



Here We Are. We Made It!

*Gurpreet's speech
at the Installation Luncheon*

The happy faces you see around the room are the 17 graduating Notary students of the Class of 2008.

I am privileged to speak on behalf of my esteemed colleagues.

Let me tell you a little about who we are, how we got here, whom we have to thank for getting here, and now that we are here, what you can expect from us.

Who are we?

We are representative of a significant portion of the growing and richly multicultural population of British Columbia. We come from various backgrounds.

Occupationally speaking, some of us have been financial advisors, bankers, auditors, civil lawyers, commercial lawyers, insurance agents, and self-employed businesspeople. We also have a Realtor, a researcher, a business advisor, a bank manager, a provider of legal advocacy services to people with mental illnesses, and a public service worker.

Our education backgrounds include degrees in fields such as Law, Accounting, Finance, Marketing, Business Administration, Computer Science, Music, Economics, Political Science, and Library Science.

Our different ethnicities can be traced around the globe. Some of us

were born in Canada, some of us were born in a different country, and some of us were born in Canada with genetic ties to another place. Our roots can be traced to Brazil, Romania, the Ukraine, Uganda, India, Korea, Ireland, Britain, Western Europe, Yugoslavia, China, Iran, Syria, and Hong Kong.

**...each and every member
of this group overcame all
his or her personal challenges
to arrive here today.**

How did we get here?

We began as a statistic, one of The Society's "more than 1600 annual enquiries" about becoming a BC Notary Public. Next, we applied for enrollment into The Society, along with a few hundred other applications.

We went through a screening process that includes months of shortlisting, background checks, letters, applications, interviews, phone calls, emails, faxes, follow-ups, and more background checks.

After getting into the program, we had approximately 18 months of rigorous educational training, assignments, seminars, mediation training, meetings, statutory examinations, a critical phone call from Wayne Braid, Secretary and Executive Director of The Society, and postexamination seminars.

In addition to balancing the strenuous and at times stressful

demands of this course with our family lives, volunteer lives, work lives, and professional lives, most of us had our own individual set of challenges, some of which I will share with you.

One graduating Notary became pregnant and had her child during the course, while keeping up with her assignments and studying.

Another Notary was waiting for his wife to have their baby in hospital while he sat with the rest of us during the statutory examinations.

Two graduating Notaries mentioned that with all these responsibilities, there still was time for keeping in touch with close friends and associates.

Yet another had the responsibility for overseeing the construction of a house, including supervising and dealing with the tradespeople while juggling the course and other professional responsibilities.

Many put their other, equally important professional obligations on hold during many points of this course. With hard work, resourcefulness, commitment, dedication, and perseverance, each and every member of this group overcame all his or her personal challenges to arrive here today.

We present ourselves to you, The Society and the people of British Columbia, as proud Notaries Public in and for the Province of British Columbia.

Although we were learning and training through The Society's intensive educational program, we are not the only ones who deserve the credit. We were very lucky to have support

throughout this process. On behalf of every member of this class, I wish to express our appreciation.

First, to The Society for finding us to be reliable, competent, and trustworthy enough to take this preparatory program and for giving us the opportunity to become a part of this centuries-old Trusted Tradition.

Thank you to the Directors of The Society, members of The Society, The Society's lawyers Todd McKendrick and Quang Duong, and Trevor Todd—who all took time out of their busy schedules to give us wonderful presentations and share some of their knowledge with us.

We are grateful to our examiners Rick Evans, Bob Reid, and George Cadman who were very helpful and approachable throughout the process.

We would like to thank Society staff members Amber Rooke and Rebecca Magallanes for helping to coordinate and deal with our administrative matters.

Thanks to Joan Letendre, Notary Public, one of our primary tutors throughout the course.

We also wish to express our appreciation to Marny Morin, Staff Notary in Charge of Education and Discipline, who has guided us since the beginning of September 2006. Marny taught us by using tough love, which we appreciated over the course of the assignments. As time moved on, we appreciated her more. I know Marny's teachings will be appreciated even more in the future, as we enter into professional practice.

We would also like to thank Wayne Braid who has been overseeing us, even before our entry into the program. Wayne's positive attitude and forward-thinking have always been reassuring and motivating.

Thank you to the entire class . . . for your chatrooms, study sessions, discussions, and coffee breaks. Thank you for your help, your support, the information we shared, and the bonds we developed. You helped with the learning and made it an enjoyable process. You were the biggest part in our successful completion of the course and the exams. We

have developed strong relationships and hope to carry them into our professional careers.

Finally, a big thank you to all those who have supported, stood beside, encouraged, lifted, assisted, and put up with us for the past 18 months—our families, spouses, partners, children, parents, friends, and other loved ones. Thank you for all your patience and understanding. Without you, our achievement would not have been possible.

I can confidently say to The Society and to the people of British Columbia that this group of Notaries is ready to meet the needs of the public with competency, integrity, honesty, and trust. I am certain our group will embrace the resources and technologies available to us and that we will search for new ways to make notarial services more effectively available in our province. We are looking forward to working with the Members of The Society to help advance our Trusted Tradition. ▲