

DECLARATION FOR PROGRESS

ENGLISH

WHEREAS the undersigned are all citizens of Canada and proud residents of the greater Toronto area (GTA);

AND WHEREAS we stand tribute today to the reality that, in 2019, Toronto has been ranked as:

1. the most multi-cultural and diverse city on the planet (NOTE 1) representing over 230 nationalities/ethnic groups, over 130 languages spoken, with over 51% of its residents being foreign-born;
2. the fastest growing city in North America (NOTE 2);
3. the safest city in North America (NOTE 3); and, most importantly,
4. the best place to live in the world (NOTE 4);

AND WHEREAS we also stand tribute to the fact that Canada has been ranked not only as being the healthiest country on the planet (NOTE 5) but also as having the best quality of life of any nation on earth (NOTE 6);

AND WHEREAS these accomplishments did not happen by accident but are the result of the enduring commitment of millions of progressive Canadians, inspired by the vision and legacy of many who have gone before us including, most especially, that of Pierre Elliott Trudeau;

AND WHEREAS he was correct in asserting that "Canadians are standing at the mountaintop of human wealth, freedom and privilege;

AND WHEREAS these amazing Canadian accomplishments will not persist if we take them for granted or if we weaken our collective commitment as Canadians to (a) advancing education, science and research, (b) promoting gender equity and respect for each women's right to control her own body, (c) embracing diversity in, and respect for, fellow citizens of every culture, race, language, religion and sexual orientation, (d) redressing the pain, suffering and injustice experienced by racialized and other disadvantaged minorities, (e) continuously improving our public education and healthcare systems, (f) fighting boldly for our environment and against climate change, and (g) championing the cause of human rights and freedom everywhere;

NOW THEREFORE THIS SOLEMN DECLARATION WITNESSES AND DECLARES THAT:

1. the historic fight of Pierre Elliott Trudeau, what he described as the attainment of a "just society being the cherished hope of civilized men and women" must become the continuing and never-ending inspiration of all Canadians;
2. his legacy as a progressive Canadian reformer is worthy of tribute and honour and must live on in our time;
3. the centenary of his birth is an occasion to remind ourselves and all Canadians of the tremendous fortune we have all inherited and our duty to pass it on to all future generations of Canadians; and
4. while we respect the right to free speech other than hate speech, we stand together resolved against any and all public policies or programs based on, or rooted in, racism, intolerance, xenophobia, white supremacy, dominionism, sexism, homophobia, islamophobia, anti-choice dogma, climate change denial, uni-lingualism, non-sporting gun rights, as well as any public policy designed to promote or subsidize private health care, private education or any other preserve of monetary or cultural privilege.

AND WE HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVE THAT, in celebrating the centenary of his birth, we are hereby resolutely committed to fulfilling his parting words as Canada's 15th Prime Minister:

"OUR HOPES ARE HIGH. OUR FAITH IS GREAT. OUR COURAGE IS STRONG. AND OUR DREAMS FOR THIS BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY WILL NEVER DIE."

Dated and signed at Toronto, Ontario, Canada, this 3rd day of October on the 19th anniversary of his State Funeral by the undersigned members of the P4P Foundation.

1 <https://theculturetrip.com/north-america/canada/articles/toronto-named-most-diverse-city-in-the-world-by-bbc-radio/>;

2 <https://www.rcinet.ca/en/2019/06/03/toronto-fastest-growing-city-in-north-america/>;

3 <https://safecities.economist.com/safe-cities-index-2017/>;

4 <https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/data-research-maps/toronto-progress-portal/world-rankings-for-toronto/the-economists-best-place-to-live/>;

5 <https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/smaller-countries-are-becoming-the-healthiest-1.1222946>

6 <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-countries/quality-of-life-rankings>