



Provincial Day of Service Act Receives Third Reading

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Queen's Park, Toronto— Yesterday, Lorne Coe, Member of Provincial Parliament for Whitby's Private Member's Bill, the Provincial Day of Service Act, received its third reading.

The legislation honours those who lost their lives in the attacks of September 11, 2001. It pays respect to Ontarian families and friends who lost loved ones and demonstrates support for the members of the military, first responders and intelligence personnel who continue to fight against all forms of terrorism.

"I am honoured and humbled to table this legislation," said MPP Coe. "It exhorts the people of Ontario to rekindle the spirit of kindness, generosity and goodwill that unified us on that dark day."

The September 11 terrorist attacks in the United States took the lives of thousands of citizens from 90 countries, including 24 Canadian citizens, 11 of whom were from Ontario. In response, over 40,000 Canadian Armed Forces members would deploy to Afghanistan between 2001 and 2014. Over 150 Canadian soldiers died during the 12-year campaign, and thousands were wounded, physically and psychologically.

"I want to thank MPP Coe for bringing forward this important bill," said Christine Hogarth, Parliamentary Assistant to the Solicitor General. "As we mark the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, it is a fitting time to pay respect to the fallen. It is a fitting moment to acknowledge the ongoing loss felt by their families and friends, and to pay tribute to the heroism of first responders and military personnel."

"Wounded Warriors Canada is proud to support the Provincial Day of Service Act. The success of this Bill will help ensure we remember the 9/11 tragedy while, at the same time, honouring the service and sacrifice of our Veterans, First Responders and their families — and our everyday citizens that go out of their way to make a difference in their communities."

- Scott Maxwell, Executive Director, Wounded Warriors Canada.

"The attacks on 9/11 were a global attack on our values. On the Anniversary of this horrific act of hate let us show our gratitude to all who serve their country and communities in official and unofficial ways. Join the Canadian 9/11 Family Members to thank our heroes who make a difference. Let us rekindle the kindness, compassion and service demonstrated by Canadians -

notably in Gander, Newfoundland who opened their hearts, their pocketbooks, and their homes. Let us all rekindle the kindness, compassion and service which followed and reframe the day to a celebration of our Canadian values. It is a fitting living memorial and legacy for the Canadians taken on that day. We are honoured and grateful to have the continued support of the Province of Ontario.”

- Maureen Basnicki, Founding Director, Canadian National Day of Service Foundation.

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