



CLARENCE HOUSE

Ladies and gentlemen, I am delighted, once again, to send a message to the members and delegates participating in the annual conference of Heritage Canada The National Trust who have gathered this evening in Charlottetown - a city my wife and I had the great pleasure of visiting this past Spring - to celebrate the achievements of dedicated Canadians in the field of heritage conservation and regeneration. This year, on the twelfth anniversary of the award of my Prince of Wales Prize for Municipal Heritage Leadership, I am delighted to join you in recognizing the 2014 recipient, the Town of Bonavista, in Newfoundland and Labrador.

I was enormously impressed with the way that building community was placed at the very heart of Bonavista's heritage regeneration efforts. The lives of local residents have been enriched through meaningful collaboration on heritage projects, including employment and skills development programmes for young people, thereby allowing them the opportunity to acquire the skills needed for rehabilitation work underway in the community, and the restoration of important community amenities. The restoration of the Garrick Theatre is particularly notable for returning a vibrant cultural events and entertainment venue to its former glory for the enjoyment of the community. Bonavista's success is not only about buildings, ladies and gentlemen, but about creating a positive community outlook and an enhanced quality of life that has, in turn, improved the economic outlook of the town and given employment to young people.

I send my warmest congratulations to all those who have worked so hard together to achieve this accolade. I can only hope that Bonavista's approach to preserving and promoting its architectural treasures for the regeneration of both community and economy will serve to inspire other communities, large and small, to follow its example in Canada and elsewhere. I also hope that my Prize can help to inspire recognition of the enormous added value that can be obtained in social, environmental and commercial terms from a re-discovery of the timeless principles of sustainable urbanism. In terms of more durable planning, design and construction, there is so much we can learn from the experience of those who came before us. In this way, we can ensure we build our future heritage; one that reflects a greater harmony with Nature and with human skills and identity and which puts the human being, and not just the car, back at the centre of the design process.