

7 December 2006

It is my great pleasure, on the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Conference of Defence Associations (CDA), to congratulate and thank you for your unwavering commitment and service to the defence of Canada.

Since 1932, the Conference of Defence Associations has not only successfully represented the interests of its constituent members; it has also promoted an awareness of defence and security issues across Canada.

Over the years, the CDA has proven to be an indispensable source of independent, expert advice on current and future requirements of our military, and on the defence interests of Canada.

For example, many CDA members are regularly called upon by the media to assist in explaining defence issues. CDA members also continue to provide expert testimony to Parliamentarians on key defence challenges facing Canada. And the CDA institute also reaches out to the academic community and Canada's youth through its regular conferences and seminars, including its annual Graduate Student Symposium.

In addition to promoting public discussion of defence issues, the CDA and its Institute also help us celebrate those who have made outstanding contributions in the area of defence through the annual Ross Munro and Vimy Awards.

The CDA, 75 years after its creation, retains its crucial role as the "Voice of Defence." In this ever-changing security environment its expertise and advice are likely to be more in demand than ever.

Thank you again for your tireless efforts to promote and enhance understanding of Canada's defence. I wish you continued success.

Gordon O'Connor  
Minister of National Defence