

# Pages of Reflection Journal Launch

October 31st, 2006

Sen. Carstairs,  
Pages,  
Contributor's of all kinds,  
Guests,

It is with particular joy that I take this opportunity to welcome you here today. This occasion not only evokes personal memories and sentiments of excitement and privilege, but also marks a poignant historical development that reflects the socio-historical fabric of our nation. The publication of Pages of Reflection: a journal of essays by Senate Pages is more than simply a collection of writings that engage our parliamentary process, it is the birth of what will develop into a proud tradition of excellence for Senate Pages and Canadian youth.

Pages of Reflection is a composition that embodies several perspectives on the work done by Senators and pages within the Senate Chamber. The unique element about this work is the very nature of its composition. Each contributor brings with them to their writing a very distinct perspective and particular background. The role of the authors, as Senate pages, has enabled them not only to contribute to the work done within the chamber, but also to bare witness, first hand, to the whole range of the work being done. This broad gamut entails everything from daily workings to the most profound debates, whose tremendous

influence has contributed to the shaping of our nation. The content of the essays within this compilation are academic reflections upon such events that are reinforced by this unique background of heightened familiarity.

I can remember the first time that I felt the privilege and responsibility that accompanies the publishing of an academic work. The honor and sense of personal accomplishment I felt was tremendous. The fact that I had the opportunity to contribute to a body of work that possessed incredible value was very meaningful to me. Further still, the sense that the work I completed was going to cultivate an environment of learning in a long standing tradition of academic excellence evoked a very poignant sense of pride. I have been very privileged to be able to make such contributions over the course of my life. For this reason, I am pleased to have you here today and I am excited knowing that such valuable sentiments will be experienced by you as well. The publication of this work is no small achievement and you should feel proud of this momentous accomplishment.