

ALLOCUTION du
LIEUTENANT-GÉNÉRAL J.O. MICHEL MAISONNEUVE (RET)
PRÉSENTATION DU PRIX VIMY
OTTAWA, LE 9 NOVEMBRE 2022

(AS DELIVERED)

TRÈS HONORABLE RICHARD WAGNER, ANCIENS LAURÉATS DU PRIX VIMY, DISTINGUÉS INVITÉS, MESDAMES ET MESSIEURS.

PREMIÈREMENT, JE REMERCIE L'INSTITUT DE LA CAD ET LE COMITÉ DE SÉLECTION DU PRIX VIMY POUR L'HONNEUR QUE VOUS ME FAITES EN ME DÉCERNANT CETTE PRESTIGIEUSE RECONNAISSANCE. JE L'ACCEPTÉ AVEC HUMILITÉ ET FIERTÉ. MERCI, COLONEL HONORAIRE CHIKO NANJI POUR SON GÉNÉREUX APPUI À L'INSTITUT ET À CE PRIX.

MERCI AU GÉNÉRAL HENAUT, LUI-MÊME UN LAURÉAT DU PRIX VIMY, POUR LA NOMINATION ET POUR SON AMITIÉ. GENERAL HENAUT AND I GO BACK MANY YEARS, TO WHEN HE WAS COMMANDER OF 10 TACTICAL AIR GROUP IN THE 1990s – AT THAT TIME, THAT WAS THE CLOSEST AN RCAF OFFICER COULD GET TO BEING IN THE ARMY. SINCE THEN, WE HAVE WORKED TOGETHER AND BECOME GOOD FRIENDS SHARING MANY STRESSFUL, BUT ALSO MANY ENJOYABLE TIMES. BARBARA AND LORAINÉ HAVE ALSO BONDED OVER THEIR DEVOTION TO SMALL AND INSANELY PAMPERED PUPS.

I THANK ALL OF YOU FOR BEING HERE TONIGHT AND ESPECIALLY MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS WHO HAVE JOURNEYED FROM FAR AND WIDE TO CELEBRATE WITH ME. THANKS TO MY COLLEAGUES FROM SAMUEL ASSOCIATES, FROM THE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR CHRONIC PAIN FOR VETERANS, ET AUSSI À LA CORPORATION DU FORT-SAINT-JEAN POUR LEUR PRÉSENCE. JE VOIS QU'IL Y A DES ÉLÈVES-OFFICIERS DES COLLÈGES MILITAIRES ICI; MERCI ET

FÉLICITATIONS POUR AVOIR CHOISI DE SERVIR VOTRE PAYS. MON COLLÈGUE LE PROFESSEUR DANIC PARENTEAU ET MOI AVONS ÉCRIT UNE ÉTUDE SUR LES COLLÈGES MILITAIRES EN RÉPONSE AU RAPPORT ARBOUR QUE NOUS ESPÉRONS INFLUENCERA LE FUTUR DES COLLÈGES – LE PAPIER VIMY EST DISPONIBLE SUR LE SITE DE L’INSTITUT.

I’M GOING TO TALK ABOUT SERVICE LATER IN MY SPEECH, BUT I WANTED TO SHARE WITH YOU THE IDEA OF SERVICE AS A TRADITION. IN MY FAMILY, I AM PROUD TO SAY, MY SON RYAN HAS CARRIED ON THIS TRADITION AND IS SERVING ABOARD HMCS MONCTON AS THE COXSWAIN. I AM SO PROUD OF MY BOY AND AM THRILLED THAT HE AND HIS FIANCÉE MONICA ARE HERE WITH US TONIGHT. BARBARA, RYAN AND I TRULY REPRESENT THE CANADIAN FORCES TRI-SERVICE – NAVY, ARMY AND AIR FORCE. MAKES FOR EXCITING DINNER CONVERSATION AND SOME OF THE BEST KITCHEN DRILL COMPETITIONS YOU HAVE EVER SEEN.

I WANT TO SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT MY WIFE, MAJOR BARBARA KRASIJ. I AM SO GRATEFUL TO HAVE MET HER AND AM STILL AMAZED SHE MARRIED ME 20 YEARS AGO IN CONFEDERATION PARK DURING THE G8 SUMMIT! THROUGHOUT MY LIFE AND CAREER, SHE HAS BEEN MY GREATEST FAN, BUT ALSO THE ONE PERSON WHO WILL TELL ME TO “GET OVER MYSELF” WHEN I AM GETTING TOO FULL OF MYSELF. SHE IS MY LIFE AND THE BEST PART OF ME. TONIGHT, I THANK HER FOR HER SERVICE, FOR BEING HERSELF, FOR BEING FIERCELY LOYAL AND UNWAVERING IN HER SUPPORT FOR UNDERDOGS EVERYWHERE.

SPEAKING OF SERVICE, AS THE VIMY AWARD RECOGNIZES A LIFETIME OF SERVICE, I MUST TAKE A MOMENT TO RECOGNIZE SOMEONE WHO GUIDED ME ON THOSE VERY FIRST STEPS OF MY MILITARY CAREER.

IN THE SUMMER OF 1973, I WENT TO CHILLIWACK, BC TO DO MY BASIC OFFICER TRAINING COURSE. THERE, ONE OF MY PLATOON TRAINERS WAS SERGEANT CYRIL CLAYTON.

SGT CLAYTON WAS ONE OF A VERY FEW BLACK CANADIANS IN THE ARMED FORCES. HE JOINED AT 17, SERVED WITH THE CANADIAN GUARDS, THEN THE BLACK WATCH AND EVENTUALLY THE ROYAL CANADIAN REGIMENT. SGT CLAYTON WAS A **MODEL** FOR ME BECAUSE OF HIS PRIDE IN THE MILITARY; HE THOUGHT OF SERVICE AS ONE OF THE HIGHEST CALLINGS A CANADIAN COULD FULFILL. AND, HE WAS SO PROUD OF THE FORCES AND THE INFANTRY, OR AS HE TOLD US MANY TIMES, THE QUEEN OF BATTLE. ABOVE ALL, HE WAS PROUD OF THE UNIFORM.

THAT SUMMER 49 YEARS AGO, AS WE LEARNED TO WEAR OUR UNIFORMS, HE INSTILLED THAT PRIDE IN US. HE CALLED US “YOUNG GENTLEMEN” AND TAUGHT US TO TUCK OUR SHIRTS IN JUST SO. HE TAUGHT US TO STAND UP STRAIGHT. HE TREATED EVERYBODY WITH RESPECT AND COMPASSION, BUT HE NEVER LOST THE EDGE TO HIS PROFESSIONALISM. HE TAUGHT US TO DO THE SAME. HE TOOK HIS ROLE IN PREPARING US YOUNG MEN TO BECOME OFFICERS IN HIS ARMED FORCES VERY SERIOUSLY. AFTER ALL, SOME OF US MIGHT ONE DAY BE IN COMMAND OF HIM AND OTHER SOLDIERS LIKE HIM, SO HE WAS DETERMINED TO IMPART HIS PROFESSIONALISM AND A SENSE OF PRIDE IN WE YOUNG GENTLEMEN. I HAVE NEVER FORGOTTEN THOSE LESSONS: I STILL TUCK MY SHIRT IN THE WAY HE TAUGHT ME AND I STILL HEAR HIM TELLING ME “MOVE YOURSELF, MOVE YOURSELF” OR “STAND STILL, STAND STILL”!

NOW, ALL THESE DECADES LATER, CWO CLAYTON MIGHT ASK HIMSELF IF HE MADE A DIFFERENCE. WELL, I AM HERE TO TELL YOU THAT HE MADE A HUGE DIFFERENCE IN MY CAREER AND IN MY LIFE AND I’M SURE IN THAT OF MANY OTHERS. SO, I AM BEYOND PROUD THAT HE IS HERE TONIGHT AND IT IS MY HONOUR TO INTRODUCE ALL OF YOU TO CWO CY CLAYTON. CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER CLAYTON, PLEASE STAND UP AND BE RECOGNIZED.
(APPLAUSE)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LONG AND DEDICATED SERVICE, FOR BEING ONE OF MY EARLIEST ROLE MODELS, AND THANK YOU – AND NANCY – FOR SHARING THIS EVENING WITH ME.

THE VIMY AWARD. HOW HUMBLING; WHAT A TREMENDOUS HONOUR. WITH THIS HONOUR COMES THE OPPORTUNITY TO ACCEPT THIS AWARD WITH A SPEECH THAT ACKNOWLEDGES THE SPIRIT OF VIMY AND SHARES WITH YOU MY VISION FOR CANADA TODAY AND FOR THE FUTURE.

CANADA – ONCE WE WERE GREAT. WE STOPPED THE AMERICANS IN 1812, WE GAVE THE WORLD BILLY BISHOP, ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL AND LUCY MAUD MONTGOMERY. WE ISOLATED INSULIN, INVENTED THE ZIPPER AND THE SNOWBLOWER. IN WWI WE MOBILIZED 620,000 TROOPS. WE WERE VICTORIOUS AT VIMY RIDGE. IN WW2 WE WERE BRAVE ENOUGH TO LAND AT DIEPPE, AND WE SECURED OUR BEACH ON D-DAY. THE DEVIL’S BRIGADE REMAINS THE TEMPLATE FOR SPECIAL FORCES THE WORLD OVER. OUR SMALL COUNTRY BOASTED THE WORLD’S 3RD LARGEST NAVY AT THE END OF THAT CONFLICT.

NOUS SOMMES DEVENUS DES GARDIENS DE LA PAIX RECONNUS PAR LE MONDE ENTIER ET PLUS DE 80,000 D’ENTRE NOUS ONT SERVIS EN MISSIONS DURANT LA GUERRE FROIDE. WE BEAT THE RUSSIANS ON THEIR ICE IN 1972 AND A YOUNG MAN NAMED TERRY FOX CONTINUES TO INSPIRE US ALL WITH HIS UNPARALLELED COURAGE AND DETERMINATION. WE GAVE THE WORLD THE CANADARM IN SPACE; WE WON A WORLD SERIES. WHEN THE WORLD CHANGED AGAIN ON 9/11, CANADA STEPPED UP – FIRST TO JOIN THE COALITION OF THE WILLING AND SEND IN SHIPS AND JTF 2. SERVING WITH DISTINCTION IN AFGHANISTAN – WE STILL MOURN THE LOSS OF OUR 159 MEN AND WOMEN. CANADA WAS A GREAT NATION AND THOUGH WE ARE FALTERING TODAY I BELIEVE WE CAN BE GREAT AGAIN.

SINCE THIS IS MY SPEECH, I GET TO SHARE WHAT I BELIEVE CANADA NEEDS TO DO TO TAKE THE WORLD STAGE AGAIN; TO BE THOUGHT OF FIRST WHEN IT COMES TO SEEKING ALLIANCES; TO BE SEEN AS A SERIOUS COUNTRY ONCE AGAIN.

WHAT WILL IT TAKE? WELL, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN – I BELIEVE IT WILL TAKE **LEADERSHIP** AND **SERVICE**. THESE TWO CRUCIAL FOUNDATIONS OF GREATNESS FOR ANY NATION HAVE

SOMEHOW BECOME SECONDARY - LOST IN THESE DAYS OF ENTITLEMENT, ME FIRST, NOT MY PROBLEM AND ENDLESS SUBSIDIES AND HANDOUTS.

LAISSEZ-MOI COMMENCER PAR LE LEADERSHIP. LE LEADERSHIP S'APPLIQUE DANS TOUTES LES POURSUITES ET À TOUS LES NIVEAUX. LES GRANDS LEADERS SE DISTINGUENT PAR LE SUCCÈS DE CEUX ET CELLES QU'ILS DIRIGENT ET DE L'ENTITÉ QU'ILS DIRIGENT – QUE CELA SOIT UN PAYS, UNE ARMÉE, UNE CORPORATION OU UNE ÉQUIPE SPORTIVE. QUAND CETTE ENTITÉ RÉUSSIT, NOUS RECONNAISSONS SON CHEF... ET QUAND CETTE ENTITÉ NE RÉUSSIT PAS, RATE SA CIBLE OU MANQUE LES SÉRIES ÉLIMINATOIRES, LE CHEF DOIT – DEVRAIT – EN PRENDRE LA RESPONSABILITÉ.

HISTORY HAS GIVEN US MANY GREAT LEADERS. ASK YOURSELF: WOULD THOSE LEADERS HAVE BEEN AS SUCCESSFUL IN TODAY'S WORLD? WELL, LET'S SEE; TODAY'S WORLD, WHERE SOCIAL MEDIA CAPTURES EVERY MOVE AND WORD SPOKEN – TAKEN IN CONTEXT OR NOT. WHERE CANCEL CULTURE STILL FLOURISHES AND THERE IS NO CALL FOR REDACTION OR AMENDMENT EVEN WHEN ACCUSATIONS ARE PROVED FALSE. TRUTH IS NOT A REQUIREMENT; ONCE CANCELLED, YOU ARE DONE.

TODAY'S WORLD, WHERE BALANCED JOURNALISM IS DIFFICULT TO FIND. THE PRACTICE OF PRESENTING THE FACTS – A TRUTHFUL ILLUSTRATION OF AN EVENT, A PERSONALITY OR ISSUE THAT ALLOWED THE READER TO FORM THEIR OWN OPINION IS NO LONGER COMPULSORY IN MAINSTREAM MEDIA. THE LINE BETWEEN “NEWS” AND OP-EDS HAS BLURRED AND TOO OFTEN WE ARE SUBJECTED TO SERMONS WRITTEN NOT BY SEASONED JOURNALISTS BUT BY FIRST YEAR GRADUATES OF WOKE JOURNALISM SCHOOLS. UNBIASED REPORTING SEEMS TO HAVE DIED WITH CHRISTIE BLATCHFORD AND MATTHEW FISHER.

TODAY'S WORLD, WHERE EXTREMISM – ONCE THE ALMOST EXCLUSIVE PURVIEW OF RELIGIOUS ZEALOTS – SEEMS TO BE FLOURISHING IN ALL ASPECTS OF OUR LIVES, ON THE RIGHT... AND ON THE LEFT. SOME OF THE MOST POPULAR “CAUSES” AND BELIEFS OF TODAY

ARE EMBRACED BY ALL MANNER OF EXTREMISTS WITH NO THOUGHT OF HOW TO ACHIEVE THIS UTOPIAN IDEAL IN A RESPONSIBLE OR PLAUSIBLE MANNER. FOR EXAMPLE, CANADA'S PROSPERITY IS BEING SACRIFICED AT THE ALTAR OF CLIMATE CHANGE AS OPPOSED TO BEING USED TO HELP THE WORLD TRANSITION TO CLEAN ENERGY. THROWING SOUP AND PAINT AT THE WORLD'S ART TREASURES IS AS HEINOUS AS IT IS USELESS. THE PERPETRATORS SHOULD BE PUNISHED NOT CELEBRATED.

TODAY'S WORLD IS ALSO WHERE TAKING PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR OWN ACTIONS HAS DISAPPEARED FROM THE LANDSCAPE WHILE THE PHENOMENON OF COLLECTIVE APOLOGIES FLOURISHES IN OUR COUNTRY. INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS FIGHT OVER WHO GETS TO WEAR THE COVETED VICTIM'S CLOAK. BUT ANY ROLE THEY MAY HAVE PLAYED IN THEIR OWN FATE OR IN INJURING OTHERS IS DISMISSED AS LEARNED BEHAVIOUR, INHERITED FLAWS OR GENERATIONAL OPPRESSION.

SO I AM NOT HERE TO DEBATE WHETHER THOSE GREAT LEADERS OF YESTERYEAR WOULD BE AS SUCCESSFUL IN TODAY'S WORLD. BUT NOR WILL I JUDGE THE DECISIONS THEY MADE IN THEIR TIME AGAINST THE STANDARDS OF TODAY. ENOUGH STATUES HAVE BEEN TOPPLED; ERASING OUR HISTORY IS NOT THE SOLUTION.

JE CROIS QUE LES HABILITÉS DE LEADERSHIP LES PLUS IMPORTANTES N'ONT PAS CHANGÉES ET LE SONT ENCORE PLUS AUJOURD'HUI QUE JAMAIS.

NUMBER ONE IS COMMUNICATION – IT IS MORE CRITICAL THAN EVER IN THIS WORLD OF SOUND BITES AND MIC DROPPING. A GOOD LEADER ENSURES HIS FOLLOWERS KNOW WHERE THEY ARE GOING AND HOW TO GET THERE. A GREAT LEADER MAKES THEM WANT TO GO THERE. A GREAT LEADER CAN TAKE A SEEMINGLY INSURMOUNTABLE OBJECTIVE AND MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE IN THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF THEIR FOLLOWERS. THANKFULLY THESE LEADERS STILL DO EXIST IN TODAY'S WORLD AND THERE IS NO BETTER EXAMPLE THAN

UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY. IN HIS NIGHTLY ADDRESS HE CLEARLY, CONTINUOUSLY, AND PASSIONATELY ARTICULATES THE MISSION TO HIS FELLOW UKRAINIANS. DISMISSED EARLY ON AS “AN ACTOR, A COMEDIAN, A DANCER,” PRESIDENT ZELENSKY HAS RALLIED THE WORLD TO HIS JUST CAUSE. HE SURROUNDED HIMSELF WITH GOOD PEOPLE, MADE DIFFICULT DECISIONS AND BY COMMUNICATING, HAS CAPTURED OUR HEARTS AND SOULS WITH UKRAINE’S PLIGHT. GOD SPEED MR PRESIDENT AND SLAVA UKRAINE.

SECONDLY, COHESION, ACCEPTANCE AND TOLERANCE. TODAY’S LEADERS MUST STOP DIVIDING THOSE THEY LEAD! HASN’T HISTORY SHOWN US THAT SUCCESS AS A LEADER DEMANDS COHESION, UNITY AND RESPECT OF ALL THOSE THEY LEAD – NOT JUST THOSE WHO AGREE WHOLEHEARTEDLY WITH THEM? CAN YOU IMAGINE A MILITARY LEADER LABELLING HALF OF HIS COMMAND AS DEPLORABLES, FRINGE RADICALS OR LESS-THANS AND THEN EXPECT THEM TO FIGHT AS ONE? TODAY’S LEADERS MUST FIND A WAY TO UNITE; NOT DIVIDE.

LEADERS LEAD. THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MAKING A GOOD DECISION, BASED ON RESEARCH AND CONSULTATION AND MAKING A DECISION BECAUSE IT IS POPULAR OR IT POLLS WELL. THE BEST DECISIONS ARE THOSE MADE FOR THE GOOD OF THE WHOLE – NOT JUST GOOD FOR FRIENDS OF THE LEADER. TODAY, SPECIAL INTERESTS HAVE TRUMPED THE COLLECTIVE GOOD. MAKING DECISIONS FOR THE COLLECTIVE GOOD REQUIRES STRENGTH OF CHARACTER, THE COMMUNICATIONS SKILLS TO EXPLAIN, AND A GREAT DEAL OF COURAGE.

LE COURAGE DEMEURE UNE DES PLUS IMPORTANTES QUALITÉS D’UN CHEF. LE COURAGE DES IDÉES, LE COURAGE EN FACE DES CRITIQUES, LE COURAGE DE GUIDER ET DE DIRIGER. LE COURAGE DE CRÉER UNE VISION POUR LE BIEN DE TOUS. LE COURAGE DE RECONNAÎTRE UNE ERREUR ET D’ACCEPTER LA RESPONSABILITÉ – PERSONNELLE – POUR CETTER ERREUR.

THE SECOND KEY TO BRING CANADA BACK TO PROMINENCE IS SERVICE.

JUST A SHORT TWO MONTHS AGO, HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH THE SECOND, QUEEN OF CANADA, DIED. IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND A BETTER EXAMPLE OF SERVICE. ON HER CORONATION SHE PROMISED THAT SHE WOULD DEDICATE HER LIFE, WHETHER LONG OR SHORT, TO THE SERVICE OF ALL. OVER THE NEXT 70 YEARS, IN GOOD TIMES AND IN BAD, SHE PLACED THE CARE OF HER REALM AND SUBJECTS ABOVE ALL ELSE. SHE EXEMPLIFIED CHARACTER AND DUTY AND PROVIDED US ALL WITH AN EXAMPLE OF DEDICATION TO SERVICE. SHE KEPT HER PROMISE. MAY SHE REST IN PEACE.

L'IDÉE, LE CONCEPT DU SERVICE SEMBLE ÊTRE OUBLIÉ DANS NOTRE CULTURE DU « MOI PREMIÈREMENT ». LE SERVICE ENVERS AUTRUI, ENVERS SON PAYS, ENVERS L'HUMANITÉ SE DOIT D'ÊTRE UNE NOBLE ASPIRATION. L'OBLIGATION DE REDONNER EN REMERCIEMENT POUR UNE VIE REMPLIE DE BÉNÉDICTIONS, DE PAIX ET DE BONNE FORTUNE NE DEVRAIT PAS ÊTRE NOVATEUR. IL SEMBLE QUE LES CANADIENS ONT PERDU LE DÉSIR DE SERVIR ET LA NÉCESSITÉ DE SERVIR LEUR PAYS.

THE MILITARY – BEING IN THE SERVICE OF ONE'S COUNTRY – USED TO BE A MOST HIGHLY REGARDED PROFESSION. TODAY, I SEE A MILITARY WOEFULLY UNDERFUNDED, UNDERMANNED AND UNDERAPPRECIATED; A FORCES WHERE UNIFORMS HAVE BECOME A MEANS OF PERSONAL EXPRESSION RATHER THAN A SYMBOL OF COLLECTIVE PRIDE AND UNITY: UNIFORMS ARE NO LONGER UNIFORM. THE IDEA OF SERVING IN OUR ARMED FORCES IS GETTING LITTLE TRACTION. COULD IT BE BECAUSE THE MORAL CONTRACT UNDER WHICH OUR MILITARY SERVE IS BROKEN?

LES MEMBRES DES FORCES ARMÉES REMPLISSENT LEUR CÔTÉ DU CONTRAT MORAL QUI EXISTE ENTRE EUX ET LA SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE – ILS SERVENT ET SONT PRÊTS À SERVIR EN MISSIONS DANGEREUSES AU PAYS OU À L'EXTÉRIEUR POUR PROTÉGER NOTRE PAYS ET PROJETER LES VALEURS CANADIENNES.

BUT CANADA SHOULD ALSO BE HOLDING UP ITS END OF THE CONTRACT: PROVIDING THEM WITH THE STATE-OF-THE-ART TOOLS THEY NEED, THE BEST LEADERSHIP, EQUIPMENT, EDUCATION AND TRAINING TO BE SAFE AND SUCCESSFUL, AND LOOKING AFTER THEM WHEN THEY BECOME VETERANS. IN MY OPINION, WE ARE FAILING. BECAUSE FOR CANADIANS GENERALLY, THE ARMED FORCES ARE NOT IMPORTANT UNTIL THERE IS A CRISIS, AND SUCCESSIVE GOVERNMENTS' SUPPORT OF THE FORCES REFLECT THAT MINDSET. OUR TROOPS WHO HAVE DEDICATED THEIR LIVES TO SERVE THIS COUNTRY DESERVE BETTER.

NOUS SOMMES DANS LA SEMAINE DES VÉTÉRANS. WE ARE IN VETERANS' WEEK – COMMEMORATING THOSE WHO EXEMPLIFIED THE CONCEPT OF SERVICE BY PUTTING THEIR LIFE ON THE LINE FOR US, AND HONORING THOSE WHO GAVE UP THEIR TOMORROWS FOR OUR TODAYS. LET'S USE THEM AS OUR EXAMPLE TO SERVE. IF MORE INSPIRATION IS REQUIRED ONE NEED NOT LOOK FAR: LET'S REMEMBER THE WORDS OF TWO OF THE FINEST LEADERS OF OUR TIME:

MARGARET THATCHER BELIEVED – “THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS ENTITLEMENT UNLESS SOMEONE HAS FIRST MET AN OBLIGATION.” AND OF COURSE, JFK MOST FAMOUSLY SAID, “ASK NOT WHAT YOUR COUNTRY CAN DO FOR YOU BUT WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR COUNTRY.”

BIENTÔT, LA SAISON DES FÊTES ARRIVERA; UNE SAISON DE GÉNÉROSITÉ ET DE BIENFAISANCE. AU NOM DU SERVICE JE NOUS LANCE UN DÉFI. OFFRONS-NOUS POUR FAIRE DU BÉNÉVOLAT – PEU IMPORTE OÙ : UN ABRI POUR ANIMAUX, UNE MAISON DE SANS-ABRIS, D'AÎNÉS OU DE VÉTÉRANS. LE PLUS IMPORTANT CADEAU QUE L'ON PUISSE DONNER EST DE NOTRE TEMPS.

I CHALLENGE US ALL TO DONATE – INSTEAD OF SELLING THAT SURPLUS COFFEE MAKER ON KIJJI, LET'S DONATE IT TO MISSION SERVICES OR GOODWILL OR THE SALVATION ARMY. I CHALLENGE US TO BE COMPASSIONATE: GIVE THE PANHANDLER ENOUGH CASH FOR A WARM MEAL BUT ALSO ASK THEM THEIR NAME, WISH THEM WELL AND SHAKE THEIR HAND.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I BELIEVE WE CAN MAKE CANADA BETTER. TO FIND COMMON GROUND WITH OUR NEIGHBOUR AND TO UNITE OUR COUNTRY RATHER THAN DIVIDE IT. TO APPLY OUR LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE; TO LIVE WITH COMPASSION, TOLERANCE AND PATIENCE – BUT MOST OF ALL TO BE PROUD OF CANADA AND EVERYTHING WE ONCE STOOD FOR.

WE CANADIANS LIVE IN THE GREATEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD WITH ALMOST UNLIMITED RESOURCES, A TOLERANT AND DIVERSE PEOPLE, AND AN EDUCATED POPULATION WHO CAN ASPIRE TO THE GREATEST HEIGHTS. WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO SERVE OUR COUNTRY AND BE PROUD TO DO SO. AND OUR LEADERS MUST SHARE THIS VISION.

"IF NOT US, WHO? IF NOT NOW, WHEN?"

BECAUSE, AS SATCHMO HAS TOLD US, IN SPITE OF IT ALL, AND WITH APOLOGIES TO LORENA TONIGHT, IT IS A WONDERFUL WORLD:

"I SEE TREES OF GREEN
RED ROSES TOO
I SEE THEM BLOOM
FOR ME AND FOR YOU
AND I THINK TO MYSELF
WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD

THE COLORS OF THE RAINBOW
SO PRETTY IN THE SKY
ARE ALSO ON THE FACES
OF PEOPLE GOING BY
I SEE FRIENDS SHAKING HANDS
SAYING, "HOW DO YOU DO?"
THEY'RE REALLY SAYING

"I LOVE YOU"

SO I THINK TO MYSELF

WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD

YES, I THINK TO MYSELF

WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD"

SCUSEZ-LA

MERCI BEAUCOUP
