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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