

## Your Agenda For May 18, 2012

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## Today In Parliament

Fri, May 18th, 2012

### Parliamentary Outlook

#### House of Commons

- [Bill C-326](#), An Act to amend the Canada Pension Plan and the Old Age Security Act (biweekly payment of benefits), may continue to be debated at second reading.
- An NDP motion put forward by MP Jasbir Sandhu (Surrey North, BC) That, in the opinion of the House, the government should officially apologize in the House of Commons to the South Asian community and to the individuals impacted in the 1914 Komagata Maru incident, in which passengers were prevented from landing in Canada, may be debated.

#### Senate

- The Senate will resume sitting on Tuesday, May 29, 2012

### Parliamentary Summary

Thu, May 17th, 2012

#### House of Commons

- [Bill C-25](#), Pooled Registered Pension Plans Act, was debated at report stage.
- The government tabled its responses to five petitions.
- The Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs presented its [Fifth Report](#), Improving Services to Improve Quality of Life for Veterans and their Families.
- Supplementary Estimates (A), 2012-13 For the Fiscal Year ending March 31, 2013 was presented.
- [Bill C-31](#), Protecting Canada's Immigration System Act, was debated at report stage.

#### Senate

- [Bill S-9](#), Nuclear Terrorism Act, continued to be debated at second reading, was read a second time and referred to the Special Senate Committee on Anti-terrorism.
- [Bill C-316](#), An Act to amend the Employment Insurance Act (incarceration), was read a first time.
- [Bill S-4](#), Safer Railways Act, received royal assent.
- [Bill S-1003](#), An Act to authorize Industrial Alliance Pacific Insurance and Financial Services Inc. to apply to be continued as a body corporate under the laws of Quebec, received royal assent.

## Press Release Summary - Federal

Thu, May 17th, 2012

### [Bank of Canada](#)

The bank released its spring 2012 review. The issue features a summary of the bank's annual conference, which took place in November 2011 and dealt with payments systems, and two articles that present research by bank staff on global current account imbalances and macrofinancial risk assessment. The fourth article in this issue reviews the recent experience with inflation targeting. The full release is available [online](#).

The bank announced a final call for marketable bond tenders with a minimum total amount of \$400 million to be auctioned by May 23, 2012. The full release is available [online](#).

The bank announced a final call for marketable bond tenders with a minimum total amount of \$1.4 billion to be auctioned by May 23, 2012. The full release is available [online](#).

### [Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation](#)

The Government of Canada joined the Province of Prince Edward Island at the official opening of The Christie on Elena Court in Charlottetown. On behalf of Human Resources Minister Diane Finley (Haldimand-Norfolk, ON), National Revenue Minister **Gail Shea** (Egmont, PE) said the government is investing in affordable housing here and across Canada to help create jobs and improve the quality of life for those who need it most. Call 902-426-8320.

### [Canada-US Inter-Parliamentary Group](#)

Conservative Manitoba Senator **Janis Johnson**, Senate co-chair of the Canadian section of the Canada-United States Inter-Parliamentary Group, led a delegation to Washington, D.C. for meetings with members of the U.S. Senate. Johnson said it was the first since 2010 that the group had been able to meet with Senators in the context of what is normally an annual meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Group. Call 613-943-1430.

### [Democratic Reform](#)

Minister of State (Democratic Reform) **Tim Uppal** (Edmonton-Sherwood Park, AB) highlighted the \$8 million in taxpayer savings the government has achieved by phasing out the direct subsidy of political parties. Uppal said the government is delivering on its democratic reform commitment by phasing out the \$30 million per year tax-payer subsidy of political parties and funding for political activities should come from ordinary Canadians who choose to contribute, not from corporations, unions, or government. The full release is available [online](#). Call 613-943-1835.

### [Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada](#)

International Trade Minister **Ed Fast** (Abbotsford, BC) said in a speech to members of the American Chamber of Commerce in Ottawa that Canada and the United States must deepen their own bilateral trade while also working together to pursue new opportunities in the Asia-Pacific region. Fast said the government is undertaking the most ambitious pro-trade plan in Canada's

history and needs to continue to be focused on how to deepen trade and investment with the United States. The full release is available [online](#). Call 613-992-7332.

Foreign Affairs Minister **John Baird** (Ottawa West-Nepean, ON) met with Sweden's Minister for Foreign Affairs **Carl Bildt** in Ottawa to discuss the upcoming NATO Summit in Chicago, the situation in Afghanistan and ways in which Canada and Sweden can strengthen their engagement on Arctic matters. Baird said Sweden is a valued partner, a strong ally and a close friend of Canada's and shared values between the two countries are reflected in a strong commitment to protecting universal human rights, including freedom of religion, and to combatting global terrorism. The full release is available [online](#). Call 613-995-1874.

## Industry Canada

Minister of State (Science and Technology) **Gary Goodyear** (Cambridge, ON) delivered a keynote address at the annual Research Money conference. Goodyear outlined the Economic Action Plan 2012 initiatives that are aimed at bolstering the innovation performance of Canadian businesses. The full release is available [online](#). Call 613-947-2956.

Minister of State (Science and Technology) **Gary Goodyear** (Cambridge, ON) announced the recipients of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada's 2011 PromoScience Grants providing \$2.4 million to 49 organizations promoting science and engineering to young Canadians. Goodyear said for Canada to be a global leader in innovation and to stay competitive and productive, the government recognizes the need to show young people the role innovation can play in their futures, encouraging more young people to consider careers in science and engineering. Call 613-947-2956.

## Natural Resources Canada

Wild fire season in Canada has begun, with unusually high temperatures and dry conditions resulting in grass-fires in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Natural Resources Canada will once again be providing timely and accurate forest fire information for all of Canada. To stay informed over the coming months, visit the Canadian Wild-land Fire Information System website at <http://cwfis.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/> for useful information. Call 613-996-2007.

Natural Resources Minister **Joe Oliver** (Eglinton-Lawrence, ON) announced an investment of \$14.5 million in Husky Energy's enhanced oil recovery and carbon capture and storage project in Lloydminster, SK. The investment was made through the ecoENERGY Technology Initiative, part of the government's commitment to clean energy innovation and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The full release is available [online](#). Call 613-996-2007.

## Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages

Official Languages Commissioner **Graham Fraser** announced that he will carry out a study that could lead to improvements in access to justice in both official languages for all. "Access to Justice in Both Official Languages: Improving the Bilingual Capacity of the Judiciary for Superior Courts" will be conducted in partnership with the French Language Services Commissioner of Ontario and the Commissioner of Official Languages of New Brunswick. The full release is available [online](#). Call 613-995-0374.

## Parliamentary Budget Officer

Parliamentary Budget Officer **Kevin Page** has released a report entitled "PBO Economic and Fiscal Outlook: Follow-up Report to the Standing Committee on Finance" on the PBO [website](#). Call 613-992-8026.

## Statistics Canada

Statistics Canada released its figures for Canada's international transactions in securities for March 2012. Foreign investors reduced their holdings of Canadian securities for the second time in three months as they divested \$2.1 billion in March, led by debt instruments. Canadian investors acquired the largest amount of foreign securities in nearly five years at \$7.8 billion, with investment concentrated in equities. The full release is available [online](#). Call 613-951-8116.

Statistics Canada released its figures for wholesale trade for March 2012. Wholesale sales rose 0.4 per cent in March to \$48.7 billion. Higher sales were reported in three of the seven subsectors, accounting for almost half of total wholesale sales. The full release is available [online](#). Call 613-951-3549.

## Transport Canada

On behalf of Transport Minister Denis Lebel (Roberval-Lac-Saint-Jean, QC), Justice Minister **Rob Nicholson** (Niagara Falls, ON), Minister of State (Small Business and Tourism) **Maxime Bernier** (Beauce, QC) and Conservative MP **Ryan Leef** (Yukon) announced that Canadian residents will be able to bring a rental vehicle into Canada from the United States. They were joined by fellow border MPs Conservative MP **John Williamson** (New Brunswick Southwest, NB), Conservative MP **Russ Hiebert** (South Surrey-White Rock-Cloverdale, BC) and Conservative MP **Guy Lauzon** (Stormont-Dundas-South Glengarry, ON). The full release is available [online](#). Call 613-991-0700.

## Treasury Board of Canada

Treasury Board President **Tony Clement** (Parry Sound-Muskoka, ON) tabled the 2012-13 Supplementary Estimates (A) in the House of Commons. Clement said the Supplementary Estimates reflect the government's plan for jobs, growth and long-term prosperity and an important part of the plan is keeping taxes and debt low while returning to a balanced budget. The full release is available [online](#). Call 613-957-2666.

## Press Release Summary - Non-Governmental

Thu, May 17th, 2012

### [Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives](#)

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives announced that the total number of federal core public service job losses over the next three years will be 29,600, far more than the 19,200 estimate that is commonly cited. The analysis by CCPA senior economist **David Macdonald** compiles data from recently released 2012-13 Reports on Plans and Priorities as well as the 2012 federal budget to assess the impact of several rounds of spending cuts on federal employment. The full release is available [online](#). Call 613-563-1341 x 306.

### [Council of Canadians](#)

The Council of Canadians welcomes new federal legislation with the stated aim of banning bulk water exports as a first step, but is concerned that the legislation fails to adequately protect water. The council has key concerns with [Bill C-383](#), Transboundary Waters Protection Act, saying the bill fails to address the real threats to water in Canada. The full release is available [online](#). Call 613-795-8685.

### [Democracy Watch](#)

Democracy Watch and the national Government Ethics Coalition called on the Conservative cabinet to go further than the recommendations of the House of Commons Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics Committee by changing the federal Lobbying Act and enforcement system in 10 key ways to finally end secret, unethical lobbying of the federal government. Coordinator of Democracy Watch **Tyler Sommers** said the group hopes that the federal Conservative cabinet will go further than the committee and introduce a bill that keeps their 2006 election promise to close all the loopholes and strengthen enforcement. Call 613-241-5179.

### [Federal Accountability Initiative for Reform](#)

Federal Accountability Initiative for Reform (FAIR) said civil society organizations voiced concern that the federal government has still not begun the legally-required review of its discredited whistleblower law, and may attempt to short-circuit the process to avoid proper discussion. FAIR said Treasury Board President Tony Clement (Parry Sound-Muskoka, ON) is responsible for overseeing the review, which under the law was required to begin by April 15th, and is required to be an "independent" review. More information is available [online](#). Call 613-567-1511.

## Humanitarian Coalition

Humanitarian Coalition executive director **Nicolas Moyer** is currently in Burkina Faso, and will be traveling to Niger to survey the impact of the looming food crisis in the Sahel region of West Africa. While in Niger, Nicolas will visit member agencies of the Humanitarian Coalition to witness how each is responding to the crisis and supporting those who are most affected by the drought and food shortage. The Humanitarian Coalition is comprised of CARE Canada, Oxfam Canada, Oxfam-Québec, Plan Canada and Save the Children. More information is available [online](#). Call 613-617-3596.

## Liberal Party of Canada

Interim Liberal Leader **Bob Rae** (Toronto Centre, ON) made a statement on International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia. Rae said the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia celebrates the progress that has been made by the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Two Spirit and Queer (LGBTQT) community in the struggle for equality and acceptance, and renewing the commitment to end discrimination and violence against LGBTQT persons in Canada and around the world. The full release is available [online](#). Call 613-947-5100.

Liberal MP **Sean Casey** (Charlottetown, PE) said by voting down a Liberal motion calling on the government to restore the qualifying age for the Old Age Security to 65, the government is undermining the retirement security of Canadians. Casey said by refusing to reinstate the OAS qualifying age to 65, the government will take \$13,000 out of the retirement plans of almost every Canadian born after 1964, and as much as \$30,000 out of the pockets of Canada's lowest income seniors. Call 613-947-5100.

Deputy Liberal Leader **Ralph Goodale** (Wascana, SK) said Canada can and should do more to encourage democracy, freedom, human rights and the rule of law in Ukraine. Speaking near the end of a six-day, three-city visit to Ukraine by seven MPs representing the House of Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development, Goodale said Canadian policy needs to strike "the right balance of carrots-and-sticks." Call 613-295-1761.



## New Democratic Party of Canada

The NDP reacted to the Human Rights Impact Report of the Canada-Colombia Free Trade Agreement tabled by the government in the House of Commons. The yearly report is an obligation under the agreement signed by Canada and Colombia to monitor human rights in the context of increased commercial and trade links between both countries. NDP MP **Hélène Laverdière** (Laurier-Ste-Marie, QC) said the report does not provide any information on the human rights situation in Colombia or Canada, although it sees fit to provide an overview of the economies of both countries. The full release is available [online](#). Call 613-222-6993.

NDP Leader **Tom Mulcair** (Outremont, QC) issued a statement on the International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia. Mulcair said 23 years ago, the World Health Organization removed homosexuality from the International Classification of Diseases. Mulcair added that since then Canada has made great progress in ending discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. The full release is available [online](#).

On the 10th anniversary of the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia, New Democrats are renewing their calls to end discrimination and hatred against LGBT people. NDP Leader **Tom Mulcair** (Outremont, QC) said Canada has made great progress in ending discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people; however, the battle is far from won and too many LGBT Canadians continue to face discrimination at work and in their community, and tragically some even pay for this discrimination with their lives. Call 613-720-6400.

NDP Veterans Affairs critic **Peter Stoffer** (Sackville-Eastern Shore, NS), deputy critic **Sylvain Chicoine** (Châteauguay-Saint-Constant, QC) and NDP MP **Megan Leslie** (Halifax, NS) urged the federal government to not appeal the recent Federal Court decision on the Service Income Security Insurance Plan that ruled in favour of injured veterans. The federal government has until May 31st to announce its intention to appeal. Stoffer said disabled veterans were forced to take legal action after the federal government refused to address the issue of unfair deductions from their disability payments. Call 613-995-5822.

## Public Affairs Association of Canada

The Public Affairs Association of Canada welcomes the the House Standing Committee on Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics' report on the Statutory Review of the Lobbying Act. The report makes 11 specific recommendations for changing the rules that regulate lobbying in Canada. Chair of the association **John Capobianco** said lobbying is critical to the development of sound public policy at all levels of government in Canada and the association firmly believes that transparency and accountability of how lobbying is conducted is central to the profession's long-term success. Call 416-645-8182.

## World Vision

World Vision's food security expert **Sheri Arnott** delivered a speech in response to International Cooperation Minister **Beverly J. Oda's** (Durham, ON) speech at the UN's "Scaling Up Nutrition: Calling All Champions" event. Arnott said when it comes to food security, agriculture and nutrition, Canada is connecting the right dots and Oda was on target when she emphasized how linked these development issues are, both in lives saved and cost effectiveness. Call 416-305-9612.

## Today's Committee Schedule

Fri, May 18th, 2012

### COMMONS COMMITTEES

There are no commons meetings listed at this time.

### JOINT COMMITTEES

There are no joint meetings listed at this time.

### SENATE COMMITTEES

There are no senate meetings listed at this time.

## Today's Events

Fri, May 18th, 2012 - All Times in EDT

### Ottawa Events

- 10:30 am  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands **Uri Rosenthal** will discuss "Free to Worship, to Trade and to be Secure: Why Canada and the Netherlands Must Promote Our Shared Values." The event is presented by the Centre for International Policy Studies at the University of Ottawa. The event will take place in Room 12110, Desmarais Building, 55 Laurier Avenue East. Email [rsvp@netherlandsembassy.ca](mailto:rsvp@netherlandsembassy.ca).
- 2:00 pm  
Liberal MP **Irwin Cotler** (Mount Royal, QC) will discuss "Iran Accountability Week", part of a sustained advocacy campaign to draw attention to the human rights abuses suffered by the Iranian people at the hands of Ahmadinejad's regime. Iran Accountability Week coincides with the 4th anniversary of the imprisonment of the Baha'i leaders in Iran. The event will take place in the Charles Lynch Room, 130-S, Centre Block. Call 613-995-0121.
- 3:00 pm  
Prime Minister **Stephen Harper** (Calgary Southwest, AB) will depart for Washington, D.C. The event will be held at the Canada Reception Centre, Hangar 11, 190 Convair Private. Call 613-957-5555.
- Ottawa  
The exhibit entitled, "From Far and Wide-Honouring Great Canadians," will be held in Ottawa. This exhibit about Canada's national honours will showcase stories of exceptional Canadians who have been recognized with the Order of Canada, Decorations for Bravery, Military Valour Decorations and other national honours. The event will be held at 90 Wellington Street. More information is available [online](#). Call 613-998-9166.

### Outside Ottawa Events

- Chicago, Illinois 1:00 am  
The Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions will join the National Nurses United and more than 100 other community, environmental, health, labour, faith, and anti-poverty organizations at the rally in Chicago. The rally is a continuation of the unity of last November's G20 summit in France where nurses joined with global NGOs and labour groups to urge the Obama administration to support the tax on Wall Street. The event will take place at the Daley Plaza, 50 West Washington Street. Call 613-526-4661 x 126.
- Mississauga, ON 8:30 am  
Treasury Board President **Tony Clement** (Parry Sound-Muskoka, ON) will address members of the Mississauga Board of Trade about economic growth, job creation, and the

importance of cutting red tape for businesses. The event will take place at the Glen Erin Inn, 1695 The Collegeway. Call 613-957-2666.

- Toronto, ON 11:00 am  
On behalf of Minister of State for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario Gary Goodyear (Cambridge ON), Conservative MP **John Carmichael** (Don Valley West, ON) will make an announcement regarding the government's commitment to supporting new innovative technologies. The event will be held at the Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, 2075 Bayview Avenue, Centre for Research in Image-Guided, Therapeutics, M wing, 7th floor. Call 613-960-7728.
- Manitoba 11:00 am  
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Minister **John Duncan** (Vancouver Island North, BC) will be attending the opening of the St. Theresa Point First Nation new school. The event will take place at St. Theresa Point School, St. Theresa Point First Nation. Call 819-997-0002.
- Brantford, ON 11:30 am  
Treasury Board President **Tony Clement** (Parry Sound-Muskoka, ON) will address members of the Brantford Rotary Club about economic growth, job creation, and the importance of cutting red tape for businesses. The event will take place at the Brantford Golf & Country Club, 60 Ava Road. Call 613-957-2666.
- Vancouver, BC 12:30 pm  
Heritage Minister **James Moore** (Port Moody-Westwood-Port Coquitlam, BC) will make an announcement at the Vancouver International Airport that will boost tourism and strengthen British Columbia's economy. The event will be held at the Vancouver International Airport, The Spirit of the Haida Gwaii sculpture, International Terminal Building, Departures Level 3. Call 613-991-0700.
- Moose Jaw, SK 1:00 pm  
On behalf of Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz (Battlefords-Lloydminster, SK), Conservative MP **Ray Boughen** (Palliser, SK) will make an announcement at South Hill Fine Foods. The event will take place at 468 Lillooet Street West. Call 613-773-7972.
- Langley, BC 1:00 pm  
On behalf of Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz (Battlefords-Lloydminster, SK), Conservative MP **Mark Warawa** (Langley, BC) will make an announcement. The event will take place at Buy-Low Foods, #117-8850 Walnut Grove Drive. Call 613-773-7972.
- Thetford Mines, QC 1:30 pm  
Industry Minister **Christian Paradis** (Megantic-L'Erable, QC) will celebrate funding for new research partnerships at the Cegep de Thetford. The event will take place at Oleotek Inc., 835 Mooney Street West. Call 613-995-9001.
- Saskatoon, SK 2:00 pm  
On behalf of Human Resources Minister Diane Finley (Haldimand-Norfolk, ON), Conservative MP **Kelly Block** (Saskatoon-Rosetown-Biggan, SK) will celebrate the

groundbreaking for a new affordable housing development in Saskatoon. The event will take place at 3315 Centennial Drive. Call 403-515-2962.

- Brantford, ON 2:00 pm  
Treasury Board President **Tony Clement** (Parry Sound-Muskoka, ON) will tour a Heritage building and participate in a discussion on red tape reduction. The event will take place Expositor Place, 53 Dalhousie Street. Call 613-957-2666.
- Montreal, QC  
Concordia University presents the 2012 Workshops on Social Science Research. Workshops include "Landing the Big One: Political Science in Pursuit of Power," with **Tom Flanagan** and "Decisions: The Road to the White House and Implications of the 2012 Election," with **Thomas Scotto**. Email [wssr@alcor.concordia.ca](mailto:wssr@alcor.concordia.ca).
- Across Canada  
Canada celebrates National Mining Week. Call 613-943-1175.
- Across Canada  
German Minister of Economy and Technology **Philipp Rösler** visits Canada. More information is available [online](#).
- Jalisco, Mexico  
Human Resources Minister **Diane Finley** (Haldimand-Norfolk, ON) will participate in the G20 Labour and Employment Ministerial Meeting. The event will be held at Hospicio Cabanas Cabanas 8, Las Fresas, Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico. Call 819-994-2482.
- Across Canada  
Dutch Foreign Affairs Minister **Uri Rosenthal** visits Canada. More information is available [online](#).
- Gatineau, QC  
Take a journey back in history through the mysteries of the Maya in this exhibit "Maya: Secrets of their Ancient World." Discover the sacred roles of their rulers, the elaborate writing and counting systems, the cycles of life and death, and the truth behind the 2012 end of days legend. The event will take place at the Museum of Civilization, 100 Laurier Street. More information is available [online](#).

## Weekend Events

All Times in EDT

### Sat, May 19th, 2012

- Tokyo, Japan May 19th-May 26th  
The Canada-Japan Inter-Parliamentary Group will attend the 18th Bilateral Meeting. More

information is available [online](#).

- Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, QC - 11:00 am  
The traditional Royal Military College Saint-Jean year-end parade will be held to mark the end of the academic year. The event will take place at the Royal Military College Saint-Jean, 15 Jacques-Cartier Nord. Call 613-996-2353.

## Sun, May 20th, 2012

- Chicago, Illinois May 20th-May 21st  
Heads of state and government will gather for the 2012 NATO Summit in Chicago, Ill. More information is available [online](#).
- Fredericton, NB May 20th-May 22nd  
The Canada-United States Inter-Parliamentary Group attends the Annual Conference of the Southeastern United States — Canadian Provinces Alliance. More information is available [online](#).
- Across Canada May 20th-May 23rd  
The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall will tour Canada, visiting four communities in three provinces: Saint John, NB, Toronto, ON, and Regina, SK. More information is available [online](#).

## Mon, May 21st, 2012

- Ottawa May 21st-May 28th  
The House of Commons breaks for a week, but resumes sitting on May 28.
- Chicago, Illinois May 21st-May 23rd  
The Heartland Institute presents the 7th International Conference on Climate Change, a gathering of scientists and economists from around the world. More information is available [online](#).
- Gagetown, NB  
During the Canadian Royal Tour for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, Their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall will meet with military personnel enrolled in The Prince's Operation Entrepreneur program. Their Royal Highnesses will learn first-hand from service personnel and delivery partners how The Prince's Operation Entrepreneur program enables transitioning and transitioned service personnel to start and grow their own businesses. Call 416-408-2923 x 2208.