

Tributes

because that is very much the style of the Prime Minister.

To his friends, colleagues and staff he generated an atmosphere of intense trust and loyalty because he touches people in a deep and lasting way. He does so because he values the worth of individuals. He respects their beliefs and their philosophies and he truly maintains a deep and abiding interest in their affairs.

His family has been and always will be his priority, his children his pride and joy, and Mila, his partner, confidante and most loyal supporter. We all know that they have stood with him in times of triumph and setback. His love for family also reflects his deep belief in family values and the family as the cornerstone of our society.

As a leader, and particularly as leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada, he has been an unqualified success and a master at bringing men and women together. His ability to lead a caucus representing all regions of the country is unprecedented. His ability to use the talents of caucus members in the decision-making process was both unique and progressive. His ability to lead and to unite is a result of his profound respect for every individual in our caucus.

For his care and concern about their welfare, their families, their regions and their communities, we are very grateful for that caucus relationship which was really a family arrangement.

Not since Sir John A. Macdonald has there been a more successful leader of our party. Our Prime Minister travelled the country extensively to get first-hand knowledge of all the towns and cities along with the wonderful people who make up this great country of ours, Canada.

He often said that Canada was a country made up of small towns and big dreams. As others have indicated, his main concern and passion was always Canada.

Under his extraordinary leadership abilities, our party experienced its most productive period. The party's base of support was broadened to all corners of the country and all walks of life, east to west and north to south. He has truly made our party national in scope. He has presided over an organization that was always well tuned, well financed and well organized.

He is a bold leader who has the record to prove it and history will judge it; so I am convinced.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Mazankowski: Today, as the fifth longest serving Prime Minister in Canadian history, he has presided over the affairs of our nation in challenging and changing times. He prompted key changes during a time of world transition in a country trying to find its niche in a new world order.

The changes that he has promoted have been as logical as they were difficult to achieve. The Prime Minister has always acted decisively in all areas of national life.

On the issue of national unity, he has gone where only angels have previously trod and his fostering of Canadian unity has been second to none.

He has also acted to build a sound economy through progressive tax changes and the opening of trade markets so vital to Canadian interests. He has tackled the federal deficit through controlling government spending, and interest rates through controlling inflation.

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He has promoted a compassionate society through the development of new initiatives to protect children and to target assistance to those in society most in need of it.

By working to ensure equal access and the economic integration of the disabled and by providing greater justice for aboriginal peoples he has moved Canadian society as a whole to new heights. His efforts in developing a national AIDS strategy, a national drug strategy, the family violence initiative, the breast cancer initiative and a national strategy on tobacco use illustrate his unending compassion for Canadians and the health and safety of their families.

He has, in the words of others, created "a model for the world" by taking action on the environment through the development of Canada's green plan and achieving the acid rain treaty with the United States.

On the world stage he has provided consistent leadership by promoting peace through Canada's involvement in some 16 UN peacekeeping operations. He has fought aggression by ensuring that Canada's military stood shoulder to shoulder with its allies to expel Iraq from Kuwait. He has always played a leading role in G-7,