



Tweede Kamer

DER STATEN-GENERAAL

Speech Voorzitter

Ontvangst van The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

Vrijdag 29 oktober 2021, 9.00 tot 10.00 uur, Ridderzaal

Prime Minister,

Esteemed members of the delegation,

Let me welcome you on behalf of the members of both Houses of Parliament. It gives me great pleasure meeting you here today.

Votre visite au Parlement néerlandais illustre la relation significative et intense entre nos pays. Les liens entre le Canada et les Pays-Bas ont toujours été forts et le resteront. Cette amitié est enracinée dans notre histoire commune et nos valeurs partagées.

(Your visit to the Dutch Parliament illustrates the meaningful and intense relationship between our countries. The bonds between



Canada and the Netherlands have always been strong and will remain so. Our friendship is rooted in our common history and shared values.)

This building, the Hall of Knights, dates back to the late Middle Ages and is part of the buildings of parliament. It is a historical place. In nineteen forty eight (1948), in this hall, Sir Winston Churchill gave his famous address in which he called for European unity.

A lesser known fact is that in nineteen forty seven (1947), Canadian Prime Minister Mackenzie King gave a speech in this same Hall before the members of our parliament. Mackenzie King started his visit to the Netherlands in the border town of Putte. The first Dutch village liberated by Canadian troops in 1944. Sadly, it is also the place where the first Canadian soldiers died on Dutch soil. The fallen are buried in the Canadian War Cemetery near Bergen op Zoom. You will visit this memorial place later this morning.



Last year, we celebrated the 75th anniversary of the liberation of The Netherlands from the Nazi tyranny. Canadian service men played a crucial role in this liberation. More than four thousand young Canadians lost their lives while fighting for our freedom. The people of the Netherlands will always be grateful for your fellow countrymen's sacrifice.

During the war, our royal family found a safe haven in Ottawa. In 1945, the royal family sent a hundred thousand tulip bulbs, in gratitude for this hospitality. This was the start of the famous, yearly Canadian Tulip Festival in Ottawa. The festival claims to be the world's largest tulip festival, displaying over one million tulips annually. Tulips are planted throughout the city, in front of the building of parliament as well. This long-standing tradition symbolizes our historic and colourful friendship.

During the nineteen-forties and fifties, over 180.000 people migrated from the Netherlands to Canada. Of Canada's 34 million inhabitants, more than a million have Dutch ancestry. These family ties are also an important part of our close relationship.



Canada and the Netherlands uphold the same values. We both cherish human rights and the rule of law. We work closely together in NATO and the United Nations.

These days, climate change is on the forefront of national and international policy. This summer, the Netherlands and other countries were faced with the effects of climate change.

Yesterday, the House debated on the “Fit for 55” climate package of the European Commission. The EU aims for 55 **percent** reduction in CO₂ emissions by 2030. The upcoming climate conference in Glasgow will be crucial to reach an understanding on a global level.

Prime Minister,

We are very interested to hear your views and comments on the challenges our countries are faced with, at this moment. It is my great pleasure to give you the floor.

