

A look at some of the top national and international news events of 2010

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5138 words

15 December 2010

15:34

[The Canadian Press](#)

CPR

English

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A look at some of the top national and international news events of 2010:

January

4 - Saskatchewan Roughriders GM Eric Tillman pleads guilty to a summary charge of sexual assault involving teenage babysitter; gets absolute discharge when sentenced next day.

6 - Sgt. John Faught, 44, of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, is killed by roadside bomb in Afghanistan.

12 - Haiti devastated by strongest earthquake to hit impoverished nation in more than 200 years; 1.3 million people left homeless, more than 200,000 killed. Former Liberal MP Serge Marzil among 58 Canadian fatalities.

14 - NBC confirms US \$45 million dollar deal with Conan O'Brien to exit "The Tonight Show."

17 - Saddam Hussein's cousin "Chemical Ali" convicted of crimes against humanity for ordering poison gas attack on Kurdish village. Ali Hassan al-Majid is hanged on Jan. 25.

18 - Zakaria Amara, main organizer of the so-called Toronto 18 plot to bomb high-profile Ontario targets, is sentenced to life in prison, the maximum under Canada's anti-terrorism laws.

19 - Prime Minister Stephen Harper shuffles 10 cabinet spots, tapping Stockwell Day to lead Treasury Board and demoting Lisa Raitt from Natural Resources to Labour. Massachusetts voters elect Republican Scott Brown to succeed the late Sen. Edward Kennedy.

21 - Toyota announces recall of more than 2.3 million vehicles in U.S. and Canada to fix problem with sticking accelerator pedals; suspends sales of eight vehicles involved in recall on Jan. 26 for 10 days until replacement part is developed.

29 - Supreme Court of Canada overturns lower court order that Harper government must try to repatriate Omar Khadr from Guantanamo Bay but agrees Canadian officials violated his constitutional rights. Prime Minister Stephen Harper names five new senators, giving Tories effective control of both houses of Parliament.

February

4 - Premier Danny Williams of Newfoundland and Labrador has specialized heart surgery in Miami, returns to work Mar.15.

5 - NDP Leader Jack Layton announces he has prostate cancer. Brendan Burke, son of Toronto Maple Leafs president and general manager Brian Burke, dies in car accident in Indiana, at age 21.

7 - Ukraine's pro-Russian opposition leader Viktor Yanukovich wins narrow victory in country's presidential election.

8 - Col. Russell Williams, commander at CFB Trenton, Ont., is charged with first-degree murder in deaths of two eastern Ontario women and with sexually assaulting two others. Michael Jackson's personal physician, Dr. Conrad Murray, is charged with involuntary manslaughter in pop star's June 2009 death.

12 - Georgian luger Nodar Kumaritashvili, 21, is killed during Olympic training run at Whistler just hours before 60,000 fans pack B.C. Place for opening ceremonies of Winter Olympics. Wayne Gretzky carries torch to light Olympic cauldron. Cpl. Joshua Caleb Baker of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry is killed and four other Canadian soldiers injured in shooting range accident during training in Afghanistan. Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador approves \$17.5-million settlement in class action suit over errors in breast cancer testing.

13 - Jennifer Heil wins Canada's first medal of Vancouver Olympics, silver in women's moguls.

14 - Freestyle skier Alexandre Bilodeau becomes first Canadian athlete to win Olympic gold on home soil, taking men's moguls at Vancouver Games.

15 - Former Montreal financial adviser **Earl Jones** is sentenced to 11 years in prison, after pleading guilty to two fraud charges related to \$50 million **Ponzi** scheme.

17 - Canadian sailing ship on academic cruise with 64 students, including 42 Canadians, sinks off Brazil; students and crew spend 40 hours adrift at sea before all are rescued.

18 - John Babcock, Canada's last surviving veteran of First World War, dies in Spokane, Wash., at age 109.

19 - Pope Benedict approves sainthood for Montreal's Brother Andre. Tiger Woods makes first public appearance since revelations of rampant extramarital affairs; apologizes for cheating on his wife and says he will return to professional golf.

23 - Canadian Ashleigh McIvor secures place in Olympic history by winning inaugural women's ski-cross event in Vancouver.

25 - Canada's Joannie Rochette wins Olympic bronze medal in women's figure skating just days after mother dies of heart attack.

27 - Chile is hit by 8.8-magnitude earthquake and subsequent tsunami that kills nearly 500 people and damages 500,000 homes in coastal towns.

28 - Sidney Crosby scores overtime winner to lead Canada past U.S. 3-2 to win men's Olympic hockey gold; Canada finishes Vancouver Winter Games with record 14 gold medals for host country, ties for third overall in medal standings with 26.

March

3 - Greece announces drastic set of salary cuts, hiring and pension freezes and tax hikes to deal with growing debt crisis, sparking massive protests.

7 - Kathryn Bigelow becomes first woman to win best director at the Academy Awards for "The Hurt Locker," which also wins best picture.

8 - OPP Const. Vu Pham, 37, dies in hospital after being shot after flagging down pickup truck in southwestern Ontario. Fred Preston, 70, is wounded in shootout with other officers and dies Mar. 11.

9 - Former Conservative MP Rahim Jaffer pleads guilty in Orangeville, Ont., to careless driving; charges of cocaine possession and drunk driving are dropped.

10 - Sidney Crosby's missing stick and glove from the gold-medal Olympic final are recovered. Ping Kolola, 39, of Nunavut, is convicted of first-degree murder in killing of RCMP Const. Doug Scott in 2007 on Baffin Island.

13 - Two Alberta men are killed when massive avalanche buries dozens of people gathered for snowmobile rally near Revelstoke, B.C.

18 - American citizen David Coleman Headley confesses to planning 2008 attacks that killed 166 people in Mumbai, India, and implicates lifelong friend, Canadian Tahwwur Hussain Rana.

20 - Cpl. Darren Fitzpatrick, 21, of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, dies in an Edmonton hospital two weeks after being injured in IED explosion in Afghanistan. Pope Benedict releases unprecedented letter to Ireland, apologizing for chronic child abuse within the Catholic Church.

21 - U.S. House of Representatives passes historic health-care bill; makes coverage possible for more than 30 million uninsured Americans.

24 - Proposed \$3.2 billion deal to sell New Brunswick Power's generation assets to Hydro-Quebec falls apart over Quebec's concerns about unanticipated costs.

26 - South Korean navy ship is hit by mysterious explosion during routine patrol near sea border with North Korea and sinks hours later; 46 crew members killed in what international experts later say is torpedo attack by North Korea.

29 - Female suicide bombers strike two subway stations during rush hour in Moscow, killing 40 people.

31 - Toronto-based Skyservice charter airline files for receivership and shuts down operations, putting 860 employees out of work.

April

1 - Mother of Robert Dziekanski receives formal apology from RCMP and undisclosed amount to settle lawsuit over son's death at Vancouver airport in 2007.

4 - Revelation that former junior hockey coach Graham James was granted pardon after being convicted of sexually abusing two former players sparks outrage, calls for reform of system.

5 - U.S. government accuses Toyota of hiding "dangerous defect" with its sticking gas pedals and proposes record \$16.4 million fine, which Japanese automaker later agrees to pay. Twenty-nine miners are killed when explosion rips through Massey Energy mine in West Virginia.

8 - U.S. President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev sign landmark treaty to shrink nuclear arsenals.

9 - Prime Minister Stephen Harper announces minister for the status of women, Helena Guergis, is out of cabinet and Conservative caucus and calls in RCMP to investigate unspecified allegations against her.

10 - Polish President Lech Kaczynski, his wife and some of country's highest military and civilian leaders perish in plane crash in western Russia.

11 - Pte. Tyler William Todd, 26, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, is killed in powerful roadside bomb blast while on foot patrol in Afghanistan.

13 - Quebec Premier Jean Charest orders public inquiry into how provincial judges are appointed, one day after former justice minister alleges Liberals allowed fundraisers to influence appointments.

13 - In second round of public testimony, whistleblower Richard Colvin tells military watchdog prisoners handed over to Afghan authorities faced "high risk" of abuse and torture.

14 - Canadian dollar closes trading above parity with the U.S. dollar for first time since May 30, 2008, finishing at 100.08 cents U.S.

15 - Flights are grounded across Northern Europe a day after volcano in Iceland began spewing ash cloud that drifted over much of continent; millions of travellers stranded on six continents for days until trickle of flights resume Apr. 19.

20 - Massive explosion rocks British Petroleum-leased rig in Gulf of Mexico, killing 11 workers and triggering largest offshore oil spill in American history.

21 - Former Conservative MP Rahim Jaffer appears before Commons committee looking into his business dealings; denies accusations of improper lobbying. General Motors announces it repaid the \$8.1-billion loan portion of bailout from U.S., Canadian and Ontario governments.

23 - Arizona governor signs legislation making it a crime under state law to be in country illegally; most controversial sections put on hold after Obama administration appeals.

27 - House of Commons Speaker Peter Milliken rules Conservative government violated parliamentary privilege by refusing to hand over uncensored documents on Afghan detainees to the opposition.

29 - Col. Russell Williams, already facing two charges of first-degree murder and charges of sexual assault, is charged with 82 additional offences, mostly break and enter and fetish thefts in eastern Ontario.

May

1 - Police find bomb inside SUV in New York's Times Square after street vendor notices smoke inside, say major loss of life averted when homemade device fails to detonate.

2 - Finance ministers from 16 countries that use the euro agreed to \$110-billion rescue package to keep Greece from bankruptcy.

3 - Petty Officer (second class) Craig Blake, 37, killed in roadside bomb blast, becoming the first Canadian sailor to die as part of the Afghan mission.

4 - New RCMP Taser policy calls for use of stun guns only against people who are hurting someone or clearly about to do so.

5 - Three killed when protesters angry over new austerity measures in Greece torch bank in Athens.

6 - Opposition Conservatives win 305 seats in British election, 21 seats shy of majority. David Cameron, 43, becomes prime minister on May 11 after brokering deal with Liberal Democrats.

10 - Marc Emery, Canada's self-styled "Prince of Pot," is ordered extradited to United States to face drug charges related to Canadian seed-selling business; pleads guilty on May 24 and receives five-year sentence under plea agreement. Family of four is killed after landslide sweeps away country home in St-Jude, Que.

11 - Harper government announces new federal legislation that would end pardons for criminals and replace them with harder-to-get "record suspensions."

14 - Pte. Kevin McKay, 24, of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, is killed by IED blast in Afghanistan just days before his tour of duty is scheduled to end.

18 - Col. Geoff Parker, 42, a member of the Royal Canadian Regiment, is killed by massive car bomb that hits NATO convoy in Kabul.

19 - Thai army moves to quell 10-week-old Red Shirt protests that left about 90 dead and more than 1,400 wounded in failed attempt to force early elections.

24 - Trooper Larry Rudd, 26, of Petawawa, Ont.-based Royal Canadian Dragoons, dies in roadside bomb blast in Afghanistan.

29 - Brig.-Gen. Daniel Menard, Canada's top soldier in Afghanistan, is relieved of command after allegations of inappropriate relationship with female subordinate while in theatre.

31 - Israeli naval commandos storm flotilla of aid ships trying to break blockade of Gaza Strip, killing nine passengers in raid that sets off worldwide condemnation. Public inquiry into dealings between former prime minister Brian Mulroney and Karlheinz Schreiber concludes pair's financial relationship was "inappropriate" but terms of reference prevent any findings of criminal or civil liability.

June

1 - Bank of Canada raises trend-setting interest rate quarter point to 0.5 per cent; first of three consecutive hikes that leave rate at 1.0 per cent by year's end.

6 - Sgt. Martin Goudreault, 35, member of 1 Combat Engineer Regiment based in Edmonton, is killed by IED in Afghanistan.

14 - University of Waterloo suspends football program for year and places coaching staff on administrative leave after tests of 62 players show nine potential anti-doping violations.

15 - A 12-year, \$290 million investigation concludes British troops entirely to blame for slaughter of 13 Catholic demonstrators on Northern Ireland's "Bloody Sunday" in 1972.

17 - Report from Air India Inquiry blames "cascading series of errors" by government, RCMP and CSIS for failure to prevent 1985 terrorist attack. Four federal parties rush through pardon reform bill just weeks before schoolgirl killer Karla Homolka would have been eligible to apply.

18 - Report from B.C. inquiry into Robert Dziekanski's death concludes RCMP officers not justified in using Taser on him at Vancouver's airport in 2007.

21 - Pakistan-born U.S. citizen Faisal Shahzad pleads guilty to 10 terrorism and weapons counts in failed Times Square car bombing.

21 - Sgt. James MacNeil, 28, of Glace Bay, N.S., is killed by an improvised explosive device after he dismounted from his armoured vehicle in Afghanistan.

22 - Michaëlle Jean accepts an appointment as UN special envoy to her native Haiti after term as governor general ends.

23 - U.S. President Barack Obama accepts resignation of Afghanistan commander Gen. Stanley McChrystal over indiscreet "Rolling Stone" interview; replaces him with Gen. David Petraeus, architect of Iraq war turnaround.

24 - U.S. Supreme Court sets aside three of Conrad Black's mail fraud convictions after ruling law used to convict him and others was too broad; ruling does not cover most serious obstruction of justice charge.

25 - Syncrude Canada is found guilty under wildlife laws of causing the death of 1,600 ducks in oilsands tailings pond in northern Alberta.

26 - Roving bands of militants use so-called Black Bloc tactics at G20 protest in Toronto, smashing store windows and torching police cars; violence sparks police crackdown that ends with more than 1,000 arrests by next day. Master Cpl. Kristal Giesebrecht and Pte. Andrew Miller, both medical technicians attached to the Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group, are killed in roadside bomb blast southwest of Kandahar city.

27 - G20 leaders cap tumultuous summit weekend in Toronto with landmark deal for advanced economies to cut their deficits in half by 2013 and stabilize debt loads by 2016.

28 - The Queen arrives in Halifax to start nine-day tour of five Canadian cities that takes her from Nova Scotia to Ontario and Manitoba.

29 - Larry King writes in message to fans via Twitter that he plans to leave prime-time perch at CNN after 25 years.

30 - Conservative government announces it's replacing the mandatory long census in 2011 with voluntary survey that critics say won't be as reliable.

July

1 - Controversial harmonized sales tax (HST) is implemented in Ontario and B.C., taxing many items previously exempt from PST. Roughly 1,000 homes damaged in Yorkton, Sask., after heavy rain floods basements and turns streets into canals.

4 - Bronislaw Komorowski edges late president's identical twin brother, Jaroslaw Kaczynski, in Poland's presidential election.

6 - Lindsay Lohan sentenced to three months jail and three months rehab by Los Angeles judge for violating probation in 2007 drug case.

8 - University of Waterloo academic David Johnston named as Canada's new governor general.

9 - U.S. and Russia complete 14-person spy swap in Vienna, largest since Cold War.

12 - Award-winning director Roman Polanski freed from house arrest after Swiss government rejects U.S. extradition request.

15 - Temporary cap chokes off flow of oil from blown-out British Petroleum well into Gulf of Mexico, 85 days after crisis began.

19 - Military court finds Capt. Robert Semrau not guilty of second-degree murder in October 2008 battlefield shooting death of severely wounded Taliban fighter in Afghanistan. Semrau is, however, found guilty of disgraceful conduct.

21 - Former media baron Conrad Black is released from Florida prison two days after winning bid for bail while he appeals convictions for fraud and obstruction of justice.

20 - Sapper Brian Collier, 24, member of 1 Combat Engineer Regiment based in Edmonton, is killed by IED blast while on foot patrol in Afghanistan.

21 - Head of Statistics Canada, Munir Sheikh, resigns over Harper government's decision to axe long-census form. RCMP announces it found no evidence to warrant criminal charges against former cabinet minister Helena Guergis.

22 - Three-week period of heavy rain begins in Pakistan, causing worst flooding in 80 years, killing nearly 1,700 people and submerging tens of thousands of villages.

25 - WikiLeaks posts online some 91,000 classified U.S. military records over the past six years about Afghan war, including unreported incidents of Afghan civilian killings.

26 - Estimated 3.7 million litres of oil leaks from pipeline owned by Calgary-based Enbridge into a creek in southern Michigan

30 - Supreme Court of Canada unanimously upholds Robert Pickton's six second-degree murder convictions.

August

4 - Remaining 20 first-degree murder charges formally stayed against serial killer Robert Pickton.

6 - Former prime minister Jean Chretien, 76, has successful brain surgery in Montreal for subdural hematoma; Prime Minister Stephen Harper moves outspoken John Baird to government House leader in small cabinet shuffle.

9 - JetBlue flight attendant Steven Slater deploys emergency chute to leave plane at JFK airport in New York after arguing with passenger.

10 - Threatened blackout of BlackBerry service is averted in Saudi Arabia after government announces progress in negotiations with Waterloo, Ontario-based Research in Motion over security concerns.

10 - World Health Organization declares H1N1 flu pandemic officially over.

13 - ``MV Sun Sea" carrying 490 Tamil migrants docks at CFB Esquimalt near Victoria.

17 - Chalk River, Ont. nuclear reactor resumes production of medical imaging isotopes after being shut down for repairs in May, 2009. U.S. federal jury convicts former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich on single count of lying to federal agents

19 - Seven-time Cy Young winner Roger Clemens is indicted by U.S. federal grand jury on six charges of allegedly lying to Congress in 2008 over denials he used steroids.

20 - Vancouver Police report on Robert Pickton case blames city force and RCMP for series of errors in not zeroing in on pig farmer sooner as suspect in serial killings.

23 - Twelve-hour hostage drama aboard hijacked Philippine bus ends in bloodshed when angry ex-policeman guns down eight Hong Kong tourists, including three members of Canadian family, before police storm vehicle and gunman is killed. Golfer Tiger Woods and Elin Nordegren are officially divorced.

30 - Cpl. Brian Pinksen, a reservist with 2nd Battalion of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, dies in hospital in Germany after sustaining injuries in IED blast on Aug. 22 in Afghanistan.

31 - The Canadian Institutes of Health Research unanimously decide not to back clinical trials of so called ``liberation" therapy developed by Italian doctor who claims blocked neck veins are linked with multiple sclerosis.

September

3 - Fox TV announces Kara DioGuardi is third judge to leave ``American Idol," following earlier departure of Simon Cowell and Ellen DeGeneres.

4 - Weakened Hurricane Earl makes landfall near Halifax, toppling trees and bringing down power lines as storm barrels through Maritimes; one man dies near Halifax trying to save boat from damage.

4 - Craigslist shuts down its adult service section in the United States.

8 - CNN announces Piers Morgan of ``America's Got Talent" will replace Larry King on its prime-time lineup in January.

- 9 - Ontario Superior Court judge rules Canadian Blood Services is legally allowed to ban men who have sex with men from donating blood.
- 12 - Global financial regulators meeting in Basel, Switzerland agree on new rules that would gradually require banks to hold greater capital buffers to absorb potential catastrophic losses.
- 13 - B.C. legislative committee sends HST to referendum after opponents file anti-tax petition with more than the required number of signatures to force action; Premier Gordon Campbell says results will be binding but delays vote to September, 2011.
- 15 - Kory Teneycke, Prime Minister Stephen Harper's former spokesman, resigns as vice-president of development at Quebecor Media, saying he'd become a liability to the launch of its proposed Sun TV all-news channel.
- 16 - Pope Benedict XVI arrives in Edinburgh, Scotland for four-day visit to Britain, the first state visit by a pope to the U.K.
- 17 - British police arrest six men in pre-dawn sweep on suspicion of plotting attack against Pope Benedict during London visit; all six later released without charge. ``As the World Turns'' airs final episode, concluding a run that began in April 1956.
- 18 - Inderjit Singh Reyat, only man convicted in bombings of Air India Flight 182 and at Japan's Narita Airport in 1985, is found guilty of perjury during trial of two other men acquitted of mass murder and conspiracy charges.
- 19 - Retired Coast Guard Admiral Thad Allen, U.S. government's point man on BP oil disaster, announces company's well in Gulf of Mexico is ``effectively dead.'' Pope Benedict ends visit to U.K. by beatifying Cardinal John Henry Newman.
- 21 - Hurricane Igor dumps nearly 240 millimetres of rain in some areas of eastern Newfoundland, flooding communities and washing out roads and bridges; military personnel spend 10 days helping Newfoundlanders rebuild key infrastructure.
- 22 - MPs in House of Commons vote 153-151 to kill a Conservative private member's bill to scrap the long-gun registry. FOX TV announces singer-actress Jennifer Lopez and Aerosmith frontman Steven Tyler will join Randy Jackson as ``American Idol'' judges.
- 27 - New Brunswick voters elected David Alward's Conservatives to a solid majority government, ousting Premier Shawn Graham's Liberals after a single term; Tories take 42 of province's 55 ridings with the Liberals taking the rest.
- 28 - Ontario Superior Court Justice Susan Himel strikes down Canada's prostitution laws but federal government later wins extended stay while it appeals.
- 29 - Canadian-born director James Cameron wraps up visit to Alberta oilsands by saying failure to reduce environmental impact will transform them into eco-catastrophe.
- October
- 1 - University of Waterloo academic David Johnston is sworn in as Canada's 28th Governor General.
- 4 - Nine people are killed when about 184 million gallons of caustic red sludge and water burst from an aluminum plant reservoir in Ajka, Hungary, inundating three towns and local waterways and eventually spilling into the Danube River.
- 4 - Robert Edwards of Britain, 85, professor emeritus at University of Cambridge, is awarded Nobel prize in medicine for developing in-vitro fertilization.

5 - Capt. Robert Semrau is formally reduced to rank of second lieutenant and dismissed from the Canadian Forces for shooting a severely wounded Taliban fighter on the battlefield in Afghanistan in 2008. Faisal Shahzad, the Pakistani-born U.S. citizen who tried to detonate a car bomb in Times Square in May, is given life sentence.

8 - Imprisoned Chinese democracy campaigner Liu Xiaobo is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, drawing furious condemnation from Beijing.

11 - Defence Minister Peter MacKay confirms Canada was asked to vacate its staging base for the Afghan mission in Dubai; request comes after federal government denies a UAE request for more landing rights in Canada for its national carriers.

12 - Canada loses a bid for one of the non-permanent seats on the powerful UN Security Council, falling behind rivals Germany and Portugal in the voting.

12 - Finance Minister Jim Flaherty announces the federal deficit was a record \$55.6 billion in 2009-2010, pledges to eliminate the red ink by 2015. Federal judge in California issues worldwide injunction ordering U.S. military to immediately suspend its 17-year "don't ask, don't tell" policy after ruling in September it was unconstitutional; another court grants a stay 8 days later pending U.S. government appeal.

13 - The first of 33 miners trapped deep underground in a collapsed Chilean mine for 69 days is pulled to the surface in a missile-like escape capsule; all are out within 24 hours in a rescue that entranced people around the world and set off celebrations across Chile. Winnipeg police issue Canada-wide warrant for convicted sex offender Graham James on new charges of alleged sexual assault after three new accusers, including former NHL star Theo Fleury, came forward.

17 - Pope Benedict formally canonizes Montreal's Brother Andre, Canada's first saint of the 21st century.

18 - Col. Russell Williams pleads guilty in Belleville, Ont., to two counts of first-degree murder, sexually assaulting and confining two other women and 82 fetish break-and-enters; Williams is formally sentenced on Oct. 21 to life in prison with no chance of parole for 25 years.

20 - Fighting record debt, the British government outlines the largest cuts to public spending since the Second World War, slashing benefits, cutting public sector jobs and raising university tuition.

21 - Actor Randy Quaid and wife Evi are arrested in Vancouver on outstanding U.S. warrant; apply next day for refugee status, saying they feared being murdered by "Hollywood star whackers."

22 - Whistleblower website WikiLeaks releases nearly 400,000 pages of documents on the Iraq war in the biggest leak of secret information in U.S. history. MPs in House of Commons vote 153-151 to kill a Conservative private member's bill to scrap the long-gun registry. Syncrude Canada ordered to pay \$3 million in penalties under sentencing deal for causing the deaths of 1,600 hundred ducks at oilsands waste pond in 2008.

23 - Singer Celine Dion delivered premature yet healthy twin boys, Nelson and Eddy, at a hospital in West Palm Beach, Fla.

25 - Toronto-born Omar Khadr abruptly changes plea to guilty at war-crimes trial at Guantanamo Bay under deal that will allow him to apply for transfer to Canada after first year of eight-year sentence. Veterans Affairs Minister Jean-Pierre Blackburn issues formal apology over improper use of confidential psychiatric reports of Sean Bruyea, veteran critical of federal reforms to veteran services.

26 - Mount Merapi begins erupting in Indonesia less than 24 hours after a tsunami slammed into the remote Mentawai islands on the western end of the country, killing 509 people; a series of eruptions claims 324 lives.

29 - Tip from Saudi intelligence foils attempt by militants based in Yemen to blow up two Chicago-bound cargo jets using bombs hidden in printer cartridges. Young Asian man taken into custody in Vancouver after boarding an Air Canada flight from Hong Kong disguised as elderly Caucasian man. U.S. court overturns two of Conrad Black's convictions but upholds obstruction of justice, one fraud charge.

November

2 - Democrats lose control of House but manage to hold onto Senate majority despite deep losses in U.S. midterm elections that reflect voter anger with President Barack Obama's efforts to revive stalled economy.

3 - Industry Minister Tony Clement announces the federal government will not approve BHP Billiton's \$38.6-billion- hostile takeover bid for Saskatchewan-based PotashCorp, following a furious lobbying effort against the takeover by Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall.

3 - B.C. Premier Gordon Campbell announces he'll resign once successor is chosen after watching popularity nosedive over HST; says questions about his leadership were overshadowing important business of governing.

8 - Jonathan Duhamel of Boucherville, Que. wins World Series of Poker title and \$8.94-million. More than four million viewers watch Conan O'Brien relaunch his TV career with TBS entry titled ``Conan.''

9 - Montreal author Johanna Skibsrud, 30, wins Scotiabank Giller Prize for ``The Sentimentalists.''

10 - Mafia don Nicolo Rizzuto is gunned down in his home in front of his wife and daughter by a sniper who waited outside; Canadian dollar ends the day at exactly 100 cents US, closing at parity for the first time since Apr. 14.

11 - Prime Minister Stephen Harper confirms Canadian troops to stay in Afghanistan past July 2011 deadline; will help train the country's military after combat mission ends.

13 - Pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, a Nobel peace laureate, is freed after more than seven years of house arrest in military-controlled Myanmar.

14 - Five Canadian tourists and two Mexican employees are killed in massive explosion at luxury hotel in Playa del Carmen, Mexico.

16 - Prince William and Kate Middleton announce their engagement; week later announce marriage will take place Apr. 29, 2011, at Westminster Abbey.

18 - Newfoundland and Labrador Premier Danny Williams announces \$6.2-billion deal to develop the Lower Churchill hydroelectric project in Labrador with help from Nova Scotia. General Motors returns to life as a public company in North America's largest initial public offering worth \$23 billion US.

21 - Canadian teen heartthrob Justin Bieber becomes youngest person ever to win an American Music Award, claiming four, including artist of the year.

23 - North Korea fires deadly artillery barrages at South Korean island near their disputed border, killing two South Korean marines and two civilians.

24 - Quebec Premier Jean Charest narrowly survives confidence motion by vote of 61-57 amid rising anger over refusal to call inquiry into corruption scandals rocking province.

25 - Newfoundland and Labrador premier Danny Williams announces he's quitting politics, saying he's accomplished his key goals and wants to return to private life.

25 - Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission approves a five-year licence for Sun TV, a third, 24-hour English-language cable news channel.

25 - Robert Latimer, Saskatchewan farmer convicted of second-degree murder in what he said was mercy killing of his disabled daughter, is granted full parole as of Dec. 6.

28 - Voters go to polls in Haitian election plagued by allegations of fraud.

December

6 - B.C. loses second political leader in as many months when NDP leader Carole James announces departure in midst of public caucus rebellion.

7 - WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange surrenders to British police after arrest warrant issued in Sweden in sex-crimes investigation but will fight extradition. Riots erupt in Haiti after preliminary results of disputed presidential election show popular candidate is out of runoff while government-backed candidate Jude Celestin is in.

9 - Car carrying Prince Charles and wife Camilla is hit with sticks, fists and bottles after straying into violent protest against tuition fee increases.

10 - Military takes final steps to officially release convicted sex killer Russell Williams from the Canadian Forces.

14 - Police, members of the military, emergency workers and volunteers spend more than 24 hours working to rescue hundreds of people trapped in their vehicles overnight after a massive snowstorm and high winds shut down highway near Sarnia, Ont.

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