the 2004 federal election (according to Elections Canada).

One of the students I spoke to said that she would try to be more informed if political debates were more accessible; for example, if they brought them to our schools. When I told her there had been one at our very own York University the previous week, she said she'd seen the posters but just wasn't interested enough to check it out.

Interest is all but absent in the majority of new voters I spoke to. But why is that at a time when there are such important global issues that influence our own backyards? Climate change, Canada's role in the war in



Afghanistan and our relationship with the United States – surely we must realize that these things affect us.

University student Leanne Nobel, 19, says: "I just don't feel the effect of different governments. It doesn't matter who's in power – they all seem to do the same thing."

In the midst of young people who were planning not to vote, I came across one who was. Richard Powell, 24, didn't use his right to vote until he was 21, for some of the same reasons that his younger colleagues cited. He didn't start becoming politically aware until he was in his 20s. "If you care about what's going on in your country, you should vote," Powell says.

Perhaps it's only a matter of time before political involvement becomes more appealing, as we realize our responsibility to have our voices heard, to make whatever difference we can, and to take advantage of a political system that is here to give us options.

If we won't, we're at the mercy of whoever will.

Cait Thompson is a Seneca College graduate now pursuing her BA at York.

# Iraq war fuelling Al Qaeda, study says

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**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Star  
**DATE:** 2007.10.08  
**EDITION:** Met  
**PAGE:** AA02  
**BYLINE:** Kate Kelland  
**SOURCE:** ; REUTERS NEWS AGENCY  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
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Six years after the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States, the "war on terror" is failing and instead fuelling an increase in support for extremist Islamist movements, a British think-tank said today.

A report by the Oxford Research Group said a "fundamental re-think is required" if the global terrorist network is to be rendered ineffective.

"If the Al Qaeda movement is to be countered, then the roots of its support must be understood and systematically undercut," said Paul Rogers, the report's author and professor of global peace studies at Bradford University.

"Combined with conventional policing and security measures, Al Qaeda can be contained and minimized but this will require a change in policy at every level. "

He described the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq as a "disastrous mistake" which had helped establish a "most valued jihadist combat training zone" for Al Qaeda supporters.

The report, Alternatives to the War on Terror, recommended the immediate withdrawal of all foreign troops from Iraq coupled with intensive diplomatic engagement in the region, including with Iran and Syria.

In Afghanistan, Rogers also called for an immediate scaling down of military activities, an injection of more civil aid and negotiations with militia groups aimed at bringing them into the political process.

If such measures were adopted it would still take "at least 10 years to make up for the mistakes" made since 9/11.

"Failure to make the necessary changes could result in the war on terror lasting decades," the report added.

Rogers also warned of a drift toward conflict with Iran.

"Going to war with Iran," he said, "will make matters far worse, playing directly into the hands of extreme elements and adding greatly to the violence across the region. Whatever the problems with Iran, war should be avoided at all costs."

# A mission of baby steps; Diplomats and military commanders understand clearly Afghanistan is a nation that won't be rushed

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**IDNUMBER** 200710080074  
**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Star  
**DATE:** 2007.10.08  
**EDITION:** Met  
**PAGE:** AA04  
**BYLINE:** Bruce Campion-Smith  
**SOURCE:** Toronto Star  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 786

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Haji Agha Lalai is an elder statesman in Panjwaii district, touted as a possible candidate for the Afghan parliament.

He's an influential man who has seen foreigners come and go in his country. And he has advice for the Canadians in his troubled region: undertake more development projects to help "change the thinking of the local people."

In a mission that has cost the lives of 71 Canadian soldiers and at least \$500 million in aid dollars, Canada is still fighting for the hearts and minds of the Afghan population.

Afghans are not indifferent to the Canadians. Soldiers walking down the main street of a Panjwaii district town hear shop owners voice their appreciation for improved security, for pushing back insurgents.

But Afghans know the battle is not won yet and so are reticent about offering their wholehearted support to a foreign force that might not be here in two years.

That's why President Hamid Karzai is keen, desperate even, to ensure Canadian forces stay in Afghanistan after their current commitment expires in February 2009.

"The presence of Canada is needed till Afghanistan is able to defend itself. That day is not going to be in 2009," Karzai told Canadian journalists at a recent news conference clearly staged to deliver a message back home.

"Look around and see that the enemy is not yet finished, not yet defeated."

Scholars have made careers analyzing the tortured history of this place. But a visit of a few weeks is enough to get a feel for Canada's mission – and its pace.

This is a country that won't be rushed. Despite the optimism of politicians in Ottawa, there's no false hope here among diplomats and military commanders. Just a clear-eyed understanding of how hard the job will be.

With Canadians fighting to regain ground held just last year and development efforts hampered by tenuous security, gains are usually described in terms of "baby steps."

A mission of baby steps; Diplomats and military commanders understand clearly Afghanistan is a nation that

"We should not expect that this is going to turn on a dime," says Lt.-Col. Bob Chamberlain, head of the Canadian reconstruction team in Kandahar province.

Ottawa has devoted 2,500 troops to this mission, so many that it has no spare capacity to send a force anywhere else in the world. As well, the federal government is pumping more than \$100 million in aid dollars each year into Afghanistan.

A veteran government observer familiar with Canada's mission here says both development and military commitments are badly overstretched. Both need to be cut in half if Canada hopes to sustain its commitment in the long term, said the official, who asked not to be named.

"I'm hopeful, not optimistic. This place deserves the commitment. It's long term. Do democracies have patience?"

The federal Conservatives say they plan to decide the future of the mission next spring.

Between now and then, the mission faces some key challenges, including:

Afghan security forces Ottawa is touting the growing capabilities of the Afghan National Army and the police force as Canada's exit strategy. Soon, the government storyline goes, Canada will be able to hand over responsibility for security to the Afghans and withdraw gracefully. Perhaps. But there's no hope of the Afghans being ready for that job this year, probably not even next year.

The police force remains a ragtag array of underpaid, poorly trained officers with deeply rooted problems of corruption. Gains have been made in Kandahar city but in rural Panjwaii and Zhari police officers are killed at a disturbing rate.

The army is in better shape, thanks to three years of mentoring by the Canadians but has yet to plan and conduct a major operation on its own and relies heavily on the Canadians for backup.

Parliament Hill The voices in Ottawa don't come close to conveying the complexity of the situation on the ground here.

The New Democrats' call for the troops to be brought home immediately ignores the question of security in Kandahar when the Canadians pull up stakes.

The Liberals, who sent the troops to Kandahar originally, say they'll agree to a new mission for Canadians, but only if troops are shielded from combat. That's an unrealistic proposal in an insurgency where there is no defined front line.

And the Conservatives are guilty of gilding the lily at times with their rosy updates of development work that downplay the tenuous state of security.

Too few troops The military base at the Kandahar Airfield is a sea of uniforms from countries around the world – but few of them actually venture out to confront insurgents.

That has left the troops who do venture out – such as the Canadians, the Dutch and the British – stretched thin and carrying a heavy load. There have been repeated calls for nations to send more troops and equipment.

Too few Diplomats United Nations workers in Kabul admit there are not enough of them to help the Karzai government establish a working administration. Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier last month urged the UN to appoint a special envoy with international stature to raise awareness of the UN-mandated

A mission of baby steps; Diplomats and military commanders understand clearly Afghanistan is a ~~68~~ation tha

Afghanistan mission and co-ordinate security and development efforts.

Canadians know lots about the military mission but not so much about diplomatic or development programs. That's largely because military officials are given wide latitude to talk publicly, but officials with departments such as Foreign Affairs and the Canadian International Development Agency are kept on a short leash by the Prime Minister's Office.

A mission of baby steps; Diplomats and military commanders understand clearly Afghanistan is a ~~69~~ nation that

# Afghanistan in a 'difficult situation'; Bernier acknowledges danger on visit but says 'we have improvement'

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**DATE:** 2007.10.08  
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**PAGE:** AA04  
**BYLINE:** Les Perreux  
**SOURCE:** Canadian Press  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 441

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Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier wrapped up a whirlwind tour of Afghanistan by conceding that the country is still a dangerous place.

But Bernier insisted progress has been made and said he's proud of the work of Canadian soldiers in the Central Asian country.

"It's difficult. Yes, I will admit it," Bernier told reporters yesterday on the Kandahar Airfield tarmac just before he and International Co-operation Minister Bev Oda boarded their flight home.

"It's a difficult situation but we have improvement because our civilian humanitarian workers are able to go out there and do their work," he said.

There was no mistaking the enthusiasm of Bernier and Oda on the weekend as they took their first steps on the dusty ground of the country that will dominate their portfolios. Both were recently appointed to their jobs in a cabinet shuffle by Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Bernier moved from one military machine to another during his tour yesterday, clapping his hands together like a kid in a candy store.

"So, what do you have here?" Bernier asked as he climbed into a LAV-3 armoured vehicle.

It wasn't until the pair were leaving, faced with a boycott of another photo-op, that Bernier agreed to answer questions from reporters.

While he said the situation has improved, Bernier, who visited two of Canada's forward operating bases outside Kandahar Airfield, said the presence of Canadian soldiers is still needed.

"The territory is more secure today here in Kandahar than it was a year ago," he said.

Last year there were many attacks, he added.

"Those attacks have diminished," Bernier said. "It's still difficult. I saw that it's still difficult. But the situation has greatly improved."

Afghanistan in a 'difficult situation'; Bernier acknowledges danger on visit but says 'we have improvement'

A recent review by the UN Department of Safety and Security described the situation in Kandahar as "volatile."

Across the country, 2007 has been the bloodiest year since the Taliban was ousted from power in a U.S.-led invasion six years ago. So far this year, there have been an average of 525 violent incidents a month, compared with 425 last year.

Oda made two aid announcements, \$25 million to help feed people in Kandahar and \$3 million for an archaeological dig in Kabul.

On one of the final stops of the tour, Bernier hauled out a crate of gooey Jos. Louis cakes and handed them to troops holding down Patrol Base Wilson, about 40 kilometres west of Kandahar city.

"We've got a surprise for you!" Bernier said, wishing the soldiers a happy Thanksgiving as he handed out the cakes, which are manufactured in Bernier's hometown of Beauce, south of Quebec City.

Five soldiers who shared the cakes nearby were asked what the ministerial visit meant to them.

Four soldiers shrugged, but the fifth said it was important.

"At least they're letting us know they know we're here," said Cpl. Michel Turcotte, a Mont Laurier, Que., native and member of the Royal 22nd Regiment.

As the two Conservative cabinet ministers prepared to leave Kandahar, Liberal defence critic Denis Coderre was about to arrive.

Coderre came to Afghanistan on his own, saying the government had refused to allow him on any of its trips. He arrived in Kabul yesterday and was to land in Kandahar today to spend Thanksgiving with some of the 2,300 soldiers Canada has based in the area.

# Violence down thanks to troops, minister says

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**IDNUMBER** 200710080012  
**PUBLICATION:** Edmonton Journal  
**DATE:** 2007.10.08  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A4  
**KEYWORDS:** !@DATELINE=KANDAHAR, Afghanistan  
**BYLINE:** Matthew Fisher  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 302

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KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier's whirlwind visit to Afghanistan was mostly a series of photo opportunities, but just before boarding a military aircraft late Sunday for the long journey back to Ottawa, he made plain why he had travelled nearly 20,000 kilometres in less than five days.

With a federal election looming and Canada's combat role in Afghanistan the subject of intense debate, Bernier's trip was intended to sell the mission to voters by explaining "to Canadians and Quebecers ... what I've seen."

The point that Bernier made repeatedly to Canadian journalists during his visit was that Afghanistan had become safer and that aid work had begun to take place because of the presence of Canadian combat troops in the province of Kandahar.

"I can tell you, it is more secure," Bernier said, when asked how his claim squared with a UN report published last month that violence across Afghanistan had increased nearly 25 per cent over the past year.

Bernier said Afghans he had met in Kabul and Kandahar this weekend, as well as Canadian troops that "have to go outside the wire," had confirmed that there was less violence.

"The territory here in Kandahar is safer than one year ago. The number of attacks is diminished. I admit the situation is still difficult, but the situation has greatly improved."

As for the future of Canada's military presence in Afghanistan beyond February 2009, Bernier would only say, "there are many possibilities."

Bernier visited troops, aid workers and diplomats during his visit. At one point, he was taken to meet troops at a Tim Hortons at Kandahar Airfield by Brig.-Gen Guy Laroche, Canadian contingent commander. "It is good for the troops because it shows the government takes the mission to heart," Laroche said.

International Development Minister Bev Oda, also on the trip, announced a pledge of \$25 million to the UN World Food Program for Afghanistan.



# NATO alliance, effectiveness at risk, commander warns

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**PUBLICATION:** Edmonton Journal  
**DATE:** 2007.10.08  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A4  
**KEYWORDS:** ORGANIZATIONS; DEFENCE; FOREIGN RELATIONS; WAR; ARMED FORCES; AFGHANISTAN; GREAT BRITAIN  
**DATELINE:** KABUL  
**BYLINE:** Tom Coghlan  
**SOURCE:** Daily Telegraph  
**WORD COUNT:** 392

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KABUL – The commander of NATO forces in Afghanistan has given warning that the survival of the alliance is at risk, amid signs that several key members are re-evaluating their roles against the insurgency.

In an interview, American General Dan McNeill said NATO troops were "gaining the upper hand" against the Taliban, but progress was limited by not having a "force big enough to clear and hold every part of this country."

His comments come as political pressure grows in Canada and Holland to downgrade the combat status of their soldiers in southern Afghanistan, where British troops are also based.

The governments of Germany and Italy are also under huge pressure over their deployments in the north.

Asked whether the future of NATO was at stake, McNeill said, "I think all 26 members realize that from a military context, and that is primarily why NATO is here, this is a decision point. Either we are going to get it done, or we won't."

McNeill said the 58-year-old alliance was holding together, but added: "There is a lot of political dialogue in various capitals, especially in mainland Europe."

His warning comes after Brig. John Lorimer, commander of British forces in southern Helmand Province, said the troops faced a "marathon mission" lasting decades in Afghanistan.

According to U.S. officials, NATO has unmet requests from alliance nations for helicopters, hundreds of ground troops and 3,200 trainers for Afghan security forces.

Together with Britain, the Canadian and Dutch governments are the major contributors to the areas of heaviest fighting in southern Afghanistan.

McNeill acknowledged that Canada, which has lost 71 soldiers, was considering downgrading its 2,500 troops from a combat role. "Their role would be less combat and more mentoring and training the Afghans," he said.

Last week, Dutch Defence Minister Eimert van Middelkoop indicated that Holland has no plans to extend its mandate in the Taliban heartland province of Uruzgan beyond August next year. The force of 1,700 has lost 11 soldiers.

McNeill said although NATO forces now have "the upper hand" against the Taliban, that is threatened by inadequate troop numbers and caveats imposed by some nations that limit where their troops can be deployed.

"We have to go to places of our choosing where we think the insurgency is, and take it on and defeat it in those particular areas. Then it would be nice if we had sufficient forces that we could stay. But we don't."

A Canadian and Dutch withdrawal would leave the U.S. and Britain as the only countries with troop contributions greater than 1,000 prepared to deploy in a full combat role.

# Letters to the Editor Column

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**SOURCETAG** 0710080341  
**PUBLICATION:** The Winnipeg Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.10.08  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Editorial/Opinion  
**PAGE:** 10  
**COLUMN:** Letters to the Editor  
**WORD COUNT:** 350

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## STAND UP TO CRIMINALS

I have written several times already and each time has been about the same thing: The outrageous criminal activity that takes place in Winnipeg.

The police are extremely busy dealing with so many calls, they can't be expected to respond to every matter immediately.

But this should not mean situations that could be dealt with in a quiet manner should be able to expand into something much more serious.

When these kinds of horrendous things occur we should fight back, take a stand and put an end to it.

The longer we let these people gain power and feed off of the fear of the people, the harder it will be to turn the city around.

We need to act now. We need to co-operate as a single unit, as members of the family of Winnipeg and fight back against these injustices.

The police are there for our protection, but we also have the power to create change and make the city a safe place to live.

How can 700,000 people be afraid of a small group of careless criminals?

Let us join together and give the city back its reputation of being one of the most friendly cities in Canada.

SEAN IRVING

WINNIPEG

Are you encouraging vigilante justice?

'SUCK IT UP'

Re: Hockey fees, equipment hit hard, Oct. 1.

I can sympathize with Mrs. Gingras and the expense she is incurring, but the reality of the situation is it costs big bucks to get your kids ready for the NHL.

The days of our children playing shinny are long gone and you should be fully aware of what you are signing your kids up for.

Besides, once they've made it to the "big league" and are raking in the millions your initial investment will be pocket change.

What's that you say, less than 2% of children have even the remotest chance of making it to the big game? Well, that's just the sacrifice the other 98% are forced to make under the current mindset.

Forget the fact our community centres were built and operate through our tax dollars.

They are nothing but an arm of the NHL recruiting system and Hockey Manitoba is nothing but their government-funded sponsor.

Gord Higham

Winnipeg

See you at the rink, Gord.

## RIGHT TO CHOOSE

Letter writer J. Kirby has completely failed to realize that, as much as he may not like Canada participating in the Afghanistan mission, this is not a "Canadian– American peacemaker–warrior" mission as he wishes to call it, but a NATO mission.

All NATO countries are represented in Afghanistan in one way or another.

The Canadian input and contribution is based upon the size and capability of our forces.

There are a lot more NATO military forces in Afghanistan and they are all suffering casualties for the same cause, not just us.

I totally approve of our military being represented at universities and at career symposiums.

The Canadian military is a 100% volunteer force and they are simply offering students a career choice, and not drafting them.

You can stop and talk to the representatives at the Canadian military stand, or you take the folder and keep walking. The choice is yours.

Dallas Kramer

Transcona

Well said.

## TAX BOMBERS FANS

With the increase of drunken rowdiness at the Bombers games, why don't they implement a stadium tax on each beer or spirit sold?

This will go into the kitty for the new retractable stadium.

Steven S. Hanks

Winnipeg

A booze tax? That'd be terrible.

# Canuck troops praised

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**SOURCETAG** 0710080332

**PUBLICATION:** The Winnipeg Sun

**DATE:** 2007.10.08

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 7

**ILLUSTRATION:** photo by Paul Chiasson, CP Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier offers some treats to Canadian soldiers at Patrol Base Wilson in the Zhari District of Afghanistan yesterday.

**BYLINE:** LES PERREAUX, THE CANADIAN PRESS

**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR

**WORD COUNT:** 146

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Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier wrapped up a whirlwind tour of Afghanistan yesterday by conceding the country is still a dangerous place.

But Bernier insisted progress has been made and said he's proud of the work of Canadian soldiers in the central Asian country.

"It's difficult. Yes, I will admit it," Bernier told reporters on the tarmac at Kandahar Airfield just before he and International Co-operation Minister Bev Oda boarded their flight home.

"It's a difficult situation but we have improvement because our civilian humanitarian workers are able to go out there and do their work."

There was no mistaking the enthusiasm of Bernier and Oda on the weekend as they took their first steps on the dusty ground of the country that will dominate their portfolios. Both were recently appointed to their jobs in a cabinet shuffle by Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Bernier moved from one military machine to another during his tour yesterday, clapping his hands together like a kid in a candy store.

"The territory is more secure today here in Kandahar than it was a year ago," he said. KEYWORDS=WORLD

# Canuck troops praised

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**SOURCETAG** 0710080255

**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Sun

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**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 11

**ILLUSTRATION:** photo by Paul Chiasson, the Canadian Press Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier offers some treats to Canadian soldiers at Patrol Base Wilson in the Zhari District of Afghanistan yesterday.

**BYLINE:** LES PERREAUX, THE CANADIAN PRESS

**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR

**WORD COUNT:** 146

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**SOURCETAG** 0710080177

**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Sun

**DATE:** 2007.10.08

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**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 6

**ILLUSTRATION:** photo by Paul Chiasson, CP Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier offers some treats to Canadian soldiers at Patrol Base Wilson in the Zhari District of Afghanistan yesterday.

**BYLINE:** LES PERREAUX, CP

**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR

**WORD COUNT:** 146

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# Afghans more secure: Bernier The Foreign Affairs minister was on a whirlwind tour of Afghanistan.

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**SOURCETAG:** 0710080404

**PUBLICATION:** The London Free Press

**DATE:** 2007.10.08

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A3

**ILLUSTRATION:** photo by Paul Chiasson, CP ARRIVAL: Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier, left, and International Co-operation Minister Bev Oda walk away from a Chinook helicopter as they arrive at Patrol Base Wilson in the Zhari District of Afghanistan yesterday.

**BYLINE:** LES PERREAUX, CP

**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR

**WORD COUNT:** 331

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Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier wrapped up a tour of Afghanistan yesterday by conceding the country is still a dangerous place.

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Bernier moved from one military machine to another during his tour yesterday, clapping his hands together like a kid in a candy store.

"So, what do you have here?" Bernier asked as he moved from a Nyala RG-31 with a remote control gun to a LAV-3 armoured vehicle.

Bernier and Oda both donned flack vests and helmets, took rides aboard an immense twin-rotor Chinook helicopter and quizzed soldiers about the workings of the military and its machines.

But outside the small talk, the ministers stuck to prepared statements and left tough questions to high-level civil servants.

The visit included about a dozen carefully staged photo-opportunities, a couple of funding announcements and a handful of questions about affairs of state.

It wasn't until the pair were leaving, faced with a boycott of another photo-op, that Bernier agreed to answer questions from reporters.

While he said the situation has improved, Bernier, who visited two of Canada's forward operating bases outside Kandahar Airfield, said the presence of Canadian soldiers is still needed.

"The territory is more secure today here in Kandahar than it was a year ago," he said.

Last year there were many attacks, he added.

"Those attacks have diminished," Bernier said. "It's still difficult. I saw that it's still difficult. But the situation has greatly improved."

A recent review by the UN Department of Safety and Security described the situation in Kandahar as "volatile."

Across the country, 2007 has been the bloodiest year since the Taliban was ousted from power in a U.S. invasion six years ago.

This year, there have been an average of 525 violent incidents a month, compared with 425 last year.

Oda made two announcements on the trip. She reconfirmed Canada's commitment to the World Food Program, pledging \$25 million to help some 400,000 people in Kandahar.

She also pledged \$3 million over three years to finance an archeological dig in Kabul where an ancient market neighbourhood is being rebuilt. KEYWORDS=WORLD

# Grit Defence critic due in Kandahar

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**SOURCETAG** 0710080593  
**PUBLICATION:** The Edmonton Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.10.08  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 34  
**BYLINE:** SIDHARTHA BANERJEE, CP  
**WORD COUNT:** 149

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Better late than never, Liberal Defence critic Denis Coderre is due in Kandahar, Afghanistan, today on his own impromptu visit with the Canadian military just as two senior members of Prime Minister Stephen Harper's cabinet complete a whirlwind tour.

It's been a long road getting to Kandahar for Coderre, who has been travelling since Wednesday.

"I'm going to go to Kandahar, meet the troops and visit the infrastructure and send a clear message of solidarity to the troops," Coderre said in a telephone interview from Kabul.

His arrival comes as Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier and International Co-operation Minister Bev Oda complete a 36-hour tour of Afghanistan and Canadian military operations.

Coderre decided to go on his own after the Harper government ignored his repeated calls to allow him to go.

Coderre, who spent some time in Islamabad meeting with a variety of contacts, says its clear that Pakistan is a key to success to the NATO mission in Afghanistan.

"We don't put enough emphasis of our mission on the situation of Pakistan. Pakistan is clearly part of the solution." KEYWORDS=WORLD

# Bernier sees Afghan progress

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**SOURCETAG** 0710080590

**PUBLICATION:** The Edmonton Sun

**DATE:** 2007.10.08

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 31

**ILLUSTRATION:** photo by Paul Chiasson, Reuters Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier sits in a Chinook helicopter on his way to visit Patrol Base Wilson in Afghanistan's Zhari District yesterday.

**BYLINE:** LES PERREAUX, CP

**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, Afghanistan

**WORD COUNT:** 168

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Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier wrapped up a whirlwind tour of Afghanistan yesterday by conceding that the country is still a dangerous place.

But Bernier insisted progress has been made and said he's proud of the work of Canadian soldiers in the central Asian country.

"It's difficult. Yes, I will admit it," Bernier said on the tarmac at Kandahar Airfield just before he and International Co-operation Minister Bev Oda boarded their flight home.

"It's a difficult situation but we have improvement because our civilian humanitarian workers are able to go out there and do their work," he said.

There was no mistaking the enthusiasm of Bernier and Oda as they took their first steps on the dusty ground of the country that will dominate their portfolios.

But outside small talk, the ministers stuck to prepared statements and left tough questions to high-level civil servants.

While he said the situation has improved, Bernier, who visited two of Canada's forward operating bases outside Kandahar Airfield, said the presence of Canadian soldiers is still needed.

"The territory is more secure today here in Kandahar than it was a year ago," he said. Last year there were many attacks, he added.

"Those attacks have diminished," Bernier said.

Canada has some 2,300 soldiers based in southern Afghanistan. A total of 71 have died since Canada began its Afghan mission in 2002. KEYWORDS=WORLD

# Canuck troops praised

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**SOURCETAG** 0710080587

**PUBLICATION:** The Edmonton Sun

**DATE:** 2007.10.08

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 30

**ILLUSTRATION:** photo by Paul Chiasson, CP Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier offers some treats to Canadian soldiers at Patrol Base Wilson in the Zhari District of Afghanistan yesterday.

**BYLINE:** LES PERREAUX, CP

**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR

**WORD COUNT:** 146

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Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier wrapped up a whirlwind tour of Afghanistan yesterday by conceding the country is still a dangerous place.

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There was no mistaking the enthusiasm of Bernier and Oda on the weekend as they took their first steps on the dusty ground of the country that will dominate their portfolios. Both were recently appointed to their jobs in a cabinet shuffle by Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Bernier moved from one military machine to another during his tour yesterday, clapping his hands together like a kid in a candy store.

"The territory is more secure today here in Kandahar than it was a year ago," he said. KEYWORDS=WORLD

# Bernier wraps up tour Minister says Canadians have made Afghans more secure

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**SOURCETAG:** 0710080498

**PUBLICATION:** The Calgary Sun

**DATE:** 2007.10.08

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 7

**ILLUSTRATION:** photo by Paul Chiasson, Reuters A genuine taste of home sweet home. Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister, Maxime Bernier, offers Canadian soldiers Joe Louis cakes at Patrol Base Wilson in the Zhari District. Bernier wrapped up a 36-hour whirlwind tour of Afghanistan yesterday.

**BYLINE:** CP

**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, Afghanistan

**WORD COUNT:** 207

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Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier wrapped up a whirlwind tour of Afghanistan yesterday by conceding that the country is still a dangerous place.

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Bernier moved from one military machine to another during his tour yesterday, clapping his hands together like a kid in a candy store.

"So, what do you have here?" Bernier asked as he moved from a Nyala RG-31 with a remote control gun to a LAV-3 armoured vehicle.

Bernier and Oda both donned flak vests and helmets, took rides aboard an immense twin-rotor Chinook helicopter.

The visit included about a dozen carefully staged photo-opportunities, a couple of funding announcements and just a handful of questions about affairs of state.

Oda made two announcements on the trip. She reconfirmed Canada's commitment to the World Food Program, pledging \$25 million to help some 400,000 people in Kandahar. **KEYWORDS=WORLD**

# Report says war on terror fuelling al Qaida

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**SOURCETAG** 0710080497  
**PUBLICATION:** The Calgary Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.10.08  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 7  
**BYLINE:** REUTERS  
**DATELINE:** LONDON  
**WORD COUNT:** 193

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Six years after the Sept. 11 attacks in the U.S., the "war on terror" is failing and instead fuelling an increase in support for extremist Islamist movements, a British think-tank said.

A report by the Oxford Research Group said a "fundamental re-think is required" if the global terrorist network is to be rendered ineffective.

"If the al Qaida movement is to be countered, then the roots of its support must be understood and systematically undercut," said Paul Rogers, the report's author and professor of global peace studies at Bradford University in northern England.

"Combined with conventional policing and security measures, al Qaida can be contained and minimised but this will require a change in policy at every level."

Rogers described the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq as a "disastrous mistake" which had helped establish a "most valued jihadist combat training zone" for al Qaida supporters.

The report — Alternatives to the War on Terror — recommended the immediate withdrawal of all foreign troops from Iraq coupled with intensive diplomatic engagement in the region, including with Iran and Syria.

In Afghanistan, Rogers also called for an immediate scaling down of military activities, an injection of more civil aid and negotiations with militia groups aimed at bringing them into the political process.

"Failure to make the necessary changes could result in the war on terror lasting decades," the report added.  
**KEYWORDS=WORLD**

# Liberal defence critic visits Kandahar WAR IN AFGHANISTAN

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**SOURCETAG** 0710080496  
**PUBLICATION:** The Calgary Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.10.08  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 7  
**ILLUSTRATION:** photo of DENIS CODERRE In Kandahar  
**BYLINE:** CP  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, Afghanistan  
**WORD COUNT:** 168

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Better late than never, Liberal Defence critic Denis Coderre is due in Kandahar, Afghanistan, today on his own impromptu visit with the Canadian military just as two senior members of Prime Minister Stephen Harper's cabinet completed a whirlwind tour.

It's been a long road getting to Kandahar for Coderre. He spent part of yesterday in Kabul after taking a UN flight to the Afghan capital from Islamabad, Pakistan.

"I'm going to go to Kandahar, meet the troops and visit the infrastructure and send a clear message of solidarity to the troops," Coderre said.

Coderre's arrival comes as Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier and International Co-operation Minister Bev Oda completed a photo-op tour of Afghanistan and Canadian military operations.

Coderre decided to go on his own after the Harper government ignored his repeated calls to allow him to go. He accused the government of playing petty politics by not letting him accompany the two cabinet ministers.

But the government has maintained that it was the former Liberal administration, under then Defence Minister Bill Graham, who began a policy in 2004 of not allowing lone MP's to travel to Afghanistan.

KEYWORDS=WORLD



# Rim Shot

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**IDNUMBER** 200710080115  
**PUBLICATION:** Vancouver Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.10.08  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Businessbc  
**PAGE:** E3  
**KEYWORDS:** STOCKS; PAGERS; LOSSES  
**SOURCE:** Vancouver Sun  
**WORD COUNT:** 124

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The ability to have fair enforcement of contracts is an essential question in the contemplation of foreign investment and one of the 10 issues the World Bank addresses in its annual rankings on the ease of doing business in various countries. Here is the bank's latest assessment of the ability to enforce contracts in selected Asia-Pacific countries and jurisdictions. The global leader is Denmark.

## Country and Ranking

Japan 5

United States 6

Australia 7

Hong Kong 10

New Zealand 15

Canada 16

South Korea 17

Mongolia 41

Thailand 44

Philippines 59

Taiwan 62

China 63

Chile 73

Malaysia 81

Sri Lanka 90

Vietnam 94

Cambodia 118

Indonesia 145

Afghanistan 165

India 173

East Timor 175

Source: World Bank Group

# Playing for her rights; Girls banned from sports in some countries, Olympian says

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**IDNUMBER** 200710080047

**PUBLICATION:** Vancouver Sun

**DATE:** 2007.10.08

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** Westcoast News

**PAGE:** B3

**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Bill Keay, Vancouver Sun / Four-time Olympic gold medallist Johann Koss plays an 'ice race skating' game with Grade 4 students at MacDonald elementary in east Vancouver. ;

**KEYWORDS:** OLYMPICS; VANCOUVER/WHISTLER; CANADA

**BYLINE:** Gary Kingston

**SOURCE:** Vancouver Sun

**WORD COUNT:** 664

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858 DAYS TO GO

Vancouver Sun's 2010 online: [www.vancouversun.com/2010](http://www.vancouversun.com/2010)

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Soccer season is in full swing in the Lower Mainland this fall and the sight of teams of cleated girls running across fields is commonplace and easily taken for granted.

But in some parts of the world, it's not only discouraged, but sometimes not even permissible. Right to Play, an athlete-driven philanthropic and humanitarian organization headed by Norwegian speedskating great Johann Koss and headquartered in Canada, is trying to change that.

Koss tells the story of Right to Play going into a Taliban-controlled area of Pakistan near the border with Afghanistan to train some Pakistani female coaches to work with youngsters.

"They started with 50 girls," Koss said in an interview during a recent visit to Vancouver. "They had to have a wall so [others] couldn't see that they were playing. After a couple of months, the women our people trained went back to the [community] elders [and asked] 'What do you think now?' And [they said] 'This is a good program, the girls are happier and healthier and more respectful.'

"Now they have 12,000 girls in the program and they're playing outside everywhere, visible. They're playing with boys, they're in the community. It's absolutely unbelievable."

Right to Play, recently provided with office space in the Vancouver Olympic Organizing Committee's building, was established by Koss after he moved to Toronto in 2000. It morphed out of the old Olympic Aid program, which was born out of the 1994 Lillehammer Olympics organizing committee's initiative to help children in war-torn Sarajevo.

Koss' interest had been piqued by a visit to the East African country of Eritrea where he played soccer using a rolled up shirt as a ball. He later returned with thousands of donated balls and athletic shoes.

Today, Right to Play, with seven offices around the world and a couple of hundred athlete ambassadors, has programs in 23 countries, from Azerbaijan to Zambia.

The Vancouver office is headed by ex-national team swimmer Ryan Laurin. Both he and Koss say the close working relationship with Vanoc is a perfect fit because of Vanoc CEO John Furlong's vision that the 2010 Games transcend sport and competition and celebrate humanity and its potential.

"I believe the values of the Olympics are some of the strongest [out there]," says Koss. "But you only reinforce values when you do things. You can talk to the bitter end, but you have to do and give back."

"We have a real will to want to forge a partnership with them," says Vanoc vice-president Cathy Priestner-Allinger. "The traditional way Right to Play has been involved with [organizing committees] before tended to be more restrictive. We want to create some opportunities ... that let people know what they're doing."

Right to Play is the only charity fully endorsed by the IOC. And Olympic athletes have been among the most ardent backers of the key messages: the importance of play in children's development and the need to protect them from diseases such as HIV and Aids, malaria and tuberculosis.

Last May, Canadian Olympians Jenn Heil, Hayley Wickenheiser, Kristina Groves and Arne Dankers spent more than a week in Rwanda. All of them said they came back profoundly moved by what they had seen in a country ravaged by civil war and how Right to Play could have a positive impact.

"The things I have seen and learned will stay with me forever," Groves wrote.

"Although there are many broken souls who may never recover, there are many who see that the future of the nation is in their hands and they are determined to do something about.

"Each day we visited a different school or community centre that has partnered with Right to Play. The cultivation of inclusion, skill, development and fun were real and the children's growth undeniable.

Said Heil: "Often I think we get discouraged by the images we see of Africa and so many problems. But go over and see Right to Play in action and the tools they're giving kids for a healthy life, then you see how it's really encouraging."

Koss said the testimonials of those athletes are a key to getting more athletes involved.

"They understand how it really functions and works. It reaches the children, it goes where we say it's going. People are witnessing it and if that story can be told, that's fantastic."

gkingston@png.canwest.com

# Bernier, Oda treat troops with whirlwind Thanksgiving visit; Ministers spend 36 hours at Kandahar Airfield

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**IDNUMBER** 200710080017

**PUBLICATION:** Vancouver Sun

**DATE:** 2007.10.08

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A4

**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Paul Chiasson, Reuters / Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier offers soldiers Joe Louis cakes at Patrol Base Wilson in the Zhari District Sunday.  
REUTERS/Paul Chiasson ;

**KEYWORDS:** !@DATELINE=KANDAHAR, Afghanistan

**BYLINE:** Matthew Fisher

**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service

**WORD COUNT:** 358

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KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier's whirlwind visit to Afghanistan was mostly a series of photo opportunities, but just before boarding a military aircraft late Sunday for the first leg of the long journey back to Ottawa he made plain why he had travelled nearly 20,000 kilometres in less than five days.

With a federal election looming, and the future of Canada's combat role in Afghanistan the subject of intense debate at home, the purpose of Bernier's sleep-defying odyssey had been to sell the mission to voters by explaining "to Canadians and Quebecers ... what I've seen."

Bernier repeatedly said during the limited time he gave to the 20 or so Canadian journalists with him, was that Afghanistan had become safer and aid work had begun to take place because of the presence of Canadian troops in the province of Kandahar.

"I can tell you, it is more secure," Bernier said when asked how his claim squared with a UN report published last month that violence across Afghanistan had increased nearly 25 per cent over the past year.

Afghans he had met in Kabul and Kandahar this weekend as well as Canadian troops which "have to go outside the wire," had confirmed that there was less violence, Bernier said.

"The territory here in Kandahar is safer than one year ago. I admit the situation is still difficult but the situation has greatly improved."

Talking to a Van Doo company after flying in a U.S. helicopter from Kandahar Airfield to Forward Operating Base Wilson in the volatile Panjwaii/Zhari district where many Canadians have died in combat, Bernier told a group of troops mostly from the Quebec-based Royal 22nd Regiment, that as a Quebecer he was "very proud" that they were there "replacing troops from other parts of Canada so well."

As for future military option or options for Afghanistan beyond February 2009, Bernier would only say, "there are many possibilities."

Bernier, Oda treat troops with whirlwind Thanksgiving visit; Ministers spend 36 hours at Kandahar Airfield

One of the visual highlights of the hectic tour was when Bernier and International Development Minister Bev Oda took out boxes of Joe Louis chocolate cakes to present to the Van Doos at FOB Wilson, which is one of Canada's more austere encampments.

"We brought this surprise for you," Bernier told the troops based there, holding up a box of one of Quebec's iconic snacks.

# THE AFGHAN MISSION Upbeat Bernier contradicts UN reports Foreign Affairs Minister declares Kandahar more secure despite statistics that say situation is worsening

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**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL

**IDN:** 072810158

**DATE:** 2007.10.08

**PAGE:** A12 (ILLUS)

**BYLINE:** GRAEME SMITH

**SECTION:** International News

**EDITION:** Metro

**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN

**WORDS:** 796

**WORD COUNT:** 755

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GRAEME SMITH KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier contradicted all publicly available assessments of security in southern Afghanistan yesterday with a bold claim that insurgent attacks have decreased in Kandahar, leaving the province more secure for humanitarian work.

"The territory is more secure now today, here in Kandahar than it was a year ago," Mr. Bernier said. "Look just a year ago what happened, there were many attacks, and the attacks have diminished." Canadian officials have often pointed to hopeful developments in southern Afghanistan, but they rarely challenge the statistics cited by the United Nations and private security analysts that suggest an overall worsening trend.

"The security situation in Afghanistan is assessed by most analysts as having deteriorated at a constant rate through 2007," said a paper by the UN Department of Safety and Security in August. That report showed violent incidents increased almost 25 per cent this year, although the authors noted that the figure may be conservative.

Kandahar was among only three provinces listed in the United Nations report as places where the security situation has fallen into its worst category – "Extreme Risk/Hostile Environment" – across most of the province. This rating causes less accessibility to UN programs, the report notes.

These statistics fit with those collected by other analysts. The respected security firm Vigilant Strategic Services Afghanistan found that Kandahar suffered more anti-government attacks than any other province, in a tally of incidents from the beginning of the year to Sept. 30.

A count of insurgency-related deaths by the Associated Press has noted more than 5,100 people, mostly militants, killed so far this year. That far exceeds last year's figure of 4,000 for the entire year.

The idea of improvement was a central theme of the weekend visit by Mr. Bernier and International Development Minister Bev Oda as they briefly toured Canadian bases, handing out sweets to soldiers and posing beside military vehicles.

Mr. Bernier did not elaborate on his remarks, which came after his briefings with senior military commanders at Kandahar Air Field.

THE AFGHAN MISSION Upbeat Bernier contradicts UN reports Foreign Affairs Minister declares1Kandahar

In his encounters with reporters, he gave vague reasons for his dissenting view. At various times, he said his conclusions were based on first-hand observations, meetings at military bases and what he described as improvements among the Afghan security forces.

He also claimed that it's getting easier for aid workers to travel the province.

"We have improvement because our civilians, our humanitarian workers are able to go out there and do their work," Mr. Bernier said.

In fact, the growing risk of kidnapping among aid workers has prompted the UN to develop a new map assessing the likelihood of capture by insurgents in districts across the country. Almost the entire province of Kandahar is shown as "high abduction risk." In a survey this year, Afghan government employees said they have limited ability to visit the majority of Kandahar's districts without armed escort; across the south, local officials said their access was decreasing because of the rising insecurity.

Another measure of aid workers' ability to work is the UN's internal security map.

This summer the map showed about one-third Afghanistan in the highest-risk category for travel, representing a deterioration from the summer of 2006, when only 15 per cent of the country earned the same rating.

Mr. Bernier acknowledged that security problems remain in Kandahar, and, at one point, conceded that military escorts are often required for aid work.

"The presence of our military is important because the people who do the humanitarian work and our diplomats must go out with the military to meet the population," he said.

Liberal defence critic Denis Coderre said the discrepancy between the ministers' statements and the available documents serves as another example of the confusion hanging over the Afghan mission.

He plans to arrive in Kandahar today for a visit of his own, which he described as an attempt to learn about the situation for himself.

"That's exactly the reason and the purpose of my trip, the lack of clarity and understanding," Mr. Coderre said, by telephone from Kabul. "To truly have an evaluation of the situation is key, for the sake of democracy." It's unclear what the Liberal MP will be able to achieve, however, because the military only agreed to accommodate him after last-minute arrangements on Saturday.

Visits by politicians to the front lines have served mostly to give them media exposure; yesterday's tour by the Conservative cabinet ministers included at least 13 photo opportunities. During a trip to a forward base, Ms. Oda stood in front of a concrete building scarred by shrapnel from Taliban mortars and offered a box of chocolate treats to the soldiers.

"Thank you for your work," she said, "and little cakes for you."

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Canada; Afghanistan

SUBJECT TERM: strife; terrorism; internal security; foreign relations; foreign policy; statements

PERSONAL NAME: Maxime Bernier

THE AFGHAN MISSION Upbeat Bernier contradicts UN reports Foreign Affairs Minister declares 1Kandahar



# Clashes claim 58 in Pakistani tribal areas

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**IDNUMBER** 200710080030  
**PUBLICATION:** Calgary Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.10.08  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A12  
**KEYWORDS:** TERRORISM; WAR  
**DATELINE:** MIRANSHAH, Pakistan  
**SOURCE:** Calgary Herald  
**WORD COUNT:** 100

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At least 58 people including 16 soldiers were killed Sunday in two major battles between militants and troops in Pakistan's restive tribal areas, the military said.

Security forces launched an attack against militant bases and hideouts in the restive North Waziristan region bordering Afghanistan, military spokesman Maj.-Gen. Waheed Arshad said.

He said at least 20 militants were killed in the fighting, which also left six soldiers dead and wounded another six, according to a military statement.

Local residents said four civilians also died.

In a second battle, extremists attacked a military convoy in the Hasu Khei area of the same region, with resulting clashes killing 10 soldiers and 18 militants, Arshad later said.

# Afghan trip aimed at voters; Foreign affairs minister proud of role in Mideast

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**IDNUMBER** 200710080022  
**PUBLICATION:** Calgary Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.10.08  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A8  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Paul Chiasson, CanWest News Service / ForeignAffairs Minister Maxime Bernier during his visit to Camp Nathan Smith in Kandahar Sunday. ;  
**KEYWORDS:** !@DATELINE=KANDAHAR, Afghanistan  
**BYLINE:** Matthew Fisher  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 303

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With a federal election looming, and the future of Canada's combat role in Afghanistan the subject of intense debate at home, the purpose of Bernier's odyssey had been to sell the mission to voters by explaining "to Canadians and Quebecers . . . what I've seen."

The point that Bernier made repeatedly during the limited time he gave to the 20 or so Canadian journalists following him around, was that Afghanistan had become safer and that aid work had begun to take place because of the presence of Canadian combat troops in the province of Kandahar.

"I can tell you, it is more secure," Bernier said when asked how his claim squared with a UN report published last month that violence across Afghanistan had increased nearly 25 per cent over the past year.

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# FOREIGN AFFAIRS: DISSENSION IN THE RANKS

## Diplomats face communications crackdown While Harper asks Canada to increase profile, Foreign Affairs department suffers from constant challenges from PMO, employees say

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**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL

**IDN:** 072810125

**DATE:** 2007.10.08

**PAGE:** A4

**BYLINE:** JENNIFER DITCHBURN

**SECTION:** National News

**SOURCE:** CP

**EDITION:** Metro

**DATELINE:** Ottawa ONT

**WORDS:** 439

**WORD COUNT:** 429

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JENNIFER DITCHBURN The Canadian Press OTTAWA There's a new breed of diplomat lurking in the country's missions around the world, a timid creature that recoils from the Canadian limelight and spends hours trying to reconcile an ever-longer list of duties with a constantly shrinking budget.

The Department of Foreign Affairs is in the grips of a kind of existential crisis, say a range of current and recently retired staff, brought on by major challenges to their daily work. They speak of a chill that has descended on their ranks, because of a communications crackdown from Prime Minister Stephen Harper's office, and the more overarching problem of years of deep budget cuts.

In the meantime, Mr. Harper is expected to reiterate in next week's Speech from the Throne that he wants Canada to cast a longer shadow on the world stage, another in a line of prime ministers who ask more of diplomats while simultaneously cutting their resources.

"There's this deep fury that the things required to do our job well are damn hard to get a hold of and, believe me, there's no thanks for doing it well," said Christopher Westdal, a veteran diplomat who retired last year from the service.

Said another department insider: "There is nothing worse than a scared, timid, reclusive, protective bureaucrat. It doesn't give you either good public policy or good service delivery." Foreign Affairs employees still in the system, who spoke strictly on condition of anonymity, describe a locked-down environment where even the most innocuous briefings for the media are rejected.

The Prime Minister's Office is said to conduct "witch hunts" when information leaks out against their wishes, and efforts to expand awareness of the accomplishments of the department are blocked.

Recent requests by The Canadian Press to speak to diplomats working in international hot spots, such as the Sudan and Myanmar, were turned down by Foreign Affairs. Just about the only Canadian representatives authorized to speak to media regularly back home are those serving in Afghanistan, tasked with selling the

controversial mission.

Conversely, American, British and Australian diplomats, among others, have been given new mandates to vastly increase their profiles abroad and reach out to the public back home. It's dubbed 'transformational diplomacy' in Washington.

Globe and Mail correspondent Mark MacKinnon, who has dealt with Canadians in Moscow and the Middle East, says there's been a definite shift since the Conservatives took power in January of 2006.

"People who would speak to me two years ago now won't even do it on an off-the-record, background basis," Mr. MacKinnon said.

"They're absolutely terrified.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Canada

SUBJECT TERM: civil service; diplomatic service; employees; government; political

PERSONAL NAME: Stephen Harper

ORGANIZATION NAME: Department of Foreign Affairs

# Good news from the front

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**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL

**IDN:** 072810101

**DATE:** 2007.10.08

**PAGE:** A14

**BYLINE:** SONIA FURSTENAU

**SECTION:** Letter to the Edit

**EDITION:** Metro

**DATELINE:** Victoria BC

**WORDS:** 103

**WORD COUNT:** 127

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Sonia Furstenu Victoria Reading Stephanie Nolen's article made me rejoice. Malaria nets! Vitamin A! Immunizations! While donor countries may not find these exciting, I find my heart bursting with joy at the thought of how many babies survived because of these preventative measures.

My celebratory feelings abated, however, when I read the next page (Ottawa To Re-evaluate Foreign-Aid Priorities). Who will tell the mothers in Niger and Malawi that, despite the success of Canadian-funded programs in reducing child mortality, those programs will be cut by a government that wants to promote "Canadian interests and values" in Afghanistan, Latin America and the Caribbean?

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Canada

SUBJECT TERM:foreign aid; public health; foreign relations; foreign policy

# ROBERT BATES, 96: MOUNTAINEER He chronicled amazing climbs as part of the 'Harvard Five' He escaped close calls from the Yukon to K2, writing books and inspiring others along the way

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**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL

**IDN:** 072810063

**DATE:** 2007.10.08

**PAGE:** S10

**BYLINE:** BRYAN MARQUARD

**SECTION:** Obituaries

**EDITION:** Metro

**DATELINE:** Boston MA

**WORDS:** 1268

**WORD COUNT:** 1319

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BRYAN MARQUARD Boston Globe BOSTON Remote in the icy Yukon wilderness, Mount Lucania rises 5,226 metres (17,147 feet) and was the highest unclimbed peak in North America in 1937, so forbidding and inaccessible that Life magazine called it "virtually impregnable." Bob Bates was 26 and his friend Bradford Washburn was 27 when they set off to climb the mountain. Their expedition became more daunting when slushy landing conditions on a glacier prevented their bush pilot from returning with the other two team members – and from picking them up after their ascent. They became the first climbers to reach the summit on a cloudless July afternoon, which Dr. Bates recorded in his autobiography, *The Love of Mountains Is Best*.

"Below us to the west the slope plunged down so steeply that there seemed to be nothing supporting us," he wrote. "Our summit at first seemed big enough for only one of us at a time, but we carefully flattened the snow a bit. Brad tied his camera to an ice axe with a shoelace and managed to get a picture of the two of us on top." But to escape the St. Elias Range, the pair had to spend weeks picking their way through uncharted territory, fording icy rivers and subsisting mostly on mushrooms and the occasional squirrel.

One of the "Harvard Five," members of the Harvard Mountaineering Club who were pioneering American climbers, Dr. Bates divided his life between expeditions and teaching English at Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire. He was an honorary president of the American Alpine Club and served as the first Peace Corps director in Nepal.

"Bob was an invaluable member of an expedition," said Dr. Charles Houston of Burlington, Vt., who attempted to reach the summit of Pakistan's K2, the second-tallest mountain on Earth, with Dr. Bates in 1938 and 1953. "He was a wonderfully cheerful person, always happy, never really seemed downhearted. There was no fame or money in climbing then, so the motivation was very pure: Just climb for joy. People went for the pleasure of exploring the unknown, going a little further into the unknown and experiencing the joy of a new challenge." Dr. Bates challenged mountains much later in life than most, travelling on an expedition in China at 74. A half-century of travels took him through such countries as Afghanistan, Cambodia, Iraq, Iran, Pakistan, Nepal, Syria, Turkey and Vietnam. Through nail-biting situations, his unfailing good humour and pleasant demeanour became the glue that held groups together.

"In a world that somehow thinks civility is a weakness, his life proved Leo Durocher wrong," said Nick Clinch of Palo Alto, Calif., who was on the 1985 China expedition with Dr. Bates. "He proved that nice guys finish first." "I think his great quality was that he inspired people," said his wife, Gail Oberlin Bates. "He didn't tell them to go out and do things, but through his own life he could make people feel that they could go out and do anything." Born in Philadelphia, he was 5 when his parents took him on his first hike up a mountain on Mount Desert Island in Maine. Graduating from Phillips Exeter, he went on to Harvard, where as a sophomore he met Mr. Washburn, an encounter that shaped his burgeoning interest in mountaineering.

"I learned to climb the hard way, mainly by doing it," he wrote last year in an autobiographical essay that was published in *Himalayan Journal*. And hard it was, in the days before lightweight protective gear was developed for cold weather.

After receiving a master's degree from Harvard in 1935, Dr. Bates joined Mr. Washburn on an expedition to map areas of Alaska and the Yukon for the National Geographic Society. In his autobiography, Dr. Bates described his apparel: "I was wearing woolen underwear, a heavy wool shirt with a moosehide shirt over it, and caribou skin pants with warm ski pants over them. . . . Down was a thing of the future." During the Second World War, Dr. Bates served in the U.S. Army and tried out new equipment and clothing that would be used by mountain troops. With Mr. Washburn and others, he performed some tests on Mount McKinley, becoming part of the third successful ascent of the Alaskan peak. Dr. Bates rose to lieutenant-colonel and was awarded a Bronze Star and Legion of Merit for his work.

Just before the war, he had decided to teach English at Exeter rather than follow in his father's footsteps as a professor at the University of Pennsylvania. At the prep school, he could devote more time to expeditions than would be possible in a competitive academic career.

The war over, he finished his doctoral work at the University of Pennsylvania in 1947, writing his dissertation on the literature of the mountains. It became a book 53 years later, once interest in mountaineering had grown enough for a publisher to issue it as *Mystery, Beauty, and Danger*.

Allowed to take leaves of absence from teaching for expeditions, he went to K2 in 1953 with Dr. Houston and a small team of mountaineers.

The long-time friends had already made an attempt in 1938, but Dr.

Bates had not reached the summit. The mountaintop proved elusive again when a member of their team became ill and they turned back after climbing above 25,000 feet.

Dr. Houston and Dr. Bates wrote *K2: The Savage Mountain*, recounting a horrible moment as the team ferried their ill friend down steep slopes. A climber slipped and another barely held on as a chain reaction almost sent everyone sliding to their deaths.

"I turned and lunged at the hard ice with the point of my axe, a terrible jerk ripped me from my hold and threw me backward headfirst down the slope," Dr. Bates wrote. "This is it!" I thought as I landed heavily on my pack. There was nothing I could do now. We had done our best, but our best wasn't good enough.

"This was the end. . . . On the slope below, no rock jutted on which the rope between us could catch. Only thousands of feet of empty space separated us from the glacier below. It was like falling off a slanting Empire State Building six times as high as the real one." The climbers came to a halt in the nick of time, only to lose their ill friend to an avalanche a short time later.

When the expedition ended, Dr. Bates returned to the United States and married Gail Oberlin in 1954.

Family members said he never drew attention to his accomplishments, shrugging when someone suggested he had lived an amazing life. "I've had an interesting one," he would say.

"He took such a great interest in other people," said niece Elizabeth Bates of Philadelphia. "The connection with the other people with whom he climbed, those relationships were just as important to him as whatever it was he was actually doing." "Like me, they love mountains," Dr. Bates wrote in his autobiography, "and they also agree that in mountains, as in life, being first to do or discover something is twice the fun of being second." ROBERT BATES Robert Hicks Bates was born Jan. 14, 1911, in Philadelphia. He died in his sleep Sept. 13, 2007, at his home in Exeter, N.H. He was 96. In addition to his wife, he leaves two nieces, three great-nieces, two great-nephews and two great-great-nephews. He was predeceased by his brother, William. Bradford Washburn died in January, also at the age of 96.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

SUBJECT TERM:obituary

PERSONAL NAME: Robert Bates



# PAKISTAN Election? Military will keep power, no matter what Since Pakistan's independence, the army has grabbed hold of every corner of life. It's not about to let go, Marcus Gee writes

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**BYLINE:** MARCUS GEE

**SECTION:** International News

**EDITION:** Metro

**DATELINE:**

**WORDS:** 1307

**WORD COUNT:** 1179

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MARCUS GEE General Pervez Musharraf has promised to shed his military uniform if he is declared the winner of the presidential election held this weekend in Pakistan. If Pakistanis then elect a new prime minister in a vote expected early next year, Pakistan will have both a civilian head of government and a civilian head of state.

In most countries, that would mean civilian rule. Not in Pakistan.

After 60 years as the pillar of a fractious country, the Pakistani military is not about to give up power just because of something as trivial as an election. Its control is so pervasive, its sense of its own importance so strong, that it will remain the most powerful force in Pakistan whatever happens at the ballot box.

Generals have overthrown civilian governments by armed force four times since independence: in 1958, 1969, 1977 and 1999. They were instrumental in the dismissal of three elected governments in the 1990s. They have ruled the country for more than half of the 60 years since independence.

The only prime minister who confronted military power directly, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, was hanged for his trouble. The last two civilian prime ministers – Nawaz Sharif and Mr. Bhutto's daughter, Benazir – have been forced into exile.

Even when civilians are in nominal command, the military retains effective control of defence, security, foreign and nuclear policy.

Every civilian prime minister, even the proud Ms. Bhutto, has had to strike some sort of power-sharing deal with the armed forces.

No wonder some Pakistanis have been heard to say: Other countries have a military, but in Pakistan the military has a country.

Despite all that, Pakistan is not a police state. The military wears its power lightly. Gen. Musharraf is no Augusto Pinochet, the stern Chilean dictator with his riding boots and cape. He often appears in a business suit, exuding charm and bonhomie.

PAKISTAN Election? Military will keep power, no matter what Since Pakistan's independence, the army has

He can afford to be casual because the power of the military is so overwhelming. In six decades it has insinuated itself into every corner of Pakistani life.

Two of the country's four provinces have retired generals as governors.

Retired officers also run the education department, the post office and the housing administration.

The military's sprawling business empire, estimated at \$20-billion by one expert, includes travel agencies, transport companies, property developers and road builders. A military-run firm even sells a brand of breakfast cereal.

"They are everywhere," said Washington-based Pakistani journalist Murtaza Solangi. "They are industrialists, they are agriculturalists, they are a real-estate power, they are bankers. From the garbage collected from your house to the corn flakes you eat to the taxes you pay at the bank to the football you watch to the university you attend – you name it, the military is there." Over the past decade, retired military men have been named as vice-chancellors of several universities. Some public parks are owned by the military, which collects an entrance fee.

Ayesha Siddiqi, author of *Military Inc.: Inside Pakistan's Military Economy*, a groundbreaking book that studies the armed forces' business interests, estimates that the military controls 7 per cent of private assets and one-third of heavy manufacturing.

She found that, to make money, the military has converted firing ranges into citrus farms and camping grounds into golf courses.

In one case, it extended a military land reserve to the edge of a national highway so that it could collect tolls from drivers.

Under Gen. Musharraf, her book said, the wealth of a typical senior general has grown to at least \$1.7-million (U.S.) in a country where the average per capita income is \$2,800.

Maintaining the world's seventh-largest armed forces, with more than 600,000 personnel on active service, costs the country dearly.

Military spending is equivalent to 3.2 per cent of national output, compared with 2.1 per cent for education spending and 0.6 per cent for health.

As a Cold War front-line against Soviet expansionism in Afghanistan and now a U.S. partner in the war on terrorism, Pakistan has enjoyed generous military aid from Washington – \$10-billion since 2001 alone.

Military dominance has only grown under Gen. Musharraf, a key Washington ally. He formalized the military's control of policy by forming the National Security Council in 2004. Composed of leading generals and civilians, it has the power to make decisions on all strategic issues, including how natural resources are distributed.

He has also parachuted an estimated 1,200 officers into leading jobs in public institutions like colleges and regulatory agencies.

None of this is to mention the power and influence of the military spy service, the infamous Inter-Services Intelligence, which Ms.

Bhutto once called a "state within a state." Last week, Gen. Musharraf appointed the head of the ISI to

PAKISTAN Election? Military will keep power, no matter what Since Pakistan's independence, the army has

succeed him as army chief when he steps down from the post.

The military's strength grows from Pakistan's weakness. When Pakistan was born from the partition of Britain's dissolving Indian empire in 1947, it soon found itself at war with a much bigger and more powerful India.

The military was applauded as the defender of the nation. With its trained and cohesive officer class, dominated by two of the new country's leading communities, the Punjabis and the Pashtuns, it was also seen as the only institution capable of bridging Pakistan's ethnic and sectarian divisions.

Its status grew after the nation's founding father, Mohammad Ali Jinnah, died only 13 months after independence. His lieutenant, Liaquat Ali Khan, was assassinated three years later. While Indian democracy thrived under the steady hand of its first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, who led India till his death in 1964, Pakistan's democracy withered on the vine.

Even today, under the increasingly unpopular Gen. Musharraf, the military enjoys unparalleled prestige. A recent poll gave it an 80-per-cent approval rating, although a growing number of people disapprove of its meddling in civilian government.

"In Pakistan, right from the beginning, you have the military emerging as the only robust national institution," Toronto-based analyst Kamran Bokhari said. As a result, the country's generals developed what he calls a "saviour mentality." "That's their starting point: 'We're the only ones that can hold this country together,' " he said.

In a sense, they have a point. On the one side, Pakistan faces giant India, its opponent in three wars since 1947, and on the other, war-torn Afghanistan.

Internally, it faces armed revolts in two provinces, a surge in Islamic extremism and a terrorist threat from both the Taliban and al-Qaeda. The democratic opposition is split into feuding factions that make the prospect of a stable civilian government remote even if the military were to allow it. Fighting among the Sindhi, Baluchi, Punjabi and Pashtun communities is chronic.

Though 97 per cent of Pakistanis are Muslims, the country sometimes seems to lack the glue to make a unified nation. That makes it all the easier for the military to pose as the country's only bulwark against chaos.

But critics say that it is the military's very dominance that is to blame for the country's troubles, stunting the growth of a democratic system that could bridge its divisions and create a sense of common purpose.

"A nation is not a parade ground where you say 'turn' and everyone turns," Boston University scholar Husain Haqqani said. "A nation is a place where you need to work together and get people to co-operate." With the military as its nanny, Pakistan has never had to develop the mature institutions it needs. "How can any civilian government be expected to develop any competence when they know they're going to be booted out in a couple of years?" Mr. Haqqani asked.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Pakistan

SUBJECT TERM: elections; political candidates; voting

PERSONAL NAME: Pervez Musharraf

PAKISTAN Election? Military will keep power, no matter what Since Pakistan's independence, the army has

ORGANIZATION NAME: Armed Forces

PAKISTAN Election? Military will keep power, no matter what Since Pakistan's independence, the my has

# DOZENS DIE IN ARMY ATTACKS ON MILITANTS

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**DATELINE:** MIRANSHAH, PAKISTAN

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Agence France–Presse MIRANSHAH, PAKISTAN At least 58 people including 16 soldiers were killed yesterday in two major battles between militants and troops in Pakistan's restive tribal areas, the military said.

Security forces launched an attack against militant bases and hideouts in the restive North Waziristan region bordering Afghanistan, military spokesman Major–General Waheed Arshad said.

He said at least 20 militants were killed in the fighting, which also left six soldiers dead and wounded another six, according to a military statement.

Local residents said four civilians also died, including three women, although the military could not confirm that.

The operation against the militants was launched in retaliation for overnight attacks Friday by extremists on two military convoys in the region that left two soldiers dead and another 30 wounded, Maj.–Gen. Arshad said.

In a second battle, extremists attacked a military convoy in the Hasu Khei area of the same region, with resulting clashes killing 10 soldiers and 18 militants, Maj.–Gen. Arshad later said.

President Pervez Musharraf has been under mounting pressure to tackle al–Qaeda and Taliban militants, who U.S. officials say have been regrouping in the tribal areas since fleeing over the Afghan border in 2001.

Violence has escalated in the troubled region since security forces raided the al–Qaeda–linked Red Mosque in Islamabad in July.

Nearly 300 people in Pakistan have died in attacks since the crisis, most of which have been suicide bombings. A further 250 militants have been killed in clashes with security forces since the mosque standoff, the army says.

Pro–Taliban militants are also holding more than 200 Pakistani soldiers in nearby South Waziristan district since abducting them in late August.

They shot dead three of the soldiers earlier this month to put pressure on the Musharraf government to halt military operations in the rugged region, officials said. The Pakistan military has about 90,000 soldiers fighting al–Qaeda and Taliban rebels on the border.

A rights group yesterday accused the government of ignoring pleas for help from civilians living in the tribal areas, who are being targeted by Islamic militants.

The independent Human Rights Commission said militants in the deeply conservative region, emulating the ultra-orthodox Taliban who ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001, are striving to impose a strict brand of Islam.

And the government was turning a blind eye as militants bombed girls schools, threatened teachers and attacked shops selling videos and music deemed un-Islamic, the commission said.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Pakistan; North Waziristan

SUBJECT TERM: strife; terrorism

ORGANIZATION NAME: Armed Forces; al-Qaeda; Taliban

# Symphony No. 2 for night No. 1

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**SECTION:** City

**PAGE:** C6

**COLUMN:** Around Town

Colour Photo: Bruno Schlumberger, The Ottawa Citizen / Fromleft, Gordon Webb, Walt Natynczyk and Joseph Romanow. ; Colour Photo: Bruno Schlumberger, The Ottawa Citizen / Guests at the Tour of Duty Gala included: From left, John Gardam, Louise Pellicano and Paul Finn ; Colour Photo: Lois Siegel, The Ottawa Citizen / Jonathan Shaughnessy and Penny McCann. ; Colour Photo: Lois Siegel, The Ottawa Citizen / Can Le, Vivian Le and Rebecca Cragg. ; Colour Photo: Lois Siegel, The Ottawa Citizen / The Vietnamese–Canadian reception to honour filmmaker Trinh T. Minh–ha drew, TOP: Minh Nguyen, Ms. Minh–ha and Tam–Ca Vo–Van ; Colour Photo: Lois Siegel, The Ottawa Citizen / Al Albania and Susan Allan. ; Colour Photo: Lois Siegel, The Ottawa Citizen / Dale MacKenzie, Ellen Stensholt and Verna Wilson. ; Colour Photo: Lois Siegel, The Ottawa Citizen / From left: David Stewart, Tsuneo Nishida, Ambassador of Japan, Haruko Tanaka and Paule Préfontaine. ; Colour Photo: Lois Siegel, The Ottawa Citizen / Peter Storer and Andrea Strohmeier. ; Colour Photo: Lois Siegel, The Ottawa Citizen / A post–concert reception hosted by the Austrian Embassy after the opening night of the Ottawa Symphony Orchestra season attracted: From left, Amelia Watkins, David Currie, Elizabeth Turnbull. ; Colour Photo: Lois Siegel, The Ottawa Citizen / Guests at the Harmony House event included: Christine Irvine, Amy Heron and Kimothy Walker. ; Colour Photo: Bruno Schlumberger, The Ottawa Citizen / Wilhelmina Beerenfenger–Koehler and Tim Kane. ;

**BYLINE:** Caroline Phillips

**SOURCE:** Citizen Special

**WORD COUNT:** 787

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The Ottawa Symphony Orchestra's season–opening concert was a magnet for parties, attracting large crowds to the National Arts Centre last Monday for their fill of fine wine, fine food and fine music.

The evening's celebrations kicked off with a 20–year–anniversary gala for the Harmony House women's shelter. About 60 supporters dined on stuffed Cornish game hen in the NAC's Salon before taking in Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 2.

Harmony House, the only second–stage shelter in Eastern Ontario, helps abused women piece their lives back together. It began as a social outreach program of St. Matthew's Anglican Church in the Glebe.

Three of the founding board members, Verna Wilson, Ellen Stensholt and Dale MacKenzie, were at the gala.

"We never thought we were doing something innovative; we only looked at it as meeting a need," Ms. Stensholt said.

The gala attracted Acart Communications president Al Albania along with Donna Floyd and Susan Allan of Keller Williams Ottawa Realty, which pledged \$15,000 in addition to the \$10,000 it's already donated this

year.

Also in attendance were Harmony House board president Amy Heron and the shelter's manager of fund development, Christine Irvine.

Performing emcee duties was CTV Ottawa's Kimothy Walker, who's helping to launch a new organization to shed light on child sex abuse. It aims to increase police funding to catch more child molesters and push for tougher sentences against those who get convicted, said Ms. Walker, a victim of childhood sexual abuse.

Viennese favourites

After the concert, the culturati got another taste of Vienna with some Austrian wines and food served at a reception hosted by the Austrian Embassy's deputy head of mission and Cultural Forum director, Peter Storer.

Concert soloists Elizabeth Turnbull and Amelia Watkins mingled in the crowd, as did Ottawa Symphony Orchestra conductor and music director David Currie, who is to be honoured at the Masters in Music soirée happening Nov. 1 at the Château Laurier.

Mahler's Symphony No. 2 was chosen to open the season because it's popular with audiences, said Mr. Currie, who also loves the piece. "It's a blockbuster," he said.

Other familiar faces in the NAC Panorama Room were OSO president Susan Annis and such fellow board members as Snookie Lomow, head of special events, and Ian Sterling of sponsor Doherty & Associates.

Guests included sponsor Maureen O'Neill of RBC Dominion Securities, and designers James Jefferson and Frank Sukhoo, who are among those in the fashion biz participating in the Oct. 17 fashion show at the U.S. ambassador's home (the event is to thank supporters of Homes for the Holidays, a fundraiser for The Hospice at May Court).

When duty calls

"195 days," is the answer that instantly pops out of Louise Pellicano's mouth when asked how long her son, Éric, served in Afghanistan before returning safely this past August.

With the help of satellite phones, e-mail and regular mail, Ms. Pellicano stayed in touch with her son while her motherly worries were calmed by her Christian faith.

Her winning story was one of six shared at Tuesday's third annual Tour of Duty Gala at the Canadian War Museum, where the theme "Keep the Home Fires Burning" honoured the efforts of families and communities, past and present, to support the troops.

Other winners were Gordon Webb, Allan Gravelle, Joseph Romanow, Deborah Glover and Linda Anderson.

"The stories are so real and so personal, and I'm so grateful to these people sharing them with us," said gala chairman Tim Kane, CEO and chairman of Delta Media (Mr. Kane is also president of the National Press Club of Canada Foundation at its new home inside the Sheraton Hotel on Albert Street).

The gala has raised about \$170,000 over the past three years for The Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre.

Special guests also included Lt.-Gen. Walt Natynczyk, vice-chief of the Defence staff, and Silver Cross mother Wilhelmina Beerenfenger-Koehler. Her son, Cpl. Robbie Beerenfenger, 29, was killed on duty



exactly four years earlier on Oct. 2, 2003.

On hand were The Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre Foundation chairman, John Gardam, and managing director Paul Finn, and retired Liberal MPP Gilles Morin, also a Korean War veteran, as emcee.

#### Vietnamese dream

The dream of building a \$2-million Vietnamese Boat People Museum in Centretown is gaining support from Canadian-Vietnamese communities living outside of Ottawa.

A gala held last month in Winnipeg raised \$55,000 and more fundraisers in other major cities are expected to follow, said project leader Can Le during a reception held Friday at the SAW Gallery for filmmaker and scholar/artist Trinh T. Minh-ha.

Ms. Minh-ha, who teaches at Berkeley, was in town for the SAW Gallery's Art Star 3 video-art biennial. She gave an artist talk and screening of her latest film, *Night Passage*, at the National Gallery of Canada.

The reception, catered by the Vietnamese Canadian Centre, included SAW Gallery director Tam-Ca Vo-Van, curatorial resident Minh Nguyen and SAW video director Penny McCann.

Also present were Jonathan Shaughnessy, assistant curator of contemporary art at the National Gallery, and Rebecca Cragg, executive director of the Ottawa Asian Heritage Month Society.

NDP MP Paul Dewar attended, as did retiring Liberal MPP Richard Patten with the Liberal candidate looking to fill his spot, Yasir Naqvi.

Carolyn001@sympatico.ca

# Free trade has been vindicated; Twenty years ago the doomsday prophets claimed that free trade would make Canada the 51st state -- I think we can now call it a success

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**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: U.S. secretary of state James Baker, prime minister Brian Mulroney and Canadian ambassador Derek Burney open a new Canadian embassy in Washington in 1989. The three were principals in negotiating the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement 20 years ago. ;

**BYLINE:** Derek Burney

**SOURCE:** Citizen Special

**WORD COUNT:** 687

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In the fall of 1987, the Canada-U.S. free-trade negotiations hovered between success and failure. Time was running out. U.S. president Ronald Reagan's authority to negotiate a free-trade agreement on a "fast-track" basis was scheduled to expire in early October.

In an intensive, final round of negotiations during which I represented prime minister Brian Mulroney (treasury secretary Jim Baker headed the U.S. side), success was achieved. A few months later, the prime minister and the president signed the agreement.

The conclusion of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) added new fuel to what had become a volatile national debate in Canada. FTA raised fundamental questions about the character of Canada, its relationship with the world and, in particular, its relationship with the U.S.

The debate polarized the country between doomsday prophets who predicted the end of Canada as a sovereign entity and optimists who saw the agreement as a means to make the Canadian economy more competitive, and trade with our major trading partner more secure.

The pessimists were led by self-described Canadian nationalists and perennial anti-Americans. They saw the FTA as a conspiracy to make Canada the 51st state. They predicted that Canadian culture and our independent foreign policy would cease to survive. Social-policy activists declared that Canadian medicare would be deemed a subsidy, and abandoned in favour of American-style health care.

Labour leaders worried that factories would close en masse. Unemployment would rise and Canada would become an economic backwater. Canadians would be condemned for eternity as hewers of wood and drawers of water. "Sellout" and "Traitor" were among the milder epithets used against advocates of free trade.

Free trade became the dominant issue in the 1988 federal election. The government was re-elected with a second majority (the first for the Conservatives since the days of John A.) The FTA was ratified by Parliament and came into effect Jan. 1, 1989.

Free trade has been vindicated; Twenty years ago the doomsday prophets claimed that free trade would ma

What has happened since? The pessimists were proven wrong on all points. Canada–U.S. trade more than quadrupled since the FTA, and the quality of the expansion (notably the increase in higher–value Canadian exports) exceeded the government's expectations. In short, classic economic theory was borne out: Liberalization of trade fueled specialization and efficiency with dividends for both producers and consumers.

None of the dire predictions about vanishing social programs ever materialized, either. Canada's approach to health care certainly has problems, but they are home–grown and not due to free trade.

Throughout the Mulroney and subsequent Chrétien/Martin years, Canada pursued its own course on foreign policy, supporting the United States and other NATO allies where it was in Canada's interest (the Balkans and Afghanistan), while opposing the United States where it wasn't.

Stephen Harper's government is proving itself no less capable of managing a vibrant trade and investment relationship with the United States while pursuing policies that serve distinctly Canadian interests, including in the Arctic.

With the glaring exception of softwood lumber, the dispute settlement provisions of the FTA, made permanent in NAFTA, are doing what was intended: reducing the threat of arbitrary or capricious use of protectionist U.S. measures against Canadian exports.

The FTA was a bold initiative, much more for Canada than for the United States, made possible by the tenacity and commitment of the two political leaders at the time — prime minister Mulroney and president Reagan. The FTA, NAFTA and the Uruguay Round (which created the WTO) represented a high water mark for Canadian trade policy.

By any measure, Canada is a stronger, more prosperous country than it was 20 years ago. It would be difficult for even the most dedicated of the pessimists to claim that Canadians would be better off today without improved access to the U.S. market and the more competitive Canadian economy that has been generated by trade liberalization.

The real lesson from 1987 is that, with the right leadership, Canada can overcome both the hand–wringing pessimists at home and the customary ambivalence of the United States.

Derek Burney was chief of staff to prime minister Brian Mulroney from 1987 to 1989 and Canadian ambassador to the United States from 1989 to 1993. He is a senior strategic advisor at Ogilvy Renault LLP.

# War on terror a 'disaster': think-tank; U.S. policies have backfired, fighting Iran will only add to mistakes, report says

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**SOURCE:** Agence France-Presse; with files from Reuters  
**WORD COUNT:** 470

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LONDON – The U.S.–led "war on terror" has been a "disaster" and Washington and its allies must change their policy in Iraq and Afghanistan to defeat al-Qaeda, says an independent global security think-tank.

The Oxford Research Group (ORG) said in a report released today that western strategy since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the U.S. had failed to extinguish the threat from Islamist extremism and even fuelled it.

"Every aspect of the war on terror has been counterproductive in Iraq and Afghanistan, from the loss of civilian life through mass detentions without trial. In short, it has been a disaster," report author Paul Rogers said. "Western countries simply have to face up to the dangerous mistakes of the past six years and recognize the need for new policies."

Mr. Rogers, professor of peace studies at the University of Bradford, northern England, also warned that any military action against Iran over the Islamic republic's disputed nuclear program would further aggravate the situation.

"Going to war with Iran will make matters far worse, playing directly into the hands of extreme elements and adding greatly to the violence across the region," he added.

"Whatever the problems with Iran, war should be avoided at all costs — the mistakes already made will be completely overshadowed by the consequences of a war with Iran."

Chief among the report's criticisms is that the U.S.–led invasion of Iraq in March 2003 was a "grievous mistake," which had created a combat training zone for extremist elements linked to or inspired by Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda.

The report, Towards Sustainable Security: Alternative Approaches to the War on Terror, said the situation was comparable to the rise of the mujahedeen during the Russian occupation of Afghanistan in the 1980s.

On Afghanistan, the report said ousting the hardline Taliban in late 2001 had been of "direct value" to al-Qaeda and militia sympathetic to its violent ideology were now re-invigorated.

Among the report's recommendations are the withdrawal of foreign forces from Iraq and an increase in diplomacy, including with Syria and Iran; greater civil aid to Afghanistan, a scaling down of military action and talks with militia.

"Extraordinary rendition," detention without trial and prisoner abuse should stop immediately; countries should commit to advancing the stalled Middle East peace process, because of its central role in anti-western sentiment, it said.

The report comes as Gen. David Petraeus, the U.S. military commander in Iraq, stepped up accusations that Iran was inciting violence there and said Tehran's ambassador to Baghdad was a member of the Revolutionary Guards Qods force.

Washington accuses Iran's Revolutionary Guards' elite Qods force of supporting militias who have attacked U.S. troops.

"They are responsible for providing the weapons, the training, the funding and, in some cases, the direction for operations that have indeed killed U.S. soldiers," Gen. Petraeus told a group of reporters at a U.S. military base about 30 kilometres from the Iranian border on Saturday.

Iran dismissed Gen. Petraeus's comments as "baseless."

# War on terror a 'disaster': think-tank; U.S. policies have backfired, fighting Iran will only add to mistakes, report says

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LONDON – The U.S.–led "war on terror" has been a "disaster" and Washington and its allies must change their policy in Iraq and Afghanistan to defeat al-Qaeda, says an independent global security think-tank.

The Oxford Research Group (ORG), which has been open about its opposition to the war in Iraq, said in a report released today that western strategy since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the U.S. had failed to extinguish the threat from Islamist extremism and even fuelled it.

"Every aspect of the war on terror has been counterproductive in Iraq and Afghanistan, from the loss of civilian life through mass detentions without trial. In short, it has been a disaster," report author Paul Rogers said. "Western countries simply have to face up to the dangerous mistakes of the past six years and recognize the need for new policies."

Mr. Rogers, professor of peace studies at the University of Bradford, northern England, also warned that any military action against Iran over its disputed nuclear program would further aggravate the situation.

"Going to war with Iran will make matters far worse, playing directly into the hands of extreme elements and adding greatly to the violence across the region," he added.

"Whatever the problems with Iran, war should be avoided at all costs — the mistakes already made will be completely overshadowed by the consequences of a war with Iran."

Chief among the report's criticisms is that the U.S.–led invasion of Iraq in March 2003 was a "grievous mistake," which had created a combat training zone for extremist elements linked to or inspired by Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda.

The report, Towards Sustainable Security: Alternative Approaches to the War on Terror, said the situation was comparable to the rise of the mujahedeen during the Russian occupation of Afghanistan in the 1980s.

On Afghanistan, the report said ousting the hardline Taliban in late 2001 had been of "direct value" to al-Qaeda and militia sympathetic to its violent ideology were now re-invigorated.

Among the report's recommendations are the withdrawal of foreign forces from Iraq and an increase in diplomacy, including with Syria and Iran; greater civil aid to Afghanistan, a scaling down of military action and talks with militia.

"Extraordinary rendition," detention without trial and prisoner abuse should stop immediately; countries should commit to advancing the stalled Middle East peace process, because of its central role in anti-western sentiment, it said.

The report comes as Gen. David Petraeus, the U.S. military commander in Iraq, stepped up accusations that Iran was inciting violence there and said Tehran's ambassador to Baghdad was a member of the Revolutionary Guards Qods force. Washington accuses Iran's Revolutionary Guards' elite Qods force of supporting militias who have attacked U.S. troops.

"They are responsible for providing the weapons, the training, the funding and, in some cases, the direction for operations that have indeed killed U.S. soldiers," Gen. Petraeus told a group of reporters at a U.S. military base about 30 kilometres from the Iranian border on Saturday.

Iran dismissed Gen. Petraeus's comments as "baseless."

# 'I can tell you, it is more secure'; Bernier works on selling the mission to voters

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**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Paul Chiasson, Pool, CanWest News Service /Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier, centre, rides in an American Chinook helicopter on his way to visit Forward Operating Base Wilson in the Zhari district yesterday. Mr. Bernier wrapped up his whirlwind tour of Afghanistan yesterday, travelling nearly 20,000 kilometres in less than five days. ; Colour Photo: Paul Chiasson, Pool, CanWest News Service / Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier and Bev Oda, the minister for international co-operation, arrive at FOB Wilson in Afghanistan yesterday... ; Colour Photo: Paul Chiasson, Pool, CanWest News Service / ...While there, Mr. Bernier handed out Jos. Louis cakes to members of the Van Doo stationed at the austere encampment. ;

**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, Afghanistan

**BYLINE:** Matthew Fisher

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KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier's whirlwind visit to Afghanistan was mostly a series of photo opportunities, but just before boarding a military aircraft late yesterday for the first leg of the long journey back to Ottawa he made plain why he had travelled nearly 20,000 kilometres in less than five days.

With a federal election looming, and the future of Canada's combat role in Afghanistan the subject of intense debate at home, the purpose of Mr. Bernier's sleep-defying odyssey had been to sell the mission to voters by explaining "to Canadians and Quebecers ... what I've seen."

The point that Mr. Bernier made repeatedly during the limited time he gave to the 20 or so Canadian journalists following him around, was that Afghanistan had become safer and that aid work had begun to take place because of the presence of Canadian combat troops in the province of Kandahar.

"I can tell you, it is more secure," Mr. Bernier said when asked how his claim squared with a UN report published last month that violence across Afghanistan had increased nearly 25 per cent over the past year.

Afghans he had met in Kabul and Kandahar this weekend as well as Canadian troops that "have to go outside the wire," had confirmed that there was less violence, Mr. Bernier said.

"The territory here in Kandahar is safer than one year ago. The number of attacks is diminished. I admit the situation is still difficult, but the situation has greatly improved."

Talking to a company of Van Doos after flying in a U.S. helicopter from Kandahar Airfield to Forward Operating Base Wilson in the hotly disputed Panjwahi/Zhari district where many Canadians have died in combat, Mr. Bernier told a group of combat troops mostly from the Quebec-based Royal 22nd Regiment, that



as a Quebecer he was "very proud" that they were there "replacing troops from other parts of Canada so well. All of us work together with the same ideology about the future of this country."

He later made an awkward attempt to adapt one of the most famous lines of former U.S. president John F. Kennedy. "Today I am asking Canadians: Don't ask what Afghanistan can do for you, but what we Canadians can do for the Afghan people," Mr. Bernier said. "What we can do for them is to help rebuild the country."

As for a future military option or options for Afghanistan beyond February 2009, Mr. Bernier would only say, "there are many possibilities."

One of the visual highlights of the hectic tour came when Mr. Bernier and International Development Minister Bev Oda took out boxes of Jos. Louis chocolate cakes to present to the Van Doos at FOB Wilson, which is one of Canada's more austere encampments.

"We brought this surprise for you," Mr. Bernier told the troops, holding up a box of one of Quebec's iconic snacks, which are made at Gateau Vachon in his riding in the Beauce.

As well as handing over Joe Louis packages and attending military and diplomatic briefings, Mr. Bernier got a short ride in an armoured Bison vehicle, met with diplomats, Mounties and aid workers at Canada's Provincial Reconstruction Team, shared a steak barbecue Thanksgiving dinner with troops and Canadian civilian workers and paid a visit to the Tim Hortons coffee shop at the Kandahar Airfield.

Mr. Bernier was brought around to meet troops at Tim's by Brig.-Gen Guy Laroche, the Canadian contingent commander.

"It is good for the troops because it shows the government takes the mission to heart," Brig.-Gen. Laroche said. "He will be able to discuss with people and see a bit of ground."

"This visit helps raise the visibility of our mission," said Cpl. Mathieu Brasseur, adding that Mr. Bernier's fleeting presence had been good for morale.

During the 24 hours that Mr. Bernier and Ms. Oda, who oversees Canadian foreign aid, had on the ground in Kandahar, Ms. Oda mentioned the connection to Thanksgiving when she announced that the government had pledged \$25 million to the United Nations World Food Program for Afghanistan.

"There are many challenges, but it is good to see progress" because of the security being provided by Canadian troops, Ms. Oda said.

Another prospective visitor, Liberal defence critic Denis Coderre, a vocal critic of Canada's current combat role here, was expected to arrive in Kandahar yesterday. But his UN flight from Islamabad to Kabul was delayed, causing him to miss his connection to Kandahar. He was expected to finally reach Afghanistan's second largest city today.

# Afghanistan to get \$25M in food aid; Canadian MPs announce contribution to UN program

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<b>ILLUSTRATION:</b>	Colour Photo: PAUL CHIASSON, CANWEST NEWS SERVICE / A taste of home: Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier hands out Jos. Louis cakes at Patrol Base Wilson in the Zhari district, Afghanistan, yesterday. ;
<b>KEYWORDS:</b>	!@DATELINE=KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan
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Canada announced a \$25-million food aid program for Afghanistan yesterday.

Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier and Minister of International Cooperation Bev Oda, who are visiting Afghanistan, announced the contribution to the United Nations World Food Program.

"On this Thanksgiving weekend, Canadians are reminded that we also have a responsibility to the people of Afghanistan," said Oda, who added that the money would help feed vulnerable Afghan children and families.

The government said the contribution to the program will build on other successes in the region. In 2007 alone, more than 8,700 tonnes of food were distributed to more than 400,000 people in Kandahar province, the government said.

Yesterday, Bernier got a warm welcome from a few of the troops when he showed up to share coffee and doughnuts with them.

"The military is usually preaching to its own parish" said Warrant Officer Gary Gregoire. "But when it is a political person who comes here and sees what's going on, he can explain that back in Canada and the public may trust him more because he is not in the military."

But Gregoire cautioned that too many visits by dignitaries could sometimes get in the way of a combat mission.

Bernier was brought around to meet troops at the popular Tim Hortons coffee shop at the Kandahar Airfield by Brig.-Gen Guy Laroche, the Canadian contingent commander.

The several dozen Canadian soldiers who were getting their usual morning "double double" when Bernier came by to shake hands seemed genuinely pleased to see him.

But there were a few awkward moments, such as when the minister did not seem to know the difference between Canadian, American and British uniforms.

Another prospective visitor, Liberal defence critic Denis Coderre, who has been a vocal critic of Canada's combat role here, was expected to arrive in Kandahar yesterday. But his UN flight from Islamabad to Kabul was delayed, causing him to miss his connection to Kandahar. He is now expected today.

Bernier repeated his criticism of Coderre for not having lined up his trip through official channels, as is usually done with such visits for reasons of security. But before learning that Coderre's trip had been delayed, Bernier suggested yesterday that "as a Canadian he was always welcome here" and that the two men might meet during their visits.