

ROSS MUNRO AWARD

VIMY AWARD DINNER

MUSEUM OF CIVILIZATION

GATINEAU, QUEBEC

17 NOVEMBER 2006

PRESENTATION COMMENTS

BY

CHAIRMAN CDA

LGEN (RET) R.J. EVRAIRE

Minister O'Connor, Gen and Mrs. Hillier, distinguished guests, Mesdames et Messieurs. Throughout Canada's history, men and women – both military and civilian – have made important contributions to Canadian defence and security. In doing so, many have made the ultimate sacrifice. It is because of these men and women that we are able, today, to enjoy the rights and freedoms we so treasure, and it is because of war correspondents such as Ross Munro that Canadians have heard of the price members of the Canadian Forces have paid to ensure that we continue to enjoy those precious rights and freedoms.

Wes Gallagher, un correspondant de guerre américain qui est par la suite devenu directeur général de l'Associated Press, a déclaré que Ross Munro était le meilleur correspondant canadien de la Deuxième Guerre mondiale. Ross Munro a suivi nos soldats dans les villes détruites par les bombardements, et à travers les champs de bataille d'Europe, pendant la deuxième guerre mondiale. Ses écrits sur les Forces canadiennes étaient fidèles à la vérité, et empreints de sincérité et de compassion. Si ce n'eut été des individus comme Ross Munro, les Canadiens et les Canadiennes auraient été privé des récits relatant les expériences — bonnes et mauvaises — de nos troupes en Europe.

War correspondents brought home to Canadians the reality of war, often at great personal risk. Today, a relatively small group of journalists continue to honour this tradition by telling Canadians about the work our troops are doing, both at home and overseas. Without them, the important work of the Canadian Forces would go largely unnoticed and unheralded.

La Conférence des associations de la défense, en collaboration avec le Canadien Defence and Foreign Affairs Institute de Calgary, a décidé, il y a environ cinq ans, d'exprimer sa reconnaissance à un ou une journaliste qui a contribué de manière importante et remarquable à la sensibilisation du grand public aux questions de défense et de sécurité canadiennes. Après mûre réflexion, il a été décidé de créer le Prix média Ross Munro qui serait remis annuellement, lors du dîner Vimy,

To choose this year's recipient of the Ross Munro Media Award, the Award selection committee considered, as it does every year, the material that nominees have produced for public consumption, through print or electronic media. Depth of analysis of the material is an essential element of the evaluation. The winner's contribution will have received wide acclaim and be considered significant journalism.

Before calling upon the 2006 winner of the Ross Munro Media Award to come forward, I would like to mention that this year, in light of the outstanding quality of the nominees, the selection committee decided to award three honourable mentions. Matthew Fisher of the *National Post* and Mitch Potter of the *Toronto Star* were chosen for special recognition for their coverage of the Canadian Forces. The third honourable mention goes to Douglas Fisher, formerly of the *Ottawa Sun*, in recognition of his long and distinguished career covering military affairs.

Certificates reflecting these honourable mentions will be presented to Matthew Fisher, Mitch Potter and Douglas Fisher during the CDA's Annual General Meeting in February.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the 2006 winner of the Ross Munro Media Award has consistently demonstrated the finest qualities of a journalist who specializes in defence issues. She brings a keen eye to the theatre of hostilities. She writes exceptionally evocative and superbly descriptive prose that conveys the Canadian military experience in Afghanistan and at home. She has developed a deep understanding of the comradeship that binds the men and women of the Canadian Forces. Perhaps most importantly, she not only informs the Canadian public of today's military realities, she also champions those values of honour and sacrifice that so characterize our men and women in uniform.

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am delighted to call upon Brigadier General Bob Millar, president of the Canadian Defence and Foreign Affairs Institute, to present the Ross Munro Media Award to this year's winner... Distingués invités, Mesdames et Messieurs, , applaudissons tous la lauréate du Prix média Ross Munro de cette année,

Ms. Christie Blatchford.