

## Celebrating Canada's Sesquicentennial

**Vicki Gunn**

Executive Director, CHP Canada

Our Queen and our Prime Minister have both mentioned in their New Year's messages to us, on the eve of 2017, that this year we celebrate 150 years as a nation. This really is momentous! What a thrilling thing to look back on in coming years. I can still sing the song written to celebrate Canada's centennial: "it's the hundredth anniversary of Confederation, everybody sing together, CA-NA-DA"<sup>1</sup>

I remember standing on our front porch at midnight, January 1, 1967, beating pots and pans and yelling "Happy Birthday, Canada". Boy, were we pumped!

Fifty years later, our sesquicentennial—so far—feels like a nothing year. As a nation, we're not celebrating 150 years of Confederation. Confederation is not even the theme of our celebration. As MP Peter Van Loan objected in Parliament on October 17, 2016, "The only themes Liberals will allow to be supported are youth, the environment, diversity, and aboriginal reconciliation. Confederation is not a theme of the 150th anniversary of Confederation."

As we celebrate "diversity year", we are free to be diverse in everything except our speech. This past year, we lost our right to freely speak our thoughts on radical Islam. Any objection to Islamic influence and terror, is deemed Islamophobia and to silence those concerns, our government passed an "Anti-Islamophobia Motion". Although that law doesn't expressly prohibit free speech, it is one step closer. Do you want to say aloud that you will not eat the "Halal Foods" that are underpriced at grocery stores now?

Our Prime Minister has said that "We declared trans rights as human rights". In other words, we have established a special class of Canadians. Those who are 'trans' and those who are not. The rest of us Canadians are merely equal. But self-proclaimed 'trans people' are equal as Canadians plus they have special "trans rights".

I sure wish I were special.

Maybe next year, we can declare special status for women. We wouldn't just be equal then... we'd be equal and special. Maybe then we could have bathrooms dedicated only to women and girls. What an amazing concept!

We now have legislation protecting 'gender identity'. That legislation protects and even validates your thoughts. Well, I should say, it validates the thoughts of those who think they're a different sex than the one to which they were assigned at birth. Those of us who think that gender is assigned at birth (male or female) and not a matter of personal choice, well, we're being told to keep our mouths shut. Our freedom to express our thoughts on this topic is no longer protected. A German folksong says "Die Gedanken Sind Frei" (the thoughts are free). No person or government can extinguish our right to think as we please. They can and do sometimes make it difficult or dangerous to express those thoughts in a way that might influence others.

Of course, we are celebrating more than diversity this year. According to the PM, we are also celebrating action on Climate Change. We get to celebrate by paying more taxes so our government can play God and try to control the weather. Please, let me know how that goes!

Why can't we celebrate our coming together as a country under common beliefs and principles? Why can't we celebrate our heritage? Why can't we celebrate our founding fathers? Why can't we celebrate Confederation on this 150th anniversary of Confederation?

The answer is easy to find. In 2015, Mr. Trudeau claimed, "There is no core identity, no mainstream in Canada." If this remains the belief of our Prime Minister then the reason we cannot celebrate who we are as Canadians is that we aren't. Like the "Ministry of Truth" in George Orwell's *1984*, our Prime Minister is erasing our history and replacing it with a new, fabricated history and "Canadian culture" that conveniently corresponds to his agenda. Our real history no longer exists! There is only the changing truth that has been agreed upon for today. How weird is that!

We know better. We are not deceived by the lofty rhetoric and we are not cowed by the bullying tactics of those who seek to separate Canada's unique freedoms and character from our historical roots of biblical morality and culture. This year, may we find something we all can celebrate about being Canadian.... possibly, 150 years of Confederation?

We do have a heritage! It's the Christian heritage that brought to us our freedoms and equalities. It's the heritage that our forefathers fought and died to protect on foreign shores. In protecting freedom and equality abroad, they protected freedom and equality at home.

We have a common past that we can celebrate. Retaining that past will ensure a bright future for our children and grandchildren. Don't leave the battlefield. Let's get out there and defend what has been passed on to us. Let's defend our heritage.

Today, join the Christian Heritage Party<sup>2</sup> and celebrate our national heritage - our common history. Only by retaining it can we pass it on to future generations!

## **Footnotes**

<sup>1</sup> [www.youtube.com/watch?v=18-oRTLle3I](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=18-oRTLle3I)

<sup>2</sup> [www.chp.ca/get-involved](http://www.chp.ca/get-involved)