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NORTH VANCOUVER'S MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

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## Reflecting on a special Canada Day

I've always been grateful for Canada Day as an opportunity to celebrate, reflect, and reaffirm my resolve to work toward a better Canada.

It is an occasion to reflect on the country's values and future. It is a time to appreciate the freedoms and opportunities that come with living in a democratic society and to consider how to contribute to its continued success.

Canada Day is also, for me, a cherished personal source of invigoration, nourishment and inspiration.

Never more so than this year – a day which included the opportunity to attend and participate in a citizenship ceremony here on the North Shore.

If you have never attended one, I could not recommend it more highly as a way of reaffirming your own citizenship.

The ceremony is a meaningful final step in becoming a Canadian citizen. It's the moment when a person makes a public commitment to the Canadian family.

As I gazed upon the sea of expectant and excited faces from many different corners of the globe, each with their own lived experiences, backgrounds and journeys, we were as one in our gratitude for living in a free and democratic country grounded by shared values which underlie our shared prosperity.

### Tears of gratitude

There were tears of joy and gratitude, much laughter and the sense of excitement and anticipation that comes with a new beginning. It's been said that some of the most enthusiastic Canadians are the most recent – and that was certainly in earnest evidence at the ceremony.

People from so many parts of the world continue to make Canada their home because their hopes and ambitions align with ours.

I am proud to say that Canada's cultural diversity is a strength and a cornerstone of our national identity. It is not just tolerated but embraced and celebrated and says much about the kind of country we aspire to be.

This nation would not be as strong, as independent or as equitable a place to live without our shared experience of coming here from other places and learning how to live and thrive together.

Alongside our Indigenous founding nations, we have built a country that is bound together through shared values of freedom, hard work, respect for the rights of others, compassion, and social justice.

Canada has never been a perfect country, but it is a country where we recognize past mistakes and work tirelessly to build a better future.

### An invitation

As the citizenship ceremony came to a close, I extended an invitation:

"Now, with your help, let us continue this Canadian journey together - building a better country through our individual actions, every day."

It's an invitation I also extend to you.

In the spirit of Canada Day, though now several weeks removed, let us each recommit to contributing to a future that is free, prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable for generations to come.

Happy summer!

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