

Check Against Delivery

Welcome Statement for New Senators

Senator Yuen Pau Woo

October 16, 2018

Educator, mentor, facilitator and thought leader on Aboriginal families and Native communities; prize-winning journalist and champion of media freedoms; dedicated public servant, distinguished diplomat and trusted adviser to ministers and prime ministers; Metis jurist, legal expert and champion of franco-Ontarian heritage; Mi'kmaq chief and elder, advocate for Indigenous economic development, and fisheries industry leader.

These are just a sample of the accolades that describe our five distinguished new Senate colleagues. You have already heard from Senators Harder and Smith a fuller account of their accomplishments, but we cannot possibly do justice to the range of contributions that they have made to Canadian society in a brief welcome statement.

What we can say is that our five new colleagues chose to apply to become senators so that they could further contribute to Canada. We can have no doubt that they have options to do many other things in their lives, but they chose public service.

The knowledge and experience that they bring to their new roles will enrich our collective work as senators and strengthen our ability to function as a non-partisan chamber of sober second thought.

To Senators LaBoucane-Benson, Simons, Boehm, Forest-Niesing and Francis and to your families, on behalf of the Independent Senators Group, welcome to the family of the Senate of Canada.