



## John N. Turner

### *The Right Honourable John N. Turner, P.C. C.C., Q.C.*

It is my honour to celebrate this milestone with all of you. As I reflect on ninety years, I am grateful for friends that have graced my life, many of whom are here to celebrate with me. I am thankful that our Prime Minister, The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, was here to celebrate with all of you. I am grateful for the kind words of the Governor General, The Right Honourable Julie Payette. I am particularly grateful for the tributes and eloquence of my fellow former Prime Ministers, the Right Honourables Kim Campbell, Joe Clark, Jean Chrétien, Stephen Harper, Paul Martin and Brian Mulroney. They have each contributed so much to this country and it is a privilege to celebrate my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with them.

I am grateful for my family, some of whom are here to celebrate with you. I am blessed and proud to be married to Geills, my spouse and partner, whose patience and loyalty have guided me in public and private life these many decades.

I am thankful for the loyal and effective friendship of Lisa Haley and Marc Kealey, who have co-chaired this wonderful event and have been part of my political life for decades. Their contributions to making this evening memorable for all of you are appreciated with fondness and respect. Thank you!

I have always believed that "we don't inherit this country; we borrow it from our children". In this my 90<sup>th</sup> year, I still travel this great country of ours – I love Canada's majesty, her amazing people and, more importantly, the next generation. They are the stewards of this great nation. I make it a point to visit schools and interface with young people in whatever city I visit across Canada. Young people respect the contributions of Canadians past and present, and with them as the stewards of Canada's future, she is in good hands!

Thank you for your being here tonight to celebrate with me. Your friendship, loyalty, support and, more importantly, your contributions to Canada in politics and society are noted. More importantly, you have helped mark this special occasion for and with me and I am honoured. It is something I shall treasure now and into the future!

June 2019