



Speaking Notes Harriet Walker, Interim Chair - NGC Board of Trustees

National Gallery of Canada 2017 Annual Public Meeting and Reception

Monday, December 4, 2017 at 6:00 pm
Lecture Room, National Gallery of Canada

Thank you Matthew.

Good evening ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the National Gallery of Canada's 2017 Annual Public Meeting. I am Harriet Walker, Interim Chair of the Board of Trustees, and I am delighted to be here this evening.

I'd like to begin by introducing my colleagues on the Board of Trustees who are with us this evening:

- Guy Bourgeois from Saint-Bruno, Québec;
- Linda Hutchison from Kentville, Nova Scotia; and

- Howie Kroon from Calgary.

I extend regrets on behalf of Trustees Paul Baay from Calgary, Allan Benoit from Winnipeg, Marsha Sobey from Nova Scotia, and Jean-François Béland from Gatineau who were not able to join us tonight.

My brief remarks will be followed by a presentation by Marc Mayer, our Director and CEO, as well as a question period.

As you will soon hear, 2016-17 proved to be a very successful year, marked by exceptional acquisitions, appealing and responsive programming, and a suite of critically acclaimed and popular exhibitions presented both here in Ottawa and at venues across the country and beyond. *Élizabeth Louise Vigée Le Brun* and *Alex Janvier* are but two examples.

2016-17 saw the public opening of the new Canadian Photography Institute, and the opening of a revitalized Boutique

following major renovation. We also undertook the massive and innovative re-envisioning of the Canadian and Indigenous art collections in advance of Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation.

The year was also distinguished by several spectacular gifts, including a magnificent gift of nearly 200 important works of contemporary Canadian art from the Rennie Collection of Vancouver, and an impressive gesture of corporate philanthropy from Imperial Oil, which donated five remarkable Canadian paintings to the national collection.

As you may know, we anticipate the appointment of a new Chair and Vice Chair of the Board within the coming weeks. Having served this institution for just over 11 years - first as a Trustee, then Vice Chair and most recently as Interim Chair - I am very pleased to see that the Gallery remains on a solid footing, both

financially and in terms of its reputation for excellence in delivering its mandate.

In closing, I extend my deep gratitude to my Board colleagues for their invaluable contributions.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I commend the Director, Marc Mayer, and his senior management team and staff for their remarkable work and dedication to this institution.

I am grateful to our patrons, donors, corporate partners and volunteers for their benevolence, and to the National Gallery of Canada Foundation for their continued patronage of this institution.

Finally, my thanks to the Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Canadian Heritage, and to our government partners, for their valued support.

Thank you for your time.

I now welcome the Director of the National Gallery of Canada,
Marc Mayer.