

PRESENTATION OF VIMY AWARD

PRESIDENT CDA INSTITUTE GENERAL MANSON'S INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

THANK YOU, COLONEL PELLERIN, GOOD EVENING LADIES AND GENTLEMEN;
BONSOIR MESDAMES ET MESSIEURS.

LET ME ADD MY OWN WARM WELCOME TO ALL OF YOU ON THIS VERY
SPECIAL OCCASION.

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT THE ANNUAL VIMY AWARD DINNER HAS BEEN
HELD IN THE NEW CANADIAN WAR MUSEUM, AND I CAN THINK OF NO BETTER
WAY TO CELEBRATE THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF VIMY RIDGE
THAN TO DO SO IN THIS MAGNIFICENT MUSEUM OF CANADA'S MILITARY
HISTORY. I THINK YOU CAN SENSE, AS I DO, THE AURA OF HISTORY THAT
SURROUNDS US IN THIS GALLERY, INDEED THROUGHOUT THE MUSEUM.

BY YOUR PRESENCE HERE THIS EVENING YOU HONOUR ALL THOSE WHO
HAVE SERVED CANADA IN THE UNIFORM OF THEIR COUNTRY OVER THE
CENTURIES.

THE PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF THIS EVENT, OF COURSE, IS TO HONOUR THE
RECIPIENT OF THE VIMY AWARD, PRESENTED ANNUALLY TO ONE CANADIAN
WHO HAS MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEFENCE AND
SECURITY OF OUR NATION AND THE PRESERVATION OF OUR DEMOCRATIC
VALUES.

YOU WILL AGREE WITH ME, I AM SURE, THAT THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS
AWARD IS SIGNALLED BY THE GRACIOUS ACCEPTANCE BY HER EXCELLENCY,
THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE

CANADIAN FORCES, TO PERSONALLY PRESENT THE VIMY AWARD TO THIS YEAR'S RECIPIENT.

JE SUIS SÛR QUE VOUS SEREZ D'ACCORD AVEC MOI POUR DIRE QUE L'IMPORTANCE DE CE PRIX EST SOULIGNÉE PAR LE FAIT QUE SON EXCELLENCE LA GOUVERNEURE GÉNÉRALE DU CANADA ET COMMANDANTE EN CHEF DES FORCES CANADIENNES AIT GRACIEUSEMENT ACCEPTÉ DE PRÉSENTER LE PRIX VIMY AU RÉCIPIENDAIRE DE CETTE ANNÉE.

BEFORE CALLING UPON HER EXCELLENCY TO PRESENT THE AWARD, I WOULD LIKE TO READ A BRIEF PASSAGE FROM THE LETTER WHICH WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM THE CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE STAFF REGARDING THIS YEAR'S AWARD:

QUOTE: "I WISH TO EXPRESS MY HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS TO GENERAL RAY HENAULT AS THIS YEAR'S VIMY AWARD WINNER. MOST HIGHLY DESERVING OF THIS AWARD, GENERAL HENAULT, SUPPORTED BY HIS WIFE LORAINE, CONTINUES TO DEMONSTRATE THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF LEADERSHIP AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATO MILITARY COMMITTEE DURING THESE VERY CHALLENGING TIMES WITHIN THE ALLIANCE." END QUOTE.

THOSE WORDS FROM GENERAL RICK HILLIER WHO, AS YOU HEARD EARLIER, IS UNABLE TO BE WITH US THIS EVENING.

I WOULD NOW LIKE TO INVITE HER EXCELLENCY, THE RIGHT HONOURABLE MICHAËLLE JEAN, TO SAY A FEW WORDS.

MESDAMES ET MESSIEURS, JE VOUDRAIS MAINTENANT INVITER SON EXCELLENCE, LA TRÈS HONOURABLE MICHAËLLE JEAN, À VOUS ADDRESSER LA PAROLE.