



National Gallery of Canada

**Donald Sobey - Chairperson of the National Gallery of Canada Board of Trustees**  
**Annual Public Meeting – 1 December 2008**

Thank you.

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the Gallery's second Annual Public meeting. I would like to introduce my colleagues on the Board, beginning with our new Vice-Chair, Michael Tims, from Calgary, appointed last June.

Next to Michael Tims is

- Michael Audain from Vancouver, British Columbia
- De Winnipeg au Manitoba, Patricia Bovey
- From Westmount, Québec, Roshi Chadha

Two trustees from the Halifax, Nova Scotia area:

- Fred Fountain
- Linda Hutchison
- From Toronto, Ontario, Sandra Pitblado and Harriet Walker, also from Toronto
- And Paul Baay, from Calgary, Alberta who sends his regrets as he could not join us this evening.

We are delighted to be here with you tonight to share some of the Gallery's achievements over the past year and to look ahead at upcoming exhibitions and educational programming.

Before proceeding with these presentations, however, I would like to take a moment to inform you that the current Director of the National Gallery, Pierre Théberge, will be stepping down at the end of December, after eleven years at its helm. I hope that you will join me in extending to Mr. Théberge our most sincere gratitude and appreciation for his leadership since 1998.

The National Gallery of Canada is an important showcase for Canadian artists as well as those from elsewhere. The Board of Trustees looks forward to continued collaboration with the Department of Canadian Heritage, with our new Minister, the Honourable James Moore, and with other government departments and agencies to ensure that the National Gallery maintains its national and international status of excellence.

Thank you and have a good evening.