

Clerk of the Privy Council and
Secretary to the Cabinet



Greffier du Conseil privé et
Secrétaire du Cabinet

Ottawa, Canada
K1A 0A3

JAN 29 2010

Gabriel F. Sékaly
Chief Executive Officer
The Institute of Public Administration of Canada
1075 Bay Street, Suite 401
Toronto, Ontario
M5S 2B1


Dear Mr. Sékaly:

Thank you very much for your letter and the information you provided on the conference that IPAC is holding to accelerate thinking and action on Canada's upcoming 150th anniversary.

This will be an important milestone in Canada's history and development. For those of us who remember the excitement, exuberance and promise of our centennial year in 1967, I can only say how important it will be to generate and harness that same kind of enthusiasm with the active participation of a new generation.

Canada has grown and evolved tremendously since 1967, and in ways few of us could have imagined at the time. Our upcoming sesquicentennial is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our growth as a nation and to engage Canadians in a new sense of shared purpose. I am certain that governments at all levels, across Canada, will be enthusiastic partners and players in this initiative.

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- 2 -

I'm pleased to tell you, as well, that here at PCO we have also recognized the opportunity that this anniversary presents to look ahead and think about ideas to shape Canada's future. In 2008 we organized the Canada@150 initiative, bringing together 150 new public servants to discuss the key challenges and opportunities for Canada.

I commend IPAC for taking an early and active leadership role in planning Canada's 150th anniversary and I thank you for sharing your plans with me. Please accept my very best wishes for a successful and stimulating conference.

I will be pleased to raise this with deputy ministers and encourage them to participate in the IPAC conference or to send representatives of their departments and agencies to do so.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. G. Wouters". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "W" and "G".

Wayne G. Wouters