

Remarks on the Presentation of the King Charles III Coronation Medals

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Good Afternoon:

I wish to begin by thanking the 19 Squadron Stratford Air Cadets and the Air Cadet Band, the Marching Titans for joining us today and for being an important part of today's ceremony.

I would also like to thank and recognize the Wardens, Mayors, and Deputy Mayors from each of the nine municipalities in Perth—Wellington for joining us today to celebrate the accomplishments of today's distinguished recipients.

In 1947, on the occasion of her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, then-Princess Elizabeth declared that “my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service.”

That commitment of service was one that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II kept for the entirety of her 70-year reign.

In that same speech, she would also say that “to accomplish that we must give nothing less than the whole of ourselves. There is a motto which has been borne by many of my ancestors - a noble motto, ‘I serve’.”

Today, we honour 20 worthy recipients who embody the idea and the ideals of service; that noble motto: I serve.

These recipients were nominated by their communities; their neighbours, co-workers, friends, and fellow volunteers. They come from all nine municipalities in Perth—Wellington and embody different backgrounds, careers, and interests. But each of them holds one important thing in common: a commitment to their community and country.

Earlier this year, King Charles III echoed that sentiment of service embraced so strongly by his late mother. He said:

“I have long believed that one of the greatest strengths [...] is our ability to come together and help each other through times of hardship. Throughout my life, I have been encouraged and inspired by those selfless volunteers who dedicate their time and talents to helping others, across all communities.”

In a moment, we will listen to the citations for these 20 individuals and hear a small part of what they have achieved with their time and talents. These citations are but a snapshot of the entirety of their accomplishments. Collectively, they have devoted tens of thousands of volunteer hours to community causes; they have raised millions of dollars for charitable activities; and they have touched the lives of countless people in our communities.

May each person we honour today serve as an inspiration for others to embrace the spirit and commitment of service.

Thank you.