



It has been a great honour for me to collaborate with the Finnish-Canadian Society in Helsinki to help develop this unique 2017 commemorative book, one that celebrates the contributions of Canadians and Finns to each other's growth as nations. One that celebrates Finland's 100 years of independence, Canada's 150 years as a nation, and 70 years of diplomatic relations.

In a 1949 transmission to Ottawa, my predecessor Thomas Stone described the Finns as "a brave, hospitable and altogether admirable people," followed by a macro analysis of Finland. What was once a classified transmission is now available in full, in the pages of this book, along with a variety of insightful articles which capture the depth, breadth and spirit of the Canada-Finland relationship.

Canada-Finland relations span all facets of modern society, yet these relations date back hundreds of years. From Finnish exploration of Canada's flora and fauna in the 1740s through the various waves of Finnish immigration to Canada, the two countries share a rich, diverse past. From forestry to hockey and ringette, from natural resources to literature and film, from our shared experiences as arctic, bilingual nations with large and powerful neighbours, this book will remind you why the Finns believe "Yes ...the answer is Canada!"

I am extremely grateful to the many authors who took the time to write, and submit articles and photos for this book. And without the volunteer editorial board – Markku Henriksson, Michel Beaulieu, Carmen Pekkarinen and Mari-Anna Suurmunne – who provided suggestions for subject-matter experts, as well as guidance on content, editing, and production, this project would not have got off the ground. Moreover, this book would not have been possible without the financial support of the Canadian Finnish Institute of Huntington University in Sudbury, Ontario; Agnico Eagle Finland; the Lakehead University Chair in Finnish Studies and the Friends of the Finnish Labour Temple, both in Thunder Bay, Ontario.



Photo: Global Affairs Canada

As we collectively celebrate 2017 and commend both countries for countless achievements, it is my honour and privilege to congratulate the President of the Republic, Mr. Sauli Niinistö, and the people of Finland, for 100 years of independence.

May our cooperation continue and grow.

Andrée Noëlle Cooligan
Ambassador of Canada to Finland