



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

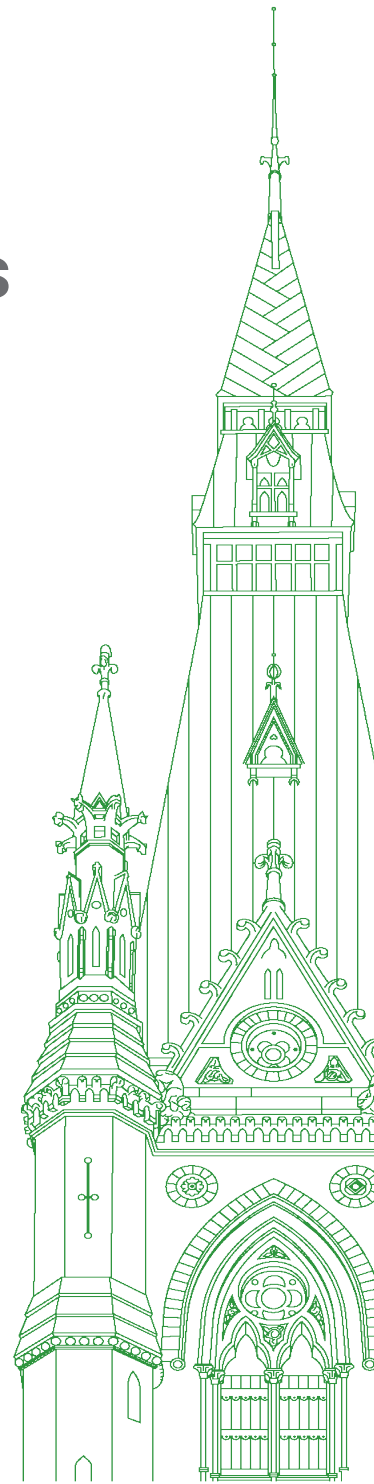
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# Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians

## Annual Memorial Service

Sunday, December 15, 2020

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# HOUSE OF COMMONS

Extract from Sunday, December 15, 2020

## Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians Annual Memorial Service

[*Peace Tower bells ring*]

[*Musical performance*]

[*English*]

**Nancy Anctil:** Ladies and gentlemen, *mesdames et messieurs, bonjour*, good afternoon.

My name is Nancy Anctil, I'm the Chief of Protocol for the Parliament of Canada and your master of ceremonies today. I am pleased to welcome you to the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians Annual Memorial Service, in virtual mode for the first time.

[*Translation*]

We just heard our national anthem performed by the Central Band of the Canadian Armed Forces.

[*English*]

I would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which our Parliament gathers is the traditional unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishnaabeg people.

[*Translation*]

We're gathering together virtually today to remember the service, contribution and lives of the parliamentarians whom we have lost this past year.

[*English*]

To begin the ceremony, I invite the Speaker of the Senate of Canada, the Honourable George Furey, and, the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Honourable Anthony Rota to offer remarks.

[*Translation*]

**Speaker Furey:** Parliamentarians, former colleagues, family and friends, hello.

[*English*]

While it is difficult not to be together in person today, we are privileged to be gathered here virtually to remember and honour the lives of the parliamentarians whom we have lost in the last year.

At a time when many of our cherished rituals have been scaled down or cancelled due to the pandemic, it is important to preserve these ceremonies and to pay tribute to those who are no longer with us.

[*Translation*]

All of their lives are inextricably linked to ours, visibly or invisibly.

[*English*]

All parliamentarians—past and present—share a special connection through our common vocation. It is a bond that transcends partisanship and bridges our differences. It connects us not only to each other, but to the Canadians whom we are called upon to represent.

The fifty-three (53) parliamentarians whom we honour today worked diligently and tirelessly to serve their communities and our great country, Canada. Their contributions reached far beyond the walls of Parliament and endured long after their tenures on the Hill ended.

[*Translation*]

We pay tribute to those who dedicated themselves to defending the interests and improving the lives of all Canadians.

[*English*]

We are thankful that they gave of themselves so that we might build on what they have achieved.

May each of us draw upon the experiences of those who came before us. Let us inherit the immense value of knowledge and understanding that stems from having lived a life in service to our great country.

[*Translation*]

On behalf of all the senators in the upper chamber, I would like to extend my deepest condolences to all those who have lost a friend, colleague, family member or loved one this year. We will deeply miss their wisdom, integrity and dedication.

[English]

But this occasion is also a time for celebration and gratitude. Today, as we reflect on the lives of those whose memories we honour, we thank them for their guiding example and the spirit of inspiration that leads us onward.

Let us remember them, always.

**Speaker Rota:** Mr. Speaker, Honourable colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We gather today to remember and pay tribute to the distinguished parliamentarians lost to us this last year. This virtual celebration of public lives and public service gives us, the family, friends and colleagues, past and present the opportunity to acknowledge the lives of these men and women who served their country and their fellow citizens ably and with dedication. While I am disappointed that we cannot, for the moment, come together in person, I am grateful that we are still able to share this day together.

[Translation]

As parliamentarians, we know that the work we do is not always seen, and that our contributions are not always recognized. But during their lifetimes and often long after, the Members and Senators we lost this past year put their talent and energy to work for their constituents and their country. The world is certainly a better place because of their time with us.

[English]

Gatherings such as this one are bittersweet: it is difficult to deliberately let oneself feel the loss of a friend, a family member, an admired colleague. But at the same time, I think there is solace to be found in our feelings of gratitude that they were part of our lives at all. Remembrance need not always be painful—it is also a chance to heal.

On behalf of all Members Parliament and all Members of the House of Commons, I offer my sincerest condolences on the passing of too many dear friends and colleagues from Parliament. They and all the men and women who we remember today sought to make our country a better place. We are the poorer for their departure, but the richer for their time on earth.

[Translation]

I offer my sincerest condolences to all those who are grieving. We grieve with you.

**Nancy Anctil:** Thank you Speaker Furey and Speaker Rota. I invite you now to listen to the piece *Highland Cathedral*, interpreted by the Serenade of Strings of the Central Band of the Canadian Armed Forces, accompanied by Piper Tim Reid.

[Musical performance]

**Nancy Anctil:** Every year, the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians organizes this ceremony in order to remember and to thank, from the bottom of our hearts, these men and women—all of them parliamentarians—whom we have lost over the past year.

[English]

It is appropriate and timely to honour the Parliamentarians who have left us, to remember their service and the mark they have left on us, our Parliament, and our country.

I invite the President of the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians, Ms. Dorothy Dobbie and the Honorable Jean-Pierre Blackburn to lead us in the reading of the Honour Roll Call.

Our musical interlude will be the piece *Gabriel's Oboe* interpreted by the Central Band of the Canadian Armed Forces.

**Dorothy Dobbie:** All these men and women gave their very, very best for our country. They served with honour and dignity and made a contribution to the Canada we cherish today. They were committed to freedom and to a future that prizes democracy as the best way of life that the world has ever devised. We honour their memories and thank them and their families for their service.

[English]

**Nancy Anctil:** I now invite you to join us while we take a moment of silence. It will be followed by the Lament.

[A moment of silence observed]

[Musical performance]

Each of the men and women whose public service we are remembering today, contributed in their own way to our country and they deserve to be counted among the people who have shaped Canada.

We are truly honoured to have shared with you the accomplishments of these great women and men and to pay tribute to their loved ones.

[Translation]

Our virtual ceremony is drawing to a close.

Thank you for being here.

I invite you to listen to the royal anthem to close the ceremony.

Thank you.

[Musical performance]