



AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
OTTAWA, CANADA

Tuesday, November 18, 2008

Mr. Robert O'Brien
Chair, The Churchill Society For The Advancement of Parliamentary Democracy
Toronto, ON


Dear Mr. O'Brien,

On behalf of the United States of America, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate The Churchill Society for the Advancement of Parliamentary Democracy as it celebrates its Silver Anniversary. For 25 years, your charitable organization, which was founded in honor of the great Parliamentarian Sir Winston Churchill, has worked to educate and encourage Canadian citizens to engage with domestic parliamentary institutions. Through the dissemination of good information and events such as this year's annual dinner, the Churchill Society has promoted the power of the Canadian people through democratic participation.

Throughout the first exciting quarter century of its existence, The Churchill Society has also upheld the integrity of parliamentary participation by recognizing and honoring individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the cause. This year, the honor of the Award for Excellence in the Cause of Parliamentary Democracy has deservedly been awarded to The Rt. Hon. Kim Campbell. In addition to being revered as the first female Prime Minister of Canada, The Rt. Hon. Kim Campbell was also the first female Minister of Justice and Minister of National Defense, and has served in many cabinet portfolios and as the Canadian Consul General in Los Angeles. As you are most certainly aware, democracy is government by the people, and to be genuine, all people must be encouraged to participate. Your active role has undoubtedly inspired other Canadians, especially Canadian women, to involve themselves ever more in politics. On behalf of the United States of America, I would like to offer congratulations for your exceptional contributions to the promotion of parliamentary democracy.

After spending more than 3 years communicating directly with Canadian citizens, I have witnessed firsthand the valuable outcomes that are possible through public interaction with political figures and parliamentary institutions. I thank you for your efforts to promote this public participation and wish your society another exciting quarter century.

Sincerely,


David H. Wilkins