



drs. J.C.G.M. (John) Berends MPA
burgemeester van Apeldoorn

Mr Rick Goldring, Mayor of Burlington
City of Burlington
City Hall, 246 Brant Street
Burlington, Ontario L7R 3Z6
Canada

Apeldoorn, 23th June 2017

Dear Mister Goldring, *Dear Rick,*

Thank you for inviting me to make comments on the occasion of your Canada Day festivities, and thank you in advance for sharing them with the Burlington citizens.

On this special edition of Canada Day the city of Apeldoorn would like to congratulate Canada on its 150th birthday!

The bonds between Canada and Apeldoorn have been inseparable for 70 years. During the night of the 16th and early morning of the 17th of April 1945, Apeldoorn was liberated from the German occupiers by the Canadian army.

In 2005 our cities officially connected. On the occasion of ten years of Twinning-Agreement your delegation visited Apeldoorn in 2015. You were present at the last Canadian Veterans Parade and saw the warm feelings the Apeldoorn people have for the Canadians. We will never forget the sacrifices the Canadians made to give us back our freedom, THANK YOU!

I'm proud to say that our bonds have strengthened over the years. Both our cities have hosted citizen exchanges, youth conferences and student exchange programs and there are school programs to make overseas pen-pals. We're also seeking opportunities to connect our businesses to create and sustain a long term economic relationship. We look forward to a bright future.

I wish the City of Burlington a beautiful Canada Day event at the waterfront and hope you enjoy the video Apeldoorn has made for you.

Regards,