



STATEMENT

Recognition in the House of Commons Chamber of the Dominion Carillonneur, Dr. Andrea McCrady

Ottawa, Ontario – February 16, 2022

It was an honour to recognize in the House today an incomparable member of our parliamentary community: the Dominion Carillonneur, Dr. Andrea McCrady.

When the Peace Tower was inaugurated in 1927 as a memorial to the sacrifice made by Canada in the First World War, Prime Minister Mackenzie King called the Carillon “the voice of the nation.” Since 2008, Dr. Andrea McCrady has animated that voice, as Canada’s Dominion Carillonneur.

During the happiest and most painful times of our nation, Dr. McCrady gave voice to our emotions. Through her artistic talents, her compassion and her love of music, she has not only marked our history, but also told our stories, no matter where we come from.

Dr. McCrady’s passion, as well as her commitment to preserving and promoting the Carillon, are well known on Parliament Hill. Her music is transcendent and reminds us of architect John Andrew Pearson’s vision for the Peace Tower:

“In all my thoughts of the tower, peace was dominant. I believe there is a quiet peaceful dignity about it. I somehow bring myself to read it that way—no matter what troubles and worries and differences of opinion take place in the building. I feel that one cannot approach the building up the centre road without experiencing its mute appeal for toleration, moderation, dignity and peace.”

The rehabilitation work on the Parliament Building has now reached the Peace Tower, and on February 18, following a closing recital, the Carillon will fall silent temporarily. The Dominion Carillonneur will continue to work with young students of the instrument, but we will sadly have to do without her recitals for a while.

I will miss Dr. McCrady’s performances very much, and I know that all Members join me in thanking her for her invaluable gift of making the bells of Parliament speak for the people of Canada.

Hon. Anthony Rota, M.P.

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