

Governor,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour and a distinct pleasure for me to be able to welcome you to Ottawa. Yours is an historic visit, the first by a Governor of Hong Kong to Canada. Your visit provides an opportunity to celebrate the strong ties between Canada and Hong Kong, ties of history, of trade, of family, and of trust.

We are not strangers. The links between Canada and Hong Kong stretch back over the centuries. To the days of the British Empire, the days of sailing ships, a period when thousands of Southern Chinese arrived in British Columbia and contributed so much to the building of our young nation.

The complex history of ties between Hong Kong and Canada also extends to earlier, sad days of conflict. In 1939, Canadian troops were called upon to defend Hong Kong. 550 Canadian soldiers died during that conflict. They are not forgotten; every December their sacrifice is commemorated at Sai Wan cemetery.

Hong Kong owes its origins to its role as an entrepot post in the China trade, a role which the territory continues to fulfill with brilliance. It is out of this role that a strong trading relationship across the Pacific developed with Canada. That trading relationship continues and grows to this day. Two-way trade stands out over \$2.2 billion, and Hong Kong investment in Canada was \$2.4 billion in 1989 alone.

But our relationship goes well beyond the ties of trade and investment. An important bridge between us has been the flow of people. From modest 19th century beginnings, emigration to Canada has expanded dramatically. One in seven new immigrants to Canada now comes from Hong Kong. Hong Kong is our largest single source of new citizens. Hundred of thousands of Canadians of Hong Kong origin are contributing their tremendous talents and hard work in almost every field of human endeavour.

These new Canadians are helping to build a modern and dynamic and multicultural Canada. We are proud of their contribution. That contribution not only enriches Canadian society; it is also a business asset, an invaluable resource for Canada as we seek to compete successfully and develop new markets in the Pacific.

The flow of people has not been just one way. The Canadian population in Hong Kong now exceeds 30,000. That is the largest Canadian community in Asia. In addition, some 70,000 Hong Kong graduates of Canadian universities live and work in Hong Kong, enhancing the strong personal links between our two societies.