



**CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF
FORMER PARLIAMENTARIANS**

MEMORIAL SERVICE

***A CELEBRATION OF PUBLIC LIVES
AND PUBLIC SERVICE***

Monday, June 1st, 2026

THE SENATE

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CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF FORMER PARLIAMENTARIANS

MEMORIAL SERVICE—A CELEBRATION OF PUBLIC LIVES AND PUBLIC SERVICE

OTTAWA, Monday, June 1, 2026, 9 a.m.

Cynara Corbin, Chief of Protocol, Parliament of Canada: Good morning. As the ceremony is about to begin, I would like to remind you to put your communication devices on silent mode and to kindly refrain from taking photographs during the ceremony.

My name is Cynara Corbin, I am the Chief of Protocol for the Parliament of Canada and I'm pleased to welcome you here the Senate Chamber and to welcome those watching remotely.

I would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the traditional, unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe people.

[Translation]

We are currently in the place where the three constituent elements of Parliament — the Crown, the Senate, and the House of Commons — occasionally come together. We are together today to commemorate the service, contributions, and lives of the parliamentarians who have left our ranks over the past year.

In a moment, we will welcome the members of the official procession, consisting of the President of the Senate, the Honourable Raymonde Gagné, and the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Honourable Francis Scarpaleggia.

[English]

We have the President of the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians Mr. Matt DeCoursey; the immediate Past President of the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians Ms. Dorothy Dobbie; Mr. Matthew Dubé, representing the members of the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians; the Clerk of the Senate and the Clerk of the Parliaments Ms. Shaila Anwar; the Clerk of the House Mr. Eric Janse; the Usher of the Black Rod Mr. Greg Peters; and the Sergeant-at-Arms Mr. Patrick McDonell.

[Translation]

Ladies and gentlemen, please rise, if you are able, for the arrival of the Official Party and remain standing for our National Anthem.

Please be seated. Each year, the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians organizes this ceremony as an opportunity to take a moment to remember and thank from the bottom of our hearts those men and women, all former Canadian parliamentarians, whom we have lost over the past year.

[English]

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

I would like to invite Elder Verna McGregor from the Algonquin community of Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg to offer a blessing and an honour song.

Elder Verna McGregor, Algonquin Community of Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg: *Meegwetch*, everyone. Hello, everybody.

[Indigenous language spoken]

My name is Verna McGregor, and I'm from Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg. My Clan is fox on my mother's side and thunderbird on my father's side. I'd like to welcome you to our traditional lands.

I was thinking about this for a while. This was our Parliament too. Prior to contact, we would meet here in the summer and talk about what's happening on the land because our Clan System was based on the watershed. The significance of Ottawa is the confluence of the rivers coming together from the four directions. Why I'm saying this that is one of the teachings of the medicine wheel is we come from spirit. We take our first breath here, like the sun coming up on a new day. We begin our journey here; our earth walk. As an infant to toddler, toddler to young adult, young adult to middle-aged adult, as you become older, in preparation to return to spirit, the Elders talk about how we're given assignments and challenges on our earth walk here for our growth as we return.

The Algonquin are known for the birchbark canoe. One of the teachings of the canoe is to honour everyone's journey here, that we're all on our own journey. We come here with our own understandings and learnings.

I will sing an honour song this morning. I also brought my eagle feather. The eagle feather is relevant to Parliament as well. It soars the highest; it has the responsibility of having a higher view. I'm now honouring your ancestors who passed on because they had that responsibility of having a higher view for the good of the collective. They would collect or be gifted eagle feathers because you took the good of the collective while in leadership.

On that note, I will sing a little song. I'm singing that we're asking the ancestors to come and be with us this morning, including the recent members who have passed on. If you can stand, please do. If you can't, that's okay too. I find this is a little different lodge for me this morning.

I have my rattle here. We call that *sheshegwan*, and we use that to teach in healing ceremonies. Here we go. It goes like this.

[Elder Verna McGregor performs Indigenous Honour Song]

Now we're sending love to your ancestors too and all our relatives. *Meegwetch*.

[*Indigenous language spoken*]

Meegwetch, meegwetch, meegwetch, meegwetch. I said "thank you" to the Creator of all things for allowing us to be here today and please look after our relatives and ancestors today as we are gathered here. Thank you for everything. I say *meegwetch* four times.

I say it four times to honour again the land we're on, which also represents the four directions, the four seasons, the four stages of our lives, the four elements that connect us all, whether we like it or not, which is the earth, the water, the air and the fire. I say *meegwetch*. It's not a wonderful ceremony, but we're honouring the ancestors. Thank you.

Ms. Corbin: Thank you, Elder McGregor.

If you are able to rise again, we are going to stand for the national anthem. Thank you.

[The Ottawa Children's Choir performs *O Canada*.]

Ms. Corbin: Thank you. You may be seated.

Each of the men and women whose public service we are honouring today contributed in their own way to the peace and prosperity that Canadians enjoy today, and they deserve to be counted among the people who have shaped Canada.

[*Translation*]

I would like to invite the Speaker of the Senate, the Honourable Raymonde Gagné, to welcome you.

The Honourable Raymonde Gagné, Speaker of the Senate: Mr. Speaker of the House of Commons, ladies and gentlemen of Parliament, distinguished guests.

On behalf of the Senate of Canada and the honourable senators, I would like to offer my condolences to the families and loved ones of the parliamentarians who have left us over the past year.

[*English*]

While this service is a sad occasion for several of us, it is also an opportunity to reflect on what it means to be a parliamentarian. The path is not an easy one to follow. It demands sacrifices, and only those who have lived this experience can truly understand. This is true for all parliamentarians, as well as for our families.

[*Translation*]

Whether it is the long hours of work, the demanding schedules of our office, or the distance that separates Ottawa from our communities and families, our loved ones, too, experience these realities and sacrifices on a daily basis. This is particularly true for parliamentarians who have young children and who must often balance raising their children with their political lives.

[Ms. Corbin]

[*English*]

It is also true for women parliamentarians, who continue to contribute with remarkable resilience while helping to broaden representation, challenge stereotypes and strengthen the public dialogue through their leadership and presence in public life. Being a parliamentarian is a time commitment that extends far beyond parliamentary sessions, shaping every aspect of daily life and public service. Yet, despite these demands, serving our country remains both an exceptional privilege and a deeply meaningful responsibility.

[*Translation*]

Serving one's country is an opportunity to put one's experience, skills, and commitment to work for communities across Canada, in order to make a tangible contribution to the well-being of Canadians. In doing so, we contribute, together, to strengthening Canadian democracy. Canada is privileged to have been able to count on these remarkable individuals, who have generously dedicated the best of themselves to serving Canadians.

No matter which House a parliamentarian has served in, the sacrifices we must make to diligently carry out our work are many. Our Parliament, which is a second home, allows us to make it our own, to meet extraordinary colleagues there, and to be supported by dedicated staff.

[*English*]

Circumstances mean that this work takes us far from home and from those we love most. It requires a faithful presence, not just when participating in sittings and meetings in Ottawa but also frequently at a moment's notice. It is, therefore, a privilege for me to be here today to pay tribute to those who have answered the call of public service.

[*Translation*]

Finally, I would like once again to offer you my deepest condolences. Your loved ones will forever leave a mark on our country's history and in our lives.

Thank you also to the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians for organizing a memorial service worthy of the memory of those who have left us.

Thank you. *Meegwetch*.

Ms. Corbin: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I now invite the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Honourable Francis Scarpaleggia, to speak.

[*English*]

Hon. Francis Scarpaleggia, P.C., Speaker of the House of Commons: Honourable Raymonde Gagné, Speaker of the Senate, fellow parliamentarians and distinguished guests, it is an honour to be here this morning.

Let me start by extending my sincere condolences to the families and loved ones of the former parliamentarians who have passed over the last year. As we honour them this morning, we acknowledge, with our deepest sympathy, your grief and sadness.

[Translation]

It is with the utmost respect that parliamentarians annually observe the absence of former colleagues and predecessors who have passed away.

[English]

The image of Parliament that Canadians see from clips of Question Period or from committees is often one of confrontation. While no one will deny that democracy can be loud and messy, this impression is at odds with the truth, which is that parliamentarians are a family, a large and sometimes noisy one, perhaps, but one that is joined, nevertheless, by very strong bonds of collegiality and personal respect.

Away from the cameras, there is less dramatic but very important work taking place that involves collaboration across party lines to build consensus and solve problems together. Some of the most meaningful exchanges in Parliament are informal. They can take place in corridors, offices, airport lounges and other shared spaces where relationships can grow and flourish independent of political views.

[Translation]

Parliamentarians come from different regions and backgrounds, and their traditions and ideas differ, but they share the conviction that democratic debate and public service are the foundation of all policy and initiatives for the good of Canada.

In serving fellow Canadians in Parliament, they prioritize dialogue over division and democratic process over imposing their own views. Their shared commitment leaves a lasting mark on this institution, and the parliamentarians we honour today embodied this essential quality.

[English]

Parliament is a place with a deep respect for precedence and tradition, and the influence of former parliamentarians is reflected and recorded in the debates they shaped, the legislation they advanced and the committee work to which they contributed. In this way, their legacy endures across generations of parliamentarians in both chambers.

[Translation]

In closing, I would like to thank the members of the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians for their work in organizing this annual commemoration. Thanks to their efforts, we are able to properly honour the parliamentarians who have passed away and whom we remember today.

[English]

To their families and friends, thank you for the sacrifices you made day in and day out so that your loved one could serve in Parliament. We recognize that a career in politics, with its ups and downs, and frequent absences, requires a strong “home team.”

[Translation]

May their contributions and their memory continue to shape a better Canada.

[English]

As we remember and pay tribute to those we have lost, we honour their service on behalf of Canada.

Thank you.

[Translation]

Ms. Corbin: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

I would like to invite to the podium the immediate past president of the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians, Ms. Dorothy Dobbie, accompanied by Mr. Matthew Dubé, former member of Parliament.

Dorothy Dobbie, Immediate Past President, Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians: What is it to be a member of Parliament, a senator or a prime minister? Does it matter at all? Why do we do it?

Despite what the public believes, few become rich from this career. Indeed, one of the distinguished members being remembered today spent his final working years as a humble janitor. Yet, most of us are driven by an inner guide that insists that we do this — that we must put our lives on the line in the service of our community and our country.

The journey can be rough and, when on it, there are no safe havens. Members and our families are exposed to all the elements of the day — the sunshine and the storms, the chaos and the calm — which is always just a prelude to the next blast of whatever the elements hold. You, the families and the friends, bear just as much as the elected, but you don't get the reward of the infrequent highs to buoy you along until the next onslaught.

Yet, we do have something — we have each other. As much as we rant and rave, and throw slings and arrows across the aisle, we all know that, no matter what your party stripe, if one of us is in trouble, we will all be there to do whatever we can, and we will always be here together, as we are today, to pay tribute to our dear colleagues who served us so faithfully.

Despite all this, those who passed are sometimes overlooked by us, and we are deeply sorry that this was the case for the following four members. I hope the families will accept this late tribute with our humble apologies.

[Translation]

Matthew Dubé, Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians: As the first woman to lead a political party in Quebec, the Honourable Lise Bacon was twice elected as a Liberal member of the National Assembly of Quebec, where she served as Deputy Premier after holding several ministerial portfolios. In 1994, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien appointed her senator for La Durantaye, a position she held until 2009. In her role as a senator, she chaired several committees and was particularly celebrated for her tenure as president of the Canada-France Inter-Parliamentary Association.

She was a role model for women as well as an advocate for the French language and culture. The Honourable Lise Bacon received the Order of Saint Hubert, the Belgian-Hispanic Order of Merit, and the Order of Canada. She was also appointed an Officer of the French Legion of Honour. She was 91 years old.

[English]

Next is Ms. Judith (Judy) Claire Bethel. From Winnipeg, Judy Bethel and her family moved to Edmonton in 1970. After completing a Bachelor of Education degree, Judy started life as a schoolteacher and then moved on to business as an investment broker. Before being elected to Parliament, she was a city councillor for Edmonton. She was elected as a Liberal for Edmonton East in 1993 and served until 1997. In office, she served on the committees of Citizenship and Immigration, Industry, Justice and Legal Affairs, and Public Accounts. She passed away at 82.

Mr. Morris Peter Bodnar served as the Liberal Member of Parliament from 1993 to 1997 for the riding of Saskatoon—Dundurn. Prior to being elected, Morris was a criminal lawyer and argued two cases before the Supreme Court of Canada. He had a fierce love for justice and was known as a brilliant legal mind. He was an art lover, a stamp collector and a gardener. He made children's toys and Christmas decorations. He was also a curler and a big sports fan. Morris considered being a member of Parliament one of the greatest honours of his lifetime. He was 77.

[Translation]

Gérard Bruchési was only 27 years old when he was elected to represent Beauharnois—Salaberry in Parliament for the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada from 1958 to 1962. Although his career was brief, his interest in politics and economics never waned. He was active in his community as a school board commissioner and chairman of the board of directors of the Caisse Desjardins de Châteauguay. The mental health cause was close to his heart, and he supported the L'Accolade Mental Health Foundation as well as Les toits d'Émile. He retired in 2011, at the age of 80, and remained passionate about life until his death at the age of 94.

[English]

Ms. Dobbie: Next is Mr. Stephen (Steve) Ernest Joseph Butland. For 30 years, the good people of Sault St. Marie counted on Steve to carry the political banner on their behalf. He became an alderman in 1980 and, eight years later, he ran for and won his riding as an NDP member of Parliament. When his term ended, he returned to local politics and became the mayor of Sault St. Marie, an office he held for one term, then becoming an alderman once again until 2018. In private life, he was a schoolteacher. In Parliament, he served as the NDP's critic for Public Works and Municipal Affairs. Former MPP Bud Wildman said of Steve, "He always had a positive outlook. He was an optimist and really believed that people could work together to solve problems." He was 84.

Dr. Michael Morris Cassidy was born into politics: His father, Harry Cassidy, was one of the founders of the CCF. However, Michael started out life as a journalist. His political career was

initiated when he was elected an alderman for the City of Ottawa. He quickly graduated from there to a seat in the Ontario Legislature as the MPP for Ottawa Centre in 1971. He became the Leader of the Ontario NDP in 1978. He stepped down four years later to be replaced by Bob Rae. He then served as an MP from 1984 to 1988. "He lived his life filled with vigour and engagement, with equal dedication to the duties he took on in his political and private lives. He never backed away from good trouble," said his family. He was 89.

[Translation]

Mr. Dubé: Auguste Choquette came from a long line of politicians. His grandfather, Philippe Auguste Choquette, served as a Liberal member of the National Assembly for Montmagny from 1887 to 1890, then as a senator for 15 years. His brother, Ernest Choquette, Auguste Choquette's great-uncle, was a member of the Legislative Council of Quebec. Auguste's father, Fernand Choquette, served as a member of the Legislative Assembly of Quebec for 10 years in the 1930s and 1940s. Auguste Choquette was elected as the Liberal member for Lotbinière in 1963 and served for five years. He was a music lover and a lawyer in his private life. He passed away on December 21, 2018, at the age of 86.

[English]

The Honourable Ione Christensen was a trailblazing woman. Born in 1933 in British Columbia, she spent most of her life in the Yukon, where she became a respected and influential leader, often described as "Yukon royalty" and a "force." She served as the first female mayor of Whitehorse and as Deputy Commissioner of the Yukon. She was also a justice of the peace. In 1999, she was appointed to the Senate by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien. She was made an Officer of the Order of Canada and the Order of the Yukon. Known for her strength, dedication and community spirit, she also maintained a 120-year-old sourdough starter, passed down from her great-grandfather during the gold rush. She died at the age of 90.

Mr. William Hillary (Bill) Clarke was born in Ontario but spent his life in B.C. Elected four times as a Progressive Conservative for Vancouver Quadra, he served 11 years before being defeated by John Turner.

During his time in Parliament, Bill chaired both the Finance Committee and the Public Accounts Committee. He was a clever student, skipping both Grades 4 and 7 — I wonder what happened in Grades 5 and 6 — going on to study accounting and soon started his own firm.

He and his brother, Jim, also founded a real estate company that built high-rise apartments. The company continues to this day to be operated by the family. He was 92.

[Translation]

A leading figure in the Quebec sovereignty movement, Jean Dorion served in Parliament as a member of the Bloc Québécois for the riding of Longueuil—Pierre-Boucher. Known to be an activist, he devoted his life to Quebec and initially worked for the Quebec government as a political attaché and chief of staff to several Quebec ministers. He served as president of the Société Saint-Jean-Baptiste in Montreal, a role he considered one of his most important.

[Mr. Dubé]

He spoke six languages, including Japanese. He served as Quebec's chief delegate to Japan and was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun in 2019. Although he was a staunch defender of Francophones' language rights, he opposed Bill 21, which restricted the wearing of religious symbols by public servants. In 2013, he published a book entitled *Inclure : Quelle laïcité pour le Québec?*, in which he presented his views on secularism. He died at the age of 83.

[English]

Ms. Dobbie: Next is Mr. Stanley Peter Dromisky. After retiring as professor emeritus from Lakehead University, professor and an art gallery owner, Stan Dromisky made a run for politics at 57. He served as a Liberal MP from 1993 to 2004 for Thunder Bay — Atikokan. He spent a busy three terms serving on a dozen committees and as the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport. Well-loved for his joyful ways, he was affectionately called “Staush” in his community, where he was known for his wild mushroom hunting, Christmas decorations and bursts of carols in the season. He passed away at 92, to the sorrow of all, on September 8, 2023.

The Honourable Kenneth Wayne Dryden is an iconic name in Canadian hockey history, winning six Stanley Cups in eight seasons with the Montreal Canadiens. He was known as the “scholar athlete” and held a law degree from McGill and a history degree from Cornell. He was elected to the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1983, the same year his bestselling book *The Game* won the Governor General's Literary Award.

A man of many talents, he served as president of the Toronto Maple Leafs from 1997 to 2003. In 2004, he was elected to Parliament for the Liberals in York Centre. He served as Minister of Social Development. In 2013, he was made a member of the Order of Canada. He was 78 at his passing.

The Honourable Kirsty Duncan was a climate scientist who led an expedition to the Arctic in search of the source of the 1918 influenza epidemic. She was a member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that, with Al Gore, was awarded a Nobel Prize in 2007. She served in Parliament from 2008 until 2025 and as the Minister of Science and Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities. A long-time gymnast, Kirsty was also an author, writing three books based on her experiences as a scientist, an environmentalist and a woman. She was only 59.

The Honourable Arthur Jacob Epp was born in Steinbach, Manitoba in 1939 and started his career as a schoolteacher. He entered politics as a city councillor and then served as deputy mayor for Steinbach, later running for the Progressive Conservatives in 1972. He held the riding of Provencher for 20 years and served as Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Minister of National Health and Welfare, the minister responsible for Manitoba and Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

He later served as a senior executive with TransCanada PipeLines Limited and was appointed chair of Ontario Power Generation. Jake is remembered in his hometown by the local library named in his honour and in Winnipeg for locating the first Level 4 containment lab to help combat infectious diseases. The lab has been recognized internationally for fighting the SARS virus and developing the first Ebola vaccine. He left us at 90.

Mr. Jesse Philip Flis was a child of Polish immigrants who was born in the village of Fosston, Saskatchewan, but grew up in Ontario. He maintained a lifelong commitment to Poland and spent a sabbatical year studying educational methods in Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary. Jesse and his family loved to camp and explore Canada.

He ran for and won a seat for the Liberals in Parkdale—High Park in 1979 to 1984 and again from 1988 to 1997. He was the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport and to the Minister of Foreign Affairs. He was also the secretary of state for External Affairs. He was awarded the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit from Poland and the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal. He was 93.

[Translation]

Mr. Dubé: After serving for several years in the National Assembly of Quebec, Marcel Gagnon was elected Member of the National Assembly for Champlain in 2000 with the Bloc Québécois. During his term, he served as the Bloc's critic for seniors' issues, the Library of Parliament, and agriculture and agri-food. Mr. Gagnon was ahead of his time: he introduced a motion calling for seniors not to be required to apply for the Guaranteed Income Supplement and Old Age Security, and for the process to be automatic instead. This has been the case since 2013. Marcel Gagnon passed away at the age of 89.

[English]

Not only was the Honourable Marc Garneau an outstanding member of Parliament, he was Canada's first astronaut to go into space.

Elected in 2008, he served as the member for Westmount—Ville-Marie. He was appointed Minister of Transport. He also served briefly as Minister of Foreign Affairs. He threw his hat into the ring to become leader of the Liberal Party but later withdrew and threw his support behind Justin Trudeau. Prior to being elected, Marc earned a PhD in electrical engineering and then, following in his father's footsteps, had a brilliant military career, focusing on the space program. He ultimately became the president of the Canadian Space Agency. Marc Garneau was made a Companion of the Order of Canada among many other awards and honours. He was 76.

Although he was born in Toronto, Mr. James William Gouk was born in Toronto, Jim Gouk spent his early working years as an air traffic controller in B.C. He dipped his toes into politics by serving as an alderman in Castlegar before getting elected in 1993 as a Reform Party member for Kootenay West—Revelstoke. He was elected for this riding and its successors four times as a Reform member, then with the Canadian Alliance and finally as a Conservative. Working in opposition, he was the critic for Transport, and he served on more than a dozen House committees.

In private life, he was very active with Rotary and other causes. To support the eradication of polio, Jim once rode his bicycle for 3,444 kilometres, over 39 days, from Castlegar to Phoenix, Arizona. He asked that his gravestone be engraved with his favourite saying, “It's a life well lived.” He was 79.

[Translation]

Normand Lapointe served as the Liberal Member of Parliament for the riding of Beauce from 1980 to 1984 only, but he spent his life working for his community. He said this:

I feel at home in Saint-Victor. I have done a bit of everything in my life, and everything was connected to Saint-Victor.

During his term, he served as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour. Normand Lapointe passed away at the age of 86.

[English]

Ms. Dobbie: Mr. Guy Lauzon represented Stormont—Dundas—Glengarry so well that he was elected five times for the Conservatives between 2004 and 2019. In opposition, Guy held several critic roles, was the party's deputy whip and became the caucus chair. He also served as the critic for the Treasury Board and Official Languages Committee. In government, he became Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and later for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Northern Ontario.

Prior to his election, Guy was involved in community initiatives and was president of the local Public Service Alliance of Canada. After politics, he became the general manager of Tri-County Protein, a soybean processing plant in Winchester. He passed away at 81.

Mr. Wilbur Bernard MacDonald, a farmer from Prince Edward Island, was elected as a Progressive Conservative to represent the riding of Cardigan in 1979. He served on the House of Commons Standing Committees on Regional Development, Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. After his term in office, he decided to run in his home province of Prince Edward Island and was elected to represent 4th Queens, where he served as the Minister of Industry for two years. In opposition, he served as the industry critic.

From 1996 to 2000, he represented District 6, Belfast-Pownal Bay, serving as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island. Wilbur passed away on May 20, 2020, at 87.

The Honourable John McCallum was larger than life. He was witty and sometimes unconventional, but he was also approachable and warm. Born in Montreal, he earned degrees at Queen's University, McGill University and Cambridge, where he won a PhD in economics. He taught economics at the University of Manitoba, going on to teach at McGill, Simon Fraser University and the University of Quebec. In 1994, he became the chief economist of the Royal Bank.

Elected for the Liberals in Markham in 2000, John served briefly as Parliamentary Secretary to Paul Martin, then as Minister of National Defence, Minister of Veterans Affairs, Minister of National Revenue and Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship. He also served as finance critic in the opposition.

His final official duty was as Ambassador to China during the *Meng Wanzhou* affair. He nominated Nelson Mandela as an honorary citizen of Canada. He was 75 at his passing.

[Mr. Dubé]

At 39 years old, the Honourable John Horton McDermid was elected as a Progressive Conservative in 1979 for Brampton—Georgetown, a seat he held for the next 14 years. John filled several cabinet roles in the Mulroney government, including Minister of State for Housing, International Trade, Privatization and Regulatory Affairs, and Finance and Privatization.

In private life, he was a radio and television announcer and a public relations manager for Ontario Place. An adopted son of a pastor, when he was 79, John discovered he had seven siblings. His birth mother, whom he never knew, left him a special trinket: a set of knitted placemats — a mysterious extra set of those she had knitted for all her other kids. Mystery solved. One of his sisters handed it on to him when they met. It turned out that his grandmother was a Progressive Conservative Party official from Sarnia. As they say, “What is bred in the bone!” He left us at 82.

Next is the Honourable Kelvin Kenneth Ogilvie. The unsung brilliance of our MPs and senators is a constant source of wonder and gratitude. Senator Kelvin Ogilvie is one such.

An expert in bio-organic chemistry and genetic engineering from Summerville, Nova Scotia, he was involved in the development of an antiviral drug, Ganciclovir, that is used to treat certain herpes viruses. During his 40-year career, he taught at the University of Manitoba, McGill and Acadia. He was appointed to the Senate by Stephen Harper in 2009.

While in the Senate, he chaired the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology that produced a number of important studies on health issues affecting Canadians. The last report was *Challenge Ahead: Integrating Robotics, Artificial Intelligence and 3D Printing Technologies into Canada's Healthcare System*.

Kelvin was a member of the Order of Canada. He was 83.

Mr. Dubé: The Honourable Donald H. Oliver had the distinction of being the first Black male to serve in the Senate — Senator Anne Cools was the first female in 1984. He was appointed by Brian Mulroney in 1990.

Don studied philosophy with a stress on history at Acadia and later obtained a law degree from Dalhousie. He was a lawyer and developer in Halifax for 30-plus years, where he also taught law part-time at Dalhousie, among other institutions.

In the Senate, Don served on several committees, including the Standing Senate Committees on Banking, Trade and Commerce and on Agriculture. He also co-chaired the Special Joint Committee on a Code of Conduct for Parliamentarians.

Premier Tim Houston said on his passing that “His work focused on championing issues of diversity, equity, human rights and economic empowerment.”

He became a member of the Order of Canada in 2019 and the Order of Nova Scotia in 2020. He was 86 at his passing.

[Translation]

The Honourable Fernand Roberge was a hotelier and was only 36 years old when he became president of the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Montreal. He was the first Quebecer to hold that position. In 1993, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney appointed Mr. Roberge to

the Senate. During his tenure, he served on numerous boards of directors and was an active fundraiser for several worthy causes. He was a member of the Special Senate Committee on Transportation Safety and Security as well as the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs. He resigned from the Senate in 2000 to return to the business world. He was 85 years old.

[English]

In 2008, the Honourable Gail Shea took her seat as the Conservative MP for Egmont and quickly became the first female MP from the island to be appointed a member of cabinet when she became Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. She was no novice, having served in several ministerial positions in the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island. She also served as Minister of National Revenue.

Life for MPs is never dull. In 2010, she was pined by a PETA member over her position on the seal hunt. Far from being cowed by the incident, it hardened her resolve to support the seal hunt. She said:

If this is what it takes to stand up for Canadian sealing families and this industry I'm certainly very proud to do it.

She was only 66 at her passing.

Ms. Michelle Simson was the Liberal MP for Scarborough Southwest. Although she served just two and a half years, she made her time count, sitting as a member of the Standing Committee on the Status of Women and on the Standing Committee on Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics. She also served as a member of several parliamentary and interparliamentary associations.

Michelle was the first MP to publicly declare her parliamentary expense claims, posting them to her website. Her motion to develop a universal declaration on animal welfare passed unanimously. She was also a founding member and co-chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Palliative and Compassionate Care. She was a former president of the Ontario Women's Liberal Commission.

She passed away at 72.

Ms. Dobbie: Mr. Joseph Slogan was a Progressive Conservative from Manitoba, who was elected for the riding of Springfield in 1958 until 1965. In Ottawa, he served on the Standing Committees for Finance, External Affairs, Indian Affairs and Public Health and Welfare.

In Manitoba, Joe was best known for his title as president and founder of the paddlewheel river cruisers the *Paddlewheel Queen* and the *Paddlewheel Princess* that plied the Red River. He owned the company in partnership with his half-brother, Steve Hawchuck, along with several other businesses.

Joe was also a practising dentist in the city of Selkirk for 45 years. He passed away on November 3, 2024, at 92.

Born in Toronto, the Honourable Barbara Jane (Bobbie) Sparrow spent her adult life in Calgary. Although she started out as a surgical nurse, her real career was as a community and corporate board director and as a business leader. She was president of the Junior League of Calgary, and in 1984, she ran

for office in Calgary South for the Progressive Conservatives, receiving the largest majority in history to that date. She was 47,763 votes ahead of her nearest contender.

In office, she served as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Health and Welfare and later as Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and of Forestry. She was defeated by Preston Manning in the 1993 Tory sweep.

She was a very positive person with a great personality. She was 90.

The Honourable Terrance (Terry) Richard Stratton was appointed senator by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney in 1993. He was a student of architecture at the University of Manitoba, becoming an instructor at Red River Community College for several years before becoming the managing partner at IKOY Architects where he served until his appointment to the Senate in 1993.

In office, he was the Opposition Whip and later Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Senate. From 2006 until his retirement in 2009, Terry was the Government Whip in the Senate. He received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal. He was well respected by his colleagues in both houses. He was 88.

As Canadian poet Robert William Service advised:

Carry on! Carry on!
Fight the good fight and true;
Believe in your mission, greet life with a cheer;
There's big work to do, and that's why you are here.
Carry on! Carry on!
Let the world be better for you;
And at last when you die, let this be your cry:
Carry on, my soul! Carry on!

Ms. Corbin: Thank you, Ms. Dobbie and Mr. Dubé.

[Translation]

I now invite you to listen to *Highland Cathedral*, performed by the Central Band of the Canadian Armed Forces.

[English]

Captain Fraser Clark and the Aurora Clarinet Quartet will perform *Highland Cathedral*.

[Musical Interlude: *Highland Cathedral*]

[Translation]

Ms. Corbin: I invite the Honourable Marie-Paule Charette-Poulin, Senator for Northern Ontario from 1995 to 2015 and currently Parliamentarian-in-Residence at Saint Paul University in Ottawa.

[English]

I also invite Mr. Cory Pike, former executive assistant to the Honourable Ken Dryden.

[Translation]

Please come to the lectern for the readings.

[English]

Mr. Cory Pike and Honourable Marie-Paule Charette-Poulin will now come to the podium to share two readings.

[Translation]

Hon. Marie-P. Charette-Poulin, former Senator, Parliamentarian-in-Residence at Saint Paul University in Ottawa: Dear colleagues, dear friends.

The Right Honourable Kim Campbell, Canada's Prime Minister from June 25 to November 4, 1993, in an address delivered in St. John's, Newfoundland, on July 1, 1993, said:

We are a great country. And the true greatness of Canada can only be measured by the pride, the affection, the love, that it inspires in all Canadian citizens, from Bonavista in the East to Vancouver Island in the West, from Pointe-Pelee in the South to the future Territory of Nunavut in the North.

Whether we speak English or French, whether our Aboriginal ancestors settled here thousands of years ago or we ourselves arrived at Gander, Pearson or Mirabel as immigrants only years ago, we all share one of the greatest privileges that can be bestowed upon humankind: we are all Canadian.

With this unique privilege come important responsibilities. We are all the custodians of the greatness and the splendour of Canada. We, and we alone, can strengthen its unity, preserve its environment, protect its values and traditions and ensure its prosperity.

Thank you.

[English]

Cory Pike, Former Executive Assistant to the Honourable Ken Dryden: Denise Chong, Canadian economist and author of *The Concubine's Children*, winner of the Governor General's Award for non-fiction in 1994, in her address entitled *Being Canadian*, delivered during Citizenship Week on April 19, 1995, saying:

How we tell our stories is the work of citizenship. The motive of the storyteller should be to put the story first. To speak with authenticity and veracity is to choose narrative over commentary. It is not to glorify or sentimentalize the past. It is not to sanitize our differences. Nor to rail against or seek compensation today for injustices of bygone times. In my opinion, to try to rewrite history leads to a sense of victimization. It marginalizes Canadians. It backs away from equality in our society, for which we have worked hard to find expression.

I believe our stories ultimately tell the story of Canada itself. In all our pasts are an immigrant beginning, as settler's accomplishments and setbacks, and the confidence of a common future. We all know the struggle for victory, the dreams and the lost hopes, the pride and the shame. When we tell our stories, we look in the mirror. I believe what we will see is that Canada is not lacking in heroes. Rather, the heroes are to be found within.

[Ms. Corbin]

The work of citizenship is not something just for the week that we celebrate citizenship every year. It is part of every breath we take. It is the work of our lifetimes.

[Translation]

Ms. Corbin: Thank you.

We will now listen to a performance by the Ottawa Children's Choir, who will sing *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*.

[English]

[The Ottawa Children's Choir performs *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*.]

Ms. Corbin: Thank you for that beautiful performance.

Mr. Matt DeCoursey, President of the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians, will lead us in the reading of the Honour Roll Call. It will be followed by a minute of silence, *The Lament* and the laying of the wreath.

[Translation]

Mr. Matt DeCoursey will now lead us in the reading of the Honour Roll Call, reading the names of those whose memory we honour today.

[English]

Matt DeCoursey, President, Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians: Would the family members and representatives of the parliamentarians being honoured today rise, if they are able, as the name of their loved one is read and remain standing in tribute until *The Lament* is played and the wreath is presented by our Speakers.

[Translation]

The Honourable Lise Bacon

Ms. Judith (Judy) Claire Bethel

Mr. Morris Peter Bodnar

Mr. Gérard Bruchési

Mr. Stephen (Steve) Ernest Joseph Butland

Mr. Michael Morris Cassidy

Mr. Auguste Choquette

The Honourable Ione Jean Christensen

Mr. William Hillary (Bill) Clarke

Mr. Jean Dorion

Mr. Stanley Peter (Stan) Dromisky

The Honourable Kenneth Wayne (Ken) Dryden

The Honourable Kirsty Duncan

The Honourable Arthur Jacob Epp

Mr. Jesse Philip Flis

[Minute of Silence.]

Mr. Marcel Gagnon

[Pipe Captain Fraser Clark performs *The Lament*.]

The Honourable Marc Garneau

Ms. Corbin: Please be seated.

Mr. James William (Jim) Gouk

Mr. Normand Lapointe

We are truly honoured to have so many family members with us to pay tribute to their loved ones. In you, we see the same sense of dedication, of purpose, of service and of pride in what we, as a people and as a country, have built together and will continue to build.

Mr. Guy Lauzon

Mr. Wilbur Bernard MacDonald

[*Translation*]

The Honourable John McCallum

The Honourable John Horton McDermid

I would like to introduce once again the Ottawa Children's Choir, who will perform *Cantique de Jean-Racine*.

The Honourable Kelvin Kenneth Ogilvie

The Honourable Donald H. Oliver

[The Ottawa Children's Choir performs *Cantique de Jean-Racine*.]

The Honourable Fernand Roberge

Ms. Corbin: As the ceremony draws to its close, I would like to thank you for your participation.

The Honourable Gail Shea

A reception will follow in the Senators Lounge.

Ms. Michelle Anne Simson

Mr. Joseph Slogan

I would ask that the family members remain in the Senate Chamber for the photo session, before joining the reception.

The Honourable Barbara Jane (Bobbie) Sparrow

[*English*]

The Honourable Terrance (Terry) Richard Stratton

[*English*]

Ladies and gentlemen, please rise for the minute of silence, followed by *The Lament* and the laying of the wreath by the Speakers of the Senate and the House of Commons.

Please rise, if you are able, for the Royal Anthem and remain standing for the departure of the official party. Thank you.

[The Ottawa Children's Choir performs *God Save the King*.]

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