The governor general is the Queen’s representative in Canada. The position exists because of Canada’s history as a British colony. Even though Canada is no longer a colony of Britain, a number of symbolic traditions, laws, and institutions established as a result of this former relationship still exist. Typically every five years, the prime minister nominates a new governor general.

The position of the governor general is largely a ceremonial one. The governor general doesn’t vote in Parliament or introduce bills. But he or she has the power to “advise, encourage, and to warn” the prime minister and the government. The governor general can offer valuable counsel, depending on the person’s skills and career experience. An important criterion for choosing the governor general is that he or she remains impartial; that means that he or she cannot take sides with a particular political party when offering advice.

The process of selecting David Johnston as Canada’s newest governor general began when Prime Minister Stephen Harper established a non-partisan panel composed of six people to provide a shortlist of candidates. They canvassed more than 200 people for suggestions. Those canvassed included premiers, civic leaders, former prime ministers, and opposition leaders Michael Ignatieff and Jack Layton. It was from their shortlist that Harper chose David Johnston, President of the University of Waterloo and a highly respected lawyer and administrator.

To Consider

1. Think of as many symbols of Canada as you can.
2. Can you think of examples of people who act as a political, national, religious, or cultural symbol in Canada?
3. What attributes do you think would be important for someone to have for these symbolic or ceremonial roles?
4. How do you think people who act in a symbolic or ceremonial role should be chosen for their position?
CANADA’S NEW GOVERNOR GENERAL

Video Review

Pre-viewing Activity
Record your responses to the following questions. Then discuss your responses with a classmate.

1. The swearing-in of a governor general is a very traditional ceremony. Predict what type of symbols and behaviours you may see in the video.

2. What do you know about Michaëlle Jean’s time as governor general? Do you think she was an effective governor general or not? Explain your reasons.

3. If you were the prime minister what type of qualities do you think would be important in a governor general (a person from whom you may seek advice)?

Viewing Questions
As you watch the video, respond to the questions in the spaces provided.

1. How old is David Johnston?

2. Where was he born?

3. What sport did David Johnston play in university?

4. Who assisted the Prime Minister in selecting the new Governor General?

5. The previous two governors general were women with careers in journalism. What was David Johnston’s career?

6. List two ways in which David Johnston could be considered likeable and approachable.
7. List two different opinions voiced by Canadians regarding David Johnston’s appointment.

8. List three things that you could hear or see in the swearing-in ceremony that demonstrates the fact that the governor general has a powerful position in Canada.

9. What items are on David Johnston’s personal coat of arms?

10. What issue did Michaëlle Jean have to resolve during the Coalition Crisis in 2008?

11. List two other notable actions of Michaëlle Jean.

12. What word does David Johnston wish to stress in his role as Governor General?

13. What word does he wish to downplay in his role as Governor General?

Post-viewing Activity
1. If you could have a personal coat of arms created, what 3-5 symbols would you request and why?

2. Predict two ways in which David Johnston’s approach to the role of governor general may differ from that of Michaëlle Jean.
Focus for Reading
As you read the following information on David Johnston, underline the qualities, skills, and experiences that you think make him a good choice for governor general. Circle any qualities, skills, and experiences that you think make him a questionable choice for governor general.

When Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced that David Johnston would become the 28th Governor General of Canada, the consensus from the academic and political community was that he had made a wise choice. Following in the footsteps of Michaëlle Jean will be a challenge for Johnston due to Jean’s widespread public appeal, but early indications point to the fact that the newly appointed governor general is ready for this challenge.

David Johnston is 66 years old, married, with five daughters, and seven grandchildren. His wife, Sharon, has a PhD in rehabilitation science and is an accomplished equestrian. The entire Johnston family is proud of the fact that they have been involved in public service. The Johnston family has made it their life’s work to contribute to the community. They have a special interest in early education and the importance of effective parenting.

Johnston was a student of history and law. He completed his undergraduate degree at Harvard, where he was also the captain of the university hockey team. He declined several offers to run for federal office by both the Conservative and Liberal parties.

In 2007 he was appointed by Stephen Harper as a special advisor to make recommendations regarding a public inquiry into “shady” dealings between former Conservative prime minister Brian Mulroney and German financier Karlheinz Schreiber. Allegations had been made by Schreiber that he had made two substantial cash payments totaling $225,000 to then-prime minister Mulroney in 1993 and 1994. This information caused a national uproar, and the Canadian public demanded an official inquiry into these dealings.

In January 2008, David Johnston released his report in which he outlined the terms of reference on a public inquiry. Some opposition MPs complained that the inquiry was too narrow in its focus on the cash payments between the two men and didn’t allow for an examination of allegations about questionable business dealings that Mulroney and Schreiber and others had in connection with the 1988 sale of Airbus to Air Canada. The Airbus affair was a previous political scandal during the Mulroney time in office.

When David Johnston was appointed governor general, some critics claimed it was due to Johnston’s previous work for the Prime Minister, work that prevented more scandal for the Conservative party. Many other people, though, proclaimed that the selection of Johnston was a wise choice. Johnston’s intelligence, his legal background, his work with communities, and his friendly personality would allow for him to act in both ceremonial capacities and as a genuine advisor in difficult political times.
Activity: David Johnston At a Glance
Below are words, terms, and phrases that have been used to describe David Johnston.

1. Rank what you think would be the top three qualifications/attributes for a governor general from the point of view of the Canadian public.

2. Rank the top three qualifications/attributes for a governor general from the point of view of the prime minister.

3. Rank the top three qualifications/attributes for a governor general from the point of view of opposition parties.

4. Account for any differences in your three lists.

5. Rank the bottom three qualifications/attributes and explain your choices.
   - lawyer
   - professor and dean
   - middle age, white male
   - well-read and well-informed
   - author of two dozen books
   - swears infrequently and only in Latin
   - bilingual
   - remembers the name of everyone he's ever met
   - ambitious
   - diplomatic
   - uncompromised integrity
   - not easily intimidated
   - hard working and demanding of those he works with
   - makes everyone he meets feel important
   - Order of Canada recipient
   - friendly
   - an analytical thinker
   - non-partisan
Focus for Reading

While in office, the governor general has a number of roles and responsibilities. As you read the following information, consider which of these roles and responsibilities you think are most important in building national unity, which of the roles could pose the most challenges for a governor general, and which roles allow the governor general to exercise his or her own autonomy.

Canada is both a parliamentary democracy and a constitutional monarchy. This means that we have both a head of state and a head of government. The Queen of England is Canada’s head of state, but she is represented in Canada by the governor general. However, it should be noted that real political power rests with the prime minister of Canada, who is the head of government.

Representing the Crown in Canada

• Ensures that Canada always has a prime minister
• Meets regularly with the prime minister
• Signs bills passed by the House of Commons and the Senate—this is called giving Royal Assent
• Reads the Speech from the Throne in Parliament, opens and ends sessions of Parliament, and dissolves Parliament for an election
• Presides over the swearing-in of the prime minister, the chief justice of Canada, and cabinet ministers
• Is the commander-in-chief of Canada’s forces

Representing Canadians and Promoting our Sovereignty

• Travels to foreign countries, building bridges of friendship and understanding between nations
• Welcomes world leaders, ambassadors, and others who represent their countries in Canada

Celebrating Excellence

• Helps Canada pay tribute to outstanding people by awarding a variety of orders, decorations, and medals

Bringing Canadians Together

• Promotes national identity and unity by encouraging Canadians to be proud of their country
• Participates in national ceremonies such as Canada Day and Remembrance Day
Canada's New Governor General

Do we need a governor general?

The position of governor general exists because Canada was once a colony of Britain. While we continue to have close ties with Britain, Canada has long been an independent nation. The Canadian prime minister and his or her government set policy and see that important legislation makes its way through the House of Commons and the Senate. If the Office of the Governor General was abolished, would Canada not be sending a strong message that the country has “come of age”?

Perhaps the question is not whether or not we need a governor general. Perhaps the question should be: What is the proper role for the Canadian governor general in the 21st century?

The role of governor general is largely symbolic. In many ways the governor general is the public face of Canada. Should the role be more substantive and less symbolic? Or should we be glad that the role is largely symbolic but recognize that this does not make the role unimportant?

If we accept that the governor general is the public face of Canada, then the governor general should represent the diversity of Canada. If we also accept that the governor general be informed to give good advice to the prime minister in political, legal, and community affairs, then the governor general should also have concrete skills or experience in those areas.

With the appointment of David Johnston, with his legal background and proven political skills, it appears as if the role of governor general may be moving toward a position with the potential for increased political influence.

Fact
Canada's governors general have established more than 60 awards and trophies in the arts, social sciences, humanities, and sports. One of the more prestigious awards is the Order of Canada, which recognizes lifetime achievement that brings credit to the country.

Follow-up
Do you think Canada needs a governor general? Create a chart in which you list arguments opposed to the position of governor general and arguments in favour of the position before making your conclusion.
CANADA’S NEW GOVERNOR GENERAL

New Challenges of the Job

Pre-reading Activity

1. Review with a partner the role, responsibilities, and reserve powers of the governor general. (Do this at the official Web site of the governor general at www.gg.ca)

2. Predict what may happen if a political party or the Canadian people wanted the governor general to use reserve powers.

Is the role of governor general emerging from the traditional symbolic role to that of one with more political influence? The governor general has the power to adjourn Parliament, without “dissolving” the legislative body (i.e., calling an election). Other reserve powers that are only to be used in a time of great constitutional crisis and political impasse include dismissing a prime minister who may attempt to maintain power unconstitutionally and to delay or refuse royal assent to legislation. The governor general must ensure that Canada has a stable and well-functioning Parliament. That being said, no Canadian governor general has ever dismissed a prime minister.

The 2008 Adjournment of Parliament: A Test of the Role of Governor General?

In December 2008, Stephen Harper had a two-and-a-half-hour face-to-face meeting with Michaëlle Jean at her residence to ask her permission to prorogue Parliament. This is a very unusual request and it forced Michaëlle Jean into a test of her constitutional authority. The prorogation of Parliament is controversial because it effectively allows a sitting government to avoid difficult issues or issues that might result in the fall of the government by putting a halt to the legislative session. Prime Minister Harper’s request for prorogation was particularly unusual because Parliament had only been in session for a few weeks before his request.

As well, the opposition parties had organized a potential coalition that guaranteed a loss-of-confidence vote that would defeat the Prime Minister’s government and lead to an election. Some constitutional experts felt this situation warranted the Governor General to use her reserve powers and to deny the Prime Minister’s request to prorogue Parliament.

Other experts argued that the Governor General should not interfere in political matters at all. The end result was that Michaëlle Jean acceded to Prime Minister Harper’s request. Jean also agreed to a second prorogation request by the Prime Minister in 2009.

Conflicting Advice

Many Canadians wondered why Michaëlle Jean decided not to use her reserve powers, when a significant number of Canadians felt that only she could stop what they considered to be an abuse of prime ministerial authority.

Since constitutional conventions are not written down, they involve a lot of subjectivity on the part of the government and the governor general. Michaëlle Jean did meet to gather advice from constitutional experts. She faced conflicting advice and the following choices:

1. Ask the Prime Minister to return to Parliament—deny his request to
prorogue—and make him demonstrate that he still had the confidence of the house by attempting to pass a bill.

2. Grant the Prime Minister’s request since Christmas parliamentary breaks are routine and the governor general always grants the prime minister’s requests.

Critics of the first option argued that if Jean had denied Harper’s request to prorogue that she could have been seen as overstepping her authority. And her decision may have set a precedent that would have left the government poised to lose any future parliamentary vote.

Supporters of the second option argued that allowing Harper to prorogue Parliament was not such a big deal even if it allowed the government to avoid a defeat in the House. These observers noted that if the government really had lost the confidence of the House then an election would be bound to happen in the near future.

Michaëlle Jean’s final decision is still debated. Some people feel that she gave in to the Prime Minister’s questionable political tactics, while others feel that she could not have interfered in a way that would have jeopardized her office and the democratic process.

**What does all this mean for David Johnston?**

Constitutional experts have noted that Prime Minister Harper has stretched the prime minister’s power. David Johnston may be called to stand up to a leader who oversteps the democratic processes. Johnston seems determined to consider the serious power and responsibility that the office entails in addition to its ceremonial functions.

Unlike presidents in the United States, Canadian prime ministers can only hold power as long as they have their party’s consent and Parliament’s confidence. Stephen Harper’s use of prorogation as a way to avoid elections has been viewed by some as a reckless abuse of his power. Johnston may have to decide whether a coalition could form a government, if Harper were to lose the confidence of the House.

**Fact**

At the time of the prorogation decision, Prime Minister Stephen Harper was leading a minority government. If the opposition parties voted together they would have enough votes to defeat the ruling government.

**Did you know . . .**

In 1926 a Canadian Governor General refused to dissolve Parliament at the request of the Prime Minister. Learn more about the “King-Byng Affair” at [http://archives.cbc.ca/politics/federal_politics/clips/11688](http://archives.cbc.ca/politics/federal_politics/clips/11688).

**Follow-up**

1. Imagine that you were Michaëlle Jean facing the decision of whether to prorogue Parliament for Stephen Harper.
   a) What questions would you have asked the constitutional experts?
   b) What questions might you have asked the Canadian people?
   c) What decision do you think you would have made when the Prime Minister requested to prorogue Parliament and why?

2. Create a list of five questions that you would ask all future candidates of the office of governor general.

3. Monitor the activities of the Governor General’s office over a period of months. Create a chart that details his actions using five headings that define his role and responsibilities: “constitutional responsibilities,” “commander-in-chief,” “representing Canada,” “encouraging excellence,” and “bringing Canadians together.” Provide an assessment of his overall impact and effectiveness in fulfilling his roles and responsibilities after analyzing your chart.
CANDADA’S NEW GOVERNOR GENERAL

The Legacy of Michaëlle Jean

Focus for Reading
As you read the following information, take point-form notes of cases in which the Canadian public was divided in their support of the actions of Michaëlle Jean.

In 2005, Queen Elizabeth II appointed Michaëlle Jean to be Canada’s governor general. She is the third woman to be appointed as governor general. Jean was born in Haiti and moved to Quebec when still a girl. She is fluent in five languages and has spent most of her career as a journalist. She is married to documentary filmmaker Jean-Daniel Lafond and has a daughter named Marie-Eden.

Jean has a mixed legacy as Governor General. When she was appointed by the Queen, on the advice of former prime minister Paul Martin, there was some criticism about her dual French citizenship—which she acquired when she married Lafond. (She later renounced her French citizenship.) There were also those who questioned her previous ties to Quebec’s separatist movement. She and her husband denied these allegations.

She was a television journalist with a limited profile and few obvious distinctions when she became Governor General. Although she gained popular appeal she never gained respect from powerful politicians. This fact might have impacted her effectiveness in handling difficult political situations, such as that of December 2008, when she allowed Prime Minister Harper to prorogue Parliament. Many concluded that she was a weak leader due to her political inexperience.

When she ate raw seal meat at Rankin Inlet some interpreted this as a sign of support for the controversial seal hunt, while others thought the gesture was one of support for the culture and customs of the Inuit people. She championed the military’s role in Afghanistan, which pleased the military and its supporters but irritated those who did not support this Canadian mission.

She and the Prime Minister did not always see eye to eye. When newly elected U.S. President Barack Obama came to visit Canada for the first time, the friendly relationship that Obama and Jean developed took centre stage in media reports, detracting from Harper’s role in the visit. She criticized the government for ending a subsidy that supported groups in language and equality legal cases. She also referred to herself as Canada’s head of state—the Queen is Canada’s head of state—which angered monarchists and the office of the Prime Minister.

However, her many accomplishments remain. Her generosity of spirit and capacity to genuinely relate to people’s stories and circumstances was unwavering. Her dedication to the cause of her birthplace has led to her appointment as United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) special envoy for Haiti in September 2011. Her mission will be to fight poverty and illiteracy rates in that nation—a role she will undoubtedly take up with determination.

Follow-up
1. Review the notes you took while reading and be prepared to discuss whether you think Michaëlle Jean was a great, good, fair, or poor governor general. Provide reasons for your decision.
2. Discuss what David Johnston could learn from Michaëlle Jean’s period as governor general.
CANADA’S NEW GOVERNOR GENERAL

Activity: Responding Directly to His Vision

David Johnston addressed the audience after being installed as Canada’s 28th Governor General during a ceremony in the Senate on Parliament Hill, Friday, October 1, 2010, in Ottawa.

Speech Analysis
1. Skim Johnston’s speech, which is reproduced below. What is the purpose and tone of this speech?

2. With a partner, or as a class, read the speech aloud. Discuss: What parts of the speech did you like? Why? What parts confused you or could you not relate to? Why? Overall, how would you rate his speech and why?

3. Highlight, using different colours, references to his five main roles and responsibilities: constitutional responsibilities, commander-in-chief, representing Canada, encouraging excellence, and bringing Canadians together. Are some roles and responsibilities alluded to more than others?

4. Summarize Johnston’s three “pillars.”

Culminating Activity
Choose the pillar that you feel is the most important to Canada’s future. Write a letter to David Johnston—noting the protocol below—and comment on how you think you could support his efforts and how he could help Canadians support this pillar. According to the Governor General’s Web site, “The Governor General appreciates receiving comments, questions, and suggestions from all Canadians.”

Your letter or e-mail should be addressed to:
His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston
Governor General of Canada
Rideau Hall
1 Sussex Drive
Ottawa ON K1A 0A1
(no postage is necessary)

Your e-mail should be sent to info@gg.ca.

The Speech
Service, whether it is to family, community, or country, is the highest, most noble of callings.

I begin by saying thank you to Her Majesty the Queen, the Prime Minister, and the Canadian people for this call to service. My wife and I accept it with joy—as we contemplate the role of Canada in the years ahead—and with gratitude at the opportunity to serve as the Queen’s representative in Canada. Less than a month ago, Sharon and I visited Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh at Balmoral, Scotland, for an amazing visit. And we were treated—so warmly—like family.
I would also like to pay tribute to my predecessors, including the remarkable women The Right Honourable Jeanne Sauvé and The Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, who won the love and respect of all Canadians as they carried out their duties. On behalf of the Canadian population, allow me to warmly thank my immediate predecessor The Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean for her remarkable work.

Finally, I salute the women and men in our Armed Forces. I am honoured to become your Commander-in-Chief. I would also like to recognize the efforts of those military women and men who are working so hard to help the people of Newfoundland and Labrador to rebuild their communities after the recent hurricane.

As we look forward to celebrating our 150th birthday seven short years from now, what will our nation look like and how will we get there?

Two Latin words capture our challenge succinctly: Contemplare Meliora—to envision a better world. They mirror the motto of the Order of Canada—“they desire a better country.”

To help us with our vision for 2017, turn back the clock 400 years to the first governor of what we now call Canada—Samuel de Champlain. David Fischer, the Pulitzer Prize-winning historian, has written a book called Champlain’s Dream. In it, he contends that Champlain was misunderstood. Champlain is remembered as a great explorer and a warrior. But Fischer portrays him as a man of peace, tolerance, inclusiveness, and innovation, and a builder of permanent societies. This was Champlain’s dream for a new order in a new world. So many of those characteristics are present in the Canada of 2010.

We are a Smart and Caring Nation.

A nation where all Canadians can grow their talents to the maximum.

A nation where all Canadians can succeed and contribute.

But there is much work to be done to fully achieve our vision of a Smart and Caring Nation. I believe it is essential

• to support families and children,
• to reinforce learning and innovation, and
• to encourage philanthropy and volunteerism.

As many of you know, I have spent much of my career in the university world. As an educator and administrator, I have been privileged to spend much of my life around students, and I’ve often felt that I have learned from them. In my new role, I hope to work to serve as a bridge to the next generation.

My first pillar will be supporting families and children.

I would like to first tell you a bit about my own family.

I was Sharon’s first date when she was 13, in her first year at Sault Ste. Marie Collegiate Institute. Forty-six years of marriage later she is my best friend, my inspiration, and the wind beneath my wings.
We have five daughters, Deb, Ali, Sharon Jr., Jen, and Sam, and all of them are in public service. And we have seven grandchildren, our miracles, who bring us great happiness.

All the important things in life I have learned from my children. And now I am following them into the public service.

Let me add that we lived in Montreal for two decades. We have come to love the French culture and language and we consider them a national treasure.

We are looking forward to meeting Canadian families from all walks of life, all backgrounds and hearing their stories about what Canada means to them and how they see Canada in 2017 and beyond.

We are looking forward to meeting families with sons and daughters who have served in Afghanistan. And we join in the sorrow of those families whose loved ones have made the ultimate sacrifice in serving their country. Our veterans have paid heed to the call to service, and have made our country proud. And my wife and I intend to be with them every step of the way.

We are looking forward to meeting Aboriginal families and children and learning from them. We all have much to learn from First Nations, Inuit, and Métis cultures. We are excited about being able to share in this vital part of our collective history.

And we are looking forward to meeting families who have chosen Canada as their home, determined to provide a brighter future for their children.

We know that Canada will be one of the most diverse countries in the world by 2017.

And I am firmly convinced that all of these families, no matter where they live or what their background is, will have more in common than not. Each family brings new patterns to the varied Canadian tapestry and enriches it by their presence.

My second pillar will be reinforcing learning and innovation.

We need to ensure that all Canadians have equal access to education and the opportunity to reach their full potential.

These opportunities must be available in both of our official languages. Our linguistic duality is a precious asset and contributes to our strength as a nation. I salute the Francophone and Acadian communities who continue to innovate, and find ways to ensure that French continues to thrive across the country.

I look forward to learning from Canadians as I visit their communities.

Anyone who has achieved any degree of success and been placed in a leadership position can point to dozens of teachers, mentors, and coaches who have made them better persons along the way. In my case, they number in the hundreds.

During my term, we will find ways to properly recognize our teachers who are responsible for our intellectual development. If there is one trumpet call from my remarks today let it be “Cherish Our Teachers.”
I have always had great admiration for the teachers and educators of this country.

As we consider our vision for 2017, I ask “Can we have equality of opportunity and excellence too?” I believe that no nation in history has worked harder than Canada to ensure equality of opportunity. How do we square that with excellence as well? For me, the answer is through our public educational system, which is the most inclusive in the world.

How do we ensure accessible education for all so that all Canadians can realize their full potential? And how do we reconcile universal access with stellar achievement? And how do we continue to innovate in order to compete with the world’s best? Innovation at its simplest is crafting a new idea to do things better. Innovation embraces both technological and social innovation. We want the same continuing commitment to excellence in our learning and research institutions that we saw in our Canadian athletes who brought us a record 14 gold medals at the 2010 Winter Games, we need the kind of innovation that has made “BlackBerry” a household expression. We want to emulate our Olympic and Paralympic athletes by constantly striving for excellence in all that we do.

We want to be the Smart and Caring Nation; a society that innovates, embraces its talent, and uses the knowledge of each of its citizens to improve the human condition for all.

When we set our sights together, we can do better and inspire each other to achieve great things.

My third pillar will be encouraging philanthropy and volunteerism.

Canadians have a long history of coming together and helping one another. The importance of community can be seen across the country, in our rural communities, and in our cities and towns, such as the ones I grew up in, Sudbury and Sault Ste. Marie.

I see examples of this “coming together” in the farming neighbourhood where we live. A Mennonite barn-raising with people gathering on the scaffold of a new barn bringing their diverse talents and energy to help a neighbour in need.

I think of Rick Hansen, who this past March marked the 25th anniversary of the day he began his Man in Motion World Tour, and he continues to inspire Canadians everywhere.

And just two weeks ago, millions of Canadians across the country came together to honour the spirit and the achievements of Terry Fox, and the 30th anniversary of his run underscores how Canadians have embraced his cause. In his introduction to his book Terry, Douglas Coupland recalls seeing the thousands upon thousands of names of everyday Canadians in the Fox archives and writes “Collectively, those names testify to something divine—our nation, our home, and our soul.”

Examples of generosity and charity abound across this great land.

We create our families and promise a better life for our children, we energetically develop our individual talents, collaborate to magnify them and
improve the health and prosperity of our families and communities across the land, and we care about our neighbours.

We will continue to foster and instil the importance of being a generous and caring nation, an idea cherished by Canadians of all backgrounds and all ages.

The 150th anniversary of Confederation in 2017 will reinforce Canadians’ sense of pride and engage all citizens.

Service to country shaped us, service to family and community sustains us, and this tradition of service will carry us forward into the future.

I am looking forward to meeting and serving Canadians, coming to their communities. I am truly honoured by this call to service.

I recall the closing lines of my predecessor, General The Right Honourable Georges P. Vanier’s inaugural address: “In our march forward in material happiness, let us not neglect the spiritual threads in the weaving of our lives. If Canada is to attain the greatness worthy of it, each of us must say, ‘I ask only to serve.’”

In Canada where we work together, putting aside our differences and assisting those among us who needed a helping hand, we have built a society that is the envy of the world.

I see my role as a bridge in bringing people of all backgrounds and ages together to create a Smart and Caring Nation, a nation that will inspire not just Canadians but the entire world.

Let me end with a quote from George Bernard Shaw:
“Some people see things as they are and wonder why. We dream of things that ought to be and ask why not.”