

**Notes for remarks saluting Fred and Elizabeth Fountain**  
**by Thomas d'Aquino**  
**Chair, National Gallery of Canada Foundation**  
**March 28, 2018**

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Dear Fred, dear Elizabeth.

Among the highest of my privileges as Chair of the Foundation of the National Gallery of Canada is to be able to salute friends and colleagues who give of themselves and their generosity in the service of this great institution we love.

This evening you are surrounded by friends and admirers, and daughter Katharine, who are here to salute your philanthropic spirit and to demonstrate our profound appreciation for your gift to the Gallery of \$2 million. It is a mark of your patriotism and dedication to Canada that you chose to align your gift with our country's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The priorities which you have assigned to your gift also speak to your national commitment. \$500,000 is earmarked for the Gallery's National Outreach program so that the Gallery can better share our collections and expertise across this vast land. And the remainder is directed towards the General Endowment of our Gallery Foundation in support of the Gallery's art programming and its ambitious engagement as one of the world's most respected art museums.

Fred and Elizabeth, leaders of the Gallery and Gallery Foundation join with me in expressing our gratitude. Here I include Gallery Director, Marc Mayer, Foundation Chief Executive Karen Colby-Stothart, Gallery Trustees and fellow Directors of the Gallery Foundation.

Ladies and gentlemen, enlightened philanthropy is characterized by a genuine desire to support and enable, by a selfless commitment to serve, by an aspiration to create good outcomes. By this measure, Elizabeth and Fred truly stand out. Both are treasured members of the Gallery Foundation's family of Distinguished Patrons who in 2017 contributed to the Art for the Nation initiative. Both contributed to the acquisition of artist Joe Fafard's Running Horses that this summer will return to their

permanent position at the Gallery entrance. And Fred of course is a valued Director of the National Gallery of Canada Foundation.

Beyond the Gallery, Elizabeth and Fred have done so much in the domains of the visual and performing arts, the health sciences, and education.

Apart from his activities as a leading businessman, Fred has served his beloved Province of Nova Scotia in a variety of spheres: as Chancellor of Dalhousie University; as Chairman of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia; as a member of the National Arts Centre Foundation; as Chair of the working Miracles Capital Campaign for the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital. For his contributions, Fred was invested as a Member of the Order of Canada in 2010.

Elizabeth has shown leadership in so many ways through her passionate support of community, the arts and mental health initiatives. For this she has been recognized with doctoral degrees, *honoris causa*, from the University of King's College and Mount Saint Vincent University.

Friends, clearly Elizabeth and Fred are two very special people and we are privileged that they have chosen to engage with the National Gallery of Canada.

With immense gratitude, the National Gallery of Canada and the National Gallery of Canada Foundation have named the magnificent Garden Court in their honour. When Fred and Elizabeth advised the Foundation of their favourite space in the Gallery, I was especially delighted as was my wife Susan. Like the Fountains, we love gardens. This inspiring space and its beautiful garden, recently redesigned by iconic Canadian landscape architect Cornelia Oberlander, exudes a quiet grace and beauty – much like the character of our special honourees, Elizabeth and Fred.

Thank you, Elizabeth and Fred. *Merci chers amis.*