Lieutenant Governor’s remarks  
**Opening of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Office at Massey College**  
**October 25, 2019**

Check against delivery

Chief Laforme, Justice LaForme, Principal Des Rosiers, Your Worship, ladies and gentlemen:  
Good morning, Bonjour! Bozhoo!

Thank you Justice LaForme for those opening words. Thank you also to the drummers for their song of welcome.

As a small step on the journey of reconciliation, we have become accustomed to hearing acknowledgment of the land and the peoples who stewarded them for millennia.

Recently I heard a poignant poem written by Kathy Porter, currently a master’s student at OCAD U in Toronto. I begin by sharing her words with you:

> *Hearts, feet, land beneath. Sshh, long lov’d not forgotten Haudenosaunee.*
> *Settled among birch Ever vigilant Huron-Wendat echoes call.*
> *Black willow whispers Ho, jiigi-zaag’i-gan old Bones remembering.*
> *Water, standing trees, Mississaugas gathering.*
> *Anishinaabe call of living being kindness.*

_We wish to acknowledge and remember that we are honoured to hear the voices of the People who know this land to be their home._

_We wish to acknowledge and remember that settlers who came here, and come here, were welcomed and are welcomed still._

_We wish to acknowledge and remember that the harm of the First Peoples, the keepers of this land must stop._

_We wish to acknowledge and remember that if we do not see, do, think, differently nothing will change._

Nearly two years ago to the day I had the privilege of taking part in the dedication of the new Chapel Royal. The rich symbolism of the event continues to inspire me. It was an event steeped in symbolism and at that time I noted that Massey College was an ideal place for the work of reconciliation, and that the prospect of further collaboration between Massey College and the Mississauga’s of the Credit First Nation was an exciting one.
I am pleased to see that deeper collaboration becoming a reality through the opening of the new Mississaugas of the Credit office here at Massey College. It is a sign that reconciliation is not one event but rather a daily effort.

It is no coincidence that the office should be found here. Few places are more suited to creating the necessary intellectual space for settlers and Indigenous people to engage in respectful healing and intellectual exploration.

As an interdisciplinary institution, Massey is a serendipitous place, one that sees people constantly challenging preconceptions and chipping away at the silos that keep us rooted in our past.

It is in this simple way that an increased presence of the Mississaugas of the Credit can become a beacon for enormous societal change.

Chief Laforme, I hope this means we will see even more of you, and, as I think you know by now, if you ever require a change of scenery, you always have a third home in my office just down the street.

Chief Laforme is well known for his poetic voice. And with great respect, I wanted to end my tribute with a few lines from one of his poems called “Prayer”:

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\begin{align*}
&\text{We must always remember the} \\
&\text{Real reason we gather} \\
&\text{To do the right thing for our people} \\
&\text{For our children, for our future.}
\end{align*}
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Thank you. Merci. Miigwetch.