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NATIONAL GALLERY OF CANADA FOUNDATION

Statement by:

The Honourable Patricia Bovey

Tuesday, December 11, 2018

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Hon. Patricia Bovey: Honourable colleagues, partnerships throughout society are increasingly critical to the success of so many endeavours, in business, the charitable sector, sport, large and small community events and, of course, the arts. Indeed, I sometimes think dire necessity forced the cultural sector years ago to put partnerships together long before it was the thing to do.

Last week, one such partnership was celebrated, one built from multiple layers of giving, of leadership and of dedicated creative enterprise, all combined to ensure a healthy future. That celebration was at the National Gallery of Canada, hosted by the National Gallery of Canada Foundation. Retiring Director Marc Mayer was saluted and over \$3 million of gifts were announced.

Artists, collectors, gallery professionals, patrons, philanthropists, and business, government and community leaders gathered to thank and salute Marc, the gallery's director and CEO for the last 10 years. I first worked with Marc as a national colleague in the late 1990s, when he was Director of The Power Plant in Toronto. Marc's career has taken him to Paris, New York, Brooklyn, and, before coming to the National Gallery of Canada, to Montreal as Director of the Musée D'art Contemporain.

At the National Gallery he led an excellent professional team, including leading curators and education directors. Building solid relationships between galleries both at home and internationally, Marc's successes were many. The National Gallery collection grew with significant and international treasures, historical and contemporary; exhibitions were challenging, popular and eye

opening, with many breaking new ground, such as "Anthropocene," the work of Ed Burtynsky, of which I have spoken before.

Perhaps Marc's most important contributions are the rehangings of the Canadian and Indigenous Galleries, celebrating Canada's one hundred and fiftieth anniversary; and the work he did to enhance the newly restored Canadian Pavilion at the Venice Biennale — truly important for international exposure of the work of Canadian artists and curators.

[*Translation*]

Marc, thank you and congratulations for everything you've done for the Canadian art world, and I wish you all the best for the future. May you enjoy many more years of rewarding experiences and good health. I hope our paths will cross again.

[*English*]

I also applaud the National Gallery of Canada Foundation's Chief Executive Officer, Karen Colby-Stothart; and Chair Tom d'Aquino. The \$13 million donations announced were fourfold: to recognize Canada's talent at our artist-run centres and small galleries; to support Canadian contemporary artists' exhibitions at our Venice Biennale Pavilion; the exhibition "Canada and Impressionism 1880-1930," which will travel internationally before coming to the National Gallery in 2020; and to make our national collection more accessible through loans and exhibitions across Canada. All this makes our national collection so accessible here and away, to large and small institutions, while celebrating and giving voice to Canada contemporary artists. Thank you for these milestones.