

**TRIBUTE TO CHIEF JUSTICE OF CANADA
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE BEVERLEY MCLACHLIN
AT A DINNER ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT
HOSTED BY THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF CANADA FOUNDATION
NOVEMBER 27, 2017**

Dear friends
Chers amis.

Thank you for joining us on this memorable occasion to honour our Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin and Frank McArdle.

We at the National Gallery of Canada Foundation and at the fine institution we serve are deeply grateful to the Chief Justice and to Frank for their loyal and long-standing support.

They can be seen at the Gallery often, enjoying our superb collection and fine exhibitions. I recall in particular Beverley's enthusiasm for the powerful, mind-opening Sakahan exhibition that brought together 150 recent works by Indigenous artists from around the world. That was something!

Beverley and Frank have been present at countless special events over the years that celebrate our Gallery's great legacy in the visual arts. As lovers of the arts, their reach goes well beyond the National Gallery to music, theatre and dance. Such deep engagement is a source of inspiration.

Chief Justice, we at the Foundation owe you a particular debt of gratitude. You generously have served as Honorary Patron at many gatherings of the Foundation's Distinguished Patrons, several of whom are here from various parts of Canada to honour you this evening.

In addition to our Distinguished Patrons, here to salute you are special friends, and leaders from Canada's Parliament and Public Service, together with other individuals who have served our country with great distinction.

Chief Justice, as you prepare to take your leave of the Supreme Court of Canada, it gives us great pleasure to recognize your outstanding leadership. Your career in legal and judicial circles has been exemplary:

- as a Professor of Law at my Alma Mater, The University of British Columbia;
- as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of British Columbia;
- as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada - a post you have held longer than any Chief Justice in history;
- as the author of enlightened judgments;
- as a courageous defender of the rule of law.

The deep respect in which you are held goes well beyond judicial precincts. It derives from the fact that you are warm, approachable, and down to earth, and that you engage so readily with people and the community. You and Frank happily make time for the good daily things in life.

Beverley can often be seen early in the morning walking in Rockcliffe Village – her security detail always inconspicuous. I remember on one such occasion being introduced to her new love - a “tall, dark and handsome” friend called Darcy. Darcy is indeed tall, dark and handsome as she described – he is a wonderful black Labrador!

Chief Justice, the wise judgments for which you are renowned extend to your private life as well. Case in point when in 1992 you accepted a proposal from Frank to be his wife - a proposal that the inventive Frank arranged to be delivered over the public address system for all to hear on an Air Canada flight high above the Atlantic!

Frank, we salute you as well for your contributions to Canada – while all the while providing unwavering love, loyal support, and wise counsel to the woman we are honouring tonight.

Chief Justice, thank you for honouring us with your presence. We offer you and Frank our heartfelt best wishes as you prepare for the next fulfilling chapters of your lives. We have no doubt that Canada and the world will benefit from your contributions.

In the years to come, we look forward to warmly welcoming you back to the National Gallery of Canada. Come often. We know that this is a special place that you will cherish always.

Dear friends, please stand and join me in a toast to Beverley and Frank.

Chers amis, je vous demande de vous joindre à moi et lever votre verre à Beverley et à Frank.