



**OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF ONTARIO**

*1 July 2008*

Today, all Ontarians join together to celebrate the 141<sup>st</sup> birthday of our great nation. I extend my best wishes to those participating in Canada Day celebrations throughout our province.

The deep roots of our democracy are nourished by Canada's diversity and inclusiveness. We are united by an unwavering commitment to the freedom and prosperity of all Canadians. One of the defining characteristics of this country is that people of every background have the opportunity to realize their full potential.

I know firsthand how the Canadian spirit encourages perseverance and tenacity. When I visited CFB Petawawa, I saw these very qualities on the faces of children whose parents were deploying to Afghanistan. They were proud of the work their parents were doing to bring the freedoms we enjoy to Afghans. Since becoming Lieutenant Governor, I have been inspired by the courage and selflessness of Ontarians from all walks of life, eager to make the world a better place.

On this Canada Day, my thoughts and prayers are especially with those brave men and women of the Canadian Forces who are in danger's way, and with their families who must celebrate our nation's birthday without them. Their sacrifices remind us that the rights and freedoms we cherish should never be taken for granted. I hope Ontarians will take some time to reflect on their contributions, and to wish them well.

As the Queen's representative in Ontario, I hope you all have a wonderful Canada Day.

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