



Date: February 2, 2009

Event: Troop #21 Graduation Ceremony
RCMP Training Centre, Regina Sask.

Check Against Delivery

- Good evening.
- It's certainly a pleasure to be here tonight at this important event.
- I was also honoured to observe the swearing-in ceremony this morning.
- As well, it was a privilege to view the Sergeant Major's Parade this afternoon, and of particular interest to review the Troops on Parade.
- I also had the opportunity to see the impressive Drill Display and Badge Presentation.
- It definitely was a momentous occasion.
- I'm sure this has been quite a whirlwind of a day for the graduates and their families, full of emotions, memories and excitement.
- You are about to begin your career in policing after what was no doubt a very tough and demanding training schedule.
- This journey will see you put your lives on the line without giving it a second thought, all in the name of public safety.
- The path that lies ahead of you is one that will take you to a posting anywhere across Canada.
- And it will give you the opportunity to put your training to use in real-life situations.
- The local residents will be looking up to you to provide leadership.
- You will be in a position to show that leadership on a daily basis for your entire career.
- You will be both courageous and calm.

- When you are in a situation where everyone around you is losing control, you must maintain control.
- RCMP officers are committed to their profession and reflect the high standards and values that all of us expect from the Red Serge.
- You will have the utmost respect for the ethics of being an RCMP officer.
- You will also be held to a higher level of accountability.
- I expect you will adhere to this decorum not only on the job, but in your private lives as well.
- Throughout your career, you will also have to be innovative and flexible.
- Because being a police officer is not just about ‘arresting the bad guys’.
- The face of crime is constantly changing, and that means those that enforce the law have to change with them.
- In my home province of British Columbia, we are always looking at new and innovative ways to fight crime.
- This includes not only just arresting criminals, but determining the root causes of crime.
- We have a new strategy aimed at reducing high volume crimes like break and enters, car thefts, assaults, robberies and drug trafficking.
- Half of the crimes in B.C. are committed by just 10 per cent of offenders.
- This multi-partner response was put together because many of these chronic offenders are dealing with issues such as drug addiction, mental illness, unemployment or homelessness.
- Helping them deal with these issues is crucial to ending their cycle of crime.
- As RCMP officers, this means not only will you have the handcuffs, but you will also need the necessary compassion to be able to help those who have fallen off the rails to get back on the right track.
- My message this evening is not only for the graduates, but their families as well.
- You are the support system these officers will rely upon.
- And families need steel-like internal strength because in policing, sacrifices are made.

- Sometimes, this includes the ultimate sacrifice - when an officer loses their life in the line of duty.
- I know this is something no-one likes to talk about, but in law enforcement, that threat is always there when a shift begins.
- I'm confident you will always be there for your son, your daughter, your husband, or your wife.
- Sometimes it won't be easy.
- But working together through the tough times is what makes all of us stronger.
- These graduates here tonight deserve no less from their families.
- I'd like to conclude by saying that no matter where you are going to be located, your efforts, every day, will make the uniforms you wear, and the badges you carry, enduring symbols of public safety.
- It takes strong character to be an RCMP officer. But it takes an exemplary officer to go beyond what wearing the badge means.
- Your rare combination of courage, strength, and deep compassion for the people of the communities that you will reside in will serve you well.
- You have a passion for effective law enforcement and public safety.
- And increased public safety means increased freedom.
- Freedom for us to walk or drive down the street, day or night, without fear.
- Freedom to safely go about our daily routines.
- I know your families are so very proud that you are about to begin a career that helps keep our communities and neighbourhoods safe.
- Again, thank you for having me here.
- And, good luck in your careers.
- Thank you.