

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING THIS AFTERNOON.

IT'S A GREAT PLEASURE FOR ME TO FORMALLY INTRODUCE RICK HANSEN TO YOU IN HIS ROLE AS COMMISSIONER GENERAL FOR CANADIAN PARTICIPATION AT WORLD EXPO 88 IN BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA.

RICK WILL BE CANADA'S OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE AT THE INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION, WHICH RUNS FROM APRIL 30TH TO OCTOBER 30TH, 1988.

AS COMMISSIONER GENERAL, HE WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL ASPECTS OF OUR NATIONAL PAVILION IN BRISBANE, AND WILL TAKE PART IN A NUMBER OF SPECIAL EVENTS, INCLUDING THE FAIR'S OPENING AND CLOSING CEREMONIES AND CANADA DAY FESTIVITIES.

NEXT WEEK RICK LEAVES FOR BRISBANE TO BEGIN HIS OFFICIAL DUTIES. HE WILL SIGN THE FORMAL PARTICIPATION CONTRACT WITH THE EXPO 88 AUTHORITIES ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA. AFTERWARDS, HE WILL LAUNCH AN AUSTRALIA-WIDE PROMOTION PROGRAM TO TELL AUSTRALIANS ABOUT OUR PLANS FOR THE WORLD'S FAIR.

IT WAS JUST A YEAR AGO THAT I WAS IN AUSTRALIA TO RAISE OUR FLAG AT THE EXPO SITE. IT IS WITH GREAT PRIDE THAT I TURN OVER RESPONSIBILITY FOR THAT FLAG TO RICK HANSEN.

EXPO 88 IS THE INTERNATIONAL HIGHLIGHT OF BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS THAT MARK THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT "DOWN UNDER".

CANADA IS PARTICIPATING IN A WIDE VARIETY OF BICENTENNIAL EVENTS. THE HOUSE OF COMMONS AND THE SENATE ARE DONATING A SPEAKER'S CHAIR AND A CLERK'S TABLE TO THE NEW AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS. THE R.C.M.P. BAND IS TOURING, THE SKYHAWKS PARACHUTE TEAM WILL VISIT AND VARIOUS DANCE COMPANIES, THEATRE GROUPS AND ARTISTS WILL PERFORM.

ALL THIS IS CANADA'S WAY OF SAYING "HAPPY BIRTHDAY AUSTRALIA".

"LEISURE IN THE AGE OF TECHNOLOGY" IS THE THEME FOR THE EXPOSITION IN BRISBANE. SOME 45 GOVERNMENTS AND 20 INTERNATIONAL CORPORATIONS ARE PARTICIPATING. ORGANIZERS EXPECT TO WELCOME MORE THAN NINE MILLION VISITORS. IT IS THE FIRST TIME IN THIS CENTURY THAT A WORLD EXPOSITION WILL BE STAGED IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE.

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