

To His Excellency the Right Honourable

Vincent Massey

Member of the Order of the Companions of Honour,
Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada.

Sir:

We, the Commissioner and Members of the Council of the Northwest Territories in session assembled express to You, both on our own behalf and in the name of the people of the Northwest Territories of Canada, our deep appreciation for Your Excellency's gracious gesture in presenting to the Council of the Northwest Territories a Mace to be the symbol of the power vested in it.

The people of the Territories have been deeply moved by Your Excellency's generous act and particularly by the appropriate materials selected for inclusion in the Mace. The natural fur, the walrus bone and the musk-ox horns are symbols of the wild life of sea and land upon which many of our people have always depended and will continue to depend for their livelihood. The gold and copper are suitable symbols of the minerals that are the basis of so much of the future wealth of our territory. The incised oak, left by explorers of days long past, is a reminder of the courage of the men who first opened up this barren land to the world's notice and of the arduous search for new frontiers - a search continuing today in those parts of Canada which lie within the Territories. Surmounting all, the Crown of Charlemagne the Royal symbol of our great heritage from ancient traditions.

We appreciate especially the thoughtful consideration which led You to have the Mace prepared in the Northwest Territories by our own people. The Eskimo and Indian craftsmen whose skill and imagination are embodied in this splendid symbol are worthy representatives of the original inhabitants of the country for whom it is our privilege to speak.

The Council of the Territories is aware of the responsibilities which it bears in maintaining and developing for the Territories the traditions, form and substance of responsible democracy appropriate under the system of constitutional monarchy we have the privilege to share with our fellow citizens in other parts of Canada and with the peoples of the Commonwealth. The Mace will be preserved by the Council in honour and held in esteem by the people of the Northwest Territories.

The present Council of the Northwest Territories and all Councils of the future, as well as the people of our territory, now and in the years ahead, will at all times feel most deeply grateful to Your Excellency for what you have done today for our territory and for our government in this gracious act.

In testimony whereof the Council of the Northwest Territories has caused this message of gratitude to be engrossed for presentation to Your Excellency.

Done by the Council of the
Northwest Territories in session at
Ottawa this seventeenth day of January
in the year of Our Lord One Thousand
Nine Hundred and Fifty Six.

W. Robertson
Commissioner of the Northwest
Territories.

J. C. Anderson
Frank Rowley
Frank Carmichael
W. S. Cunningham
John H. Goodall
W. H. H. H.
John H. H.
Robert Priest.

Members of the Council of the
Northwest Territories.