

GREETINGS – AIRDRIE AIR CADET SQUADRON 2012 ANNUAL INSPECTION

Ladies and gentlemen, officers, cadets, and distinguished guests, good afternoon. I was honoured to be invited to speak here today, and I regret that my schedule doesn't allow it.

The official motto of the Royal Canadian Air Cadets is "To Learn, to Serve, to Advance". I think that sentiment perfectly captures the goals and outcomes of the Canadian Cadet Program, as proud parents are seeing today.

The skills, knowledge and experience that all of you have acquired over the training year, and that you've displayed today, are valuable assets that will prepare you for a lifetime of success. I truly believe that this program develops the future leaders our country needs – in business, the military, our communities, and maybe even in politics.

To those of you approaching your last years as Cadets, I encourage to stay involved in serving your country. Take the skills, qualities, and character this program has helped you develop, and give back to your community whenever the opportunity arises. Canada's future will be bright with young men and women like you leading the way.

To those of you who are only just beginning your adventure with Cadets, I encourage you to stick with it and take every opportunity this program offers. I know from friends, colleagues, and acquaintances who are former cadets, that you will treasure the experiences you have, and the friendships you make, for the rest of your lives.

To the assembled parents, volunteers, officers, and all our cadets, on behalf of Prime Minister Stephen Harper and the Government of Canada, thank you for your service. Your participation in this program honours the memory of our veterans, promotes good citizenship, and helps build a brighter future for all of Canada.