



**National
Gallery
of Canada**

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**Musée
des beaux-arts
du Canada**

Speaking Notes

Françoise Lyon, Chair – NGC Board of Trustees

National Gallery of Canada
2019 Annual Public Meeting

Sunday, September 15th at 16:30
Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, Halifax, Nova Scotia

Thank you Marie for that wonderful welcome. My thanks as well to you and your team for your wonderful help in planning this evening's reception.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. Good evening. I'm Françoise Lyon, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the National Gallery of Canada. It is my pleasure to welcome you to our 13th Annual Public Meeting.

I would like to begin by introducing my colleagues on the Board of Trustees:

- Vice-Chair Anne-Marie Applin from Toronto;
- Paul R. Baay from Calgary;
- Lisa Browne from St. John's, Newfoundland;
- Terrence Burgoyne from Toronto;
- Dominique Hamel of Montréal;
- Adad Hannah and Brian McBay of Vancouver;
- Sara Stasiuk of Winnipeg; and
- Clayton Windatt of Sturgeon Falls, Ontario.

I extend regrets on behalf of Trustee Roshi Chadha of Montreal, who was not able to join us this afternoon.

I would also like to introduce Thomas d'Aquino, Chair of the Board of Directors of the National Gallery of Canada Foundation. We are delighted that Tom and many members of the Foundation's Board are with us tonight, along with the Foundation's executive team.

I would also like to acknowledge a few other individuals who are with us this evening, namely:

- Mr. Andy Fillmore, Member of Parliament for Halifax;
- Ms. Nancy Noble, Director and CEO of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, along with several members of that Gallery's Board of Governors; and

- Former Chair of the Gallery's Board, Michel Audain, and former trustees Fred Fountain and Linda Hutchison. A special thanks to Linda and to NSCAD University for their generosity and tremendous help with our sessions here in Halifax.

It's a pleasure to be in Halifax for our Annual Public Meeting, especially considering the devastating events that took place last week across Atlantic Canada. The media images of the damage caused by Hurricane Dorian were certainly heartbreaking. Please know that we're keeping all of you in our thoughts, and wishing a safe and quick recovery to everyone affected.

I would like to thank the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, and particularly your CEO Marie Chapman, for the warm welcome in the wake of such a difficult week. It's an honour to be able to host our event in such an attractive and inviting space.

As many of you know, the purpose of our Annual Public Meeting is to engage the public and stakeholders, and to report on the Gallery's recent activities.

This past year was marked by significant accomplishments that helped to advance our strategic priorities and further our vision of making art accessible, meaningful and vital to diverse audiences of all ages.

We also experienced considerable change across our leadership cadre. In addition to welcoming several new members to the Board of Trustees, we also bid farewell to Director and CEO Marc Mayer in January 2019. The Board and I personally extend our deepest gratitude Marc for his dedication and unwavering support, and we wish him all the best for the next chapter of his career.

On this same note, we were absolutely elated to welcome our new Director and CEO, Dr. Sasha Suda, in April. Not only is Dr. Suda an internationally recognized curator who has organized award-winning exhibitions, she is also an engaging leader and team builder who has collaborated with collectors, curators and other museum stakeholders throughout her impressive career. She has already demonstrated the many ways in which her talent and passion for the arts will serve us at the Gallery, and we are thrilled to have her aboard.

Before I invite Dr. Suda to speak, I'd like to extend my deepest thanks to my colleagues on the Board of Trustees for a truly exceptional year, as well as our former trustee, Linda Hutchison, who was tremendously helpful in planning our time here in Halifax.

I commend the staff at the Gallery for their hard work, as well as the National Gallery of Canada Foundation, our patrons, and our corporate sponsors for their generous support.

And, as always, my sincere thanks to the Government of Canada and The Honourable Pablo Rodriguez, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Multiculturalism, and all of our government partners, for their ongoing support.

Thank you for your time.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Sasha Suda.