



Speaking Notes
Michael Tims, Chair - NGC Board of Trustees

National Gallery of Canada
2015 Annual Public Meeting and Reception

Monday, September 14, 2015 at 6:00 pm
Ferdinand Eckhardt Hall, Winnipeg Art Gallery

The Honorable Richard Chartier, Chief Justice of Manitoba, Mr. Borys, Mr. Young, Ladies and Gentlemen...

Good evening and welcome to the National Gallery of Canada's 9th Annual Public Meeting. I am Michael Tims, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the National Gallery of Canada.

We are very pleased to be here in Winnipeg this week. We spent yesterday at the remarkable Canadian Museum for Human Rights and I thank their President and CEO, Mr. John Young, and his team for their hospitality.

We are equally delighted to be here tonight at the Winnipeg Art Gallery. I want to thank Mr. Stephen Borys, Director and CEO of the Winnipeg Art Gallery, for welcoming us so warmly, and to his team for their generous assistance in planning this event. I now welcome Mr. Borys to the podium for a few remarks.

Thank you Mr. Borys for your warm welcome.

I'd like to introduce my colleagues on the Board of Trustees:

- our Vice-Chair, Harriet Walker of Toronto, a long-serving member of the Board;
- our newest Trustee, Naz Khosrowshahi, from Vancouver;
- Howie Kroon and Paul Baay, both from Calgary;
- Allan Benoit of Winnipeg;
- from Quebec, Guy Bourgeois of St-Bruno, and Jean-François Béland of Gatineau;
- from Nova Scotia, Linda Hutchison of Kentville, and Marsha Sobey of New Glasgow.

I'd like to extend a special welcome to Ms. Liza Maheu and her husband, The Honorable Richard Chartier, Chief Justice of Manitoba, who are with us this evening. I would like to highlight that, until this past February, Ms. Maheu was a very valued member of our Board of Trustees, having served with us for the past 6 years. I'd like to ask our Vice Chair Harriet Walker and Ms. Maheu to join me up front for a quick moment.

Thank you Harriet and Liza.

This Annual Public Meeting provides an opportunity for the Gallery to engage the public and its stakeholders, and to report on the institution's activities during the last fiscal year. My brief remarks will be followed by a presentation by Marc Mayer, our Director and CEO, as well as a question period.

Accessibility and collaboration are two of the Gallery's six particularly important core values, and both are served by our presence in Winnipeg this evening. As many of you know, three years ago, we entered into the exciting *ngc@wag* partnership with this museum, a collaboration that enables the Gallery to continuously present selected works from the national collection here in Winnipeg, one of Canada's most important regional and artistic centres.

Since January 2013, *ngc@wag* has presented a number of very popular exhibitions, including Janet Cardiff's *Forty-Part Motet*, *Louise Bourgeois 1911-2010*, and *The Clock*, by Christian Marclay. We are grateful for this highly productive partnership that hopefully Manitobans find to be of value.

2014-15 proved to be a year of important successes for the National Gallery, both in Ottawa and elsewhere.

Two major exhibitions received much critical acclaim: the summer exhibition, *Gustave Doré: Master of Imagination*, and the *Jack Bush* retrospective, organized by our Director Marc Mayer. Congratulations to Marc for such an eye-catching and informative exhibition.

More generally, and on behalf of the Board, I very much want to thank the Director, his management team and all of the Gallery's first-rate staff for their hard work and dedication to the Gallery.

On the financial front, working in tandem with our Foundation, the Gallery has, for the first time ever, named one of its major exhibition spaces after a donor. The front space of the contemporary galleries is now known as the Donald R. Sobey Family Contemporary Gallery, in recognition of an exceptional gift of \$2 million from the Donald R. Sobey Family Foundation. Additional donations have followed; we have subsequently recognized the generosity of the Koerner, Audain and d'Aquino families; and we expect more news of exceptional generosity in the months ahead.

Our sincere gratitude goes to the National Gallery Foundation, and to all of our patrons and corporate partners for their generous support.

The work of the National Gallery is made possible, in large part, through financial support from the Government of Canada. We are very grateful to the Department of Canadian Heritage, our Minister, the Honourable Shelly Glover, and to our government partners for their ongoing support.

I would now like to introduce Marc Mayer, Director & CEO of the National Gallery of Canada. Thank you very much.

Thank you Marc.

I now invite you to come to the microphone to ask any questions that you may have.